

Practical Resources for Christian Living

# WESTERN RECORDER

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Brotherhood  
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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Abortion drug expected to reach market within months

By Louise Palmer  
*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—While abortion opponents and supporters mark the 27th anniversary of legalized abortion this week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is quietly preparing to radically alter the political and medical landscape on this divisive issue.

After years of vicious wrangling and political infighting among nonprofit groups, pharmaceutical companies, abortion advocates and abortion opponents, American women should have access to RU-486—"the French abortion pill"—within months.

The FDA, which is not commenting on the matter publicly, is in the final stages of discussion with the Population Council over how the drug will be labeled, prescribed and sold, according to officials at the council, which owns the rights to the drug.

Abortion advocates already are celebrating the RU-486 revolution to come and privately hoping that, in the long run, the drug's availability will alter the debate over abortion forever.

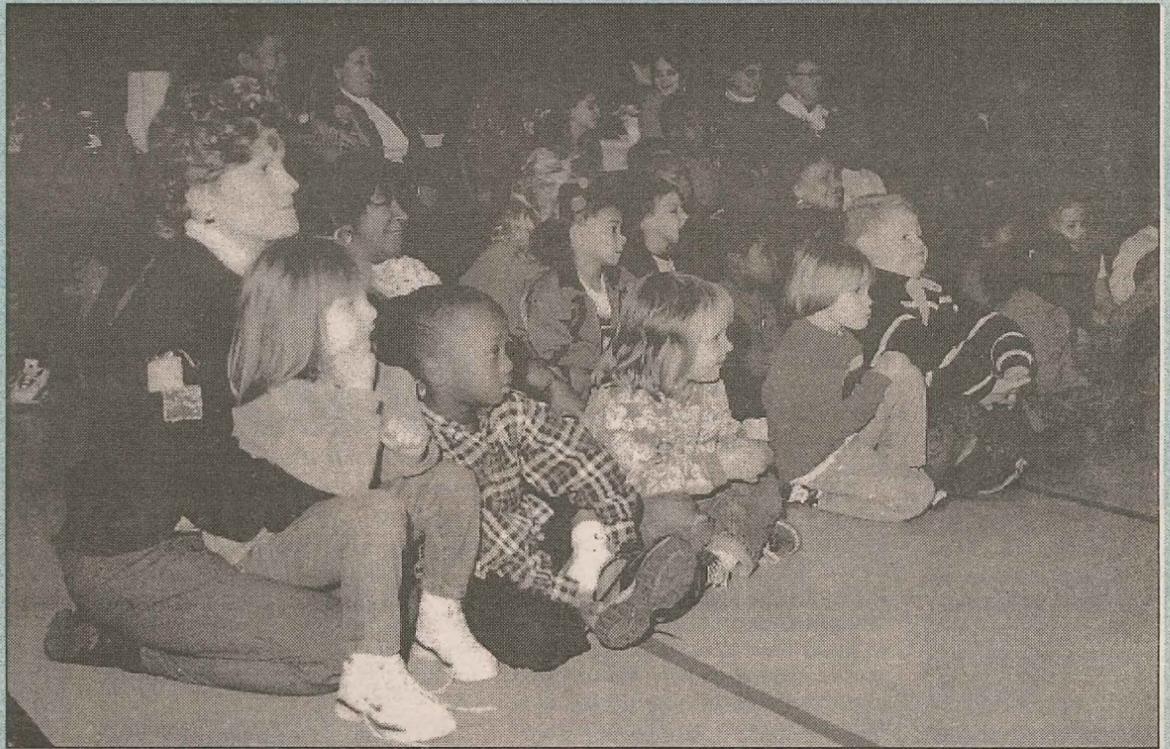
"America is on the brink of a historical moment," said Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "Approval and availability of mifepristone (RU-486) will, I think, be comparable to the arrival of the birth control pill 40 years ago."

For anti-abortion activists, the bottom line is clear: a drug-induced abortion is still abortion. Still, they say mifepristone could redraw abortion battle lines significantly.

"Mifepristone will absolutely make our battle harder to fight and harder to win," said Judith Brown, president of the American Life League.

□ See *Abortion advocates ...*, page 12

## Kid Power



**TEAM KIDS** Leslie Bizzell (left), a member of First Baptist Church of Clinton, joins children as they watch a skit. The church attracts more than 100 children each week for Team Kids activities. (Photo by Keith Todd)

## Clinton church growing through focus on kids

By Ken Walker  
*State Correspondent*

CLINTON—First Baptist Church of Clinton has been growing ever since it called an interim pastor 14 months ago.

But the excitement isn't about Sunday morning attendance, even though it's risen about 25 percent since October of 1998. Or because some inactive members are returning, thanks to Interim Pastor Aubert Rose's visitation efforts. Or the church's recent blanketing of Fulton County with the "Jesus" video.

What has members buzzing is the congregation's Team Kids program on Wednesday nights. So many adults are involved that participants outnumber attendance at the mid-week prayer service.

With 124 children enrolled, attendance has averaged 100 in recent weeks. That calls for 25 adults to serve as teachers, aides, cooks for a mid-week dinner and administrators.

"I don't think what we're about today is church growth or Sunday school attendance," said deacon chairman Sammy Sugg, a member since 1976. "It's about Team Kids. This is

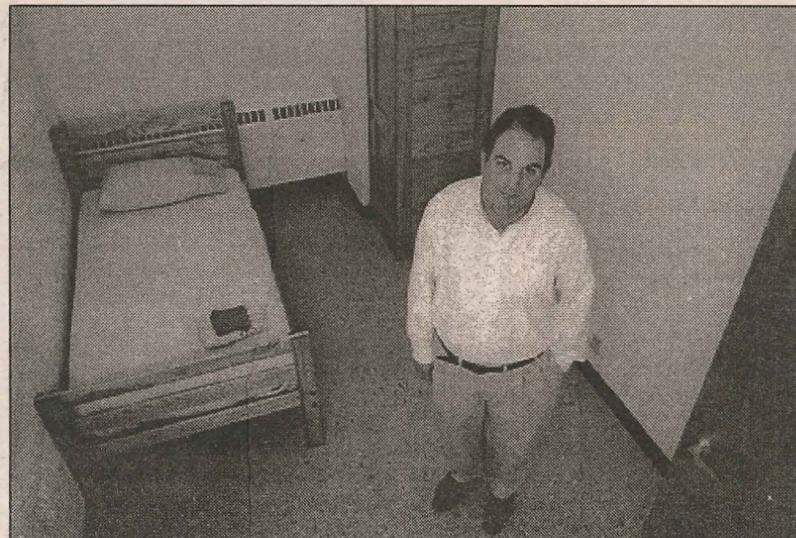
the most impressive thing I've seen God do here."

Team Kids is a program from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, the program includes Bible study, music and recreation, plus a life-skills class for sixth grade boys. That may sound like standard children's fare, but the make-up of those attending isn't conventional.

Roughly half of the students are African-American, in a church that is predominantly white. As part of the explosion in Team Kids participation, □ See *Clinton church ...*, page 6

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, Jan. 19

## New homeless ministry tries to help men get back on track



**NEW MINISTRY** The dual diagnosis center at Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville is designed to help men who have both mental illness and chemical dependencies. About a third of the city's 15,000 homeless population are dual diagnosis, said director Randall Harvey (above). "Louisville's kind of a magnet for the rest of the state."

By David Winfrey  
*News Director*

LOUISVILLE—It didn't take long to fill the latest homeless ministry at Jefferson Street Baptist Center earlier this month.

The day it opened a 29-bed treatment center for "dually diagnosed" homeless people—people with both drug addiction and mental health problems—the center's latest program was full.

In fact, said director Randall Harvey, he and other organizers already knew they would have a waiting list of more than 40 men before it opened. "We could build on (more rooms) again tomorrow if we had the funds."

The dual diagnosis program, 2 1/2 years in the planning, is the latest step in the center's concentration on meeting the needs of homeless citizens in the Louisville area, Harvey said.

"When I came here six years ago,

we were doing a little bit of everything. The reality was we were doing a lot of everything and not really much of anything," he said.

Working with a consultant, the center decided to shut down most of its services—many of which are duplicated elsewhere—and focus on ministries to the homeless.

The center also discovered a crucial need for transitional programs, helping people move from homelessness and often chemical dependency to living on their own.

Louisville has an estimated 15,000 homeless. Harvey estimated that a third of them could be classified as having both mental illness and chemical dependency. "Louisville's kind of a magnet for the rest of the state."

The center adopted the mission statement of providing residential services and support for clients who are dually diagnosed.

□ See *New homeless ...*, page 7

## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **C.E. Bryant**, a pioneer in Baptist corporate communications, died Jan. 7 in Belleville, Ill. Bryant, 82, served two years as the first director of the Southern Baptist Convention's news service, Baptist Press, after its founding in 1946. He also was first director of communications for the Baptist World Alliance, a job he held 25 years before retiring in 1982.

■ **Baptist World Alliance's** General Council approved financing of \$3.3 million for new BWA offices during its recent meeting in Melbourne, Australia. The BWA hopes to sell the present property in McLean, Va., for \$2 million and raise the additional \$1.3 million. The new property is located nearby in Falls Church, Va.

■ **A seminary student** involved in an overseas church planting program through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board was attacked and robbed in Kenya. Rob Kopesky, a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said he was changing a flat tire when attacked. Kopesky, who suffered a broken jaw, said the band of about 10 men terrorized his family, threatened to kill him and ultimately took his money, video and camera equipment, watches and passports. Kopesky said the attack would not affect his family's decision to complete the two-year church planting project.

## IMB to spend \$23 million expanding busy training center

By Louis Moore  
SBC International Mission Board

AUBURN, Ala. (BP)—Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees approved a \$23 million expansion of its Missionary Learning Center to handle the escalating numbers of Southern Baptists being trained for overseas missions work.

Approval for the expansion came during the trustees' regularly scheduled meeting Jan. 10-12 in Auburn, Ala. It followed a seventh straight year of record missionary appointments to Southern Baptists' overseas work.

Board officials said the need to quickly expand the overwhelmed training facility, in Rockville, Va., is so great they would take the funds immediately from the agency's capital reserves. The unusually large expenditure is possible, they said, because stock market surges have multiplied undesignated funds bequeathed to the board.

IMB leaders said they hope individual Southern Baptists will donate funds to replace the money being used for the emergency expansion, but the agency has no plans to launch a fund-raising campaign.

In addition to the \$23 million expansion, trustees also voted to spend another \$5 million during the next three years from the "God-provided stock market dividend" for strategic field projects overseas. Board officials said linking the learning center expansion with projects overseas symbolizes the dual approach in the use of missions funds.

The expansion comes as the agency reported 902 new missionaries were approved in 1999. It was the seventh straight year for record appointments and puts the board in sight of



**APPOINTED** Robert and Young Oak Farmer receive their certificates of missionary appointment from International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin during a Jan. 10 service at Lakeview Baptist Church in Auburn, Ala. The board appointed 36 missionaries, bringing the number of Southern Baptist-supported international missionaries to 4,834. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

its Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries by September 2000.

After the Jan. 10 appointment service, the board's missionary total stood at a record 4,834 personnel. The board counts all personnel appointed for two years or more as missionaries.

If current trends continue, IMB leaders said, the board could reach 10,000 missionaries faster than expected.

"If the personnel growth trend of the last two years continues, we would have more than 17,000 missionaries by 2005," IMB President Jerry Rankin told trustees. "If we flattened the trend to the last 10 years, included the plateaued, non-growth years of the early 1990s, we would still have more than

8,000 missionaries within five years."

In addition to the growth in new missionaries, trustees heard statistical reports showing a surge overseas in the numbers of baptisms, churches, members and preaching points recorded by Southern Baptist missionaries and their national co-workers.

The total number of churches overseas climbed from 47,224 in 1998 to 52,186 in 1999, an increase of 10.5 percent. New churches climbed from a previous record 4,251 to a new record of 4,748, an 11.7 percent increase. Likewise, membership increased from a record 4.5 million in 1998 to 4.9 million.

Baptisms also set a new record of 363,703, or nearly 1,000 each day in 1999.

Preaching points, a key indicator of future growth, climbed to a record 38,363, up 21.5 percent from last year's record 31,567.

Year-end figures also show that more than 25,000 Southern Baptists served overseas in volunteer mission projects lasting from a few days to several months.

All the growth is one more indication that God is stirring Southern Baptists and the nations for a remarkable spiritual surge overseas, Rankin said.

"The only obstacle that can keep us from seizing the opportunity and finishing the task is regressive thinking that locks us into the past rather than responding to a God-given vision of the future," he said.

In other actions announced during the board meeting:

■ Trustees authorized a pilot project to create Great Commission Resource Centers in selected churches around the country. The centers would link the IMB with members for a variety of services, including providing initial contacts and applications for people interested in missionary service, interviewing and nurturing candidates, enlisting and training volunteers, promoting prayer strategies, distributing and promoting IMB materials and resources and matching congregations with unreached people groups.

■ Trustees approved a new statement on soliciting fiscal resources that reinforces existing SBC and IMB policies forbidding individual missionaries from making "direct or even subtle solicitation of funds" from Southern Baptist churches. The statement says the board and its missionaries "promote the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Period!"

## NAMB's Reccord defends 2000 Chicago evangelism emphasis

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptists' focused efforts to share the gospel in Chicago are intended for everyone who will hear it—not any particular religious groups, NAMB President Bob Reccord said recently.

"We have only one group that we want to focus on, and that's anybody that hasn't had ... the opportunity to respond to the claims of Jesus Christ," Reccord said, responding to concerns the Strategic Focus Cities initiative in Chicago will focus on other religious groups such as Jews or Hindus.

The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board is a leader in coordinating the project.

"Our view is the gospel is for everybody, and we believe that's exactly the same view that Scripture has," said Reccord, who was a guest on "That's the Law," a program on legal issues and Christianity.

Much of the discussion focused on recent comments by evangelist Billy Graham that, according to reports, indicated less than full support for the Chicago effort.

"I normally defend my denomination. I'm loyal to it," he said on Fox News program Jan. 2. "But I have

never targeted Muslims. I have never targeted Jews.

"I believe that we should declare the fact that God loves you, God's willing to forgive you, God can change you, and Christ and His kingdom is open to anybody who repents and by faith receives Him as Lord and Savior," Graham said.

Reccord said he agreed completely with Graham's emphasis, but was "dumbfounded" to read media inference that Southern Baptist efforts in Chicago would not follow the same approach.

"The last thing we would ever want to do is" target Muslims or Jews more than anyone else, he said.

Reccord said Graham was being asked to respond to a Strategic Focus Cities effort on which he had not been briefed and the opposition to it from a group of religious leaders in Chicago. That opposition, in turn, was colored by a series of prayer guides published by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board designed to help Southern Baptists pray more effectively for people of other faiths—an effort which had nothing to do with the NAMB work in the nation's largest cities, Reccord said.



## Church clinic helps working poor's children

By Mary Meehan  
Lexington Herald-Leader

GEORGETOWN—Ariel Peters, eyes rimmed red and tiny nose runny, hugs both her mother and her well-loved stuffed pig, Baby, as she waits her turn at the Faith Children's Clinic.

Her mother, Alisha, has a job but no health insurance. Little Ariel, 2, has been sick for more than a week, but Alisha Peters was reluctant to go, again, to the emergency room.

"They don't treat you so nice if you don't have a medical card," she said.

Held in the basement of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, the once-a-month free clinic helps the working poor, people such as Peters who don't have insurance but make too much money to qualify for other medical assistance.

"These are the people who somehow fall through the cracks," said volunteer Melinda Patrick, who helps check patients in. "Nearly all of them are trying to help themselves."

According to the Kentucky Medical Association, Faith Children's Clinic is one of just 21 free clinics across the state.

Georgetown pediatrician Horace Hambrick said he got the idea for the children's clinic during one of several medical mission trips he's taken to South America.

The church donates the space for the clinic and provides \$1,000 for expenses. A local pharmacy, The Medicine Shoppe, donates some drugs and so do some drug company representatives



**DOCTOR IS IN** Horace Hambrick and Kyle Aliff, 2, have fun after Kyle was treated at the children's clinic at Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown. Kyle was the clinic's first patient in September 1998. (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Sam Riche)

who visit Hambrick's office. The rest of the expenses are covered by volunteers.

Since the clinic began in September 1998, Hambrick said he's been surprised by both the positive response of volunteers and the number of families he's treated.

"You would almost need to have a clinic every day to fill all the needs," said Hambrick, who sees an average of 15 patients a month at the clinic.

Charlotte brought her son

Joshua Duncan, 8, on a recent Thursday to be treated for an ear infection and pink eye. She and her fiancé both work at factories, but their salaries are stretched caring for Joshua and his three brothers. She had health insurance at a previous job but, after she was laid off, needed to pay \$500 a month to continue coverage.

An asthmatic who requires two expensive inhalers, Pyles' face, arms and hands are parched and red from severe eczema. She does what she can to cope with her own medical problems and is grateful she can get treatment for her child.

"People really seem like they want to help you," she said.

Hambrick said most of the physical needs are routine checkups and sports physicals, although there are some children with chronic diseases such as asthma who make regular visits.

He said he takes people at their word that they are truly in need. If the volunteers think a family might qualify for Medicaid, they help fill out the forms. There is also a craft table where children can keep themselves occupied and pick up a small bag of goodies to take home.

Hambrick and a crew of 40 to 50 volunteers, many like Hambrick members of Faith Baptist, also make an effort to really talk to the parents. The idea, Hambrick said, is to minister to both body and soul.

"Sometimes people just really need someone to listen," said volunteer Paula Richey. Although there is always an invitation to come to worship services, Richey said, "we are not going to push them. We aren't going to ask them if they have been saved."

"We just want them to have an outlet if they feel comfortable opening up," she said. "We want to let them know somebody cares."

Peters, who walked out with both a diagnosis and a bag of medicine, said that, although she hopes to have her own insurance soon, she's grateful for the clinic. "They don't make you feel like a bad parent because you don't have health insurance."

Story used with permission of Lexington Herald-Leader



**DISTRIBUTION POINT** Lewis Lane Baptist Church helps tornado victims get needed supplies.

## Lots of volunteers make for speedy cleanup in Owensboro

OWENSBORO—After two weeks of hard and fast work in Owensboro, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers have packed up and gone home.

Coordinator Larry Koch said he was surprised by the number of trained volunteers who came, the number of local workers who turned out to help and the speed with which they were able to assist area homeowners.

