

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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**KENTUCKY NOTES**



See insert

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Kentucky**

Jerry Falwell spoke at last week's Bailey Smith evangelism conference in Louisville. *Page 3.*

**Disaster relief**

Flash flooding brought volunteers to Vanceburg. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**

Why should the Western Recorder report bad news? *Page 5.*

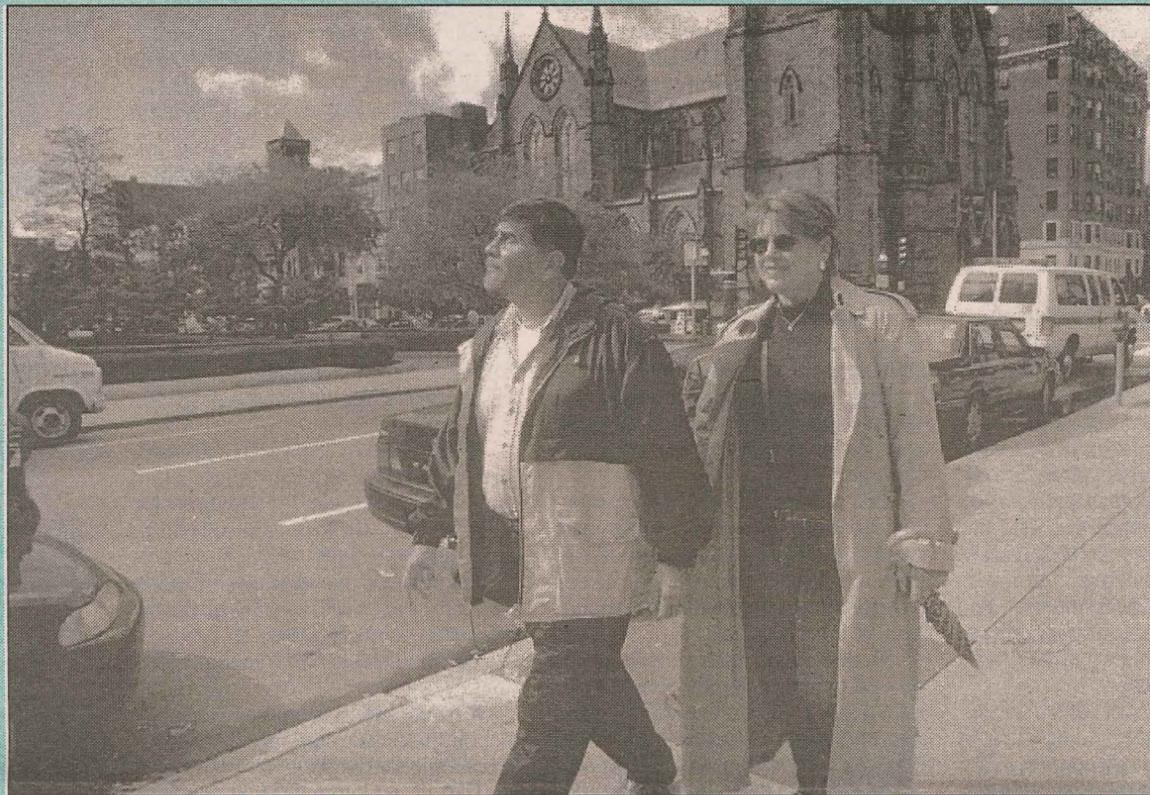


**Men only**

Henry Blackaby (above) and Joe Gibbs were among those offering counsel at a recent men's conference. *Pages 10-11.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 1

## New England missions



**MISSIONARIES** John and Anna Ramirez, transplants from Oklahoma, say they quickly gained a love for the city of Boston and its people. Ramirez helps organize campus ministries throughout New England. Mrs. Ramirez is a volunteer coordinator for Southern Baptists' strategic focus on the city. (Photo by James Dotson)

## Ramirez helps churches reach college students

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

LOWELL, Mass.—Only two students and the campus minister attended a recent prayer meeting at Abundant Life Fellowship near the University of Massachusetts in Lowell.

Participation was much stronger the year before, but six or seven key leaders had graduated. So the three who attend listen to John Ramirez, collegiate minister for the Baptist Convention of New England and a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionary.

It's a long drive for such a small group, but the payoff is with students like Jennifer Wagia, a Kenya native seeking to grow spiritually as well as intellectually on the overwhelmingly secular campus.

"The reason why I keep coming back is this gives us a great place to grow spiritually on a campus that is not Christian at all," she said after the study. "It's pretty much the only place where you can come and feel comfortable talking as Christians, sharing and things like that."

That is the need that energizes John Ramirez, who with his wife, Anna, is among the workers featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 5-12.

The Abundant Life meeting is typical of those throughout the BCNE, where with limited resources Ramirez

hopes to make an impact on 275 college campuses—including some of the country's most prestigious institutions of higher education.

But it is in this environment that Ramirez is helping craft a different paradigm for campus ministry, one in which meetings are fewer, numbers are smaller, but relationships are critical to making a lasting impact on leaders of tomorrow.

"In that short time that you have them, you try to mature them as Christians," he said. "If they're seekers, you try to introduce them to Christ. If they are Christians already

you grow them, and send them out into the marketplace, and to give them a good church base as much as we can."

Like many of the Southern Baptist leaders in New England, the Ramirezes' roots are in the South. They both grew up in Oklahoma, where they were both involved in student ministry through his work at several campuses. But through involvement in mission projects, they increasingly felt the call to serve in a new-work area.

"With each passing trip it just seemed like I was leaving more and more of myself in these areas," he said.

Then he was invited to spend 10 months on a sabbatical to help pull together the collegiate ministries in New England. He initially thought it



**Inside**



Meet the missionaries featured in the 2000 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions emphasis. *Pages 6-7.*

Who is Annie Armstrong, and where does her offering go? *Page 7.*



Kentucky has a variety of ministries that benefit from the annual offering. *Page 7.*

would be a short-term assignment, but his students in Oklahoma knew better than he did what God had in store.

"When they did their farewell party at the end of the semester, it had a tremendous air of finality to it," he said. "They said, 'Your heart's not here anymore. It seems to be somewhere else.'"

□ See Ramirez helps ..., page 6

## Refugees still need Kentucky churches' aid, organizers say

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Missionary work in Cyprus and a former membership in a Chinese church weren't enough to convince Timberly Borger to lead her church to help with a refugee resettlement ministry.

Mrs. Borger, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, said it took a lesson from a Bible study to convince her to take that step, and she says she's glad she did.

"It's obvious God is at work here," Mrs. Borger said in reference to a Bosnian family the church helped settle into an apartment in February. "It's making a difference in their openness to spiritual things. We've met other refugees who don't have any sponsors, and their first month here is miserable."

Hurstbourne and Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington are the two newest Kentucky Baptist churches to get involved in refugee resettlement. St. Matthews Baptist in Louisville was to greet some Bosnians in late February, but the family canceled their travel plans.

A total of 11 churches have participated since late 1997, ranking Kentucky among the leaders in recent Southern Baptist Convention participation.

Tennessee led the way, followed by Texas and Kentucky, tied with North Carolina. Last year, 90 Southern Baptist churches helped resettle 752 refugees from 15 nations.

Richard Robinson, immigration ministries specialist for the convention's North American Mission Board, said refugee ministry has a three-fold purpose: an expression of compassion, evangelistic outreach and church planting among refugee groups.

Originating in 1965 in the wake of the Cuban revolution, in recent years this effort has faded from the convention's consciousness, he said. In the late 1980s Southern Baptists led all Protestant denominations in resettlements, but today have dropped to sixth.

He attributed that to convention controversy, the reorganization of the Home Mission Board and an anti-immigration political climate in the 1990s. There are signs the latter is turning around, he said.

Churches that help pave the way for refugees report a very satisfying experience.

□ See Refugees need ..., page 8

## Annuity changes approved, face SBC vote

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved changes to the Annuity Board's mission statement and expansion of its ministry assignments to include personal investing for Southern Baptist ministers and church employees.

The proposed changes will be considered by messengers when the SBC annual meeting in June in Orlando. Executive Committee approval, and other business actions, came during its Feb. 21-22 meeting in Nashville.

Changes to the Annuity Board's mission statement also include institutional investment management services for Southern Baptist organizations.

O.S. Hawkins, Annuity Board president, said, "We appreciate the opportunity to expand our services for those we serve. Southern Baptists have always responded to the needs of those who serve our Lord."

The board's current ministry assignments include retirement plans, life and health coverage, risk management programs and relief programs. The two new ministry assignments would allow the board to work in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foundation and Southern Baptist state foundations to meet investment needs of Southern Baptist organizations.

The vote by the Executive Committee followed months of negotiations between staffs and legal counsel of the Executive Committee, the Annuity Board and other entities.

Two Executive Committee members raised concerns during the discussion period. Kentucky member Steven

Boyd, pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church, and Ted Kersh, pastor of Village Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, said they were concerned that in the negotiations prior to the Executive Committee action some state convention officials' concerns were not given proper consideration. However, neither Boyd nor Kersh offered any amendments.

The recommendation passed overwhelmingly although several negative votes were heard in the voice vote.

"The Annuity Board would like the opportunity to work in cooperation with Baptist foundations," said Roddy Cummins, executive officer for investments. "We believe this cooperation could enhance the ministries of Baptist foundations as they utilize our investment services and see us as a viable alternative to secular investment providers."

The Annuity Board would not offer estate planning services or assume any roles currently held by foundations, officials said.

"The Annuity Board is not proposing to overlap any of the ministries of the Baptist foundations and will only offer its services after reaching a cooperative agreement with each foundation," Cummins said.

In other business, a motion was approved to ask each SBC entity's staff and trustees to review their "cooperative endeavors with other denominations and religious groups and report in writing on the status and implications of these endeavors to the Executive Committee" no later than Sept. 1.

The request related to a recommendation adopted during the September

1999 Executive Committee meeting that SBC entities "maintain the historic position of Southern Baptists as they cooperate with various other groups in appropriate evangelistic enterprises or moral advocacy initiatives."

The recommendation also asked SBC entities to "avoid committing Southern Baptist resources, personnel or ministries to relationships which would compromise the historic distinctives or the unique witness of Southern Baptists to the world."

Also during the meeting, the Executive Committee:

- Approved an SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for fiscal year 2000-01 of \$167,996,385 which will be recommended to SBC messengers in June. All the percentages for SBC entities will remain the same as the current fiscal year, including 50 percent of the receipts for the International Mission Board.

- Approved a request from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to incur \$3.5 million in indebtedness for the conversion of Rice/Judson Halls to conference and guest housing.

- Approved the addition of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., to the list of secondary exhibitors, on a space-available basis, at SBC annual meetings.

- Approved an increase of 2.7 percent in the salary structure for Executive Committee staff.

Executive Committee members also were informed that Barry McCarty of Cincinnati, longtime chief parliamentarian for SBC annual meetings, will again assume that role this year.

## Kentuckians voice concern over annuity actions

By David Winfrey  
News Director

NASHVILLE—A plan to expand the role of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board has raised objections among some state Baptist foundations.

The SBC Executive Committee voted to allow the Annuity Board to work in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Foundation and state Baptist foundations to meet investment needs of Baptist institutions in the states and Southern Baptist entities.

The Executive Committee followed several months of discussion between leaders of the Executive Committee, the Annuity Board and other groups.

Kentucky members of the Executive Board said they objected to both the expansion as well as the way it was presented in a committee before the vote.

The issue dates to the early 1990s, according to Barry Allen, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Previously, the Annuity Board tried to offer such services directly to churches, Baptist colleges and other entities and was told by the Executive Committee to stop after objections by the state foundations, Allen said.