"I've never seen a city cleaned up as quickly as this one has been, as much damage as there was," said Koch, associate director for Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood responsible for disaster relief.

Work was completed more than a week sooner than expected, he added. While some work remains, it is being completed by local church teams, he said.

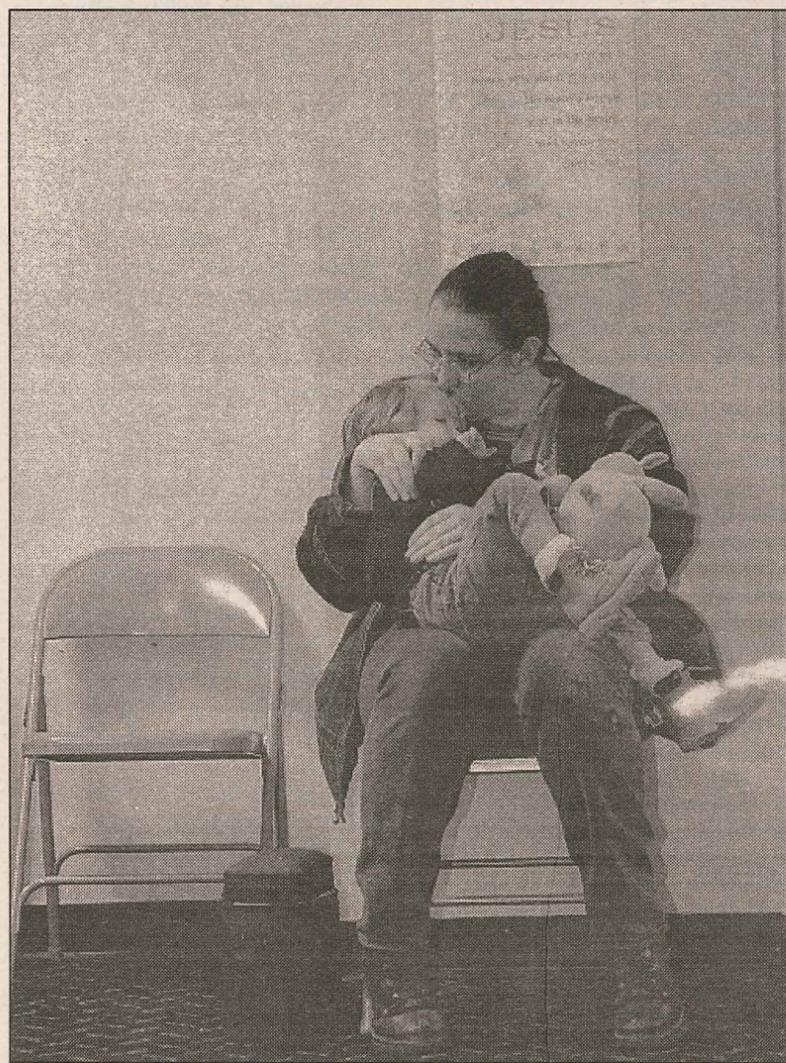
Volunteers helped in two key areas: meals and cleaning up debris and damaged homes. Workers prepared more than 19,700 meals and cleaned 434 houses, Koch said.

Local churches also helped respond. Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro served as a distribution point for food, tarps, toiletries and supplies being given to storm victims.

As of late last week, more than 50 volunteers a day at the church had served more than 1,800 people, according to receptionist Sandy Camp.

As often happens, the needs have made more churches and Baptist associations aware of the need for disaster relief volunteers, Koch said.

"We've had calls from some other areas now wanting to get involved," he said. "So I think we'll have several new trained volunteers from this."



**WAITING ROOM** Alisha Peters holds her daughter, Ariel, while waiting to be treated at Faith Children's Clinic in Georgetown. "They don't make you feel like a bad parent because you don't have health insurance."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Mohler to speak at anti-abortion rally.** Kentucky Right to Life will sponsor a rally Jan. 27 in Frankfort to mark the 27th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, which legalized most forms of abortions in America. Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will be the featured speaker for the rally, from noon to 1 p.m. on the steps of the state capital. For more information, call the Kentucky Right to Life Association at (502) 895-5959.

■ **Want to stop church flight?** Bethel and Logan Baptist associations will host a conference Jan. 25 on helping churches assimilate new members. Conference topics will include reasons new members drop out of church and examples of ways other churches assimilate members. For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship training department at (888) 254-5708.

■ **Anti-gambling meeting scheduled in Frankfort.** Citizens Against Gambling Expansion is hosting a meeting with legislators Jan. 25 at the state capital building in Frankfort. For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications office at (502) 254-4774 or toll-free (888) 254-5713.

## 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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## Let's experience the real stuff

By Mark Acuff

I have realized for some time that the most important factor in my effectiveness as a leader is, at least for me, the hardest to personally nurture. That factor is the depth of my relationship with God.

Vision, change, mobilizing opportunities seem to come easily enough, but a vital and growing walk with a living God is another matter.

I am not talking about how often I have my personal devotional, or if I get a "buzz" when I read Oswald Chambers or piggy-back on someone else's Christian walk. I am talking about whether or not I am attentive to God in prayer, worship, Scripture meditation and reflection.

If you want a challenge in this area I dare you to read "Under the Unpredictable Plant" by Eugene Petersen. No one knows how better to slap around church leaders than Petersen. He believes pastoral life as most ex-

perience it will erode genuine spiritual development. Strong stuff.

As I have thought about what is the most important thing I bring to the leadership table, I have reflected on Psalm 34. Of the many things that strike me from these praise lyrics, I stop at the words that are specifically addressed to others, the words of invitation. I count at least six: glorify, exalt, taste, fear, come and listen.

David is so full of his experience, not with ministry, but with God, that he overflows with these invitations. I think my words of invitation are often very different: follow, organize, serve, get involved, give. Sure, I do use the "listen" word a lot, but not often enough in the right way. By "invitation," I'm not talking about words used to invite response at the end of a service.

I know what my favorite words are by what happens when I meet with other leaders. There is little expectation that we will take the time to fo-

## SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERSHIP: NEW ENGLAND

## The power of friendship

By Dale Hanson Bourke

Pals. Buddies. Confidants.

Any way you describe it, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris were friends. In their relationship they found a balm for the pain of loneliness and the respect that comes from being truly understood.

In most ways Klebold and Harris were like any friends. They spent time together just hanging out. They didn't have to make plans, they were there for each other. They shared their deepest secrets and worst pain. And somewhere along the way they began to plot something that grew from a fantasy into a horrible and very real plan.

Such is the power of friendship.

Under the best circumstances a friend can encourage us, discover our hidden talents and help us be more than we could ever be on our own. But a friend can also corrupt us, drag us down, even turn us against those we love.

If we choose our friends wisely, we are better people for it. Choose badly and we will surely suffer.

The Bible is mostly about how God relates to humans and humans to God. But it also spends an amazing amount of time discussing friendship. One of my favorite verses is this: "If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" (Ecclesiastes 4:10).

Even Jesus seemed to need friends

when he was on Earth. His disciples were His friends and His betrayers. And so it is with us and our friends. We can be good for one another or we can hurt one another in the deepest, darkest ways. We open up, become vulnerable and risk being truly known. It is a powerful bond.

From the latest evidence it is clear that Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris were very close friends. Had they not found each other, perhaps the tragedy of Columbine High School would never have happened.

It is a reminder to all of us to choose our friends carefully and to cherish the ones we have who love us well. Among the other messages to society, it is a reminder of the power of friendship.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of RNS

Mark Acuff is senior pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Hudson, Mass.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Baptist Healthcare System

I recently participated in Baptist Healthcare System's Christmas dinner and board meeting and wanted to share with you some of my thoughts and impressions about this important partner in our work. I'm impressed with the leadership of BHS and their commitment to providing care from a Christ-centered perspective.

The dinner itself was a wonderful family time with spouses and former CEOs present. There was a spirit of concern and prayers for special needs. In addition, the reports from the various hospitals and committees dealt with concerns for Christ-centered and compassionate service.

Beyond these personal expressions of faith, however, I was impressed with the BHS Strategic Planning Process document for 2001-2002, which contains the following mission, vision and values statements:

**Mission Statement:** "The mission of Baptist Healthcare System is to continue our Christian heritage of service and to enhance the health of the people and

communities we serve."

**Vision Statement:** "The vision of Baptist Healthcare System is to be the healthcare leader in Kentucky."

**Values Statement:** "Baptist Healthcare System will live out its Christ-centered mission and achieve its vision guided by: Integrity, Respect, Stewardship, Excellence and Collaboration."



Bill Mackey

I am delighted to see these strong and explicit Christian statements. Tommy Smith, BHS president and CEO, and the BHS board are to be commended for their excellent work.

These leaders are committed to continuing their chaplaincy and pastoral care ministries.

In addition to the Louisville, Lexington, Paducah and Corbin hospitals, the Baptist Healthcare System operates the Elizabethtown and Oldham County hospitals. They are continually innovating in order to be the best.

Smith reports each November to Kentucky Baptists at the annual meeting. The video presentation in 1999

made it clear that BHS has been successful as a healthcare leader in Kentucky. We are grateful to God for their excellent work.

BHS is a partner with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in several ways. BHS joined with us last year and is doing so again this year to sponsor the Shepherding the Shepherd Conference for pastors and their wives. Couples are able to enjoy three days and two nights in a lovely setting, encouraging them to deal with personal and relational growth and renewal concerns. Smith will be present this year to discover firsthand the outstanding benefits of this conference for couples in ministry. BHS also provided a significant gift for the Baptist Colleges/University Partnership 2000 fund-raising campaign for Christian higher education.

I look forward to ways we can cooperate in the future. Please join with me in praying for all of those who work in the healthcare field. Having spent two days and one night with my father in a hospital recently during his brief illness and death, I am especially grateful for those who provide such a significant ministry.

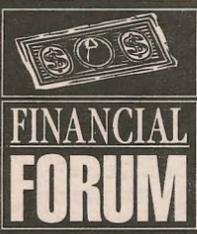
Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## FAMILY

## Truths overcome common myths about budgeting

By Jeremy White

The most effective tool to understand and manage the financial resources God gives you is a budget.



After describing the need for a budget at seminars or with clients, I sense that

many lack financial confidence. We easily remember prior negative experiences with budgeting. To help you win the battle of your mind, use the following list of myths to overcome the common myths of budgeting:

**Myth:** We have tried a budget once before and it didn't work.

**Truth:** We don't perfect new skills on the first try. If you have tried budgeting previously, you are in the best position to succeed by learning from your previous experience.

**Myth:** We live on a variable income and, therefore, cannot budget.

**Truth:** More than anyone else, people on a variable income should budget. Although your income varies, you still should follow a budget to ensure your expenses do not exceed your average variable income.

**Myth:** It is impossible to budget for contingencies and unplanned expenses.

**Truth:** Although you may not know exactly what will happen, you know that some doctor visits and car repairs will happen. Companies estimate contingencies and you can too.

**Myth:** We don't earn enough income to budget.

**Truth:** You definitely need a budget. The smaller your income, the stronger your need for a budget. When you budget, you limit excess spending, and it's as if your income grows.

**Myth:** We earn too much income to worry about a budget.

**Truth:** Although you may be blessed with an above-average income, a budget can help you be a good steward of your surplus. Unfortunately, as incomes rise in many families, the expenses rise at the same or greater rate.

**Myth:** We don't have time to keep track of a budget.

**Truth:** It takes far more time to handle a financial mess than it does to keep your finances in order. Keeping a budget may take less time than you think (30 minutes to an hour per week).

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He provides weekly financial tips and tax articles at his Web site ([www.consultcpa.com](http://www.consultcpa.com)).

## How can family members help older adults accept counseling?

**Q: Our father is having what we believe to be emotional difficulties and refuses to seek any help from anyone. What can we do?**

The idea that coping with life's difficulties involves occasional stops at a counselor's office is of recent vintage. It is only during the past couple of decades that counseling has achieved growing acceptance in the younger population.

The attitude toward counseling for today's elderly population was shaped in an earlier time. For many of them, the kind of emotional expression and soul-baring associated with typical counseling seems at best frivolous and at worst a stigmatizing sign of brokenness.

In recent years, many counselors have discovered that older people require an outlook toward counseling that is problem-oriented rather than personally focused on themselves. If your dad can see the problem as a task to be solved rather than an emotional issue within himself, he might be able to consider counseling. He may be the type of person who sees himself as self-reliant and is not comfortable defining his need as a "patient."

Recognize the positive side of his not wanting counseling as his need to deal with his own problems and not bother someone with his struggles. Help him see the situation as his achieving resources to better take care of himself. This actually is the case, anyway.

By doing the counseling, he will even do better at maintaining his self-reliance. Short-term and task-centered are the keys to helping him see the value of getting assistance. Try to find a counselor who is older than he is.

Often family members have the most difficulty in getting older family members to receive counseling. Is there anyone outside the family close enough to your father who can frame this appeal to your dad? Know that many older people have been able to find counseling helpful and useful. Being able to see counseling as beneficial is a difficult transition for older adults but it can be done.—*Jon Rainbow*

**Q: We think our 15-year-old daughter stole her brother's Christmas money. He had \$50 in his dresser drawer and two days later it was gone. No one has been in the house except family. Our daughter bought several things with her money that should have cost more money than she had. She said she hit great sales. Of course, she denies knowing anything about her brother's money. What should we do?**

If you are reasonably sure that your son is not at fault, confront your daughter again and ask to see the receipts for all the items she purchased. If she refuses or claims to have lost them, go with her to each store to verify the prices. If she refuses to prove herself innocent, then discipline her accordingly.

Consider having her repay the \$50, ask forgiveness from her brother and be restricted at home for a period of time. Be stern. Stealing is a major problem for some teenagers. She needs to learn her lesson now, before she might get into bigger trouble.

If she does not cooperate, consider taking her for personal counseling. Something else might be distressing her. Also keep careful track of all money around the house. Do not tempt her needlessly.—*Wade Rowatt*

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



## Disaster relief—'Christian love in action'

Two weeks after devastating tornadoes ripped through Owensboro and the surrounding region, life gradually is returning to normal for most residents—except those who have lost homes, businesses, jobs, health and a sense of security.

As with any major disaster, the intense media focus quickly fades while people are left to pick up the shattered pieces of their lives. It is understandable, of course, that emergency relief efforts are short-term. Such services are designed to provide a rapid response to help disaster victims cope with their initial trauma.

Kentucky Baptists can be proud of the immediate response from dozens of trained disaster relief volunteers who began arriving in Owensboro the day after the storm. The workers have prepared thousands of meals for storm victims and relief crews as well as clearing debris from hundreds of homes.

Church members in Daviess, Crittenden and other counties also have responded to their neighbors in need by serving meals, clearing debris, collecting food and clothing, donating money and praying.

As the first phase of relief work draws to a close, extensive needs remain in several communities. Local churches have the opportunity to respond to ongoing physical, spiritual and emotional needs. Individuals also can participate in rebuilding projects as well as continuing to provide financial assistance and prayer support.

Southern Baptist disaster relief ministries have earned a positive, proven reputation over the years throughout the nation. The quality and quantity of relief work here in Kentucky is no exception.

The American Red Cross and other relief organizations rely heavily on Baptist volunteers to help coordinate and staff relief efforts ranging from tornadoes and floods to earthquakes and hurricanes. The vast majority of meals delivered by Red Cross volunteers during

crises throughout the nation are prepared by Southern Baptist disaster relief workers.

Southern Baptists' organized relief efforts began more than 30 years ago. The ministry's guiding philosophy, according to material published by disaster relief leaders, is to provide "Christian love in action, meeting urgent needs of hurting humanity in crisis situations." Citing the instruction of James 2:15-16 to respond to those in need of food and clothing, disaster relief involves "meeting those needs with loving care and timely response."

Disaster relief volunteer James Stone was reminded of that emphasis as he helped clear debris from a storm victim's yard in Owensboro. Describing the tornado as "the worst thing I've ever been through," the homeowner told Stone, "You don't know how much this means to me."

Reflecting on his five years of service as a disaster relief volunteer, Stone said people who fail to get involved in such ministry efforts "are missing a blessing." Speaking from personal experience, he added, "You're going to get more of a blessing by helping some of these people than you're ever going to be able to give to them by helping out."

Kentucky Baptists interested in accepting Stone's challenge have a variety of opportunities for personal involvement. The state convention Brotherhood department is scheduled to conduct disaster relief training Jan. 22 at First Baptist Church of Monticello. Anyone interested in learning more about disaster relief ministry or hosting a training session in their area should contact Brotherhood leaders at (502) 245-4101, ext. 489.

As the emergency crews in Owensboro pack up and the media move on to other stories, it remains imperative that Kentucky Baptists continue to express "Christian love in action" for the benefit of fellow Kentuckians who are still seeking to pick up the pieces.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Partnership missions impacts the world

By Calvin Wilkins

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).*

Kentucky Baptists are a mission people, a people of the Book as well as a cooperative people. The Bible reminds us of our real perspective of missions. There are many examples of partnership given in the Bible. In the Old Testament we see the model of God fulfilling His mission in partnership with the people of Israel.

Jesus, in beginning His earthly ministry, recognized His mission and worked in partnership with the Father to accomplish His mission. Jesus was able to achieve His mission as He formed a new partnership with God's new people, His church.

The apostle Paul, upon being called to evangelize the gentile world and plant churches, engaged the churches to join him in partnership. This was especially true of the church in Philippi (Philippians 1:3-5). The Philippians were part-

ners in Paul's ministry and gave strong support for his mission.

As we embrace the task of evangelizing our world in a new century, we need to come back to the proven biblical formula for partnership missions. We have the privilege of joining hands with God-called career missionaries commissioned by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. At the same time, we have the opportunity to work with other national Baptist conventions to assist them in achieving their strategies for reaching lost people and establishing strong evangelistic churches.

Every local Baptist church carries the tremendous responsibility to inform, encourage and equip its members to be involved in hands-on missions, at home and beyond, if we understand what Jesus said when He commissioned us to "go into all the world."

There are many definitions of partnership. One I prefer is: "a relationship usually involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibilities." All we do as an association, a state convention or the whole SBC is a partnership. This is especially true as we become partners in the task of partnership missions.

There are many benefits for churches who become involved in a Kentucky Baptist partnership. Each volunteer should sense that he or she has been called of God to serve alongside fellow Christians in cooperation with career missionaries and national Baptists. My philosophy of partnership missions is that we work alongside our missionaries and the nationals; not to do their work for them, but to work with them.

Volunteers gain a greater sense of prayer for our missionaries and their families. They can now put faces of missionaries with names.

Volunteers usually return to become greater supporters of missions. Many churches have discovered that after sending members from their church on a partnership project, they begin to see increased missions giving.

Volunteers often engage in a more positive evangelistic lifestyle after returning from a mission project. Many career missionaries serving today first sensed God's call to missions while serving as volunteers.

Partnership means joining hands and hearts in a God-called task. It means accepting the Great Commission and joining together to accomplish it.



Calvin Wilkins is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department.

## Retired farmer rolls into kids' hearts with free bikes

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**"I gave a few bikes away and told children if (they) broke down or they had a flat to call me. I didn't dream anything like this would happen."**

Frank Riddick

CLINTON—When Frank Riddick was growing up on a farm in western Tennessee, having a bicycle seemed as remote a possibility as owning a new car.

One of six children, he always had plenty to eat and wear, but there wasn't much left for luxuries.

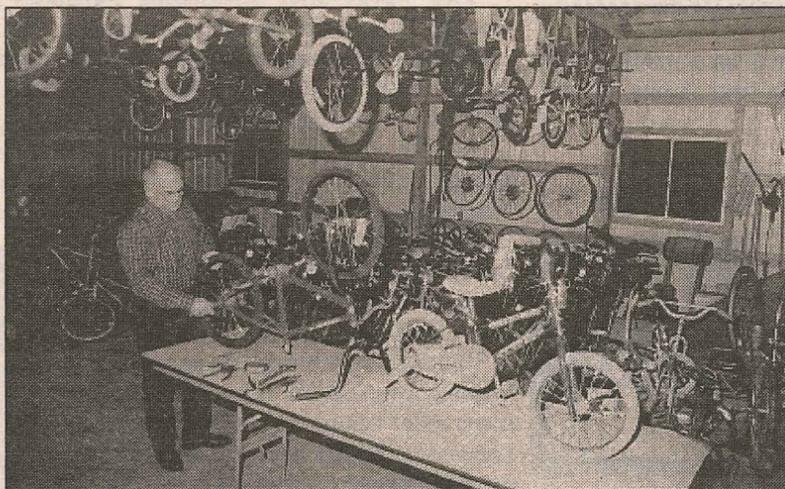
Remembering those childhood longings, two years ago he decided to provide bicycles to youngsters whose families couldn't afford to buy them one for Christmas.

To initiate the effort, he turned to the county mission house. Supported by various churches, the Clinton-based ministry provides food and clothing to low-income residents of the area.

In October, he posted a sign at the mission house reading, "If your child doesn't have a bike and wants one, see me or Lula Bell." Lula Bell Puckett is director of the mission house.

"I gave a few bikes away and told children if (they) broke down or they had a flat to call me," said Riddick, who retired from farming in 1995. "I didn't dream anything like this would happen."

What happened would soften the hardest of hearts. After buying 40 new bicycles and placing a classified ad



**BIKE MINISTRY** Frank Riddick has given Clinton-area children nearly 200 bikes and has 100 more in his workshop. Each bike carries a license plate reading, "Jesus Loves You." "I can look back and see how everything happening was directed by God," Riddick said. "I just didn't have enough spiritual knowledge to know it." (Photo by Keith Todd)

seeking used ones, word quickly spread. Donations of bikes poured in to his farm, three miles from town.

To date, he has given away nearly 200 bikes and has 100 more in his workshop. Each bike carries a license plate reading, "Jesus Loves You."

But he didn't stop with free bikes. Riddick gave the children himself.

He had built a 1.5-acre playground on his farm for his five grandchildren, but three of them now live out of state.

After getting acquainted with youngsters in the community, he invited them out to the homemade attraction.

It includes a cable ride the length of a football field, with capacity for four riders, a 50-foot-high tree swing and a 61-foot slide. The latter is more than four times the length of conventional slides.

Among other features is a merry-go-round-like device that holds three small children. Some children have said they

enjoy the cable ride as much as the old Opryland amusement park.

"It's a joy to know the Lord had in mind for these needy kids to come out," he said. "A lot of these children I'm dealing with are below poverty level. They live in bad environments. Some are mistreated and, without the mission house, most would be without clothes."

"I'm sure every community has children like this, but I didn't know how bad it was until I started doing this," he noted.

Riddick's involvement also led him to buy a 15-passenger van. Though he uses it to shuttle children to the Team Kids program at First Baptist Church of Clinton, he primarily got it to bring children to the playground.

Looking back, Riddick said he appreciates how God spared his life three times. He has survived a bout with kidney cancer, getting electrocuted by a 7,200-volt power line and a brain tumor that doctors thought was cancerous. It turned out to be stress-related.

Still, he spurns praise for what he does, saying the glory belongs to God.

"I cannot say I had a vision to do this," he said. "I had a longing in my heart. I constantly feel a need to help the needy in our community. I can look back and see how everything happening was directed by God. I just didn't have enough spiritual knowledge to know it."

## Clinton church grows through 'Team Kids' work with local youth

Continued from page 1

several black families either joined or attend services regularly.

"We've had some (black) children ask, 'You mean I can be baptized here?'" co-director Shane Bizzell said. "It's the first time we've had black members here. It caused some conflict, but there's enough spirit and momentum that it's OK. In the past it wasn't."

First Baptist started Team Kids two years ago, initially attracting the children of church members and averaging 25 children a week. Momentum began building a year ago, and by the end of last summer it had grown to 60 and steadily increased.

Many workers credit the momentum to a ministry started in the fall of 1997 by Frank Riddick. A retired farmer, he started fixing bicycles and giving them to any child in the county who didn't have one.

He also services them and trades with past recipients who want a new model. Many of his "customers" live in the town's three housing projects.

"There wouldn't be a Team Kids if not for Frank and (his wife) Glenda," said Bizzell. "He knows these kids' families, mammas and cousins. He has daily interaction with them. He's largely responsible for the growth. Word got out and kids started coming off these buses like crazy."

After six Team Kids-related conversions in 1998, last year the program registered 14 new Christians. Two of the 14 kids were baptized, and a volunteer counselor is following up with the rest.

For Team Kids' co-director Jackie Kyle, the outreach includes a personal touch that warms her heart. Around town she receives hugs and friendly waves from children in the program.

"You see the light in their eyes that wasn't there a year before," she said. "They used to smile with their mouth, and now they smile with their eyes."

Despite the current excitement, not everyone greeted the influx of newcomers with open arms. Kyle, who moved here from North Carolina in 1996, said controversy surrounded bringing in children from the community.

Today, however, she sees most members welcoming the opportunity to minister. The church allocated money to provide Bibles to Team Kids participants as a Christmas gift.

A mentoring program also was established with 15 church members serving as role models and advisers to two dozen children.

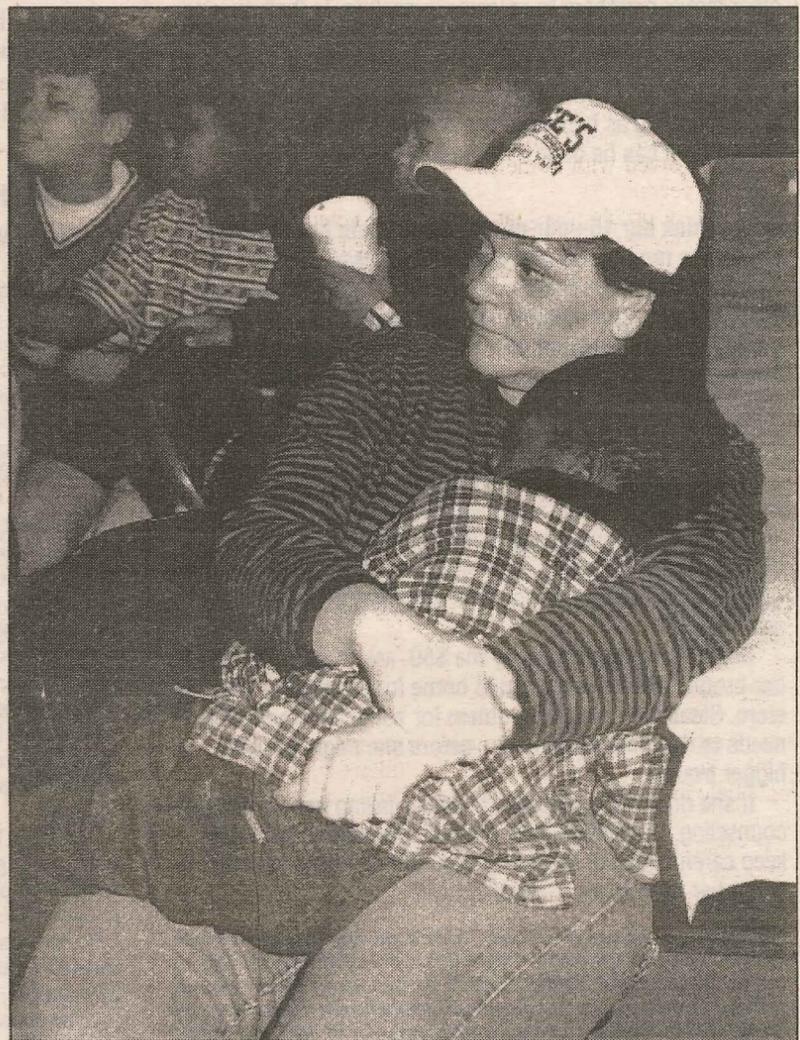
Outreach has extended beyond Wednesday nights, too. Last fall the church raised more than \$5,400 to purchase copies of the "Jesus" video, which were distributed to 2,200 homes. Distribution bags include a response card. Of the first 133 cards returned, 25 said they weren't involved in church. Eight expressed interest in a weekly Bible study and two requested personal visits.

Rose also credits prayer and visitation for First Baptist's vibrancy. Now in his 50th year of ministry, Rose started Saturday night prayer meetings soon after he arrived.

Still, he said Team Kids has been a key in stirring a spirit of reaching out.

"What it does is get people's minds off themselves and gets them on other people," Rose said. "Once they get involved, it becomes a burden."

"This has been an eye opener for me," Bizzell said. "The mission field for the church is in Clinton and it's huge. Our church has finally realized that."



**VOLUNTEER** Kay Allison hold a sleeping youngster during Team Kids activities. About half of the youth coming to the mid-week program at First Baptist Church of Clinton are African-American, and some black families have joined the predominately white church. "It caused some conflict, but there's enough spirit and momentum that it's OK," co-director Shane Bizzell said. "In the past it wasn't." (Photo by Keith Todd)

**"The mission field for the church is in Clinton and it's huge. Our church has finally realized that."**

Shane Bizzell

## New homeless ministry helping men get back on track

Continued from page 1

The goal is to allow homeless men with mental illness and chemical dependency to build enough structure in their lives so that they later can move to other housing and have a better chance of success.

Harvey said the center found that dually diagnosed homeless people have few resources to help them stay off drugs.

Many drug-addicted clients spend a month at Louisville's Central State Mental Hospital only to frequently wind up homeless afterwards, Harvey said. "They simply hadn't had that much clean time, and they would end up back on the street."

The dual diagnosis center is Louisville's only facility set up to work with people who have both mental illness and substance abuse. Clients' mental illnesses range from mild to severe. Their substance abuses often are a mixture of alcohol and crack cocaine, Harvey said.

The typical length of stay in the center is expected to be 10 months, he said.

"That may seem like an awfully long time, but that's not unreasonable when you're dealing with the nature of the problem, long untreated mental illness," Harvey said. "They really need that length of time to build some stability in their lives before they get out on their own."

The high volume of dually diagnosed homeless people is linked to the deregulation of mental hospitals in the 1970s, according to Marlene Gordon, executive director for Louisville's Coalition for the Homeless.

"Homelessness can not go away until we do something about the issue of mental illness," said Gordon, who has been involved with homeless issues for 13 years.

A common problem is that some people who could lead normal lives with medication have no one to make sure they take their medicines, Gordon said.

When they feel OK, they don't think they need to take their medicine, she said. If problems arise, they often "self-medicate," or use alcohol or illegal drugs, she added.

"It quiets the voices and makes them more comfortable to self-medicate," she said. "So they're right back where they were."

In addition to providing housing, Jefferson Street Center also hosts satellite offices for an independent mental health counseling center and a medical clinic.

"We also provide a spiritual focus that you may or may not find elsewhere," he said. "It just all creates an environment where every client gets the best possible chance at becoming self-sufficient."

Spiritually, the center offers Bible studies, Sunday worship and Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous support groups.

"We don't have to deliberately create a situation to talk about the gospel," Harvey said. "A lot of the clients will seek us out and ask us questions about God and the like. ... 'Is there something evil that my parents did?'"

"Some of them ask some pretty profound questions, and they're very receptive to what we have to share with them about God being a loving and compassionate God Who accepts them as they are," he added.

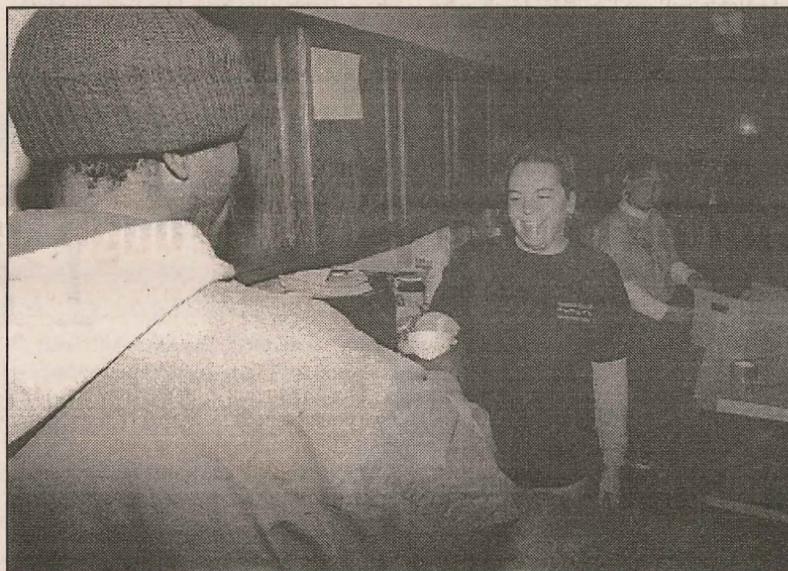
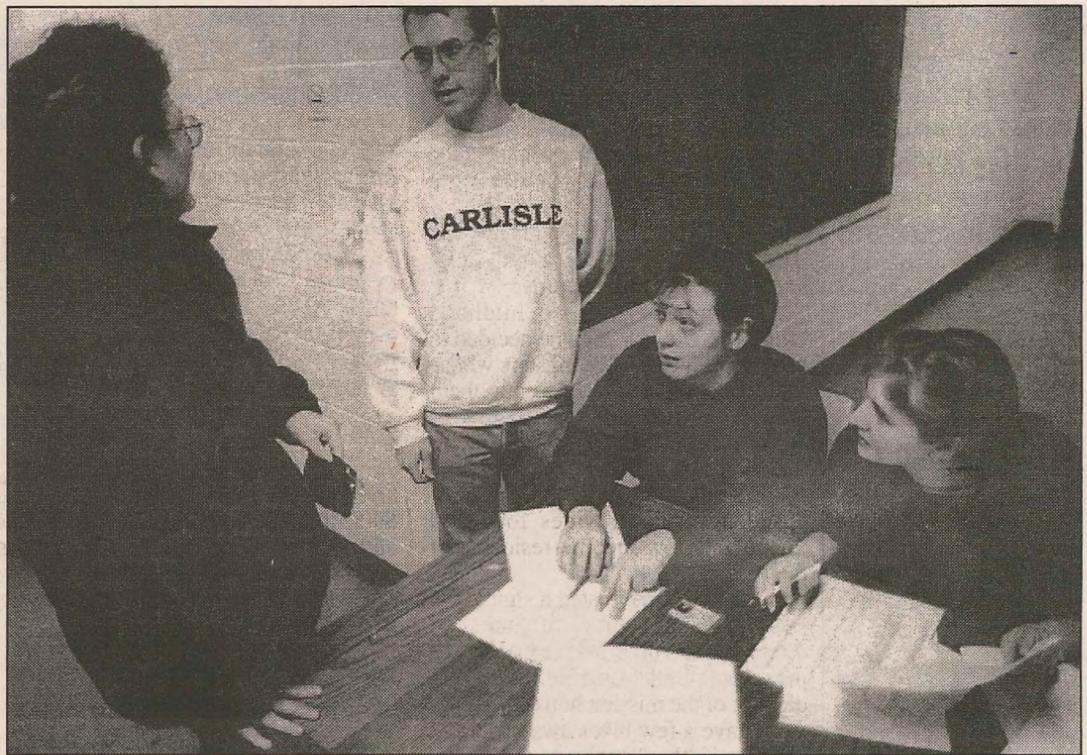
During the last six years, the center has averaged 50 professions of faith in Jesus annually, plus numerous people who rededicate their lives to God, he said.

"We're not trying to make them into Baptists," he said, adding that the workers accept whatever spiritual breakthroughs the clients experience. "On the other hand, if they do express an interest in what our religious views are, we're not hesitant to express it."

Harvey admits the changes at the center drew some initial skepticism from Louisville-area churches. Yet support has grown for the center's new purpose, he said. "We can see that by the increase in support that we get from our churches. Many of those fears have been laid to rest."

As people who were formerly homeless graduate from the dual-diagnosis program, the center likely will continue contact with the clients.

Jefferson Street Center received a federal grant to help provide permanent



**HELPING OUT** Baptist Student Union volunteers from Cumberland College recently helped out at Jefferson Street Baptist Center's day shelter for homeless people in Louisville. ■ Above: Assistant Director Rick Breny (standing right), and students check in a woman for the day shelter. During winter, the shelter's busiest time, more than 130 homeless people will visit each day, Breny said. ■ Left: A volunteer hands coffee to a client. Services of the day shelter include showers, laundry, a clothes shelter and hygiene items. Homeless people also can use the center's address and phone number on job applications.

housing and case management for clients for up to five years.

The money should help staff work with up to 10 clients at a time, securing low-income housing and follow up for

those who leave the center, Harvey said.

"We had asked for \$142,000 and we ended up receiving \$190,000," he said. "How often do you wind up getting more money than you ask for?"