This time the proposal, which will be considered by messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, June 13-15, would authorize the Annuity Board to enter cooperative agreements with state foundations or conventions

in order to offer services to entities in that state.

While presented as a win-win arrangement for both the Annuity Board and Baptist foundations, some state foundation groups, including Kentucky's, oppose the change. In cases where the Annuity Board and a state foundation are unable to cooperate, the Annuity Board reserves the right to ask the Executive Committee to adjudicate.

Jim Hales, a retired banker, Kentucky foundation board member and member of the SBC Executive Committee, said he fears the action could pose a duplication of services and confuse constituents.

Allen said he's not convinced that participation from the Annuity Board will result in any new dollars invested in Kentucky. "I don't claim to know where all the money is in Kentucky, but I don't think there is, at least in our state, lots of bucks out there that we don't have an opportunity to get now without the help of the Annuity Board."

Allen said he would object to the draft of a cooperative agreement he reviewed before a conference call between several state foundation leaders and Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins. While Allen said he would be willing to see if a suitable agreement could be reached, he noted that others on the call said they never would sign an agreement with the Annuity Board.

Hales said that in a presentation to the Executive Committee's Cooperative Program subcommittee, Hawkins painted foundation leaders with a broad

brush as uncooperative.

"He used a lot of illustrations to discredit state foundations," Hales said, adding that he was especially offended on Allen's behalf.

Before the vote by the full Executive Committee, Steven Boyd, pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church, said the Annuity Board did not adequately consult state foundations in developing the plan and admonished that SBC entities not "hand down protocol to state conventions."

Committee member Ted Kersh, pastor of Village Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, also expressed concerns, but the matter passed overwhelmingly in a voice vote.

After the meeting, Hawkins approached Boyd with some pointed words, objecting to his claims, especially Boyd's assessment that some Annuity Board officials approached the issue with a "kick-but" attitude.

"I probably wish I hadn't used that," he said later in an interview.

Hawkins returned to Boyd shortly afterward to shake hands and state that he had no hard feelings.

Allen, Hales and Boyd said they're hopeful the issue can be resolved for the benefit of all agencies involved.

"I think most of us would be in agreement that this possibly could be something very advantageous, and maybe there could be a win-win," Boyd said. "But the process left something to be desired."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

## Audit confirms WMU regains Carver funds

By Mark Wingfield  
Texas Baptist Standard

NASHVILLE—Nearly \$1 million in endowment funds has been transferred from control of Southern Baptist Foundation to Southern Baptist Foundation to Woman's Missionary Union as part of a formal mediation over the disputed assets of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

Though the mediation reportedly took place last summer, officials of Southern Seminary and WMU have declined to speak publicly about the matter since then. Sources familiar with the negotiations said a gag order was requested as part of the deal at the request of the seminary.

The transfer of \$928,541 from the Southern Baptist Foundation to the WMU Foundation does appear in WMU's audited financial report for last year, however. That audit, which must be submitted to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, is a public record. It was available for review during the Executive Committee's Feb. 21-22 meeting in Nashville.

The audit states the funds were transferred to the WMU Foundation by the seminary after a previous trust agreement involving the two entities was terminated.

Asked about the matter last summer before her retirement as WMU executive director, Dellanna O'Brien said she could not speak about the endowment dispute. The most she would say is, "Yes, we have had a mediation and settled to each party's satisfaction."

The matter reportedly was discussed in executive session during the WMU executive board meeting in January. During that meeting, board members approved the distribution of large sums of money from an undisclosed source. The funds will benefit the Eleanor Terry Chair for Christian Women's Leadership at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and the new graduate program in social work at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, among others.

Baylor not only offers the master of social work degree with an emphasis on church social work, but the program is run by Diana Garland, the previous dean of the Carver School at Southern.

The Carver School, founded in 1907 as the WMU Training School, was merged into Southern Seminary in 1963. It later gained accreditation for its master of social work degree, the first accredited degree of its type in the nation.

In 1998, the seminary sold the Carver School name and certain undisclosed assets to Campbellsville University. That action came after seminary president Al Mohler fired Garland and seminary trustees affirmed Mohler's view that the tenets of Mohler's view are not compatible with biblical theology.

## Patterson urges more sensitivity when witnessing

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Following controversies over Southern Baptist evangelistic strategies, convention president Paige Patterson says church leaders should be more sensitive when they approach people of other faiths.

In recent months, Southern Baptist Convention officials have defended prayer guides targeting Jews and Hindus for a Christian witness. Members of those faith groups said they were offended that the pamphlets were timed to coincide with religious holidays and by negative language used to describe their beliefs.

In response to the controversies, a council of religious leaders in Chicago asked Southern Baptists to back off plans to send thousands of volunteer missionaries there next summer.

In remarks to the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 21, Patterson said he learned some things from the experience.

"I have learned that the word 'target' is an irritating word," he said, adding that he agrees with those who object to the term.

"It is one we can do without," he said. "We don't need to target anybody. What we need to do is to get the gospel to everyone."

Patterson said Southern Baptists should not "go around trying to be so sensitive" that they miss opportunities to witness. But, he said, "The time has come for us to be careful."

He urged Southern Baptists to go to Chicago and "assist the poor and disenfranchised," to "love and be gentle to all" and to "witness to every single person who will listen to us."

## Falwell, Smith anchor three-day Louisville conference

By David Winfrey  
& Trennis Henderson  
News Director & Editor

LOUISVILLE—God's promise is sufficient for Christians who are walking in the valley of the shadow of death, Jerry Falwell told those attending Bailey Smith's "Real Evangelism" Bible Conference in Louisville last week.

"God's work done God's way will have God's blessing and God's provision," said Falwell, pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va.

Falwell spoke to more than 700 people attending the conference, Feb. 23-25 at Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville.

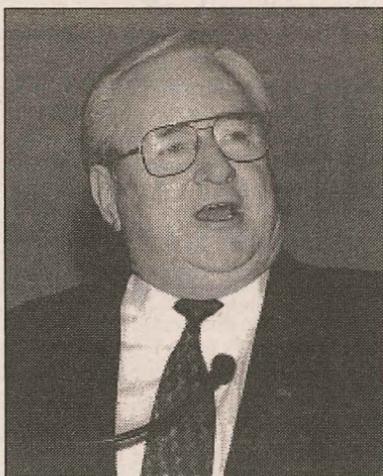
Whether one likes it or not, most of life is spent in the valley of the shadow of death, said Falwell, 66.

"Most Christians enjoy the mountaintops more than the valleys," he said. But "most of us have got to wake up to the fact that there are more bad days than good days."

That fact, however, shouldn't be an excuse for living a defeated life, Falwell said. He quoted D.L. Moody as saying, "I have never known God to use a discouraged person," and Romans 14:22, "That which is not of faith is sin."

The fact that Christians will live in the valley of the shadow of death also doesn't excuse them from obeying God, he added. "There is no such word as quit or can't in the Christian vocabulary."

A trust in God is what allows Christians to walk through the valley, he said. "The three Hebrew children were not spared of the experience (in the fiery



**EVANGELISTIC ZEAL** America's 70 million evangelical Christians must return to their "first love" of evangelism, Jerry Falwell told conference participants.

furnace), but they were accompanied."

Jesus' disciple Peter often is ridiculed for losing faith while walking on the water with Jesus, but Falwell noted that he was focused on God enough to initially jump out of the boat and do something extraordinary.

Later in his life, Falwell added, Peter could remember during his darkest times that God both empowered him to walk on water and rescued him when he began sinking. That mountaintop experience encouraged Peter for the rest of his life, Falwell said. "That's the only reason God gives us mountaintop experiences," he said. "Life is always unfair, but God is always reasonable."

Falwell stressed that America's 70 million evangelical Christians must return to their "first love" of evangelism.

"Evangelism must be rekindled in the Bible-believing churches all throughout the land," he said, adding that money, music and buildings aren't enough to reach non-Christians. "Nothing of eternal importance is ever accomplished outside of prayer," he said.

The Bailey Smith conference was the fifth such event the Atlanta evangelist has held in Louisville.

Designed to "model godly preaching and singing," Smith has organized eight such conferences for this year. Smith noted that he's already been invited to return to Louisville, but added that at a cost of \$31,000 per event, he first would have to see if this event received sufficient local financial support.

Host pastor Kevin Hamm said the three-day conference was planned "for the entire city of Louisville and the whole state of Kentucky."

"Don't you believe that America needs revival?" Hamm asked the crowd. "I believe Real Evangelism is a tool, a spark to shape this nation for Jesus."

During the conference's opening session, Smith said God changed his prepared message just five minutes before he stood to speak. "More than anything I need to be God's servant," said Smith, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "I believe what is going to be said will save somebody's physical life."

Although "there is nothing you can do to make God not love you," Smith

said there is "an instance in the Bible when God gives up on someone."

Describing "a sin unto death" cited in 1 John 5:16, Smith said, "When God gives up on a Christian, they go to an early grave." He said some people in the crowd "will never see another Christmas unless something is dealt with tonight."

Smith said the sin unto death is the sin of rebellion against God. "Some of you are just this close to committing that sin unto death," he warned. "You don't have long on this earth; God is going to sign your death certificate."

"God wants you to live the kind of life that is happy and healthy and holy," he added. "If you live in sin and rebellion against God, God will deal harshly with you if you are one of His own. ... God has no rebellious children very long."

"The reason you got saved is to change," he insisted. "If you're as good as you're going to get, why should you stay around?"

Dozens of people responded to Smith's invitation to strengthen their Christian commitment to God.

In addition to Falwell and Smith, speakers included Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Tennessee pastors Phil Hoskins and Bob Pitman; Florida pastor Herb Reavis; and evangelists Jamey Ragle of Florence and Rich Coran of Ocala, Fla.

Pitman and Reavis also are scheduled to speak at this week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

## Disaster relief volunteers help Vanceburg flash flood victims

VANCEBURG—Two dozen Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers have responded to the call to help residents of Vanceburg recover from a flash flood that swept through the area after last week's heavy rains.

"One hundred families lost everything," said Howard Wilson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Vanceburg, where the crew is headquartered. "It's worse than the '97 flood."

The waters of Kinnickonick Creek rose four feet higher than in the devastating 1997 flood, according to Wilson, and flood waters moved some mobile homes three-quarters of a mile. More than 100 homes were damaged or destroyed.

The Kentucky Baptist disaster relief crew, led by volunteers from Greenup Baptist Association, is helping clean and sanitize homes damaged by the flood.

## Tanzania & Poland coordinators needed

Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions leaders are seeking on-site coordinators to serve in Poland and Tanzania.

The on-site coordinators will live in the respective countries and assist Kentucky Baptist partnership volunteers in planning and implementing missions projects, explained Calvin Wilkins, director of the KBC's partnership missions department.

Four homes were cleaned out in the first two days of operation with 15 more jobs pending, said Larry Koch, KBC disaster relief coordinator. More volunteers will likely be needed as clean-up efforts continue.

The flooding comes at an especially difficult time for Lewis County, which is one of the three poorest counties in Kentucky, Wilson said. The recent closing of a shoe factory left some families with no income and little hope, he said.

Donations to help flood victims can be sent to the Lewis County Ministerial Association, Box 217, Vanceburg, KY 41179.

For more information about the needs of the area, call (606) 796-3474.

For more information about Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood department at (888) 254-5720 or (502) 244-6489.

The Tanzania coordinating role has never been filled while the Poland coordinating position came open recently. Larry and Joy Lindsey, who served as partnership coordinators for five years in Russia and one year in Poland, have returned to the States for medical reasons.

For more information contact the KBC partnership missions department at (502) 244-6462 or (888) 254-5724.