## Seminary student draws from experiences to tell bikers of God's love

By Bryan Cribb  
Southern Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Perhaps in no single place can one find more helmets, Harleys and heathens.

Converging on the "Biker Boogie" festival in Bean Blossom, Ind., thousands of motorcyclists from throughout the country annually transform a simple field into a sea of dirt, beer and exhaust.

"It's like walking into Sodom and Gomorrah. Nothing is not happening," said Jeff Washburn, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Yet even surrounded by the leather and lawlessness, Washburn and other members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association seek to share the good news of Christ with the bikers in their own element.

"We call it one-on-one, in-your-face, smell-your-breath evangelism,"

Washburn said.

With nearly 70,000 members worldwide, CMA trains Christian bikers to attend secular motorcyclists' events like the Biker Boogie where they meet needs, mix, mingle and evangelize.

"All of us are dedicated to taking the message of hope in Christ out to bikers right where they are," Washburn said, "because they are not likely to walk through the doors of a church."

"They feel abandoned by God, abandoned by Christians and definitely mad at the world. These people really need somebody to minister to them," he added.

The bikers also need somebody who can connect with them and their experiences. Enter Washburn.

"When I'm talking to them, I can see the pain that's deep inside them that they're trying to cover up and not let anyone see," he said. "I can see it

in them because I was there."

The son of an evangelist, Washburn admitted he has not always ridden in the right direction in life. His early childhood nurtured him spiritually. But after his parents' divorce, the then 20-year-old Washburn rebelled.

"I got to the point where I was consuming enough alcohol and drugs that I didn't stay more than two or three hours sober for more than a year and a half," Washburn said.

Finally, he cleaned up and found a college to attend. And with the help of several college professors, Washburn also found God.

After graduation in 1986, Washburn enrolled at Southern Seminary. But financial problems forced him to withdraw after a semester.

He started drinking heavily again. He hit rock bottom emotionally and spiritually. But recent personal events and his involvement in the CMA led him to give his life completely to

Christ.

With God as conductor, Washburn returned to Southern Seminary this fall. Southern has provided new ministry opportunities. Working as a carpenter while going to school, Washburn has used even the biblical languages to open doors of ministry.

"At work on my lunch break, we're all sitting around and talking about whatever, and I'm going through Greek vocabulary cards," Washburn recounted. "They don't do it around everybody else, but people will come and talk to me—just alone."

"I think it kind of fascinates them that one of them is" attending seminary, he said. "They think, 'Wait a minute, maybe we're not a forgotten bunch.'"

Washburn said he shares with fellow workers and bikers out of gratitude to God for not forgetting him. "God is a forgiving God," he said. "That's the beauty of it."

## Baptist World Alliance declares decade of racial justice

### Delegates charge SBC neglect

MELBOURNE, Australia (ABP)—Two delegates from Bangladesh surprised a meeting of the Baptist World Alliance General Council by asking the group to take up slack because, they said, new strategies by Southern Baptist missionaries neglect existing churches.

Dilip Datta did not mention the Southern Baptist International Mission Board when he complained about a missions society "dumping its institutions on us."

Bangladesh Baptists were not trained to manage hospitals and other institutions, Datta said. "We need your help to train us to run the institutions for which we are now responsible."

Samson Chowdhury, a member of the General Council from Bangladesh, claimed missionaries were withdrawing from working with the Baptist Christians of his country and focusing instead on unreached people groups.

That might have good long-term results, but Bangladesh Baptists feel abandoned, Chowdhury explained.

The matter was referred to a committee of missions executives, which includes IMB President Jerry Rankin.

After the meeting, Avery Willis, IMB's senior vice president for overseas operations, said he and Rankin are familiar with such concerns and plan to visit national Baptist leaders during the coming year.

"We want them to know that we are not abandoning them," Willis said. "We want to maintain relationships."

By Robert O'Brien  
Associated Baptist Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (ABP)—Baptists worldwide declared a "Decade of Racial Justice" and a new emphasis on evangelism amid color and pageantry at the 18th Baptist World Congress, which ended last week.

A resolution on racial justice at the gathering, Jan. 5-9 in Melbourne, Australia, called on Baptists everywhere to seek "inter-racial and inter-ethnic harmony to achieve authentic justice for all persons without regard to race."

In other business, Baptist leaders voted to establish a summit over the next five years to consider the challenge of evangelization in the 21st century. Emphasis will be given to newer churches in Africa and Asia and an estimated 1.3 billion people living in portions of the globe that largely are untouched by the gospel.

Congress delegates elected South Korean pastor and broadcaster Billy Kim to a five-year term as 19th president of the Baptist World Alliance. Kim, 64, is pastor of the 13,000-member Central Baptist Church in Suwon, South Korea. He will succeed Brazilian pastor Nilson Fanini as president in July at a meeting of the BWA General

Council in Cuba.

About 6,100 delegates from six continents examined the congress theme: "Jesus Christ Forever. Yes." They also launched initiatives to minister to the poor and hungry, to emphasize prayer, encourage strife-torn people and promote social justice.

Congress participants also passed resolutions calling for action on human rights and social justice, faith and hope for the new millennium and Christian renewal, growth, evangelism and mission.

Formed in 1905, the Baptist World Alliance consists of 196 member bodies, representing 43 million Baptists in 160,000 churches. The organization holds a congress every five years.

Looking toward the 100th anniversary of the BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz urged a 21st Century Committee to "examine achievements of the past, the present success and future possibilities" of the BWA.

That committee will bring recommendations for changes and emphases to the Centennial Baptist World Congress in England in 2005.

Christians enter a new millennium divided, said Lotz, who has administered the McLean, Va., -based BWA since 1988. "Division between Catho-

lic, Orthodox, ecumenical and evangelical Christians is in some cases worse than at the beginning of the 20th century," he said. "Baptists must work for the unity of God's people."

Organizers speculated that holiday-related travel and Y2K concerns contributed to a drop in attendance. More than 8,000 people registered for the previous congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In elections during satellite meetings, Audrey Morikawa of Canada succeeded Mercy Jeyarajao of India as president of the BWA women's department, and Samson Ola Olaniyan of Nigeria succeeded Angel Baez of Paraguay as men's department president.

Sessions also addressed hunger, disease and poverty as dramatic issues facing the 21st century.

Both Fanini and Kim, known for their evangelistic preaching, said in separate addresses that if they had it to do over, they would do more praying.

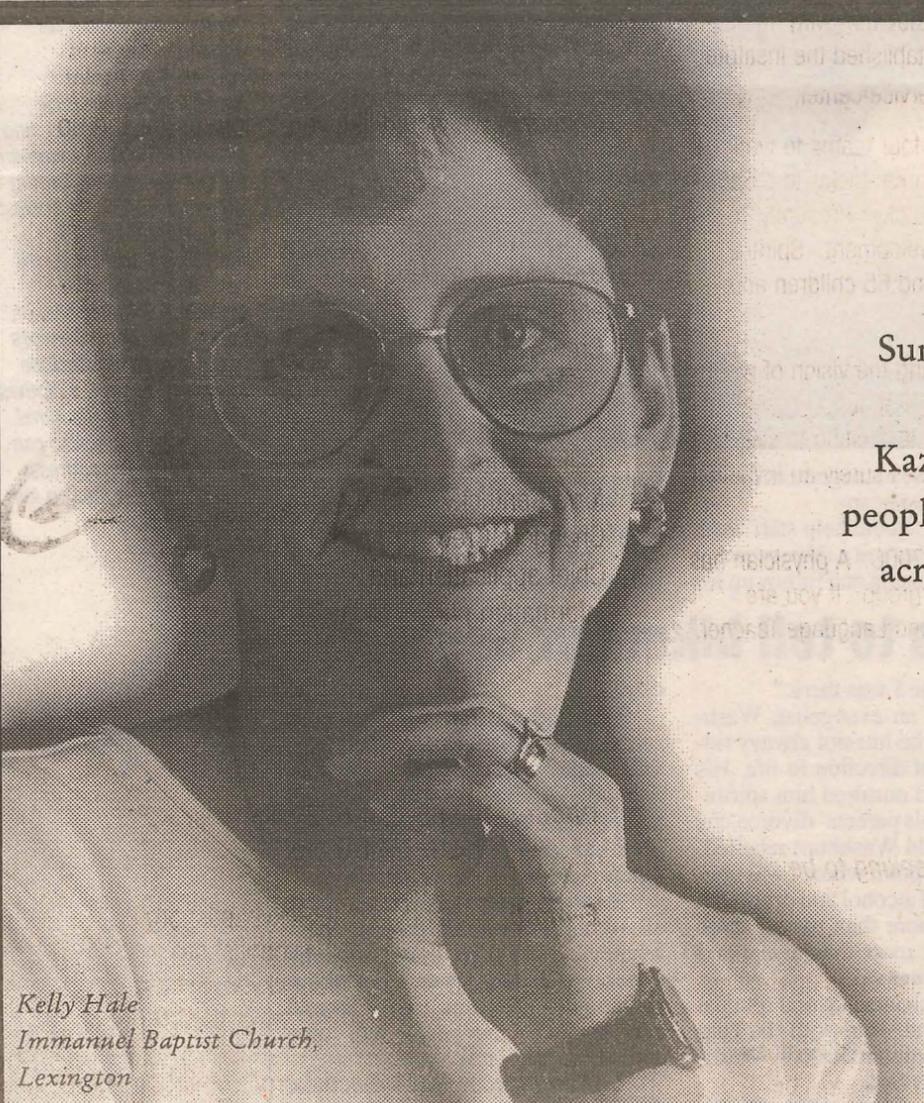
"Lack of prayer is one of the evidences of lack of spiritual power in our lives," Kim said. "There should be no 'day off' when it comes to prayer."

"Much prayer, much power," Fanini said in addressing one solution to complex problems. "Little prayer, little power."

## I'm a partner.

I'm active in WMU, choir and orchestra. I teach Sunday school and Girls in Action. I've also been a two-year International Service Corps worker in Kazakstan. Some of my offering goes to help other people find out about God not only in Kentucky, but across the United States and throughout the world. Come join me. You can be a partner, too!

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



Kelly Hale  
Immanuel Baptist Church,  
Lexington



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K E N T U C K Y

# Brotherhood



## ON MISSION BULLETIN

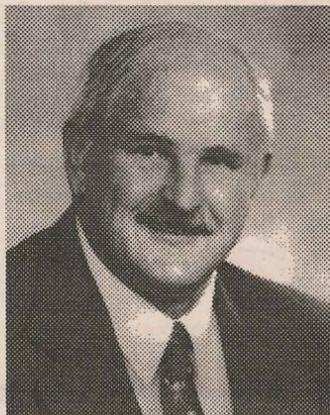
A supplement to the Western Recorder

Winter/Spring 2000

INTRODUCING ...

## Professional Christian Service Corps

The Brotherhood Department has begun a new ministry called the Professional Christian Service Corps (PCSC). The purpose is to mobilize small teams of Christian professionals on two-week mission trips to service centers in developing countries. These interdenominational volunteers work with local committees who coordinate promotion and follow-up efforts. Plans are to send four to six teams out each year.



Randy Foster,  
Brotherhood Director

PCSC ministry goals are to share Christ's love and truth, develop leadership in the targeted areas and enable locals to minister to their people. Medical, agricultural, veterinarian, economic, business and language specialists are being recruited to participate in these opportunities. Volunteers will be responsible for their own airfare and the Brotherhood Department will pay for living expenses in country.

Dr. Morris Norfleet, past president of Morehead State University, is the Professional Areas Coordinator for this ministry. He and Randy Foster took the first trip together to San Miguel, El Salvador in May of 1999. San Miguel had been completely destroyed by Hurricane Mitch. They met with members of Abundant Life Baptist Church in San Miguel and established the Institute for Spiritual and Economic Development as the first service center.

The church members have organized themselves into four teams to work on different development areas. One project uses six electric sewing machines, donated from Kentucky, to produce aprons and other goods. Some of these aprons have been brought back and sold in Kentucky. Presently, these machines support five families. God has used these projects as a catalyst for spiritual development. Spiritual development efforts include the formation of three Bible study groups, each involving around 65 children and 20-30 adults.

Much of the success of the San Miguel project is a result of local church members' catching the vision of what God could do through these ministries and their willingness to act on that vision. They have begun to reach out to their community of 850 families with anticipation of spiritual and economic renewal. "It is exciting to see how God is moving in every corner of His world with opportunities to minister in His name. This is surely an invitation from Him to join Him in what might be the greatest harvest of all time," exclaims Randy Foster.

Plans are being made for Dr. Norfleet and Randy Foster to return to El Salvador in March, 2000. A physician has volunteered to go with them, but they are still seeking additional specialists to go with the group. If you are catching a vision for this ministry and are a professional (Nurse, Dentist, English as a Second Language Teacher, etc.), contact the Brotherhood office for more details and a brochure.

## Kentucky Changers Crew Chiefs

The Brotherhood Department seeks to provide multiple ways to mobilize men and women in missions. One opportunity is to serve on a Kentucky Changers project. Men and women skilled in carpentry, construction and other building related crafts are needed to serve as Crew Chiefs and Assistant Crew Chiefs for Changers projects. Crew Chiefs and assistants will work with 10-15 high school students and adult sponsors to complete a building project. Drawing from their life experience, the Crew Chief will help instruct and train youth to accomplish the team's completion goals.

If you have skill and abilities in these areas and would be interested in partnering with Kentucky Changers we would like you to join us for the upcoming Spring Crew Chief Training event March 31-April 1, 2000.

This is a training event for all experienced and new Crew Chiefs and Assistants. Call or write for a Kentucky Changers Crew Chief application and information packet today.



### How to Contact the Brotherhood Department

**Phone:** 888-254-5720 (in Kentucky)  
502-244-6489

**E-mail:** Randy\_Foster@kybaptist.org  
Larry\_Koch@kybaptist.org  
Dwayne\_Doyle@kybaptist.org  
Marilyn\_Johnson@kybaptist.org

**On-Line:** [www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood.htm](http://www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood.htm)



### Project Pike County May 13-20, 2000

Young Adults, 19-24, seeking to be  
On Mission Christians!

Kentucky Changers Xtreme is the opportunity for Young Adults 19-24 to be On Mission Christians in an exciting missions opportunity. The pilot projects in 1998 and 1999 went remarkably. Xtreme takes the Kentucky Changers to the next level. Instead of rehab work in a low income area Kentucky Changers Xtreme partners with Habitat for Humanity to see houses built in a week. Some houses will be built to completion while others will be a total shell build.

The 2000 Xtreme project is slated for Pike County. The target build for 2000 is three homes in one week. Three teams of 25 - 35 people are needed to see this goal accomplished. Contact the brotherhood department for specifics on the upcoming Kentucky Changers Xtreme 2000 project.

**Need More Info?** Call Dwayne Doyle toll free in KY 888-254-5720 or 502-244-6489.

You can also e-mail him at [Dwayne\\_Doyle@kybaptist.org](mailto:Dwayne_Doyle@kybaptist.org).

Check us out on the WEB: [www.kybaptist.org/Xtreme.htm](http://www.kybaptist.org/Xtreme.htm)

For more information, see back page of this insert for registration form and website.



# Brotherhood



## About Brotherhood and Becoming "On Mission"

Men today are longing for something real and authentic that is motivating and life changing. Men want a vibrant personal relationship with the Father and desire to live this relationship out in service to the Father and in service to the world. Churches are beginning to develop strategies for ministering to men. Does your church provide ministry for the men who attend your church?

Brotherhood is the tool that utilizes multiple strategies for drawing men and families to God and mobilizing them for the kingdom. Brotherhood equips men to grow in their personal relationship with the Father and live out this relationship in "On Mission" service to the world daily. When men live their lives "On Mission," they see that they have a responsibility to mentor "On Mission" lives for their children. Men who realize that God calls them to live their lives in obedience to God daily, learn that God wants to use all of their gifts, talents, dreams and desires as God's personal tools for reaching the world.

Brotherhood is the resource for your church to use in developing a strategy for men's ministry. By offering information, resources and training, Brotherhood seeks to equip your church with practical ways of leading men to be "On Mission" daily. Brotherhood also offers resources and training for churches to use to build a heritage of faith for their youth and children.

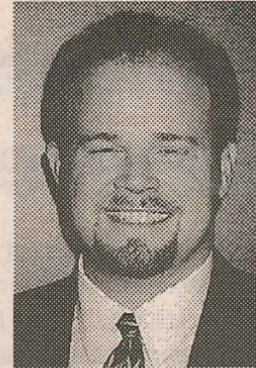
Brotherhood offers many different areas for men to be mobilized. Whether using horse handling abilities, medical training, administrative skills, building abilities, disaster relief training or just a love for the great outdoors, there are places for the men in your church to be mobilized.

Without men anchored in the words of the Father and seeking to be in a vibrant growing relationship Him, there is no men's ministry. What happens is tragic. Men farm out their responsibility to lead because they don't understand that God has created them to be leaders in their families, work places and churches.

Pray that God will give pastors a desire to see a ministry to men come alive in the churches that God has entrusted them to lead. Pray that God will give a man or some men in your church a passion to lead the other men in your church to be "On Mission". Pray that God will lead your church to develop a strategy that meets the needs of your men and empowers them to be "On Mission" daily.

## Missions and Adventure Camp

Did you know that churches have a special opportunity to build a heritage of faith and missions into the lives of their children? There is a window of learning in childhood development (ages 9-12) that offers strategic opportunities for teaching life guiding lessons. Through Missions and Adventure Camp the message of the Gospel and the challenge to grow in discipleship is accessible to children.



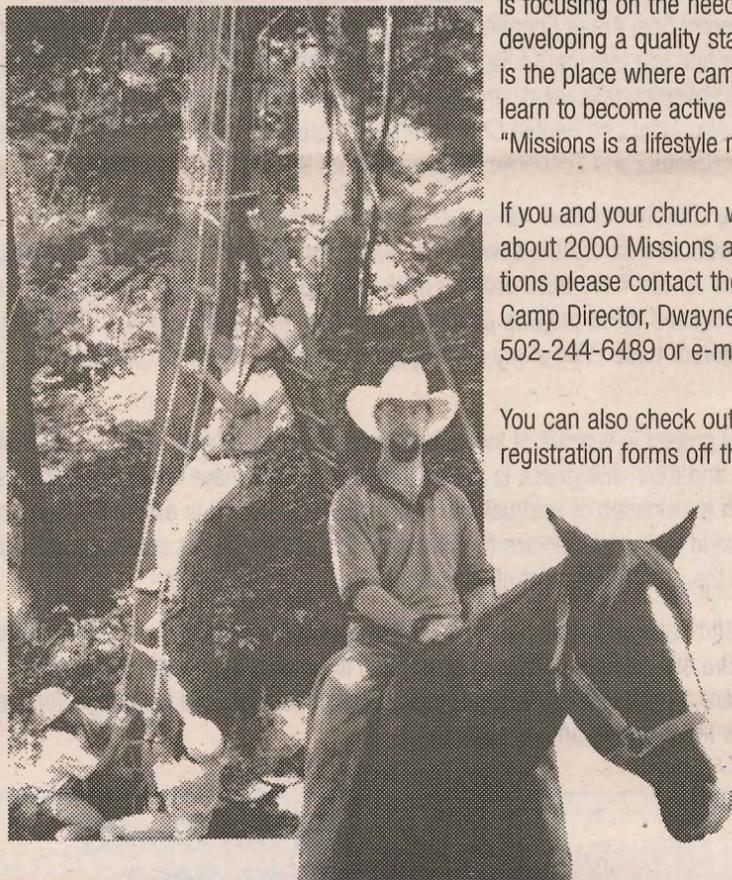
Dwayne Doyle, Missions Education Associate

Missions and Adventure Camp should not just be an optional event for kids during the summer, but a real complement to the on going missions education programs that are alive and active in Kentucky churches. Missions and adventure camp teaches life lessons and skills that are not available to them in their normal life settings. Anything less than this is just a place for parents to send their kids for a week. The YMCA or any legitimate civic organization offers programs to meet these needs.

Missions and Adventure Camp is one major tool for helping teens and young boys come alive to Christ. With intentional prayer, goal setting and action planning, the Brotherhood is focusing on the needs of male children and youth in developing a quality staff and camping program. Camp is the place where campers can come alive to Christ and learn to become active disciples of Him and to know that "Missions is a lifestyle not a location".

If you and your church would like to receive more information about 2000 Missions and Adventure Camp dates and locations please contact the state Missions and Adventure Camp Director, Dwayne Doyle 888-254-5720 (KY only), 502-244-6489 or e-mail: [Dwayne\\_Doyle@kybaptist.org](mailto:Dwayne_Doyle@kybaptist.org).

You can also check out camp dates and get downloadable registration forms off the KBC website.



Activities such as horseback riding and team member rope climbing are just a few of the many activities at the Missions and Adventure Camp

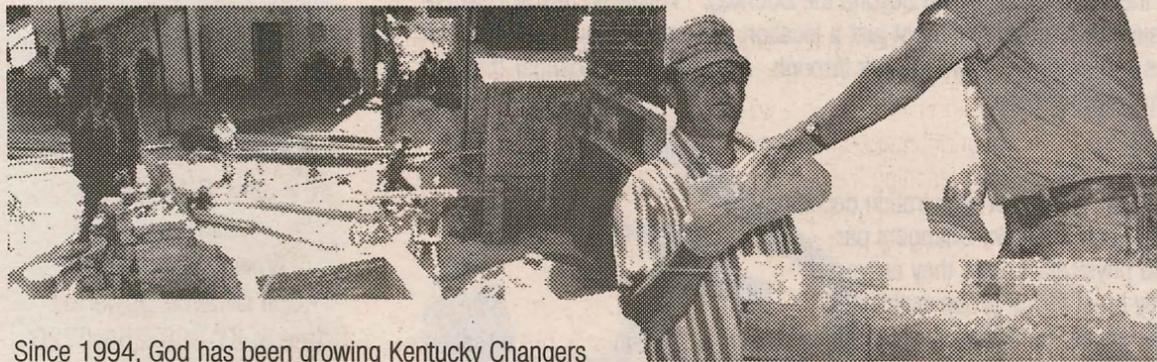
# Experiencing God WEEKENDS

What a beautiful picture! Husbands with their wives and often children forming a team with other families to share how to know God intimately and obey Him because of love. As this message is shared throughout Kentucky, churches are taking seriously the opportunities of experiencing God in a fresh and meaningful way that is compelling them to get "On Mission" as a church family. Members of participating churches are given the opportunity of joining the Experiencing God team to impact yet another church. Churches all over Kentucky are being reminded to look to see what God is doing and how they can join Him. This approach is having a great impact on men, especially. From the lessons learned through **Experiencing God**, men are assuming new challenges under His leadership.

Frank and Lin Harris would love to schedule a **Experiencing God Weekend** in your church, association or region. For more information contact Frank and Lin Harris, Experiencing God Weekends Coordinators, P.O. Box 404, Mayfield, KY 42066.



# God Sized Expansion of Kentucky Changers



Since 1994, God has been growing Kentucky Changers through mobilizing groups of youth and leaders to share His love in communities by repairing homes. This growth expanded greatly in 1999 as Kentucky Changers took steps in the direction of collegiate level opportunities and more.

In 1999, God took a request to have a group of 30 college students go to Bosnia for an overseas Kentucky Changers Collegiate project and multiplied it. Working together on this request, Brotherhood and the Collegiate Ministry Department of KBC ended up sending 82 people to 6 countries. Because of the conflict in Yugoslavia, the Bosnia team was redirected to El Salvador in May. They cleaned several drinking wells and built support structures and roofs for 8 homes. The new Kentucky Changers International program for college students has been formed following the success of this mission project. The new Kentucky Changers International program for college students has been formed. The second overseas project is slated for the original destination, Sarajevo, Bosnia – May 13-27, 2000.



While one group was in El Salvador, a second Kentucky Changers Collegiate project was beginning stateside. Rick Lucas directed a crew of eighteen young adults and six leaders on the Brotherhood's first College/Career Habitat Project in Morehead, Kentucky. Starting from the sub-floor, they completed the exterior of the home including siding and roofing by the end of the week-long project. The success of this project

sparked the formation of Kentucky Changers Xtreme, a "hands-on" project for young adults 19-24. The goal for the next Kentucky Changers Xtreme project is three homes. Seventy-five to one hundred young adults (19-24 years old) are needed May 13-20, 2000 in Pike County.

The Youth Department, assisted by the Brotherhood Department, the Brotherhood at First Baptist Church Shelbyville, and Director of Missions Bill Hartung, held the first Discover Missions Week at Cedarmore in August of 1999. Youth groups from thirteen churches participated. Approximately 258 participants learned about missions and spent three days on crews performing random acts of kindness, making repairs to homes and churches in surrounding communities as well as making repairs at Cedarmore itself. This wonderful week of camp and missions will happen again at Discover Missions Week 2000 – July 31-August 4, 2000.

## Sharing Christ in Crisis

The call came on Tuesday, the 14th of September. Hurricane Floyd would devour the eastern coast with wind, waves and rain. The first volunteers from Kentucky Baptists' Disaster Relief Team were on their way to stage at Atlanta the next morning. After spending one night there, the team was dispatched to Wilson, North Carolina. They responded to the call to "Share Christ in Crisis" along with the disaster relief teams from 6 other states.

Kentucky Baptists sent 240 volunteers to prepare meals, clean homes, offer hope and rebuild lives. Kentucky volunteers prepared 198,673 meals before closing down the feeding unit on October 15th. All of the Southern Baptist DR teams together prepared over 890,000 meals in response to God's call to minister to the hurricane survivors. As the relief efforts began to focus on "mudding out" and cleanup, yet another storm dumped more rain, slowing the relief efforts.

When asked about this response, Larry Koch, Disaster Relief Associate for the Brotherhood Department, said: "This is the largest and longest response (over 6 weeks) we have made to a disaster with the exception of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. This response dramatically shows that Disaster Relief in Kentucky is as strong as ever and Kentucky Baptists will respond when called upon. I want to personally say thanks to all who helped make this response a resounding success: both to those who were on the scene doing the cooking, cutting and cleaning, and to those who remained behind the scenes making phone calls and doing all the other support work necessary to make disaster relief a success. To each of you, may God's richest blessings be yours. Also, may I let our volunteers know that there are international opportunities for ministry for those with a heart to respond to places like Turkey, Central America, and Kosovo."



Larry Koch,  
Disaster Relief Associate

## Winter Royal Ambassador & Challenger Congresses & Training Events



In an effort to present opportunities that challenge RA's in your region and offer much needed training, regional Brotherhood Coordinators, Royal Ambassador and Challenger leaders are making some changes. They have looked at the needs of their regions and decided on the most effective dates, locations and event happenings to service your Region. To find out what dates, locations and event happenings are being offered in your area please contact your Regional Brotherhood Coordinator for more information.



### Brotherhood Regional Coordinators:

#### Southwestern Region

Coordinator: Harlan Williams – 270/437-4203  
Assistant: Ralph McConnell – 270/886-2636

#### South Central Region

Coordinator: Randall Rogers – 270/932-7267  
Assistant: Richard Gastineau – 606/548-3492

#### Southern Region

Coordinator: Bob Bottoms – 270/622-5588  
Assistant: Richard Green – 270/678-3059

#### Southeastern Region

Coordinator: Mark George – 606/523-8302

#### North Central Region

Co-Coordinators:  
Mike & Wanda Klein – 606/272-2175

#### Northeastern Region

Coordinator: Brent Thompson – 606/432-8754  
Assistant: Harold Moore – 606/324-7724

#### Central Region

Coordinator: Russell Cole – 502/966-8067  
Assistant: Calvin Bohannon – 270/756-6295

#### Western Region

Coordinators: Bob Morrison – 270/821-6400  
Coordinator: Mike Melloan – 270/926-8195

# "Christian High School Youth Making A Difference"

Kentucky Changers 2000 is your youth group's opportunity to have a God-sized mission experience. Kentucky Changers is a coeducational mission project sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department. High school students become personally involved in an intensive week of hands-on home repair for families in low-income communities who could not otherwise afford much-needed repairs. Experienced Baptist Builders will supervise the work site. Kentucky Changers seeks to mobilize youth to discover "Missions as a Lifestyle" as they make a difference in the lives of families in the high-need areas of Covington and Henderson, Kentucky.

## "Going Beyond the Doorway" — Kentucky Changers 2000

Jesus said to the church of Laodicea, "Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in . . ." He was calling them to live out their lives in dependence on Him so that he could transform their world. Jesus is also calling all believers to open the doors of their lives so He can live through them. Then the next step is "Going Beyond the Doorway." Following Jesus to where he is leading us to go. Learning to live lives "On Mission" daily. Missions is a lifestyle and not just a location. As today's youth identify with Christ and live out their lives they will face many doors that only Jesus can empower them to walk through. As a Kentucky Changer they will learn to live out the joy of their salvation as they live out their lives "On Mission" daily.

### How does it work?

Kentucky Changers is not just a camp experience; it is a missions process. After your registration deposit is received, you will be sent all the information needed for your project. Each Kentucky Changers participant will have the opportunity to prepare themselves, spiritually and physically before they arrive at their project site. Participants are prepared in three ways. First they meet for six group-building mission study experiences. Coupled with these group-building experiences, participants will work through a personal devotional guide called The Blue Print. These pre-Changers activities help prepare students prepare spiritually and physically. Finally participants will plan and execute a local missions project in their hometown. Ideas for your local mission project as well as for leading your group sessions will be enclosed in the Leaders Guide for Group Training Sessions.

### Who's It For?

Kentucky Changers is for high school students who have completed grades 9-12. (Youth who have just completed the 8th grade are not old enough to participate.) Also, every 5 students of the same sex must be accompanied by 1 adult sponsor (age 21 or over) of the same sex. Any students that come need to have an adult sponsor. Sponsors need to know that they will participate in the work activities with the youth.

### Feeding & Sleeping?

Accommodations have been arranged at local school facilities in the project areas. Participants will need to bring cots, air mattresses, pillows and/or bedrolls. Breakfast and evening meals will be served at the school. Lunch will be served at the work site.

### The Process:

**Register your group!** When your reservation is received you will be sent the information for the six weeks of preparation. Reservations are due by April 10, 2000! However, you can apply any time before then. The sooner you get your reservations in the sooner you can begin your missions process. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so mail yours early!

**Pay for your group!** Cost is \$150 per participant. This covers lodging, meals, insurance\*, program materials, and construction-related expenses. A \$50 deposit for each participant is due with the registration form. The deposit is refundable until May 15. The balance of \$100 per person is due by May 15 and is non-refundable after that date

\*Note: Each participant must be covered by some form of health insurance. A secondary policy will be secured by the KBC Brotherhood office for all participants.

**Prepare your group!** Before going on the project, youth must complete six sessions of a preparatory missions education study and a local mission project in their community.

### What Now?

After you complete the registration form, send it in with the right deposit for your group. Keep a copy of your form for your records. We'll send you your Group Training Sessions Leaders Guide and "The Blue Print" daily devotional guides for participants.



## Kentucky Changers 2000

### Project Covington

June 10-17, 2000

### Project Henderson

July 8-15, 2000

### Need More Info?

Call Dwayne Doyle toll free in KY 888-254-5720 or 502-244-6589. You can also e-mail him at [Dwayne\\_Doyle@kybaptist.org](mailto:Dwayne_Doyle@kybaptist.org). Check us out in December on the WEB: [www.kybaptist.org/kychanger.htm](http://www.kybaptist.org/kychanger.htm)

Visit us ONLINE!!!



[www.kybaptist.org/kychangers.htm](http://www.kybaptist.org/kychangers.htm)

**Register early and CASH in on participating in the Creative Ministries Festival March 4-5, 2000, Louisville, KY.**

If you send in your registration and deposit early, your church will get to take part in a Kentucky Changers training event at the Creative Ministries Festival and we'll knock **\$10 DOLLARS OFF** the price for your Kentucky Changers GROUP registration. Get your Church registered by February 25, 2000, then attend the training time on Saturday of the Creative Ministries Festival. When you attend the training event you will also receive your copies of the Group Training Sessions Leaders Guide and "The Blue Print" daily devotional guides for participants.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



### Kentucky Changers Registration 2000 On-Line Information and Registration Form:

[www.kybaptist.org/kychangers](http://www.kybaptist.org/kychangers) (Please include above information and check the applicable projects)

**Kentucky Changers Xtreme:** Pike Co. May 13-20  **Kentucky Changers** Covington, June 10-17  **Kentucky Changers** Henderson, July 8-15

Number of participating students: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Number of adult sponsors: Female \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_  
 A check or money order is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_ persons X \$50 = \_\_\_\_\_).

### Send me more information on the following areas of Brotherhood Ministry:

I understand that this fee is non-refundable after May 15, and that the balance of the cost (\$100 per person) is due by May 15. Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

#### Missions Education Information:

- Royal Ambassadors
- Challengers
- Baptist Men on Mission

#### On-Mission Opportunities

- Disaster Relief
- Experiencing God Weekends
- Equestrian Ministries
- Professional Christian Service Corp
- Baptist Builders
- Campers On Mission
- Church Renewal

- Criminal Justice Ministries
- Family Missions
- Lay-Led Revivals
- Legacy Builders
- Sports Missions
- Prayer ministry
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Return to:

Brotherhood Department,  
 P.O. Box 43433,  
 Louisville, Ky 40253

#### On-Line Registration Form:

[www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood](http://www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood)  
 Or Fax Form to: 502-254-4793

## It's official: Ozzie & Harriet are dead

By Bob Allen & Sarah Griffith  
Associated Baptist Press &  
Baptist Center for Ethics

CHICAGO (ABP)—It's official. The days of Ozzie & Harriet are past, according to a recent study of family models in America.

Dual income and single-parent families are moving the American model away from the traditional stay-at-home mother and working father with children. That's the findings from Tom Smith, author of "The Emerging 21st Century American Family," a report by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago.

Less than one fourth (21 percent) of American families contained an employed father and stay-at-home mother in 1998, compared to more than half (53 percent) of families in 1972, the report states.

Women in the work place, redefinition of the roles of husbands and wives, smaller families and changing mores about marriage and sex are "fundamental changes" affecting American families, Smith said.

"Both family structure and family values have been changing, and as a result of these changes the American family is a much-altered institution," Smith said.

"Women have greatly increased their participation in the paid labor force outside the home," the study states.

In 1960, 42 percent of women ages 25-64 worked outside the home. That percentage grew to 49 percent in 1970, 59 percent in 1980, 69 percent in 1990 and 71 percent in 1995.

Women are bringing in a greater share of the family's joint income. By 1994, women had a higher income than their husbands in 22 percent of

dual-earner families. That has contributed to a change in gender roles, the report states.

The traditional roles of a wife running the home while the husband serves as breadwinner and civic participant has been replaced, according to the report. Today there is a "modern perspective in which there is much less gender-role specialization and women have increasingly been entering the labor force as well as other areas of public life."

While gender roles are becoming less traditional, Smith said, stay-at-home fathers in "Mr. Mom" households are still "a rarity."

Declining marriage and childbirth rates will mean fewer households will contain children in the future, Smith predicted. Also, fewer children will be living with their original two parents.

A Baptist ethicist said churches should minister to the needs of families as they exist today, not as they once existed.

Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, said church leaders should "teach authentic biblical values, instead of baptizing the cultural model of Ozzie and Harriet as the normative Christian model for family structure."

Other factors cited in the study include changing attitudes about:

■ **Marriage.** "While still a central institution in American society, marriage plays a less dominant role than it once did," the report states. More people are delaying marriage, divorces have increased and people are slower to remarry than before.

Also, more couples are living together. In a 1994 study, 28 percent of married couples said they lived with their present spouse before marriage. Another 1994 study found nearly two-thirds of young men (65.7 percent)

and women (64 percent) said their first union was cohabitation.

■ **Children.** Childbearing has declined, from a peak fertility rate of 3.65 children per woman at the height of the Baby Boom to a rate of 1.75 children in 1975. In the early 1970s a majority of Americans said the ideal number of children in a family was three or more. Today, most say the ideal number is two.

■ **Sexual mores and practices.** Attitudes toward premarital sex have become more permissive. The percent saying unmarried sex is always wrong declined from 36 percent in 1972 to 24 percent in 1996. More than two thirds, however, say premarital sex between teenagers under 17 is wrong.

Approval of homosexual activity has never been higher. As recently as 1991, 77 percent said homosexual sex is always wrong. By 1998, only 58 percent said so.

Disapproval of extra-marital sex, meanwhile, has increased during the last generation. In 1976, 69 percent said it is always wrong. In 1998, 81 percent said extramarital sex is always wrong.