## Senate approves churches' right to limit rentals

A bill allowing religious organizations to refuse to rent facilities to groups on the basis of religious concerns gained Senate approval last week.

House Bill 70, which passed the Kentucky Senate by a vote of 17-12, previously passed the House by a vote of 82-17. It now awaits action by Gov. Patton.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Kerr (D-Dist. 64), came in response to concerns at Bullittsburg Baptist Assembly in Boone County. The camp, owned by Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, faced the options of renting to a group of atheists or violating current civil rights laws.

Kerr said the measure "restores religious liberty to our Kentucky churches to be able to exercise discretion in how their property is used."

In other legislative action, Rep. Greg Stumbo (D-Dist. 95) introduced a bill that would allow the posting of Ten Commandments and other documents as part of "an elective course that uses religious or scriptural texts as instructional material." It also would require such courses to treat religious texts "in an academic, balanced and objective manner" without favoring or disfavoring any religion or belief.

Stumbo's proposal (HB 814) is more narrow in scope than Senate Joint Resolution 57, another Ten Commandments-related measure that appears stalled in a House committee.

Also last week, the Senate approved House Bill 463 by a vote of 28-8. The bill, opposed by the Temperance League of Kentucky, would allow liquor sales at the new Kentucky Speedway in Gallatin County.

## Kentucky pastor pleads not guilty to assault charge, faces hearing

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

NICHOLASVILLE—An alleged altercation between a Kentucky Baptist pastor and a church member's husband has led to the pastor being charged with second-degree assault.

Patrick Wren, pastor of Nicholasville Baptist Church, has maintained his innocence in the dispute, according to supporters in the church. Wren's attorney entered a not guilty plea on his behalf at a Feb. 23 arraignment.

A preliminary hearing in the case is set for March 7 in Jessamine District Court. A court spokesman said options at the hearing include sending the case to a grand jury, reducing the charge to a misdemeanor or dismissing the charge.

Brian Gilfedder, Wren's attorney, voiced confidence his client will be found innocent "when all the facts are out."

The incident took place Feb. 10 in the front yard of Wren's home. After a Feb. 9 church business meeting in which some members called for Wren's dismissal, Wren and church member Elexene Cox reportedly argued about the action.

Mrs. Cox's husband, John, called Wren about the exchange and

went to the pastor's house the next morning. As the disagreement between the two men escalated, Wren went inside his house and returned with a golf club in his hand, according to a written police report.

A church member Wren called earlier in the morning arrived on the scene and found Cox with a cut on his forehead.

Cox reportedly claims Wren struck him with the golf club. Supporters of the pastor say both men fell down and Cox struck his head on the club.

Nicholasville police arrested Wren, charging him with second-degree assault. He was released on bond later that day.

Wren has resigned as pastor and church members voted Feb. 27 to grant him three months' salary and benefits as a severance package, according to deacon chairman Jim Masters. He said the initial church conflict was prompted by a group of members who "didn't like the direction the church was going" under Wren's leadership.

Jerry Wilkes, director of missions for Elkhorn Baptist Association, preached at the church the Sunday after Wren's arrest. Citing concern for Wren, his family and the congregation, Wilkes said, "It's one of those tragic situations where there are no winners."

## 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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## Your sins will find you out

I spent much of my early childhood in fear. I wasn't afraid of my parents, childhood bullies, spiders or snakes as much as I was afraid of God.

The fear was fostered by the church of my youth which should have been rated PG-13. Many of the sermons were way too scary for kids. A theological fascination with the end times created a dread of the future that made the Second Coming of Christ sound suspiciously like a science fiction horror movie.

The most frightening recurring sermon was about the day of judgment. On that day, we learned, we would stand before God and have all of our sins read aloud. Every one of them. Even the ones we had forgotten about.

Every cookie pilfered from the cookie jar. Every mean thought. Every time we lied about being sick when we really wanted to stay home in our jammies and watch cartoons.

Even as a little kid I could see that list going on for weeks. So each night, at the end of my bedtime prayers, I tacked on a PS: And please forgive me for everything that I did wrong today and have already forgotten.

I guess I figured if I didn't itemize I could claim the maximum deductions.

Maybe Rick Rockwell had the same idea.

In case you have been living in a sound-proof booth for the past two weeks, Rockwell is the multimillionaire groom who picked his bride out of a lineup of 50 young women who had nothing better to do on a Tuesday night than prance around a stage in Las Vegas.

The groom was portrayed as a self-made multimillionaire, a sometimes stand-up comic and real estate developer. Supposedly he was an all-American guy lucky in everything but love.

But Rockwell forgot about judgment day. Given the capabilities of Internet

research and the competition for news, Rockwell is now portrayed as a B-movie actor, a so-called millionaire and an alleged girlfriend beater.

Anyway, despite the fact that Rockwell now seems like the poster boy for why women are afraid to date, I do have some sympathy for the guy. Sitting in the glare of the TV lights, trying to explain why he threatened to kill his girlfriend, brought back that rush of feelings I had as a kid.

How would I ever explain to God that I had to have an extra cookie when my mom told me just two? What excuse would be good enough to explain why I told Linda Jones I hated her when she grabbed the swing away from me?

Fortunately, my theology has evolved since those early days and I now understand God is more about grace than judgment and sin is less about getting caught than staying close to my Creator.

There's part of me that still dreads judgment day. But if my sins are going to be exposed, I'd rather take my chances with God than the media.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

## COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

## Affirm God's truth

As I read the views expressed in the letters section of the Feb. 15 issue of the Western Recorder, I thought what a wonderful thing it would be if Christians could just accept the Bible for what it is and use it as God's revealed plan for each of our lives.

We engage in arguments about the inerrancy of the Bible. Some agree that the "Authorized" version is inerrant but that others such as the New International Version are blasphemous.

I sometimes wonder if those who say they love the Bible would not do better by loving Jesus more and the book less. I know of no place in Scripture that says, "Whoever believeth on the Bible will be saved."

The Bible as we know it today is God's revealed truth, given to man by

inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Why can we not grant God the ability to have used any method He chose to inspire those writers?

Why is it so difficult to understand that each book was written for a specific audience and culture and that God in His infinite wisdom inspired the writers to use phrases and illustrations that would impact the intended audience?

Why must Baptists force God to fit into their preconceived mold of what He can and cannot do? God is not as limited as we are. God is God. Some Baptists are sinners saved by His grace.

Tom Miller  
Covington

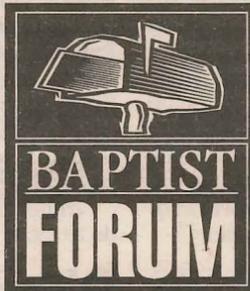
## Abuse or misuse?

Is it possible to abuse mind-altering drugs such as alcohol? That depends on what is meant by the word "abuse."

Inanimate substances such as alcohol cannot be abused in the same sense a spouse, a child or other people or animals can be abused. In this sense, we think of abuse as cruel treatment.

Being without life, alcohol and other drugs cannot be mistreated. Misused? Yes—but not abused. So why not substitute the term drug misuse for so-called drug abuse?

Quentin Gaskin  
Harrödsburg



## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Tony Evans Crusade coming in June

Kentucky Baptists have an unprecedented opportunity to Celebrate Jesus in 2000 through the Greater Louisville Tony Evans Crusade June 19-21 at Freedom Hall. Evans, a well-known and respected Bible teacher and preacher, will bring the messages and will be supported by such popular contemporary Christian artists as Kirk Franklin and Truth.

I encourage all Kentucky Baptist churches to participate in the crusade—especially those in the greater Louisville area. Participation will provide opportunities for church members to:

- Focus and unleash the prayer potential in greater Louisville.
- Celebrate the transforming presence of Jesus Christ.
- Demonstrate unity in Christ.
- Experience powerful praise and worship.
- Equip and inspire members in guiding others to Jesus Christ.
- Enjoy ministering with other believers.
- Build a foundation for future co-

operative efforts to share Jesus Christ.

A very important pre-crusade rally is scheduled for 7 p.m., March 9 at Canaan Baptist Church, 2840 Hikes Lane in Louisville, with Evans as guest speaker. Please consider organizing a bus or van trip to enjoy an outstanding evening of praise and worship. Pastors and staff also are invited to a prayer breakfast with Evans at Canaan Baptist Church, March 10 at 8:30 a.m.

The idea for this crusade originated in the African-American community under the inspirational leadership of Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, who also serves the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the area of cooperative ministries. I have been very supportive of the process due to my previous experience with a Tony Evans crusade in Columbia, S.C. I have heard Tony many times and I am confident his life and message are centered in Christ.

This crusade is especially important because of the variety of Christian



Bill Mackey

groups cooperating to make it possible. Participating denominational groups include the Central District of Baptists, the General Association of Baptists, Long Run Baptist Association, the United Methodists, AME Zion, the Nazarene church, several Pentecostal groups (including Evangel Christian Life in Louisville) and others. Several people from the KBC staff and Long Run churches are serving in leadership roles for various crusade committees.

Participation in the Christian Life and Witness classes (the same that are taught prior to Billy Graham crusades) will bring renewal to church members and equip them to guide others to faith in Jesus Christ. Those who complete these classes may serve as counselors during the crusade.

The crusade office needs to hear that your church plans to participate. To receive an information packet, including a video, please call the crusade office at (502) 635-1004 or request one by e-mail by writing to: office@tecrusade.org. More information also is available on the crusade Web site at www.tecrusade.org.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## ANNUITY

### Avoid these seven financial planning myths

By Don Spencer

Beware of the following seven myths about financial planning:

■ *Financial planning is just investment advice.* While investing is an important part of financial planning, there are many other issues. These include goal

setting, spending plans (budgets), insurance, tax planning, retirement planning, planning for educational expenses and estate planning.

■ *Save 10 percent of your salary per year.* Who says this is enough? For some it may be. For others, it is not. Much depends on the purpose for the savings. Determine what you're saving for and calculate the amount you need to set aside.

■ *Keep an amount equal to 3-5 months of your spendable income in a savings account for emergencies.* Yes, you need an emergency fund, but not in a savings account. Inflation and taxes will reduce the value significantly. There are other options for increased earnings, still keeping the money safe and accessible.

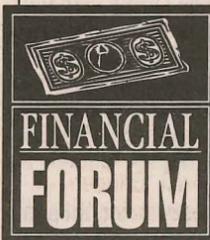
■ *You'll need 75 percent of your pre-retirement income in retirement.* Maybe. Maybe not. You may need less or you may need more, depending on your retirement plans and other issues.

■ *Life insurance should equal five times your salary.* Again, maybe and maybe not. Ignore this myth and have an insurance professional assess your needs. For some folks, goals and many other unique personal issues dictate a need for significantly more insurance. For others, the needs are less and they may be paying for more insurance than needed.

■ *For retirement planning, put a percentage of your savings equal to 100 minus your age into stocks.* Many planners used this a few years back as a general guide. However, most experts would say this is too conservative for many people. Younger people generally need a much higher percentage in stocks. With society changing what it means to be "retired" and with increased life expectancy, many in their 50s and 60s may need a higher percentage in stocks.

■ *I'm too young for a financial plan.* The earlier, the better. Most folks who begin a financial plan later in life must adjust for mistakes made earlier. By starting early, you can avoid some of those mistakes. It's never too early to get started with a financial plan.

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



## Singles can curb loneliness through intentional ministry

**Q: I have been single for so long. What do I do with my incredible loneliness?**

Remember that the loneliest person in your zip code tonight is not a single adult. Rather it is a married couple lying 18 inches apart with hearts light years away from one another, crying themselves to sleep. Marriage is not the cure for loneliness.

Invite God into your alone times. You have an incredible opportunity for living your life intentionally in His presence. Ask Him to reveal what's absent in your life.

Get involved in a single adult ministry near you. Surround yourself with people on mission for Christ. Choose community. Choose partnership in ministry.

Create a "hit list" of things that need to be done around the house. After conquering bathrooms, living room, etc., you will have a great feeling of accomplishment and will have created a space that can be a welcoming setting for entertaining. You can be incredibly productive, brightening up your living space with this goal in mind.

Be proactive. You write the computer program of your own life. Ask God, "What have you got going on today? I'd like to be a part of it!" Then join God where He already is at work. Partner with God and others to live life as a great adventure.—James Stillwell

**Q: Our daughter, who is in first grade, has been telling us about some of the different religious beliefs of her best friend at school. She is perplexed at these different practices and sometimes argumentative with us when we tell her we don't agree with her friend. I don't want her to be confused and I don't want to have to worry about her believing some of the things she's hearing. What should we do?**

This is a difficult situation because we as parents want to be the only influence on our child's life for as long as possible. Until now, your opinion has been the only one and she hasn't had any reason to question.

But now, after having been exposed to another viewpoint, she is wondering if Mom and Dad really know or not. After all, her best friend seems to know, "and she says . . ." She is getting her first glimpse of a bigger world with diverse viewpoints and wondering how to make sense of it.

Take heart knowing that parents still are the primary source of influence for children at this age, even more than peers. Know also that while you can't eliminate all the undesirable influences, you can use them to her advantage.

For instance, use this as an opportunity to tell her why you believe as you do, why you have certain standards that you expect from her and the benefit of these rules for her life. This can help her understand the reasons for your beliefs, which is crucial to her developing strong values herself.

You also can use this as an opportunity to teach respect for others' beliefs. For instance, we don't always agree with each other, but we can refrain from being disrespectful to others when their viewpoint differs from our own.

Keep in mind too that when children at this age argue with us, it doesn't necessarily mean they disagree with us or even understand the issue well enough to disagree. In some ways it may be more of a testing of limits, as she watches your response to different viewpoints. If you notice this happening, it might be wise to not get too upset or make too big of an issue out of it. Simply state your belief and the reasons for it, and enforce the standards you expect from her.—Susan Howell

*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.*



## Why should the Recorder report bad news?

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

The apostle Paul's uplifting words in Philippians 4:8 are a source of inspiration and challenge to me in my role as a Christian journalist. Those words, coupled with Ephesians 4:29—"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good for the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers"—form a strong foundation for my ministry philosophy and action.

Where, then, does the justification for reporting "bad" news come in? With words like "true," "honest," "pure," "edifying" and "grace," shouldn't everything we report in the state Baptist paper be only "good" news?

No. The simple fact is that a commitment to truth, honesty and purity is the very reason not to ignore or gloss over difficult issues. Reporting on tough, touchy topics in a sensitive, straightforward way is something Kentucky Baptists both need and deserve from their state paper. To do otherwise would be to abdicate our responsibility to our readers.

Obviously, there are those who want to read only good news. Even the good news of the gospel, however, isn't limited to positive, feel-good accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. Before we read of Christ's glorious resurrection, we must confront the gospel writers' painful accounts of His betrayal, arrest, beating, crucifixion, death and burial. Those events don't sound much like good news, but they're a vital part of the true, honest, pure report of Jesus' experiences on earth.

That's not to suggest any article in the Western Recorder rises to the level of reporting by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But it is to say we need look no further than the pages of the Bible to discover that reporting good news doesn't mean sticking our heads in the sand and ignoring the troublesome issues of life.

Why even bring up the subject? A page 3 article reports the recent arrest of a Kentucky Baptist pastor on a charge of second-degree assault. It also points out he has pleaded not guilty and awaits a hearing to determine the next step in the process.

Why do you need to read about this development in the Western Recorder? There are a number of reasons.

First there is the "true and honest" emphasis that's already been mentioned. There are media reports, rumors and unanswered questions about the incident floating around the state. Some observers even choose to ignore our judicial system's foundational principle of "innocent until proven guilty." Hopefully, an accurate, straightforward news account in the state paper can help separate fact from fiction.

Additionally, one of the Recorder's assigned responsibilities is to keep Kentucky Baptists informed about issues of concern. Individuals across the state have the opportunity to utilize such information as a prayer resource on behalf of fellow believers.

The Association of State Baptist Papers recently adopted a six-point statement of principles affirming state papers' commitment to providing "accurate, timely and relevant information." Declaring that "ours is a ministry of truth-seeking and truth-telling," the statement adds, "We empower Baptists when we provide truthful information upon which they can make their individual and collective decisions." That is reason enough to help keep Kentucky Baptists accurately informed.

Obviously, this isn't the first time the Western Recorder has reported "bad" news—and it won't be the last. The vast majority of the paper's content, however, will continue to highlight the good news of missions, evangelism, statewide training opportunities and other valuable resources.

Above all, we remain committed to publishing articles that are true, honest, just and pure for the benefit of all Kentucky Baptists.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Moving from Web site to Web ministry

By Lisa Erwin

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19-20a)*

At the turn of the millennium, people in one-third of all U.S. households are surfing the Web, and more and more churches are posting Web sites.

A typical church site currently looks like an online church brochure or a brochure and newsletter combined, with links to a staff page, a map, programs and ministries, a contact page and perhaps a statement of belief. Appealing sites capture a congregation's character, mission and a sense of excitement.

But there is more. In the Internet age, "go and make disciples" becomes a call to use the Web as a means to minister.

The Web is a huge, serendipitous affair. When your church moves beyond a Web brochure to Web ministry, God's Word goes into cyberspace like

a message in a bottle, reaching people you have never seen, according to God's purposes. At the Web site of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville ([www.fbcshelbyville.com](http://www.fbcshelbyville.com)) for instance, more than 70 surfers every month access the gospel message. Every meditation or Bible study in a section called

"Words for the Walk" is accessed 20 to 60 times monthly. E-mail from diverse sources affirm the ways God's Word has touched lives through an act of blind faith: sitting at a computer, formatting a God-inspired text and uploading it.

How powerful can a Web site be? Powerful enough to change a life, help prevent a suicide or impact a family's decision to accept a transfer from out of state in order to become part of a particular congregation.

As people spend more time online, they actually spend less time interacting with their own physical community. Your church may reach some people across a faceless network. The church needs to be there—and not just with a map to the facility.

There are, in fact, many ways

churches can minister online. Begin by identifying one or two dynamic ministries of your church and make a commitment to bring the fruit of those ministries to your Web site. Or prayerfully chart a new kind of ministry that takes unique advantage of the Web. Effective Web ministry means finding the niche God has in mind. Web ministry foundations include:

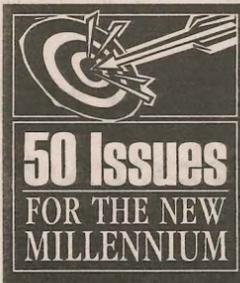
■ A Web ministry depends on one or more people who take responsibility for knowing about Web design, site structure, search engines, key words and other needs, and for ensuring the site's ongoing attractiveness and usability.

■ A Web site can be maintained by an individual; a Web ministry must involve several people who are willing to invest time with technology or at least time in getting resources to a Webmaster. It also requires training committed volunteers.

■ A Web ministry depends on having at least one readily accessible, adequately equipped, connected computer at the church site, so people working on the Web site can get the work done.

■ A Web ministry needs coordinating and facilitating, but not controlling. It should be a synergetic, inspired effort, handled with prayer.

*Lisa Erwin is a Web designer and a member of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, where her husband is pastor*



## Ramirez helps churches reach students

Continued from page 1

Shortly after they began their assignment, the Ramirezes knew the students were right. Within a few months his position was made permanent.

"When I got to New England I just thought, 'What a wonderful, wonderful place,'" he said. "The sense of community here is just unreal to me."

Mrs. Ramirez also quickly fit in, as a volunteer teaching conversational English at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then being able to minister to internationals through employment at a law firm. This year she became volunteer coordinator for Heart of Boston, the name local Southern Baptists chose for the city's Strategic Focus Cities effort.

The initiative—sponsored nationally by NAMB—will bring volunteers and other resources to the city for evangelism and ministry.

In Ramirez's collegiate work, one of his first tasks was to strengthen campus ministries in Worcester, just a few miles from his home and the convention's offices in Northborough.

He developed a team approach that he now has implemented throughout the convention. Rather than some schools having campus ministry programs and others having nothing, Ramirez networks both collegiate ministers and the students throughout a particular city for once-a-week meetings. Out of that base, programs eventually can be started on campuses where no collegiate minister is assigned.

"That's really the only way we're going to reach metropolitan areas with multiple schools," he said. "The various schools meet together for large events but hold individual Bible studies at their schools."

With the campus ministry work in Worcester now more self-sufficient, Ramirez is able to spend more time coordinating similar efforts throughout the convention—which includes Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Much like a director of missions does for pastors, he offers support, advice and encouragement for campus ministers.

It is a lonely ministry for campus ministers from the South who are unaccustomed to their almost cult-like status on campuses that have largely rejected Christian philosophy.

But Ramirez said an odd paradox has resulted in recent years. As religious pluralism and diversity have become the norm, evangelical Christians find themselves on the receiving end of bene-

fits available to "fringe" religious groups. Thus they now are much more likely to be granted meeting rooms, club fees for expenses and other privileges of student organizations.

"We're kind of riding the wave of diversity right now," he said.

The campus minister at Harvard, for instance, now has a small office in the campus chapel—alongside the Buddhist, New Age and other non-Christian influences. But it is a valued presence on one of the nation's most important campuses.

There are restrictions with the access. Some forms of evangelism such

as mass tract distribution are prohibited on campus, for instance. But Ramirez said they are still able to invite people to their meetings, where they have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

Ramirez also makes a point of cultivating volunteers from campuses in the South.

"I tell the state (campus ministry) directors, 'You need to send a group to help us with that, or send a director on a sabbatical,'" he said.

As Ramirez knows from personal experience, students and leaders who visit New England capture a vision for the opportunities there. They will pray for them, and some will be called to join them, even though most collegiate ministry positions are either volunteer positions or part-time.

That has been the case with an unusual church targeting college students just off the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. A few students from Kentucky have enrolled in a partnership program that the university just so they can help serve as a core group. Their goal is to rent a storefront close to campus, where the atmosphere will be more coffee house than sanctuary but discolor will be made.

"Whatever it takes," he said. "Whatever it takes to reach people, that's what we'll do."



**CHURCH PLANTING** Barry Bonney (left) looks over plans for a subdivision in Oakville, Ontario, with Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary Randy Galloway. Bonney serves as a church planter/catalyst for the SBC North American Mission Board and is based in Toronto. (Photo by Christine Smith)

### Ontario church-planting duo participate in 'God-sized' task

TORONTO, Ontario—Members of Dixie Baptist Church in Toronto meet each week on a concrete slab poured over a former indoor swimming pool. It's a small congregation with 15 nationalities represented. But no one ever told the group it was too small to make a difference.

The congregation now sponsors six mission churches—two English-speaking, an Hispanic, a Vietnamese and three Korean. A First Nation congregation, similar to Native American, is in the planning stages.

Helping Dixie in its church planting efforts—and being a catalyst among 20 other churches and missions scattered across the city of Toronto and province of Ontario—are Southern Baptist missionaries Barry and LaWanda Bonney. Bonney serves as a church planter/catalyst. Mrs. Bonney leads teacher workshops in the churches and is WMU director for Ontario.

The couple—featured in the March 5-12 Southern Baptist Week of Prayer for North American Missions—lives in Oakville, a Toronto suburb, with their three young daughters.

It is a ministry built on teamwork.

Though he concentrates his ministry in Toronto, Bonney travels the expansive province as he helps churches locate sites for new home Bible studies or missions.