■ **Neighborhoods.** One hallmark of the traditional family, rootedness in local communities and neighborhoods, has weakened during the last three decades. Social contact with neighbors has declined from 30 percent reporting spending a social evening with neighbors at least several times a week in 1974 to 20 percent in 1998.

"The American family has undergone a series of fundamental changes over the last generation," Smith said. "Many of the changes have undermined the traditional family, as sociologist Norval Glenn notes, 'If you watch what Americans do, traditional family relationships are in trouble.'"

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Emergency food needs increase.** Demand for emergency food assistance in the nation's cities increased an average of 18 percent in the last year, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The group's annual status report, based on a survey of 26 cities, indicates the need for such food had the largest increase since 1992. The report also found that an estimated 21 percent of requests for food are not met. Slightly more than half of the responding cities reported turning away needy people due to lack of resources.

"Unfortunately, our nation's unprecedented prosperity is not reaching a lot of our own citizens," said Peter Clavelle, chairman of the conference's task force on hunger and homelessness and the mayor of Burlington, Vt.

■ **Clinton notes Muslim post-Ramadan feast.** President Clinton, in a first-time event Jan. 10, marked the festival celebrating the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan by greeting Muslim leaders and seeking their prayers for the Middle East peace process. For the last three years, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has held a similar event to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the three-day festival that follows the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting, but this year's event marked the first time the gathering was hosted by the president.

■ **Kathie Lee Gifford to host Doves.** Television personality Kathie Lee Gifford will host the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards, the group announced last week. The awards program will be April 20 at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. Nominees for the annual awards will be announced at a Nashville press conference on Jan. 26. The show will be broadcast through syndication on major network affiliates and independent stations across the country. Many stations plan to air the show during Easter weekend.

■ **Author Wangerin wins book award.** Acclaimed author Walter M. Wangerin Jr. was named recipient of the Theologos Award for the Best Children's Book of 1999. Wangerin received the honor for his book, "Water Come Down," at an American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Boston. Wangerin, a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a professor and writer-in-residence at Valparaiso University in Indiana, an independent Lutheran university.

# Mark was surfing the net to learn more about rabbits...

Now he knows *everything* about Miss February.

Did you know that *Playboy* is currently one of the top three websites visited by teenage boys? Did you know the Supreme Court has defended the right to freedom of sexual expression on the Internet? Get the picture? Block out offensive magazine sites. Protect your family now.

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## Ball team settles suit over church discount

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (RNS)—The American Civil Liberties Union and a minor-league baseball team in Maryland have settled a lawsuit over a team promotion giving discounted admission rates to fans who brought church bulletins to Sunday games.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Hagerstown Suns agreed to extend the \$2 price break to families who bring bulletins from any civic or nonprofit organizations.

Plaintiffs in the case argued the team's promotion violated laws against religious discrimination in places of public accommodation.

The case stemmed from a complaint to the Maryland Commission on Human Relations from activist Carl Silverman, who said he and his family were not given the \$2 admission discount at a Suns game in April 1998 because they did not have a church bulletin.

The Maryland Human Relations Commission concluded in July 1998 that the baseball team's church bulletin promotion violated a state statute that bans businesses from discriminating on the basis of creed. But in October 1999 an administrative law judge ruled in favor of the Suns, noting Silverman had been offered an extra church bulletin by a ticket seller.

## High school teacher fighting suspension for Wicca beliefs

LAURINBURG, N.C. (RNS)—A high school teacher is fighting her suspension after telling administrators she practices a pagan religion associated with witchcraft.

Shari Eicher, an 11th-grade English teacher at Scotland High School in Laurinburg, said she was escorted off campus by officials of the school and suspended with pay indefinitely last week because of her religious beliefs.

Eicher, whose school is about 85 miles southeast of Charlotte, and her husband, Richard, have been practicing Wiccans since 1998.

Adherents of Wicca, a pagan religion, worship nature and focus on positive energy. The religion is associated with witchcraft, but Wiccans say the connection is misunderstood and the faith has nothing to do with devil worship.

Eicher said Jan. 12 she has contacted the North Carolina Education Association for legal assistance in appealing her suspension, Reuters reported. Scotland County Schools Superintendent Shirley Prince declined to comment except to say that an investigation into the matter has begun.

Eicher said she did not talk to students about Wicca. She disclosed her religious beliefs to administrators after a reporter asked her about an Internet Web site about a local Wicca group that was maintained by her husband.

The teacher also said she did not hide her beliefs from high school administrators. She said she had been told her faith would not present a problem as long as her beliefs did not interfere with her teaching.

## Wedgwood accepts donation from assailant's family

**When the assailant's surviving brother handed over \$10,000 from the sale of the trashed Fort Worth property where his brother had lived, the family experienced some much-needed closure.**

By Ted Parks  
Religion News Service

FORT WORTH, Texas (RNS)—“It is good to know that God is with us even in the line of fire.”

This is one of the few visible expressions of grief and faith scribbled by the church youth on the concrete floor at Wedgwood Baptist Church after the bloody night of Sept. 15, 1999.

More recently, a tangible symbol of the grief of the family of the man who killed seven people and wounded seven others there—before taking his own life—has been received by that congregation.

Larry Gene Ashbrook, the gunman who opened fire at the church, had grown up in the Churches of Christ, historic rivals of Southern Baptists in towns across Texas and the Southeast. The two religious groups have disagreed sharply on finer points of salvation and worship.

But when Aaron Ashbrook, the assailant's surviving brother, handed over to Wedgwood \$10,000 from the sale of the trashed Fort Worth property where his brother had lived, the family experienced some much-needed closure.

He met the Baptist church's senior pastor Al Meredith at the Altamesa Church of Christ, about a mile and half from the murder site, in an act that also marked a milestone in new relations between the divergent congregations.

Meredith, in an interview, said the \$10,000 gift was comprised of three checks from Ashbrook and two sisters, so that “each one of the family members donated their portion of the inheritance to the church.”

Ashbrook still could not bring himself to visit the place where his brother had killed seven people and then committed suicide, explained family friend Lewis Ard. So Ashbrook asked Ard to arrange a meeting with Wedgwood representatives.

A member at Altamesa Church of Christ, Ard enlisted Altamesa senior minister Danny Sims to help with the plans. The meeting took place in mid-December, about three months after the shootings.

Wedgwood pastor Al Meredith was accompanied by church administrator Mike Holton, the chairman of the deacons and two staff members who had been shot in the September attack—counselor Kevin Gale and custodian Jeff Laster.

Among those present from Altamesa were Sims, Ard and additional church representatives.

Sims reported that Ashbrook began the meeting with a statement about his deep personal feelings of regret. After Ashbrook spoke, Sims continued, Meredith asked if he could lead a song and pray. The Baptist pastor then began the familiar, “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love ...”

The December meeting was not the first time the September tragedy brought the two churches together.

The Altamesa church held a prayer service for its stricken Baptist neighbors the night after the killings.

The following Saturday, Meredith said, members from Altamesa showed up at Wedgwood to see if they could help.

“Our church was all at the funeral,” Meredith explained.

So the Altamesa members weeded a flower bed in preparation for the next day's services, said Meredith. Wedgwood administrator Holton said that Altamesa also helped remove damaged church pews so that chairs could be set up for Sunday worship.

Meredith added, “They've been good neighbors through this.”

Sims said, “It's terrible it takes a tragedy to get us together.” He fears there is “a truckload of ... pent-up anguish over the divisions and animosities ... between the Baptists and Churches of Christ.”

Wedgwood's Meredith was unsure how the \$10,000 donated by the Ash-

brook family would be used.

“There are so many ministry needs ongoing,” Meredith said of his church, which is engaged in a \$4 million expansion.

As the congregation seeks healing after the tragedy, the pastor senses a deepened sense of commitment, pointing especially to the zeal of the young people.

But many members suffer. Adults and children battle depression, and members startle when exhaust backfire brings back the painful memories of gunshots.

“Forgiveness is a process,” Meredith said. While requiring human effort, it is ultimately “a work of grace.” Forgiveness is not “pardon-ing” offenders, Meredith added, a concept he associates with the legal system, but occurs “when you begin to see them through God's eyes.”

“We'll never get over this,” Meredith said, “but by God's grace we'll get through it.”

### It's check-up time

This is a good time to give your estate plan a check-up. In the realm of healthcare it is wise to have a periodic physical exam. It is also wise to take preventative measures in giving your estate plan a periodic check-up.

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, recommends such a check-up at least every three to five years, or when the circumstances of your life change. Some examples of changed circumstances are marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a spouse or child, receiving an inheritance, moving to another state or a serious illness.

Below is an estate planning checklist we trust will be helpful to you. If, upon completion of the check-up, you need assistance in evaluating your plan, please give Laurie a toll-free call at (888) 254-5701. She practiced law privately for 12 years before coming to the foundation five years ago. This is her area of expertise, and there is no cost or obligation for this consultation. The portion of your gift to your church channeled to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the Co-operative Program and/or Kentucky only causes makes it possible for the foundation to offer this service without charge.

■ Do you have a current will and/

or revocable living trust? When did you last review them?

■ Does your will name a guardian for minor children?

■ Is the executor or executrix still available and willing to serve?

■ Have you considered the benefits from a revocable living trust?

■ If you have a living trust, have you titled appropriate assets in the name of the trust?

■ Are you taking advantage of the unified credit exemption?

■ Have you designated charitable gifts for the Baptist causes you wish to support beyond your lifetime?

■ Have you considered charitable gifts that will provide you with lifetime income payments?

■ Do you have a durable power of attorney?

■ Do you have a living will directive and a healthcare surrogate designation?

■ Have you named Baptist beneficiaries in life insurance policies and retirement funds?

Please give us the privilege of assisting you in your estate planning. We exist to serve you.

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

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Barry Allen

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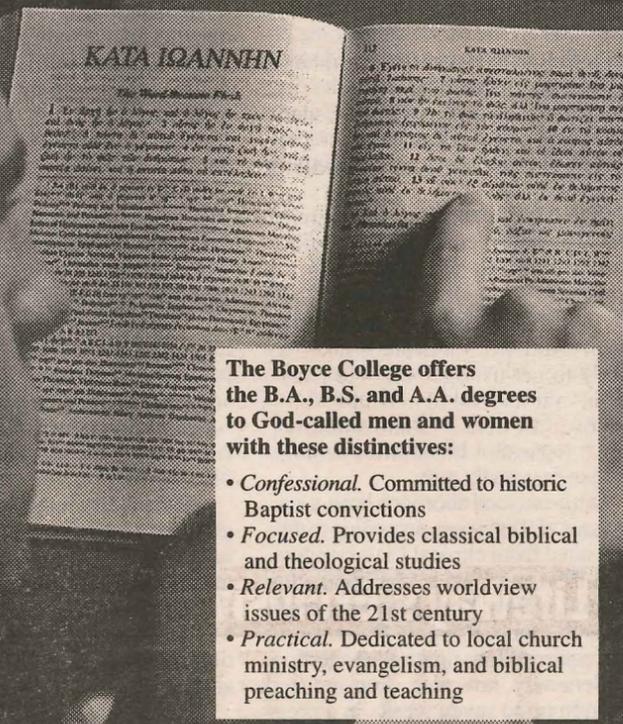
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### Andrew serves in Taiwan

By Robert Dunston

At the end of May 1999, Cumberland College senior Brooke Andrew, the daughter of Ron and Della Andrew of Cincinnati, journeyed to Taiwan for 10 days. Her primary missions were to teach English as a second language and to engage in lifestyle witnessing.

Originally she and the team on which she served had been scheduled to serve in China, but shortly before they were to leave, the Chinese embassy was bombed accidentally during the war in Kosovo, so their plans were altered. When they arrived in Taiwan, they discovered several women missionaries there had been praying for people to help them reach university students. Andrew and the others were amazed to see how God had answered the missionaries' prayers.

During the day, the volunteers taught classes in English and visited in hospitals. In the evening, they visited coffee houses and met with students.

After they arrived, they discovered one of the universities had given some of its students the assignment to interview an American or other foreigner. As a result, they met and conversed with many college students in the coffee houses.

Andrew recalled an occasion when five college students approached her and partner Lori Grigsby. One asked them, "Are you a Christian?" For more than two hours Andrew and Grigsby talked with them, sharing their faith in Christ. Later that night Andrew realized she had prayed earlier that day for the opportunity to share the gospel. God had answered her prayer.

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



A high point for Andrew was worshipping at the Beautiful Righteousness church. She felt it was special to hear God worshipped in another language. "God reaffirmed that Taiwan was where we were supposed to be and exciting things were going to happen," she said.

The dedication of the missionaries particularly touched Andrew. While they gave up so much, they also received joys beyond price.

Andrew returned home overwhelmed by the power of prayer. As she has shared her story on the Cumberland College campus and beyond, she has reminded us of the power of prayer as well. We thank her for her willingness to minister and bless the lives of so many.

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

## Christian groups fight U.N. proposal on sex exploitation

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Several conservative leaders, including Southern Baptist official Richard Land and Campus Crusade for Christ President Bill Bright, are opposing U.S. support for a new definition of sexual exploitation being considered this week by the United Nations.

In a Jan. 7 letter addressed to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, six conservative leaders argued against the "stunning" position the United States has taken on the so-called "Vienna Protocol" of the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime concerning sexual trafficking in women and children.

"In sum, the position now taken by United States negotiators is that concerted international action against sex traffickers should be restricted only to those responsible for 'forced prostitution,'" they wrote. "The United States position effectively would block the prosecution of international traffickers and procurers—including those involved in organized crime—unless it could be proved that 'force' had been used on the trafficked women."

The leaders addressed their concerns to the first lady in her role as co-chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women.

They also voiced concern that the position of U.S. delegates to the upcoming Vienna meeting is that international action against pornographers

should be limited to those engaging in activities without the consent of the women involved.

"As with prostitution trafficking, the United States position effectively would block prosecution of the growing, hard-core international pornography 'industry,'" they wrote.

The letter was signed by Land; Bright; Chuck Colson, chairman of Prison Fellowship Ministries; Mary Ann Glendon, law professor at Harvard University; Kay Cole James, senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation; and Diane Knippers, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy.

Voicing similar concerns in a Wall Street Journal opinion article Jan. 10, Colson and Bill Bennett, co-director of Empower America, predicted consequences resulting from the White House's position on the matter.

"If the administration's position is accepted, the focus of attention would shift from the profiteers who traffic in women to the supposed state of mind of the victimized women," Colson and Bennett wrote. "It would create loopholes long sought by perpetrators, insulating them from criminal prosecution."

The first lady's press office could not immediately be reached for comment.

### Temple raises constitutional questions

BOSTON (RNS)—Nearly a year after residents of a suburban Boston neighborhood first filed a lawsuit in protest of a Mormon temple being built in their area, a federal appeals court has heard their arguments.

At issue is a Massachusetts zoning law, the Dover Amendment, which largely exempts religious institutions from zoning restrictions.

Attorneys for residents of the upscale Belmont neighborhood say that the law violates the Constitution by giving an unfair advantage to religious groups.

Neighbors whose property abuts the site say the 69,000-square-foot building, which will feature a 139-foot-tall steeple, will tower over the quiet suburb.

"This temple building is not only much larger than the houses around it, but it also sits on the highest point in town," said Charles Counselman, one of the residents.

The Mormon church defends its ongoing construction of the temple, even as the neighbors demand the structure, 80 percent complete, be torn down.

Last June, a federal judge denied the neighbors' claims, prompting them to file the appeal. No date has been set for a decision in the appeal.

The Roman Catholic church, American Jewish Congress and several Protestant churches filed briefs in support of the Mormon church's position.

### An urgent call to action

Through this article we strive to inform you of our work with children and families. We share stories of children served and how you, our friends and supporters, aid in our ministries.

The crimes of abuse and neglect suffered by innocent children are sometimes difficult to imagine. The stories we share sound almost fabricated. How could anyone treat any child, especially their own child, as we describe? Well, these stories are not sermon illustrations or marketing ploys devised to gain your sympathy and philanthropy. The young lives we describe are very real, and the pain they endure is anything but mythical. Children suffer all around us, often just out of sight. What can we do?

Let me share with you another ghastly surprise you probably never would believe possible. In most states the penalty for raping a child is a 20-plus-year sentence, unless the perpetrator happens to be related to the child. Not true you say. Oh yes, it is true, but something is being done about it. U.S. Rep. Robert Ney of Ohio introduced the Child Abuse Reform and Enforcement Act, HR 2382, known as the Care Act. Rep. Ney's bill would remove the "incest exception," allowing the per-

petrator, whom many victims feel they are "owned by," to be prosecuted with a more appropriate sentence.

Such an exception to the rape of children was never the will of the American people. The effects of such crimes against kids are long lasting; we see it at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children every day. The trauma is exacerbated when the perpetrator gets a slap on the wrist as the victim struggles with the pain. They cry out, "It isn't fair!" and they are right.

Your help is needed to right this wrong. Pull out a pen and paper and write every Kentucky representative, urging them to co-sponsor Rep. Ney's bill. Currently, he has only eight sponsors but needs 150 to move the legislation smoothly through the U.S. House of Representatives. You can find the names and addresses of our Kentucky representatives on our web site at [www.iglou.com/kbhc](http://www.iglou.com/kbhc). If you don't have access to a computer, call us at (800) 456-1386.

**HOMES FOR CHILDREN**



Bill Smithwick

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

## Abortion advocates expect to gain support with RU-486

Continued from page 1

Once mifepristone comes to market, American women will be able for the first time to elect to have a drug-induced rather than a surgical abortion using mifepristone, in combination with another drug, misoprostol.

Doctors who participated in the clinical trials of mifepristone say the drug's availability will make abortion safer by eliminating the need for a surgical procedure that requires anesthesia.

Experience in countries such as France, where drug-induced abortion is legal, indicates most women will choose this procedure over surgical abortion, and more women will have their abortions much earlier in their pregnancies because no waiting period is required. In addition, studies by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and others suggest there will be an increase in the number of doctors willing to offer non-surgical abortion services.

Abortion opponents fear these devel-

opments will blunt the emotional and politically explosive nature of the issue, leaving abortion advocates with a decisive advantage.

"RU-486 could intensify the debate immediately, but the drug will have the long-term effect of muting it," said Kellyanne Fitzpatrick, a Washington-based Republican pollster specializing in gender issues.