Mrs. Bonney's upbringing as a missionary kid in Mexico and Central America opens doors in the Spanish-speaking community. And their children's subtle witness among their peers help introduce others to Bible stories about Jesus.

The Bonneys are the only NAMB missionaries in the province, which includes the nation's capital city of Ottawa. Their task is daunting at times.

"It's really a God-sized project," Mrs. Bonney said.

April 28 & 29  
Westside Baptist Church  
Murray, Kentucky

## YOUTH EXPERIENCING GOD WEEKEND

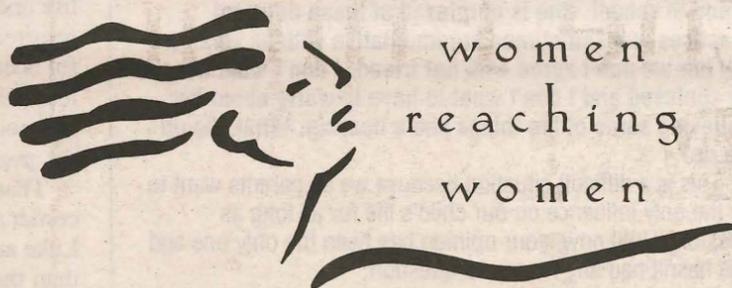
Preacher: Jason Ellerbrook  
Worship Leader: State of Mind

Cost: \$10 (\$5 for each additional family member)

Schedule: Friday, 7 p.m., to Saturday, 6 p.m.

Saturday will include lunch and recreational time.

Sponsored by the Baptist Student Union at Murray State University. For more info, call (270) 753-5771.



### Dates/Sites

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

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

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

Cost  
\$10 per person in advance  
\$15 per person at the door

### Sponsors

Evangelism Growth Team Office,  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union  
Women's Missionary Auxiliary,  
General Association of Baptists  
Central District, General Association  
of Baptists



Evangelism Growth Team Office  
(502) 254-4737 or toll free 1-(888) 254-5722  
www.kybaptist.org/wlec.htm

### Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference 2000



Becky Freeman  
Author, Humorist & Speaker



Dottie Williamson  
Multihousing Ministry Consultant,  
South Carolina Baptist Convention



Alicia  
Singer & Songwriter

# MISSIONS

## Easter offering supports Kentucky missions

From Eastern Kentucky mission centers to Hispanic ministries in Paducah, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering benefits missions work throughout Kentucky.

"Over the years the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering has helped us with physical needs in our center," said Lawrence Baldrige, director of Caney Baptist Center in Pippa Passes.

"Last year they helped us put heating and air conditioning in our center," he said.

Support also allows the center to host such events as the Thursday night gospel music services. Attracting as many as 100 people, the event includes a meal, music and message, as Baldrige presents the Christian faith to those in attendance.

He said the offering also has supported Baptist Student Union work at Alice Lloyd College.

The offering also supports two other ministries in Eastern Kentucky: Wheelwright Baptist Center in Wheelwright and the Freeda Harris Baptist

Center in Lookout.

Baldrige, who has been at Caney since 1976, said such support is crucial to his work. "These hollors wouldn't have the kind of ministry we offer had it not been for the Annie Armstrong offering."

The offering also contributes to the work of Christian ministry and church starting for Hispanic and other non-Anglo groups in Kentucky, according to Grundy Janes, language missions consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"We had 35,000 migrants moving through the state of Kentucky this last year, and we've had churches from central Kentucky all the way to Western Kentucky who have been involved in ministering to migrants," he said.

Among the Hispanic migrants, 46 churches have reached out through fellowship meals, English as a second language courses, recreation opportunities

and worship, Janes said.

The result has been many professions of faith in Jesus and men taking Bibles back home with them, he said.

"We've been able, not only to share the Word of God with them here in the United States, but we've been able to send missionaries back to their home countries where they've been able to share the love of Jesus there," Janes said.

The offering also has contributed to the work of starting other ethnic congregations, Janes added.

As a result, Kentucky Baptists have congregations for Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Haitian, Laotian, Eastern European, Japanese and Vietnamese.

Other types of Kentucky ministries supported through the offering include 20 prospective church planters who are at various levels of starting churches, the Celebrate Jesus crusades and an upcoming Louisville crusade with Tony Evans.



## Who is Annie Armstrong?

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—When Annie Armstrong died in 1938, she left a legacy of what it means to be "on mission."

Her life of sacrifice for the sake of telling others about Jesus is one that modern-day missionaries seek to mirror.

Armstrong was born in 1850 in Baltimore, Md. She became a Christian at age 20 and began a lifelong journey of mission service.

She saw the need of those in her community—the immigrants, the poor and the sick. She saw the needs of those far from her—the African-Americans and the Native Americans. She saw also the needs of the missionaries serving these and other groups. Her heartbeat was for their work, and she did all she could—from letter writing to personal visits—to gather support for their ministries.

The first home missions offering was given in 1895, after a Week of Self-Denial for Home Missions. The offering was named in Armstrong's honor in 1934.

The offering supports the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, which is involved in the work of more than 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries serving in the United States, Canada and the U.S. territories.

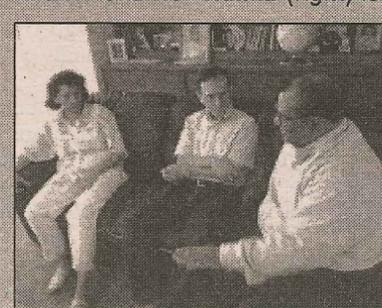
The largest group of missionaries starts new churches, about 1,500 churches each year. Other missionaries share the gospel message by ministering to people's needs in church and community settings, including senior adults, nonreaders, substance abusers, families, homeless people, disabled people, migrant workers and even vacationers.

NAMB also supports the ministry work of such people as Baptist association directors, chaplains and short- and long-term volunteers.

Since 1895, the year of the first home missions offering, more than \$750 million has been given. In 1999 the offering totaled more than \$43 million, and this year's goal is \$47 million.

## Meet the other missionaries profiled for the week of prayer

Khalil "Charlie" Hanna (right) leads a Bible study in



the home of Arabic Christians in San Jose, Calif. For 20 years he has served as a missionary in California, working to plant churches among Middle Easterners

throughout the state. The needs are great, as there are more than a million Middle Easterners statewide. (Photo by Joe Westbury)

Roosevelt Broach (center), a church growth consultant



for African-American churches in Dallas Baptist Association in Texas, greets W.L. Brown (left) and William Oliver (right) at a weekly

pastors' conference. (Photo by Hillery Garrison-Smith)

David and Milvian Lema pause during a visit to Iglesia



Bautista Gethsemane in Miami, one of the churches Lema works with as director of Hispanic and international ministries for

Miami Baptist Association. (Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Sheila Mitchell, director of DaySpring Villa, a women's shelter in



Sand Springs, Okla., plays with Kayla (right) and her sister Alica (center). In its 20-year history, 10,000 women and children have

been helped by the Baptist-sponsored shelter. Of that number, 900 accepted Jesus as Savior. (Photo by Kent Harville)

Paul Wells, pastor of Friendship Baptist Mission in

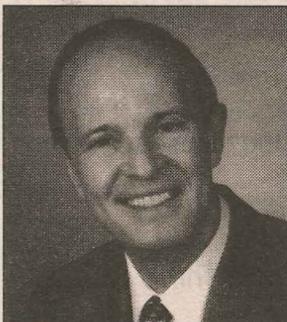


Fairbanks, Alaska, looks over a budget proposal with church member Johnna Underwood. The multicultural congregation has a long history of

ministry with Native Alaskans and other ethnic groups. (Photo by James Dotson)

# Power in the Pulpit

## March 27, 2000



A one-day preaching seminar with  
**Dr. Jerry Vines**  
and the  
preaching faculty of  
Southern Seminary:



R. Albert Mohler



Daniel L. Akin



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# KENTUCKY

## Refugees need Kentucky churches' help, organizers say

### For more information contact:

■ Richard Robinson, North American Mission Board, (770) 410-6343.

Requests for informational packets can be e-mailed to rrobinson@namb.net.

■ Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Louisville, Lee Welsh, (502) 452-9055.

■ Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Lexington, Barbara Kleine, (606) 226-5661.

*Continued from page 1*

"In surveys we've done with pastors, about 95 percent report it was a positive experience for the congregation," Robinson said. "It's good for the refugees and overwhelmingly positive for the local church."

That is the case at Hurstbourne, Mrs. Borger said, where more than 100 members have played a role in the ministry. Members have supplied financial assistance, food, clothing, furniture and household goods, and shuttled the family to various appointments.

"It's been so nice to see how God worked this out," she said, adding that the refugees "have been coming to our church, even though I told them we didn't expect them to."

Members also have taken turns interpreting sermons via a Croatian-English dictionary. Hurstbourne plans to buy Croatian Bibles to make it easier for the newcomers to grasp the messages.

God opened other doors, according to Mrs. Borger.

For example, the church had a "Welcome to Louisville" sign lettered in Croatian. That attracted the attention of a Southern Seminary student who had been a missionary to Croatia,

and he stopped to talk. Now he is providing spiritual counsel to the family, which comes from an Orthodox church.

"It's really neat to see how God has brought people into the picture," she said.

In Lexington, Trinity Baptist decided to get involved after the NAMB official met with pastor Jay Robinson and two members last fall. They are hosting a mother, her sister and four children from the Congo (formerly Zaire).

The last of the group arrived Feb. 24. The family is living in a mission house behind the church.

"There were two things that sold us," Robinson said. "Mary, Joseph and Jesus were refugees; they had to move to another place. And, often people have the opinion, 'We don't want those people in our country.'"

"My great-great grandparents came from Switzerland in the early 1900s," he said. "So if we don't want 'those kind' in our country, we wouldn't be here either. It's just another migration."

Integrated since the 1960s, Trinity Baptist flies 36 flags in its sanctuary. They denote members' homelands and places of missions activity. The

church plans to add the Congo's flag in the near future to honor its new guests.

It has been a joy to observe the family's graciousness and to learn from their Christian background, the pastor said.

"In Sunday school they asked us to pray for people who don't have any place to go," he said. "They're delightful people and very open. I look forward to getting better acquainted with them."

One of the attractions to the program is the support provided by such groups as Kentucky Refugee Ministries. With offices in Louisville and Lexington, the agency works with churches to help refugee families.

The agency provides English as a second language classes during their first month, as well as help in finding jobs, transportation, translators and assistance in identifying various resources.

"We always need more help," said Lee Welsh, Kentucky Refugee Ministries' sponsorship developer in Louisville. "When we have the name of a (Baptist) church that is interested, we contact the North American Mission Board and let them know. Unfortunately, we always have refugees coming who need sponsors."

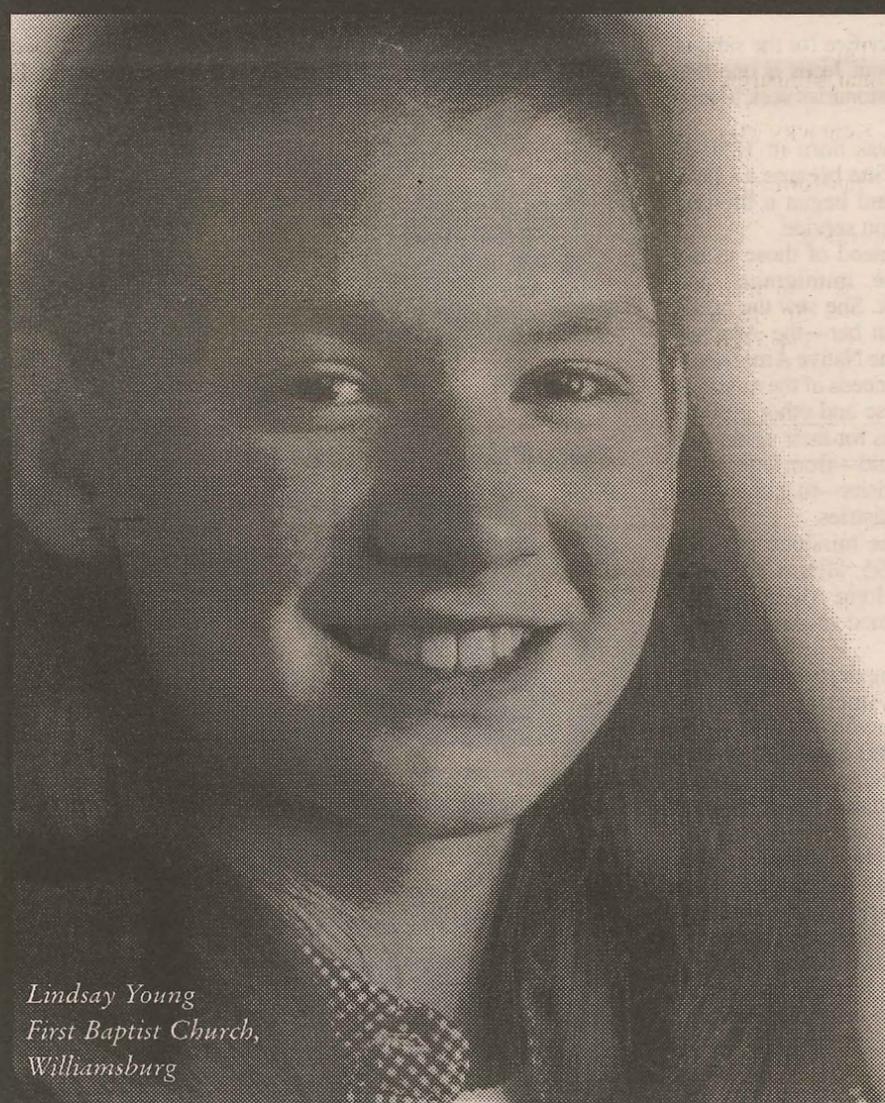
### Who's involved?

Kentucky Baptist churches that have participated in refugee resettlement since late 1997:

- Beacon Hill Baptist, Somerset
- Lyndon Baptist, Louisville
- Vietnamese Baptist Mission, Louisville
- Harrodsburg Baptist
- Calvary Baptist, Lexington
- Immanuel Baptist, Lexington
- Porter Memorial Baptist, Lexington
- St. Matthews Baptist, Louisville
- Trinity Baptist, Lexington
- Hurstbourne Baptist, Louisville
- Edgewood Baptist, Nicholasville

The ministry requests that churches help support refugees for 90 days. Costs for a family of four are between \$1,500 and \$2,000. It is also time intensive, requiring 200 people hours and an effort to orient them to the community.

"We ought to have more churches doing this," Mrs. Borger said. "Fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars is a drop in the bucket. Here's three people and we've changed their lives."



*Lindsay Young  
First Baptist Church,  
Williamsburg*

## I'm a partner.

I'm in 7th grade, I'm an Acteen, and I sing in the choir.  
I'm also part of the Cooperative Program. Some of my offering goes to help other people find out about Jesus here in Kentucky, across the country and throughout the world. Wow! And just think.  
You can be a partner too!

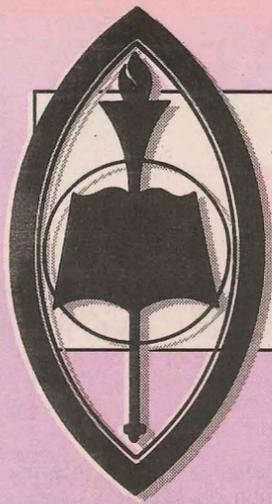
Be a partner in the Cooperative Program --  
born in Kentucky and celebrating 75 years  
of helping people find the Lord!



# PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

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





# KENTUCKY NOTES

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

2000 Annie  
Armstrong Easter  
Offering for North  
American Missions  
Goal: \$47 million  
Challenge Goal:  
\$55 million

Kentucky Baptist churches gave \$1,424,325 to the 1998-99 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. Will your church give more this year than last year?

Spring 2000

## A Personal Word

My first state WMU annual meeting was in Pennsylvania in 1976. It was there I heard our state WMU president explain the letters "WMU" and the significance of "Woman's" with an "a." I had attended many WMU functions before then, from the GA 50th anniversary celebration in Memphis to national annual meetings with my mother. But this was my first state meeting. I've attended ever since in each state in which I've lived.



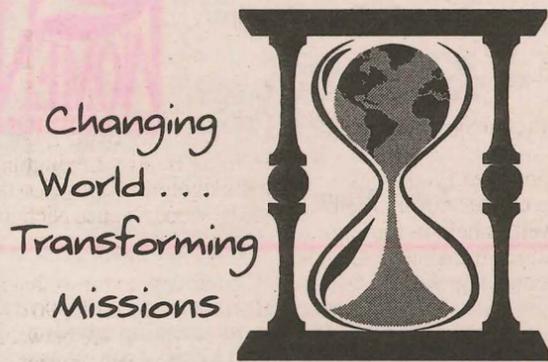
**Joy Bolton**  
Executive  
Director-  
Treasurer

Now, it is my turn to invite you to attend our Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting. An outline of the program is included in this issue of *Kentucky Notes*. Anyone may attend: members, leaders, pastors, directors of missions, missionaries, spouses and everyone interested in missions work around the world. Even our children's-age WMU members in Girls in Action and Children in Action are invited to attend a special children's missions event on Saturday.

You never know what might happen during an annual meeting. One year, I attended the meeting in Maryland with two friends from my association. After an emphasis on family missions during the meeting, we went home and told our families we wanted to participate in our association's mission trip that summer. Our families agreed, and we spent a wonderful week on Long Island with our husbands and our children leading a music camp and making repairs on a church building. So plan to join us for the Kentucky WMU annual meeting. You never know what God may say to you!

Also plan to come to Bowling Green on Thursday, April 13, for our **Heritage Fund dinner**. It will be an enjoyable evening of great fellowship and an opportunity to support in a special way the work of Kentucky WMU. A ticket order form is on page 4. Use this form to pre-register for preschool child care and register for the Baptist Nursing Fellowship dinner, also.

We want to welcome **Tonya Williams** to our staff as our new adult consultant. Tonya is a native of Bowling Green and a May 1999 graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Between college and seminary, Tonya served as a US-2 missionary in Oklahoma. She has worked with Centrifuge and M-Fuge for several summers. Tonya has a deep personal commitment to missions education and involving women in missions. Tonya will give direction to our work with Women on Mission and Adults on Mission, as well as Christian Women's Job Corps, Project HELP, Volunteer Connection, Enterprisers and the ministries of Kentucky WMU with our missionaries, missionary kids and missionary parents.



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

Thursday Evening, April 13, 6:30 p.m.  
By reservation: Heritage Fund Dinner, University Plaza Hotel  
(Reservation form, page 4)

### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

**Friday Morning, 8:50 a.m.**  
Music for Worship  
Storying the Bible  
Missionary Prayer Time  
Transforming Missions in Kentucky  
Changing World...Transforming Missions

Roxanne Nanney  
Jim Slack  
State Acteens Panelists  
WMU Staff  
Joy Bolton

**Friday Afternoon, 1:15 p.m.**  
Music for Worship  
Eliza Broadus Offering Promotion  
Changing World...World Changers  
Serendipity:

Phoebe Parks, Martha Lyne  
Anna Mary Byrdwell  
Susan Peugh

—Reception for Joy Bolton, New Kentucky WMU Executive Director, and Peggy Hicks, outgoing Kentucky WMU President  
—Meet-the-Missionary Conferences

### Friday Evening, 6:45 p.m.

Music for Worship  
Storying the Bible  
1999-2000 State Acteens Panelists  
Thank You from a Kentucky Missionary  
Special Music  
Changing World...Transforming Missions

Ukranian Choir  
Jim Slack  
LaRaine Dail  
Ukranian Choir  
"Porter & Rose Benson"

### Saturday Morning, 9 a.m.- noon

GA & Children in Action Missions Event Social Center

### Saturday Morning, 8:50 a.m.

Music for Worship  
Storying the Bible  
Missionary Prayer Time  
Appalachian Regional Ministries  
Business Session

Men of Praise  
Jim Slack  
State Acteens Panelists  
Randy Jones

Thank You from a Kentucky MK  
Special Music  
Changing World...Transforming Missions  
Tomorrow's Transformers

Kentucky Singing Women  
Steve & Denise Musen  
Brenda Price

Preschool child care will be available during the Annual Meeting by reservation only. See form on page 4 or call Kentucky WMU toll-free at (888) 254-5726 or (502) 244-6485.

## Hotels in Bowling Green

**Hampton Inn**  
\$59, plus tax  
233 Three Springs Road  
(270) 842-4100  
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

**Baymont Inn & Suites**  
\$54.95, plus tax  
165 Three Springs Road  
(270) 782-6699  
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

**Best Western Motor Inn**  
\$45, plus tax  
Cutoff date: 4/7  
Special rate for Jacuzzi Suite:  
\$79, plus tax  
165 South Exit # 22  
& Hwy. 231  
(800) 343-2937  
or (270) 782-3800  
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

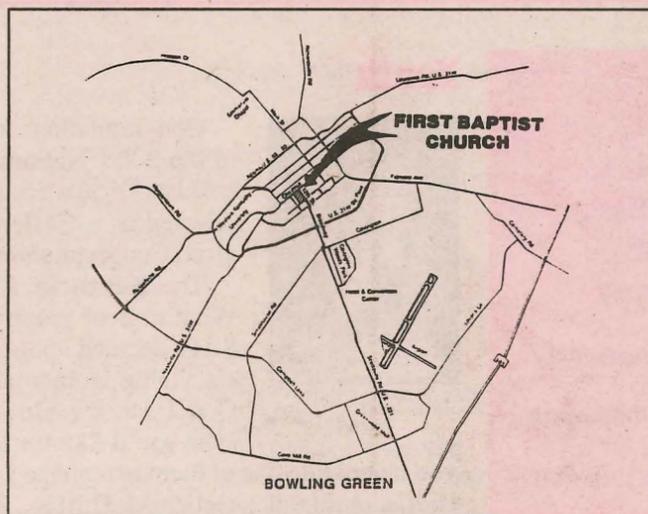
**Holiday Inn**  
\$69.95, plus tax  
Cutoff date: 3/30  
3240 Scottsville Road  
(270) 781-1500  
Use code: 2-KMU

**Ramada Inn**  
\$49, plus tax  
Cutoff date: 4/1  
4767 Scottsville Road  
(270) 781-3000  
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

**Fairfield Inn**  
\$ 44.95, plus tax  
Cutoff date: 3/17  
1940 Mel Browning Street  
(270) 782-6933  
Use code: Gardner

**Microtel Inn**  
\$ 39.95, plus tax  
Cutoff date: 4/14  
1980 Mel Browning Road  
(270) 745-9922  
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

**Comfort Inn**  
\$ 59.88, plus tax  
Cutoff date: 3/31  
4646 Scottsville Road  
(270) 843-1163  
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union



### Directions to First Baptist Church 621 East 12th Avenue, Bowling Green

◆ **Traveling to Bowling Green via William Natcher Parkway:**  
Take Exit 4 to Bowling Green and travel 31 W. North (also known as Nashville Rd). At the intersection of 31 W North and Broadway, turn left onto Broadway and travel approximately four blocks. Church is on left.