"It will reinforce the out-of-sight-out-of-mind libertarian attitude toward abortion, and take off the table the ability to show pictures of an unborn child and use anecdotes and be more public about what one group thinks is a private issue and another group thinks is saving a human life."

Brown put it another way: "It further divorces the idea of motherhood, being with child, from pregnancy. Pregnancy will be viewed as a problem that can be easily taken care of."

Doctors say drug-induced abortion is a multi-step process requiring screening, counseling and follow-up by a doctor in a clinic or medical office.

Doctors consider it less traumatic to the body than surgical abortion, in which the uterus is emptied by surgery, an often painful procedure. Doctors participating in mifepristone clinical trials said women appear to be more comfortable with drug-induced abortion from a psychological perspective, as well.

"Mifepristone gives women a different method of abortion to choose from that allows her to undergo the process in a setting of her choosing with people she wants around, more or less timed for her convenience, in the privacy of

her own home," said Dr. Paul Blumenthal, director of contraceptive research and programs at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore.

Mifepristone works by blocking the hormone progesterone, which is necessary to sustain a pregnancy. After the drug is taken, the cervix softens, the lining of the uterus breaks down and bleeding begins. A few days later, the drug misoprostol is taken, causing the uterus to contract and expel an embryonic sac roughly the size of a grape, ending the pregnancy.

The side effects of the drug regimen vary. Some women experience no physical discomfort, while others suffer symptoms commonly associated with menstruation and early pregnancy: nausea, vomiting, headaches and heavy cramping. All women will bleed, some lightly, others heavily, for one to two weeks. The risk of hemorrhaging, which requires a blood transfusion, is real but extremely rare.

Drug-induced abortions have a success rate of 95 percent, according to data published from clinical trials conducted in 1994 and 1995 by the Population Council, a New York-based nonprofit research group. Roughly five cases in 100 require follow-up surgical abortion.

Generally, however, drug-induced abortion up to seven weeks in a pregnancy causes few complications, according to the council. Mifepristone has been tested and approved in 11 European nations, where an estimated 500,000 women have used it.

If approved in America, women would no longer have to wait up to six

weeks into a pregnancy for an abortion. Use of RU-486 is possible as soon as a pregnancy test is taken, and the earlier the abortion, Blumenthal said, the lower the health risk.

Both sides of the debate agree that earlier abortions have greater public support, which may subtly alter the political landscape in favor of abortion activists, according to Cory Richards, vice president of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion.

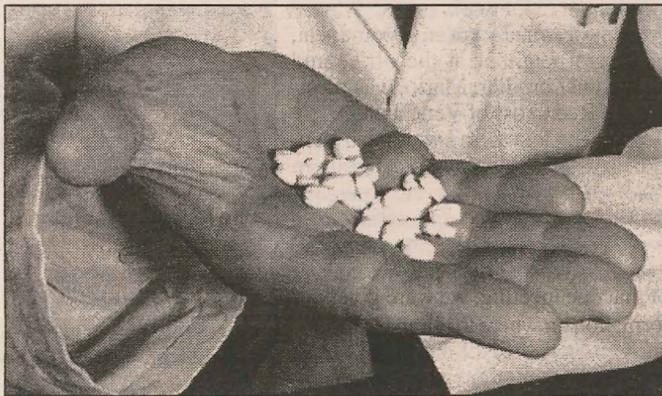
"(Abortion opponents) would argue that an abortion at two weeks is the same as an abortion at 22 weeks, but that is not how American women or the public at large sees it," Richards said.

Both sides of the issue also recognize drug-induced abortion offers other political advantages for abortion advocates, including the possibility that thousands of physicians who now do not perform abortions eventually will begin offering the drug regimen.

"Eventually women will be able to go to their internist or family doctor for mifepristone. It will mainstream abortion into regular medical care," said Dr. Suzanne Poppema, director of Aurora Medical Services in Seattle and a participant in the mifepristone clinical trials.

But making drug-induced abortions mainstream is not considered a sure thing. Those on the front lines of the abortion debate are predicting product liability lawsuits for RU-486, attempts by members of Congress to ban the drug and continued pressure from abortion opponents.

**RU-486** With the impending approval by the Federal Drug Administration of RU-486, popularly known as the abortion pill, it is expected that most women will choose this procedure. (RNS photo)



### An exciting time at Oneida, part 2

Another student who received an award at the Harvest Banquet was Henry. I have written about Henry before. He came to Oneida seven years ago in the sixth grade. Henry is now a senior, and we are really going to miss him.

Prior to coming to Oneida Baptist Institute, Henry was dealing with some serious personal issues. The loss of his father from cancer sent Henry reeling. His anger spilled over into his relationship with his brother and mother. Henry has been on the farm most of the past five years. We were proud to give him the "Rock Award." Indeed, Henry is a rock. He does not get rattled easily. He is dependable, trustworthy, hard working, honest and is an all-around fine young man.

Becky came to OBI three years ago as an eighth grader from Kentucky. She came with a big smile and a face full of freckles, and she still has both. Becky is from a broken home. She was having some real problems with her mother's authority and wasn't doing well in school. Becky has been one of our greatest blessings for these three years. She follows rules and is now on the B honor roll. There isn't a more determined or harder worker on campus, and that includes all the boys.

If I need to see a smiling face, I look for Becky. She received the "Been There, Done That Award." As the award indicates, Becky has done about everything. She not only has a willingness to tackle nearly anything, she does it with grace and a cheerful heart. Many adults could learn a lot from Becky.

Chris came to Oneida three years ago when he was in the seventh grade from a broken home. Chris is from Kentucky and was struggling with sibling rivalry, an attitude, not wanting to go to school and straight F's. Chris's grades have improved a lot. He

received the "Most Potential Award."

Those who work with Chris believe he is on the verge of becoming the young man he wants to be. He is showing great improvement in his attitude and his willingness to work through his problems. Hopefully, his experience on the farm has helped him become a responsible young man.

Every farm operation needs a mechanic, and Kevin is ours. Kevin came to us about a year ago as a sophomore from Indiana. He had been having problems with authority and had been involved with wrong peers. Kevin was making average grades in school, except for English. He currently is making good grades and is doing much better in English. Kevin's mechanical abilities earned him the "Mechanic Award."

Another of our wonder stories is Alisa. She came to us two years ago from Illinois and is now a senior. At first, we were not sure Alisa should be here. We were told that her grades were going down, she back-talked, was disrespectful and wanted to be the boss. On top of all of that, she was not really sure she wanted to come to Oneida. There is no doubt in my mind that our agriculture program has played a tremendous role in her progress. She received the "President's Award" and the "Best Leader Award." We took her strong desire to be the boss and channeled that trait in a positive direction by giving her leadership responsibilities. She does not boss, she leads.

Alisa is on the B honor roll and is a real blessing to us.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org)

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

### How do we compare?

It is helpful to know how Clear Creek compares with other Bible colleges. A comparison with other schools in the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges reveals some encouraging facts.

We retained 94 percent of the students who enrolled in the last comparison period, 30 percent more than other schools. Sixty percent of those students who entered Clear Creek in 1992 completed the program within six years. This compares with 43 percent of students among all AABC schools. Because our students are preparing for ministry, 99 percent of them participate in weekly Christian service assignments.

The faculty-student ratio is 13.39 while all other Bible colleges stand at 15.5. All of our full-time faculty have masters' degrees (64 percent in schools of our size) while 75 percent of the faculty have earned doctorates double the percentage in our sister schools. Our faculty salary-benefit package is about 12 percent higher.

We put more funds into our library. Recently the collection has grown through libraries donated by retired pastors. The record shows our campus family uses the general collection more, but the reserve collection is used less.

The report shows a strong financial position, with cash, investments and plant/equipment assets double that of other institutions. Total revenue was \$600,000 higher. The stats show that Clear Creek is not a "tuition-driven" college. Students pay only 19 percent of the cost, compared to 49 percent in all other AABC colleges. Most of our students are married with children. We have kept their cost lower because parents are not paying the bills. Private gifts and grants meet 43 percent of our need. The KBC Cooperative Program supplied 12 percent of our support in 1999.

AABC schools have an average of \$1.7 million in debt; Clear Creek owes about \$250,000 for the sewer system. I remember when our monthly bills included a sizable debt service. Now our training program benefits from available cash flow. We have an endowment four times higher than other schools.

Even with these indicators of strength, there is much to be done. Technology costs are high. The Kelly Hall renovation begins this summer. The result will be better-equipped leaders in the churches.

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

## Missionaries: God at work in flood-damaged Venezuela

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

CARACAS, Venezuela (BP)—Baptist workers say God is at work in Venezuela in the aftermath of horrible landslides that killed as many as 50,000 people and left 400,000 homeless the week before Christmas.

A five-member assessment team of Southern Baptists visited the country in late December to identify ways Baptists can share God's love with people suffering from the catastrophe. Team members said they were overwhelmed by what they saw while visiting the disaster zone.

In Maiquetia, team members saw where a torrent of water, mud and rock had cut a 300-foot-wide swath through the neighborhood behind the church, wiping out everything in its path.

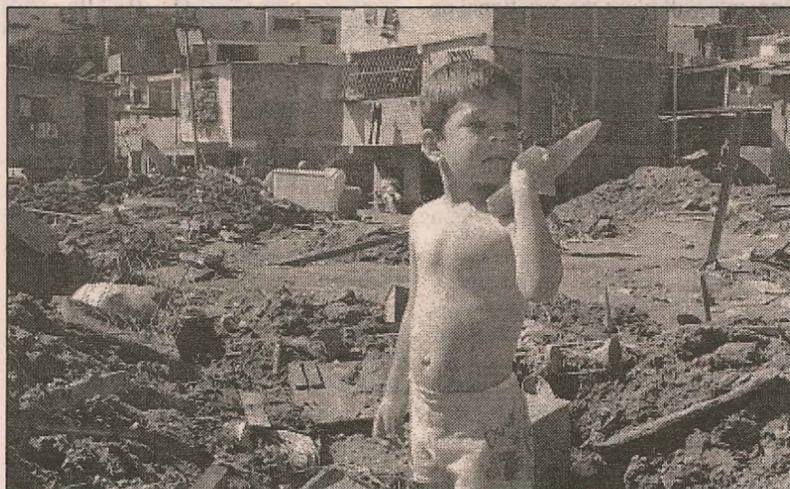
In eastern Miranda state, residents of Rio Chico said a 30-foot wall of water swept through the town after a dam on a nearby reservoir broke. At Nuevo Guapo, brush and debris on the power lines indicated the flood there had been at least 20 feet deep.

"It's incredible to think that in one evening so many homes were destroyed and lives lost," Southern Baptist missionary Rich Hutchens wrote on Christmas evening. "It would be the equivalent of losing every home in Birmingham or Louisville, along with 50,000 men, women and children, literally overnight."

Daniel Ojeda, pastor of Bethesda Baptist Church in Catia la Mar, chose to stay behind to help organize relief efforts when his wife and children were evacuated. He reported he had shown the "Jesus" film in several places the week before the landslides, and every community he had worked in was completely destroyed. No homes remain, and none of the mission points there are functioning.

The trauma has left deep scars, Hutchens said.

Just before Christmas, a clown



**DISASTER** Four-year-old Laureano Delgado stands in the rubble of flood-destroyed homes in Caracas, Venezuela. As many as 50,000 people were killed and about 400,000 left homeless last month when flash floods and mud slides struck the South American country's Caribbean coast, burying entire towns under tons of earth and rocks. Baptists have begun ministering in several communities and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board has sent \$80,000 for food, water, medicine and other supplies. (RNS/Reuters photo)

troupe from Caracas churches presented a skit to about 30 children who had lost their homes in the landslide. When one of the performers said the word "rain," the children burst into tears and the group had to move quickly to another activity.

Families continue to struggle with impossible circumstances created by the storm, Hutchens said.

In Carayaca, pastor Luis Alfonso Parra and his family had 40 homeless people staying at their house without water, gas or food. On the road to Guarenas, about 100 people camped on the highway shoulder, begging food and water from passing travelers.

The International Mission Board released \$80,000 to help purchase food, water, medicines and mattresses that will be distributed by missionaries and Venezuelan Baptists through a network of Baptist churches located in the disaster area, said Dickie Nelson, an associate director of Southern Baptist missions work in the Caribbean basin.

In Caracas, both the Baptist Center and Emanuel Baptist Church are serving as collection centers for relief materials. The Baptist Clinic is serving as the distribution point and coordinator for all medical care provided through churches to communities most affected by the disaster.

Baptists are working to get relief supplies into the disaster area, though authorities were limiting access to many areas and many people were being evacuated forcibly from areas deemed unsafe.

Three two-year Southern Baptist "Journeyman" missionaries—Kevin White, Matt Brooks and Roland Grenouillou—moved into the area Dec. 22 to help pastor Daniel Ojeda with relief efforts. They worked under extreme conditions, without water, sanitation or lights and with only relief rations to eat, Hutchens said.

Baptist workers are finding opportunities to minister in the midst of the devastation, Hutchens noted.

On Dec. 21, pastor Juan Machado escorted Southern Baptist workers into an area where mud and debris filled the streets up to the second floor of some buildings. Some houses were completely covered.

As they surveyed the damage, they met a woman carrying a small container with 30 doses of a tetanus vaccine. She told them she had been calling at houses, looking for someone who could give injections to people who had been injured.

Hutchens' wife, Susan, who is a nurse, was with the group. She volunteered to help, and soon 50 people were lined up for an impromptu clinic.

God also was opening doors to make relief efforts more effective, Hutchens added.

He had been trying to get an interview at Red Cross offices in Caracas, but wasn't sure he would be able to make any inroads because he didn't know anyone there and had little knowledge about relief work.

When he finally got an appointment, he saw a neighbor at the office and learned her brother, Mario, was president of Red Cross of Venezuela.

"When I told them I worked in Venezuela as a missionary with Southern Baptists, Mario smiled broadly and said, 'I know who you are. I was the lawyer for your mission for more than 30 years,'" Hutchens recalled. "As a result of that one meeting, we were given information on where to purchase food at cost, given the use of their facilities to store whatever we purchased and received a donation of 1,000 tetanus vaccines for the Baptist relief effort."

Hutchens asked Southern Baptists to continue to pray as missionaries and Venezuelan Baptist leaders try to identify ways to minister that will have long-term benefits.

Contributions toward relief efforts in Venezuela can be sent to: International Mission Board, Hunger and Relief Fund, Venezuela Flood Relief, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

**"It would be the equivalent of losing every home in Birmingham or Louisville, along with 50,000 men, women and children, literally overnight."**

*Southern Baptist missionary Rich Hutchens*

## Baptist pastor turns concern about ethnic cleansing into international conference

By Shelley Henry  
Associated Baptist Press

SAN MARCOS, Texas (ABP)—Think one person can't make a difference? Don't tell Doug Tipps.

The pastor of First Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas, has turned his own concern about ethnic cleansing into an international conference on the issue to be held later this month in Sweden.

As part of the conference, Jan. 29-31 in Stockholm, religious, political and humanitarian leaders from six continents will draft the "Stockholm Accords on Ethnic Cleansing" to renounce ethnic cleansing in all forms.

The conference is jointly sponsored by Global Strategies for Religious Liberty, of which Tipps is president; the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State Studies at Baylor University; and the Church of Sweden.

Tipps said his vision for the Stockholm conference began about two years ago. Concerned about the effectiveness of his

ministry at that time, he went through a period of soul searching. While seeking God's direction in his life, Tipps took a personal inventory.

"I wanted to determine what was important to me—what was absolutely essential," he explained. "I began to put down in writing what my values were."

"I determined that to be free to think about God, to ask questions and to believe as God convicts my heart was of particular importance. Freedom is the best context to nurture the human psyche, and it is important for every person in the world. Freedom, I realized, was my bottom line value."

Tipps said freedom is a core value for all Baptists. "What have Baptists given to the history of Christianity? They have always insisted on religious liberty and freedom of conscience."

The importance of religious liberty became clearer to Tipps five years ago while on a mission trip to Romania. While walking down a street where Christian

students had been killed by dictator Nicolai Ceausescu's forces at the beginning of the revolution, Tipps had an epiphany of sorts.

"I just stood there looking at pictures of these students that others had placed there as a memorial to them, and I wept," he said. "I became involved."

As his desire to act grew into an imperative, Tipps became convinced one individual could make a difference. "We now live in the age of the empowered individual to do something never done before," he explained.

Tipps shared his ideas with James Dunn, then director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. They proceeded to set up an international conference in London in July 1998 where about 150 religious and political leaders from 25 countries came together.

After the London symposium, Tipps was ready for action. He gathered a team of advisers and volunteers, many from First Baptist Church, to develop "Global Strategies for Religious Liberty."

The name "Global Strategies" was selected to emphasize the commitment of the group to action rather than ideas. The upcoming Stockholm conference is by far the group's most ambitious undertaking.

Among the dignitaries who will attend the conference are Stanley Mogoba, president of the Pan African Congress; Ibrahim Rogova, the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize winner; Richard Stearns, president of World Vision; and Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Smith. Representatives from the United Nations, the United Way, the Carter Center, the Eastern Orthodox Church and Catholic Services Relief Center will be in attendance as well.

One important outcome of the conference, Tipps said, will be the forming of personal relationships among the participants. "The key to all we are doing through Global Strategies is forming compassionate, caring relationships that can one day open doors to positive change."

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Church planter interns Shep and Amanda Bevis as they minister at Garrison Baptist Church in Dover, N.H.

■ Iglesia Casa de Oracion in Worcester, Mass., as the church looks for volunteers to build a 15,000-square foot, steel-framed, two-story building this summer.

■ Przemek, a young atheist in Poland who attends a Bible study led by missionaries Marc and Annie Byrd. Mrs. Bryd asks prayer that she will be bold in her witness to the young man.

■ A Bible study and sewing class for 30 women recently begun by missionary Pauline Eardensohn in Tanzania.

■ A new program begun at Kigoma Baptist Hospital in Tanzania to recruit volunteer chaplains from local Baptist churches.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church called **Erdie Carter** as minister to students.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Westview Church licensed **Carl Read** to the ministry Jan. 16. **Tom Hall** is pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Alton Church called **Tony Peavler**, a student at Southern Seminary, as minister of music. **John Charles** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church will host a study of biblical worship Jan. 16-19 with **Daniel Block**. For information, call (502) 499-5616.