◆ **Traveling to Bowling Green via I-65:**  
Take Exit 22 to Bowling Green and travel Scottsville Rd (US 231) to the church.



## Information for WMU Directors

Sure signs of  
spring:

- A flock of robins lands in your yard and begins pulling up worms.

- You make motel reservations for the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.

- You have appointed your leadership selection committee and they have a commitment from leaders who will lead Mission Friends, GAs and Acteens for next year.

- A little crocus begins to peep up through the ground.

- Your leadership team has made plans for Associational Emphasis Week, May 22-28.

- Your granddaughter asks you if bunnies really do bring eggs.

- You encourage GAs and Acteens to decide which week they want to go to camp.

- You are leading WMU in your church to take an active part in the 75th anniversary celebration of the Cooperative Program.

- Yellow daffodils begin to bloom.

- Your 2000-2001 Leadership team has decided which World Missions Unlimited Conference they want to attend.

- Everyone is looking forward to spring break.

- Your Acteens and advisors have reservations for SAC.

- Your choir is working on Easter music.

- Your GAs and Acteens soon will be ready for the recognition service.

- Birds are gathering twigs for nests.

- Your Girls in Action are excited about welcoming the girls who will be coming out of Mission Friends.

- Red and yellow tulips stand in rows along the sidewalk.

- Dogwood trees wearing pink or white stand along the streets and highways.

- God gives us the challenge of new beginnings and new life.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell



## Adults

### Tonya's Tips

As your new adult consultant, it is my goal to equip your Women on Mission and Adults on Mission groups to become effective in leading your churches in mission education. In this column, I will share ideas for missions involvement, creative missions meetings and other ideas to help you in your ministries. Contact me with your questions, concerns or any ideas you have that have been successful in creating mission awareness in your church.

Tip #1: Host a birthday party for a missionary. Choose a missionary, or MK, who is celebrating a birthday. Ask each member to bring a small gift for the missionary. Mail the gifts to the missionary along with a card or audio cassette of greeting for the coming year. End the party with a birthday cake and a prayer for the missionary and his or her work.



## Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences

Mark your calendars! "Women Reaching Women," the Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, will be held May 22-23. This event will feature missionary Dottie Williamson. Singer/songwriter Alicia will lead the music. Take this opportunity to invite all the women in your church to a time of spiritual renewal.

### Conferences will be held:

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

- ◆ May 22: 6:45 p.m.-9 p.m. (EDT)  
St. Stephens Baptist Church  
Louisville.

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

Cost: \$10, if pre-registered; \$15 at the door. For more information, contact Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism office or KY WMU.

## Fall retreats

Brochures will be mailed soon with information on the 2000 Women on Mission retreats. Make plans now for your group to attend.

### Speakers include:

- ◆ Cedarmore:  
Sept. 29-30: Rhonda Kelly  
Oct. 6-7: Dawn Phillips.

- ◆ Jonathan Creek:  
Oct. 13-14: Sarah Groves  
Oct. 20-21: Sarah Groves.

—Tonya Williams



## Preschool

**Be on the lookout!** They may be in your church, sleeping in beds, crawling around on the floor or making strange squealing sounds! Who, you ask? Babies, creepers and toddlers! Preschoolers from birth through one year old probably are the most ignored age group as potential members of Mission Friends.



Teaching younger preschoolers, babies and ones, is a difficult concept for some adults to understand and accept. Research indicates that a child's earliest experiences make a difference in the development of his or her brain. During the first three years of life, the brain forms connections that determine a lifetime of skills and potential. When young preschoolers come to church, they need a teacher who understands them as learners and who will provide positive experiences on their learning level.

Any time preschoolers are present and parents agree, you can have Mission Friends. Examples: Women on Mission meetings, revival services, Wednesday evening prayer service,

visitation programs, etc.

Talk with the WMU director in your church about the need for organizing Younger Mission Friends. Enlist someone who will become the teacher and not just a baby-sitter. Use the curriculum section in *Start* magazine, which is especially written for Younger Mission Friends.

## Children

### Attention all members of Girls in Action and Children in Action!

The annual **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Because both Girls in Action (girls, grades 1-6) and Children in Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6) are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the WMU annual meeting.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon (CDST). As the general WMU meeting is in session, children and leaders will meet in the church's social center for their own

event with opportunities for meeting missionaries, singing and having all kinds of fun. Watch for signs to direct you to the social center entrance. (See map to the church on page 1.)

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$2 per person attending to be paid on arrival.

GA and Children in Action members and leaders can be involved in a ministry project by bringing one canned food per person to the event. The food collected will be distributed to programs for needy families in the Bowling Green area.

Don't forget camp! Two state camps, Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for Girls in Action members, as well as girls who are not members of GA. Inform your girls and their parents about the dates and cost of camp. A one-piece poster/registration form was mailed to church GA, Children in Action and WMU directors in February. Contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department for information about camp opportunities for boys.—Brenda Price



## Youth

### Calling all Women on Mission and Adults on Mission groups:

Adopt a summer missionary!

More than 150 summer missionaries and Cedar Crest staffers will serve this summer.

Groups will pray for and write their adopted summer servant. Groups also will contribute \$10 for a commissioning gift for their student. Call KY WMU to adopt today! (888) 254-5126 or (502) 244-6485



Amy Travis

Congratulations to Amy Travis of Murray for her selection to the 2000 **National Acteens Advisory Panel!** This panel consists of just six girls. Melissa Milliken, of Franklin, was selected as a **National Top Teen**, an honor given to only 20 girls. Congratulations.

The **Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel** met Jan. 14-15. What a great group of girls! We developed the schedule for SAC, decided upon seminars and planned presentations. These six young women are intelligent, articulate and in love with God. Invite them to your church to speak about Acteens or whatever you'd like for them to share. Please call LaRaine Dail if

you would like one of them to come to your church: Lauren Gover and Suzie Ledford, Somerset; Sarah Harris, Ashland; Amber McDuffee, Paducah; Melissa Milliken, Franklin; and Shannon Riggs, Hardinsburg.

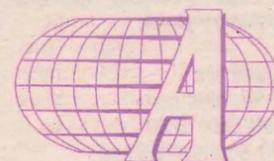
The **State Acteens Conference** is designed for and open to all young women in grades 7-12. The weekend will be an opportunity to discover why they were created "**For Such a Time as This.**" A special feature this year will be an interpretative movement seminar. Participants will learn an interpretative movement to "For Such a Time as This" by Wayne

Watson and will perform in the closing session. Groups then will be able to share this with their churches. See the SAC ad on page 3 for more information.

**Camp plans** are underway. It will be an exciting year. See page 4. —LaRaine Dail



Melissa Milliken





## President's Perspective

Wanda Lee, national WMU president, was elected as the new executive director/treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, at the January executive board meeting. The Jan. 2 *Western Recorder* coverage of her election described the strengths and gifts she brings to this position. As one of the national vice-presidents, I was asked to preside over that session which took place in the Kentucky room at national headquarters in Birmingham. Kentucky WMU furnished and decorated the room when the building was built.



**Peggy Hicks**  
Kentucky  
WMU  
president

As I stood in that room, my mind flooded with memories of the privileges I have had as your president. During my first term, 1985-89, we celebrated the centennial year of WMU, SBC. I was on the task force that helped to establish the Second Century Fund and presented one of the grants at the centennial celebration.

During this term of office, I was on the Christian Women's Job Corp task force. What a blessing to see CWJC develop.

As president of Kentucky WMU, I was automatically a vice president of national WMU and on the nominating committee to select a president. She will be presented for election

in Orlando, Fla., at our annual meeting. Plan to be there and vote. Never underestimate the importance of your vote. Many exciting things are ahead of us.

As your president, I was privileged to serve with four Kentucky executive directors: Dee Gilliland, Kay Trisler, Brenda Price (interim) and now, our new exec, Joy Bolton. Kentucky WMU has a history of strong leaders with commitment to the world missions enterprise. Dedicated and committed women across our state serve on our executive board and work hard. Working alongside these women and our capable staff has been a cherished blessing. What joyous years of service these have been.

Missions education must continue to be our priority, and we must discover new ways to involve people. It is essential to lead and train people to serve the church in missions education and awareness.

How I want to see you in Bowling Green, April 14-15, for our Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting: We will focus on some of the approaches on mission fields in the United States and overseas. We will hear from a missionary couple as to why we can't list their names for fear of endangering them, the national Christians where they serve and their ministry. One couple will share their ministry among a tribal group. You will experience storying the Bible, a method used around the world to introduce people to Christ. The music will be a real mixture of styles. We will officially welcome Joy Bolton at a reception. It also will give me an opportunity to personally express my love for you.

Everyone is invited on Thursday night, April 13, to a Heritage Fund dinner where exciting information will be shared. Alan Medders, president of WMU Foundation, SBC, will be one of our speakers. Sally Deen, a former president of Kentucky WMU, in her inimitable humor, will share some highlights of her years in WMU. She is a delight. Come a night early to be a part of all this. Make your reservations soon.

A big reason to attend this annual meeting will be to elect your new president and executive board. See you in Bowling Green. May the Lord richly bless you as you continue to bring the missions challenge where you are. What a blessing it has been to serve with you.

*In His service, Peggy Hicks*

## Volunteers needed in state WMU office

Have you ever wondered just how Lottie, Annie or Eliza mission offering envelopes get to your church? More than likely they were packed by one of our faithful volunteers. During the weeks preceding each of the weeks of prayer, volunteers come to the state WMU office daily to fill orders and help send prayer guides, posters and envelopes to Kentucky churches.

But more volunteers are needed. Serving as a Kentucky WMU state office volunteer is a labor of love and a valuable part of the missions support system that makes it possible for us to send missionaries across our state and around the world.

We also would like to expand volunteer involvement to include bulk mailings. Every mailing of materials churches need to prepare for missions involvement, training events and more must be assembled for shipping. Our goal is to set bulk mail assembly dates in advance (four to five times a year). For each mailing, we will need volunteers to assist us one or two days. Youth volunteers also are welcome. If you would like to join the Kentucky WMU volunteer team, contact Doris Riddle at (502) 244-6485.

# State Acteens Conference 2000

April 7-8  
Cumberland College  
Williamsburg

- Featured speakers:  
Martha Lytle, Missionary to Israel & Russia  
Beth Ann Williams, Salt Lake City Olympic Outreach Director
- Music with Michael & Terri Higdon
- Missions Fair featuring Cumberland's summer missionaries
- Hear from Acteens Activators and Summer missionaries
- Cumberland Mountain Outreach ministry project
- Special interest small group sessions
- Hawaiian Luau (bring your bathing suit; lei provided)
- All this, a T-shirt and more for only \$15!

All young women in grades 7-12 and their leaders are invited. Advance registration is required. Contact Kentucky WMU today!