■ **Parkland Church** honored **Carol Taylor** Jan. 16 on her 15th anniversary as church and financial secretary. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **St. Matthews Church** called **Joel Wayne** as student minister. **Les Holton** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Caldwell Springs Church called **Chris Moore** as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry Jan. 9 at Briarsburg Church.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—Mt. Washington Church will honor **Bonnie Davis** Jan. 23. Davis is retiring after serving more than 16 years as church and financial secretary. **Travis Collins** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church will host a women's conference Feb. 12. Early registration will be Feb. 11 at 5-7 p.m.

Conference speakers will be **Lisa Harper**, director of women's outreach at Focus on the Family, and **Kristin Wicker** of Union University. For information, call (270) 753-1854 or e-mail fbchurch@idd.net.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Bullitt Lick Church called **Tommy Vaughn** as pastor. He previously served a church in Indiana.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Glen's Creek Church called **Audrey Fint** as children's minister. **Mickey Hyder** is pastor.

**CORRECTION:** A previous item misidentified the location of Lone Oak First Church in Paducah. **Willis Henson** is pastor.

### What's going on?

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: New Bethel Baptist Church, PO Box 100, Verona, KY 41092, Attn: Music Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Anchor Church in Erlanger is currently searching for the right person to become our youth minister. This is a part-time staff position requiring approximately 20 hours per week. We have a good core group of youth and much potential. Send resumé to: Anchor Church, PO Box 18195, Erlanger, KY 41018, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Office assistant for Christian social service agency. Have a real heart for ministry? Part-time Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Skills needed: typing, data entry, some knowledge of Windows 95, Microsoft Office, great phone skills and ability to deal with clients and the public. Interested? Call Infant Resource Project at (502) 584-0774 and ask for Cathy Neel.

**SEEKING:** South Side Baptist Church is seeking a child care director. Applicant must be a Christian, preferably a Baptist with experience as director/assistant director. Mail resumé to: South Side Baptist Church, 1501 Holman, Covington, KY 41011, or fax to (606) 431-1314.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth/activities director. Full facilities. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Salem Baptist Church, PO Box 436, Salem, KY 42078.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister for rural church. Send resumé to Music Ministries Search Committee, Sharon Baptist Church, 3537 State Route 303, Mayfield, KY 42066.

**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:** Southside Baptist Church in Fulton, Mo., is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Send resumé and references to: Search Committee, Southside Baptist Church, 501 Business Highway 54 S, Fulton, MO 65251.

**SEEKING:** Caneyville Baptist Church seeks a full-time, experienced, energetic pastor. Prefer college and/or seminary training. Send resumé to: Eddie A. Majors, 164 Clay Way, Leitchfield, KY 42754.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister and part-time music minister. Please send resumé to: River View Baptist Church, 1850 Louisville Road, Cox's Creek, KY 40013, Attn: Charles Frazier.

**FOR SALE:** Really nice MCIMC-9 motorcoach. 47-passenger, TVs, low mileage, asking only \$59,500. For photos or information, call (606) 278-7224.

**FOR SALE:** Very nice one-owner Eagle model 15 motorcoach. TVs, a beautiful coach. Asking only \$79,500. For photos or information, call (606) 278-7224.

**FOR SALE:** Wicks 4-rack pipe organ with full peddle board, disassembled in the spring of 1998—was in working order when replaced. The organ was serviced yearly by Miller Pipe Organ in Louisville. Price is \$1,500. For information, contact Charles E. Hanking at Clear Creek Bible College, Pineville, Ky., (606) 337-3196.

**FOR SALE:** Sharp one-owner GMC model 4108 39-passenger bus. Restroom, low mileage, like brand new. This coach is very inexpensive to maintain. See to appreciate. Asking only \$49,500. For photos or information, call (606) 278-7224.

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful one-owner GMC model 4905 47-passenger motorcoach. Like brand new inside and out. This coach has very low mileage. Asking only \$39,500. For photos or information, call (606) 278-7224.

## Crying rooms are a thing of the past for many churches

By Kristen Campbell  
Religion News Service

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—While Jesus, according to the Gospel of Matthew, encouraged the little ones to come unto Him, churchgoers in modern America do not easily suffer children's outbursts.

Providing space for loud, fidgety and sometimes crying children during worship services has long been a concern for those designing and using churches.

"It's something that the communicant wants, the member is looking for," said Bruce Knodel, a Mobile, Ala., architect who has designed churches. "I think in younger families that's probably a pretty serious consideration."

But not all child care facilities are created equal.

While all congregations want nurseries, Knodel and other architects say, fewer are choosing to build "cry rooms." A sort of purgatory for noisy children and their parents, cry rooms are a step removed from the church sanctuary but not as distant as a nursery usually is. Most cry rooms are glassed-in boxes to the side of the pews that allow parents to retreat to a suite where they can still hear the service, but the service can't hear them.

"They became popular in the child boom after World War II, in the '50s," said Lawrence Cook, a fellow in the Washington-based American Institute of Architects.

But within 20 years, cry rooms have become considered a "penalty box," Cook said. Their presence emphasized that a parent should "get out of the congregation" if a child was being less than perfect.

Larry Foxworth, whose company, Cone-Foxworth Architects in Fort Worth, Texas, specializes in church design, said he has seen the call for a place for crying children come full circle in 20 years. Previously, "it was a real big thing. Everyone wanted one then. Now,

some churches want theirs removed."

In Foxworth's experience, only larger congregations still insist their new buildings have a place other than a nursery to take fussy children.

"It isn't necessarily a denominational thing," Foxworth said. "Some very progressive churches asked for them so they would be more family-friendly. They say they don't want to send folks off" to distant nurseries.

The churches that do ask for cry rooms don't want just any old four walls, or anything "too ostracizing," he said. "They've made them like a perk. Some have bottle warmers and changing tables."

When pastors and lay people ponder the merits of cry rooms and nurseries, the conversation usually moves to the larger question of how parents and the people around them should respond to noisy children.

Arlyn Sturtz, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Mobile, said he encourages parents to bring children to the sanctuary and see if they can stick it out.

"They need to be in church," Sturtz said. "They learn so much, even though they look like they're not paying attention."

He recalled a 4-year-old boy who was playing with toys during a worship service. By all appearances, the child wasn't paying attention, Sturtz said. Yet, as Sturtz asked rhetorical questions during the service, the child quietly responded to each question, he said.

Other clergy members say child care facilities have their place.

"It doesn't distract me, but sometimes I can see (mothers with crying children are) very uncomfortable," said Rudolph Overstreet, pastor of Mobile's Ebenezer Baptist Church.

If children cry loudly, Overstreet said, he might stop his sermon to joke, "Don't worry, I can holler over that." But he'd rather not have to try. "The nursery is there to help you, not to harm you or hurt you."

## Christian music sales growing

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Christian music sales in 1999 reached almost 50 million units, an increase of 11.5 percent compared to 1998 sales.

Christian retailers accounted for 57.5 percent of the 1999 sales while mainstream retail stores accounted for 42.5 percent. The figures are based on reports of SoundScan, a computerized network that collects sales data from retailers and compiles results for industry reports.

Contemporary Christian and gospel music are the music industry's fifth-largest-selling genre, selling more than twice as many albums as the Latin genre and also selling more than classical, jazz and New Age genres combined.

Album sales in the Christian music category represented 6.6 percent of the 754.8 million records sold in the entire music industry in 1999, the Christian Music Trade Association announced.

The five top-selling albums in the Christian music genre reflect its di-

versity. In order, they are:

■ Charlotte Church's "Voice of an Angel."

■ Kirk Franklin's "Nu Nation Project."

■ Steven Curtis Chapman's "Speechless."

■ Amy Grant's "Christmas to Remember."

■ "WoW 2000," a compilation album by various artists.

"This year's sales figures indicate the strength of the Christian music marketplace and demonstrate the diversity consumers are looking for," said Frank Breeden, president of the Gospel Music Association.

Breeden added that the music industry's strength is breaking the stereotype that it is embraced mainly in the states viewed as being part of the "Bible Belt" region.

SoundScan figures show the top five Christian/gospel markets are New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco and Philadelphia.

## Church takeover linked to ambition, greed & scandal

By David Briggs & Joel Rutchick  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

CLEVELAND (RNS)—Imagine sitting in the pew one Sunday morning when an out-of-town minister, claiming to be one of Jesus' modern-day apostles, suddenly gets up in the pulpit and announces he is the new pastor.

In a lightning stroke, Bishop Matthew Ferguson, who was trying to come up with millions to build a new worship center in St. Louis, shocked members of a landmark Cleveland church that was expecting a \$2 million insurance settlement by announcing he would be their new spiritual leader.

He was God's apostle to Middle America, he told the Pentecostal congregation. Ferguson talked of making Full Gospel Evangelistic Center in Cleveland the mother church of a religious empire that would grow to 2.5 million people within five years. He told church leaders he would make them millionaires within a year, and free members from their personal debts.

But instead of adulation, the service that Sunday in May broke down to a mass of tears, shock and confusion. Eight months later, more than half of the church's 300 members have stopped attending and Ferguson's fund-raising efforts are under investigation.

If Ferguson hasn't made millionaires out of his followers, he's certainly acted like one. Since taking over in Cleveland, he and his wife have purchased a \$580,000 home in a tony subdivision and resort property along the fairway of a golf course in the Ozarks.

How could an outsider wrest a congregation from a popular home-grown pastor? Ferguson, who repeatedly referred to himself as "God's man with the plan," isn't talking.

"Somebody say, 'Respond.' Respond for what? I don't respond to no devil," Ferguson told Full Gospel members in a sermon addressing inquiries from Cleveland's Plain Dealer newspaper.

But scores of interviews in Cleveland and St. Louis, church records and visits to several services along with taped sermons reveal a tale of human ambition stoked by claims of divine authority meeting the faith of ordinary churchgoers.

Worldwide, Pentecostalism is on the upswing. The combination of emotional worship and emphasis on a personal relationship with God has allowed the faith to grow rapidly.

But what has been a substantial source of its power—an almost unbridled congregational freedom—also became a source of scandal when human failings were unchecked by any overseeing bodies. What particularly concerns many Pentecostal leaders years after the fall of Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart is the popularity of prosperity theology, the idea that faith and earthly riches are inseparable.

Ferguson is a case study in prosperity theology writ large, someone who claims fervor to be God's excellent example of one whose faith has been rewarded in this world.

Not that success came overnight. In 1977, while Full Gospel was start-

ing out in a storefront, Ferguson was a reservation clerk for Trans World Airlines with a small church in the basement of his home. He would not leave TWA until 1982, when his church was able to support a full-time ministry at Abundant Life Fellowship Church in St. Louis. Ferguson received a master's degree in education from Washington University in 1976 and a doctorate in theology from a St. Louis Bible college in 1984.

The 56-year-old Ferguson came to Full Gospel in the summer of 1996 as an overseer, someone who traditionally is a source of spiritual help and guidance for the pastor. Pastor Michael Exum, who invited Ferguson, was trying to save his marriage at the same time the church's financial condition was worsening.

Exum's personal troubles were such that Ferguson was able to go far beyond the limited authority usually accorded overseers. Exum's salary and housing allowance were cut, on Ferguson's recommendation, and Exum eventually left the church.

Appointed by Ferguson to replace Exum was William Jordan, a son of the church. Here, after a period of turmoil, was someone members could believe in.

Word spread that you needed to arrive early to get a good seat on Sunday morning. A thriving youth ministry attracted 70 kids on Wednesday nights and Sundays.

But in his own church in St. Louis, Ferguson was having problems raising the money for a new \$21 million Abundant Life worship center.

As Ferguson and Abundant Life began gearing up to offer promissory notes to raise money for the project, the financial fortunes of Full Gospel in Cleveland were changing. Full Gospel officials were expecting a \$2 million-plus insurance settlement, primarily the result of damage to the roof caused by snow and ice.

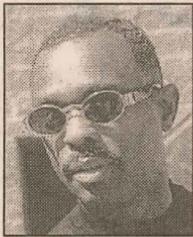
In April, according to church minutes, Ferguson appeared before the church elders and board of directors and told them of God's plan for him to take over as pastor of Full Gospel. "The Lord said, 'I sent you as an apostle, there are three I sent to America and you are one of them. ... I'm giving you mid-America.'"

Ferguson held church leaders to a vow of silence. The congregation would not be told of Ferguson's plans until the church's 22nd anniversary in May. Churchgoers responded to the announcement by weeping, wailing and shouting protests.

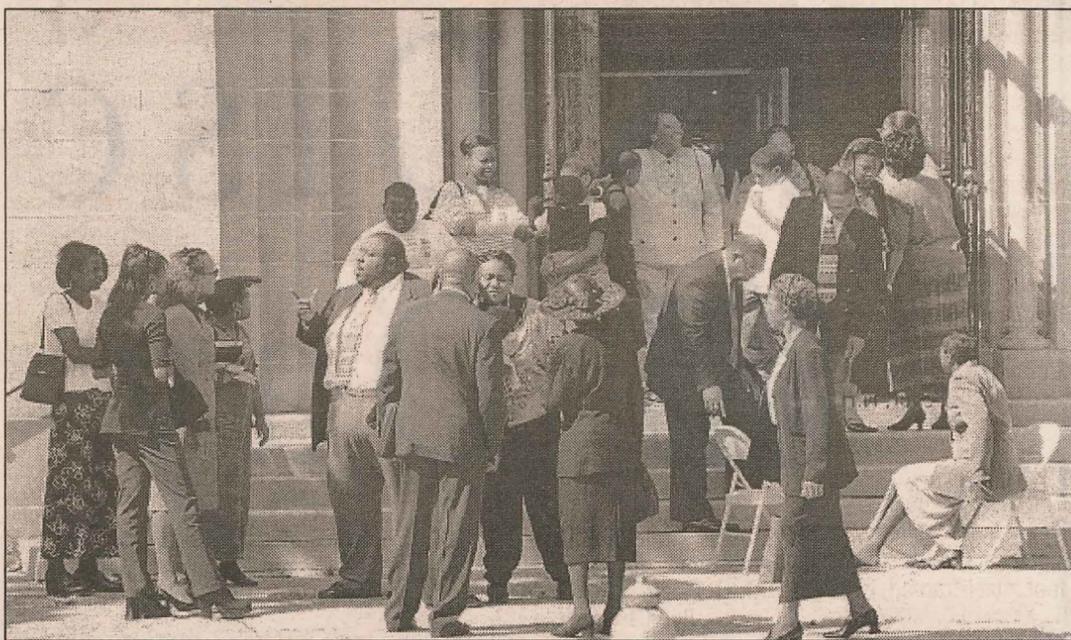
But Jordan had a surprise of his own. He went to the pulpit and told the congregation that he, too, had gone before God. And God told him to remain as pastor of Full Gospel.

Ferguson announced he would back down, that no church could have two heads. He was going back home to St. Louis.

But then Ferguson heard another voice, this one his wife's. Vashti Ferguson rushed up to the front of the church and told her husband to get back up to the pulpit. You must be obedient to God, she said, according to some



Ferguson



members who were at the service.

The athletic, 6-foot Ferguson withdrew his resignation and talked about a spirit of "witchcraft" causing all the confusion, according to several people attending that service. He then turned to the church's elders sitting to his right—some of whom church minutes show had agreed privately the previous month that he should lead the church—to confirm his ascension.

Coming from a religious tradition that recognizes God speaking to people today, many Full Gospel members were willing to give the charismatic Ferguson a chance. Others felt powerless against the cleric and the church board that supported him.

Ferguson immediately took over. He shut down the youth ministry and canceled a citywide youth conference. Family prayer Tuesday, Wednesday night Bible study and the Friday night women's group were also canceled.

Cherrie O'Neal attended Full Gospel for 18 years but left after one week of Ferguson as pastor. Prosperity pastors, she said, "get you thinking about being rich, and you end up getting poor."

But there was no effective opposition to Ferguson and Jordan was dismissed.

If members objected to these or other changes, they had scant opportunity to say so. Ferguson canceled the one church business meeting he called.

In the pulpit, the charismatic Ferguson is at once a whirlwind, animated autocrat who alternately threatens and humiliates members into obedience and a friendly, smooth-talking preacher who schmoozes them with prospects of wealth.

"I'm a multimillionaire come to help you get some sense. ... When you can start paying cash for your Rolex watch, then you've got enough nerve to smirk and cross your eyes at me," Ferguson said from the pulpit.

In particularly cutting remarks for this economically mixed congregation, the bishop would openly berate people who could not afford to bring laptop computers to church or write him a large check on the spot.

Sometimes his warnings from the pulpit were ominous.

"I'm not threatening anybody, but I've seen this happen in ministry and I

say this to warn people. I've seen it within three years after people start coming against me," he once said. "I've seen it, not just once, not just twice, many, many times within three years—they either have a stroke, they have some kind of incurable disease or die physically dead."

But life was not getting any easier for Ferguson. By spring, with financing having dried up, construction on the new suburban St. Louis church was at a standstill, said construction manager Oscar Jackson.

Not yet halfway home, weeds sprouted through the steel skeleton of the planned \$21 million, 137-acre monument to his ministry.

The money problems prompted unusual financing efforts. Ferguson's attempts to entice investors for the new Abundant Life would be eye-popping, so appealing that one pastor he had solicited viewed them as "heaven on Earth." Missouri regulators would later question whether they were legal.

In June, he solicited several pastors in St. Louis and Cleveland in letters inviting them to invest in the building project. In the letter, Ferguson offered a range of options, from a return of 12 percent for the first year to 24 percent a year for investments of more than \$100,000 made for five years.

The robust return is one of the red flags that have prompted an investigation by the Missouri Division of Securities.

At the same time, Ferguson and his wife became mortgaged to the hilt after a summer spending spree, financing an expensive home in suburban Cleveland and property along a private golf course in central Missouri's Ozarks.

Today, the bishop who had foreseen the beginnings of an evangelistic empire when he took over a second pastorate in Cleveland finds life filled with problems.

Where once more than 300 worshippers crowded the church, about 100 now come to Sunday worship, and 50 or more young people who once came twice a week are down to a handful.

And what happened to the man who was stripped of his ministry at Full Gospel?

Jordan and his followers recently moved out of a YMCA branch and into a new church building.

**CHURCH TAKEOVER**  
Worshippers leave Full Gospel Evangelistic Center in Cleveland. The Pentecostal congregation has been in turmoil since Matthew Ferguson (left), formerly of St. Louis, told the congregation he has been appointed by God to lead the church. Ferguson is under investigation by Missouri state agencies for his handling of church finances at a St. Louis church. (RNS photo)



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