## Calendar

- March**  
3-4 Creative Ministries Festival, Louisville  
5-12 Season of North American Missions Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- April**  
7-8 State Acteens Conference, Cumberland College, Williamsburg  
13 KY WMU Heritage Fund Dinner, Bowling Green  
14-15 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist, Bowling Green  
14 Missionary/Missionary Parents Luncheon DOM/Spouse; Associational WMU Directors Luncheon  
Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner  
15 GA and Children in Action Missions Event, Bowling Green
- May**  
20 KBC SALT, Madisonville  
22 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Day: First Baptist, Cold Springs; Evening: St. Stephen Baptist, Louisville  
23 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Day: Bellevue Baptist, Owensboro Associational Emphasis Week
- June**  
3 KBC SALT, Lexington  
11-12 National WMU Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla. SBC, Orlando, Fla.  
See Camp News for camp dates.
- July**  
See Camp News for camp dates.  
14-15 World Missions Unlimited, Campbellsville University  
21-22 World Missions Unlimited, Georgetown College

## State Acteens Conference Hotels

- Cumberland Inn by Marriott**  
649 South 10th Street  
Williamsburg, (800) 315-0286  
\$64, plus tax  
Make reservations thru sales office as "Kentucky Acteens"  
Cutoff date: 3/24
- Super 8 (formerly Holiday Inn Express)**  
30 W. Hwy. 92  
Williamsburg, (606) 549-3450  
\$57, tax included  
Use code: Acteens  
Cutoff date: 4/1
- Days Inn of Williamsburg**  
I-75 & Hwy. 92 Jct.  
(606) 549-1500  
\$44.00 plus tax  
Cutoff date: 3/7
- Days Inn of Corbin**  
1860 Cumberland Falls Highway  
(606) 528-8150  
\$39.98 plus tax  
Use code: Kentucky Acteens  
Cutoff date: 3/24
- Best Western Corbin Inn**  
2630 Cumberland Falls Highway  
Corbin, (888) 528-2100  
\$44.95, plus tax  
Use code: Kentucky Acteens  
Cutoff date: 3/24
- Country Inns & Suites**  
1888 Cumberland Falls Highway  
Corbin, (606) 526-1400  
\$63 plus tax  
Use code: Acteens  
Cutoff date: 3/7



## Reservation Form

Heritage Fund Dinner (April 13)  
Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner (April 14)  
Childcare (April 14 & 15)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete all applicable information below:

### ■ Heritage Fund Dinner ■

# of dinner tickets at \$20 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed for tickets: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

### ■ Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner ■

# of tickets at \$10 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed for tickets: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ■ Childcare ■ (There is no charge for childcare.)

# of preschool children for which childcare is needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates needed:  April 14  April 15

Clip and mail with applicable payment by April 3  
Make check payable to Kentucky WMU.

Mail to:

Kentucky WMU, Attention: Denise Gardner,  
PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

## Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship dinner meeting

The Kentucky chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will meet on Friday, April 14, for dinner at the University Plaza Hotel. This is during the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.

The cost of the dinner is \$10 and reservations must be made with the KY WMU office by April 3. Complete the registration form on page 4 of *Kentucky Notes* and return it to the state office, along with a check made out to "KY WMU."

The program will include a speaker on medical missions and a business session. All nurses, medical personnel and other interested people are invited to attend.

## Summer camp update "Never the same"

Be sure to mark your calendar for this summer's camping events. Girls will never be the same after attending camp. Registration forms now are being accepted. Please contact the Kentucky WMU office if you need registration or promotional materials.

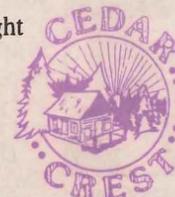
### Camp dates:

#### ● Cedar Crest:

June 19-23	GA Camp	July 7-8	Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 23-24	Mother/Daughter Overnight	July 10-14	GA/Acteens Camp
June 26-30	GA/Acteens Camp	July 14-15	Mother/Daughter Overnight
July 6-7	Mother/Daughter Overnight	July 17-21	GA Camp

#### ● Jonathan Creek:

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



### What's there to do?

Girls who attend GA and Acteens camp will find plenty of activities to keep them busy. In addition to missions education activities and events, there will be opportunities for crafts, recreation, worship and devotional time, as well as swimming and hiking. The week-long camps are open to any girl who has finished fourth grade or higher. Girls do not have to be a member of GA or Acteens in order to come; they just need to have an interest in learning about missions and in developing friendships with the staff, other campers and missionaries.



Mother-Daughter Overnights are for girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their mothers (or "mother substitute"). Acteens Splash is for teenage girls who have completed grades 7-12 and their chaperones. Similar to camp experiences, the overnights include fellowship, meeting missionaries, prayer time, recreation, crafts and more.

### Camp staff needed

If you or a young woman you know loves children, we can use you on staff at camp. Applications for summer staff at Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions include cabin leader, assistant cabin leader, lifeguard, kitchen coordinator and unit leader. Also, one volunteer camp nurse is needed for each week of camp. Please contact the Kentucky WMU office for applications at (888) 254-5726.

## World Missions Unlimited 2000

July 14-15 Campbellsville University  
July 21-22 Georgetown College

- ◆ Training
- ◆ Inspiration
- ◆ Motivation
- ◆ Fellowship

Whether you need training or advanced leadership skills, conferences at World Missions Unlimited will help you become a better missions leader. Conferences for church and associational leaders of all WMU organizations as well as special interest conferences will be provided. Choose the date and site that works best for you. Early-bird conferences will begin at 2:30 p.m. Friday. The main program will begin at 6:30 p.m. The event will conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Option One: | \$45 per person if registered by June 15     |
|             | \$50 per person after June 15                |
|             | (includes meals, lodging and conference fee) |
| Option Two: | \$20 per person if registered by June 15     |
|             | \$25 per person after June 15                |
|             | (includes conference fee)                    |

Registration materials will be mailed to all church/associational WMU leaders in early April. If you have questions or need additional registration materials, contact Kentucky WMU.



Violence has become a part of all our lives. As much as we may think, "It will never happen to me," there is a distinct possibility that we or someone we love will be affected by violence in one way or another.

Several months ago, I was watching the news and realized that some of my very close friends from Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, were on the screen. A random shooting had occurred and a friend of mine was killed.

The reality of violence in the home, school and even the church is something

we must face. I encourage you to talk with your families and congregations about the effects of violence by looking at the *Project HELP: Violence* material. This study gives many helpful ideas that will aid in teaching about the consequences of violence. Perhaps through education, our society will examine solutions for making our world a safer place to live.

To order a *Kentucky Project HELP: Violence* packet, contact KY WMU at (888) 254-5726. Each packet is \$5.  
—Tonya Williams

## Oregon report finds 27 people used suicide law

SALEM, Ore. (RNS)—Last year, 27 terminally ill people used Oregon's 2-year-old assisted suicide law to end their lives, 11 more than the year before, according to a report by the state.

Nearly two-thirds were cancer patients, according to the Oregon Health Division's report released Feb. 23, while the others suffered from AIDS, chronic lung disease or Lou Gehrig's disease.

The report, based on information gained from family members of the deceased and doctors involved in the cases, was published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Gregory Hamilton of Physicians for Compassionate Care said the findings are flawed.

"In surveying only doctors who assisted suicides, and family members, the report gathered information solely from those with an interest in justifying their recent contribution to or collusion in a patient's death," Hamilton said. "No objective data were obtained."

## Internet use increases isolation, study finds

PALO ALTO, Calif. (ABP)—The "nation's obsession with the Internet" might be causing increased social isolation among its heaviest users, according to a new study.

People who spend more than five hours a week online are cutting back on face-to-face communication with family and friends, said Norman Nie, a professor at Stanford University who conducted the study on how the Internet affects society.

While many argue the Internet is creating new relationships and enhancing family communication, the Stanford study suggests the Internet may contribute to "social withdrawal" among those who use it most.

"We're moving from a world in which you know all your neighbors, see

all your friends, interact with lots of different people every day, to a functional world, where interaction takes place at a distance," Nie said.

The study has generated controversy among social scientists. Howard Feinberg, a research analyst with the Statistical Assessment Service, told Associated Press the study was a "bit of a reach."

The report "is preliminary work and it doesn't tell us much," he said.

Feinberg said a survey conducted over a longer period of time would be more accurate in determining the social implications of the Internet.

The study surveyed 4,113 American adults in 2,689 homes. Respondents were given free Internet access and Web TV.

Two-thirds of those surveyed said they stay online fewer than five hours a week. Of those, 13 percent indicated they spend less time with family and 8 percent said they attend fewer social gatherings.

But the more exposure people gain to the Internet, the more hours they begin to spend on it. Nie said this data means "the trend toward social withdrawal will only increase."

Those who conducted the study are not producing a "doomsday scenario," said Lutz Ebring, a professor from the University of Berlin who worked with Nie.

"The fact is that there is an increase in the quantity of communication," said Ebring. "But there is a loss in the warmth of the human quality."

**"We're moving from a world in which you know all your neighbors ... to a functional world, where interaction takes place at a distance."**

*Norman Nie, Stanford University professor*

## Christian singers earn Grammys in gospel categories

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Christian singers Shirley Caesar, Steven Curtis Chapman and Rebecca St. James were among the winners of Grammy Awards at the annual ceremony held Feb. 23.

Caesar garnered her 11th Grammy for her "Christmas With Shirley Caesar" album in the Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album category.

Chapman picked up his fourth Grammy for his "Speechless" album in

the Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album category.

St. James, honored for her fourth album, was a first-time Grammy winner.

"I am genuinely surprised," St. James said, upon accepting the honor for "Pray" in the Best Rock Gospel Album category.

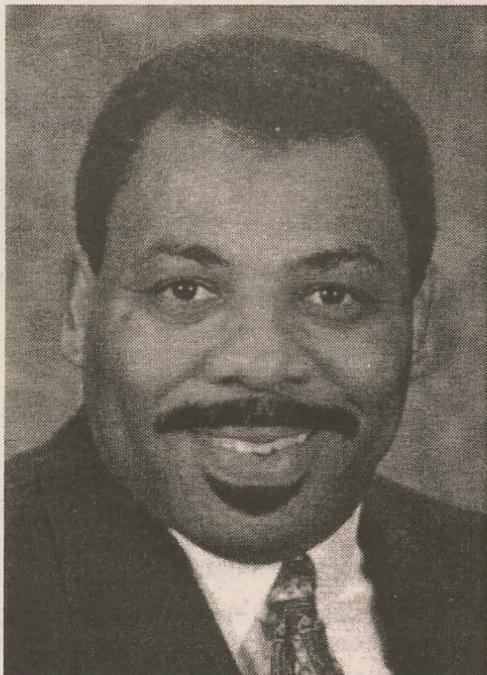
The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, directed by Carol Cymbala, also was honored with its first Grammy in the

Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album category for "High & Lifted Up."

Yolanda Adams, a contemporary gospel singer, won in the Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album category for "Mountain High ... Valley Low."

"Kennedy Center Homecoming" by Bill and Gloria Gaither and their Homecoming Friends was named the Best Southern Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album.

*What does it take to break down barriers between people?  
Come hear Christ's message of hope and reconciliation...*



# Dr. Tony Evans

**Thursday, March 9, 2000**

**Canaan Baptist Church  
2840 Hikes Lane, Louisville  
7 p.m.**

*With these special guests:*

- Former U of L Basketball Standout Bryan Kaiser
- Dynamic Youth Speaker Andre Barnes
- Special Mass Choir

Dr. Tony Evans is senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas and one of the nation's leading speakers on the topic of racial reconciliation. His radio broadcast, "The Urban Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans" can be heard over 250 stations daily throughout the U.S. and in more than 40 countries worldwide.

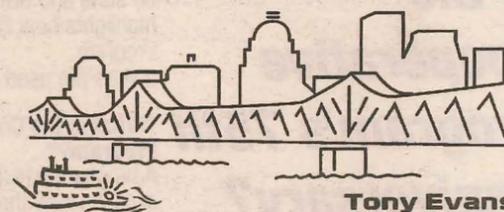
This event sponsored by the Greater Louisville Tony Evans Crusade. Find out more about this upcoming event by dialing 502-635-1004 or check out the Crusade website at:

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

"I encourage you to be a part of the upcoming Greater Louisville Tony Evans Crusade and to attend this special pre-crusade rally! I believe this a unique opportunity to come together as Christians across denominational and racial lines to share Christ's love with a community that desperately needs Him!"



*Dr. Bill Mackey  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Baptist Convention*



**Greater Louisville  
Crusade**

# RESOURCES

## Gibbs: Make God your head coach in the game of life

By Terri Lackey  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—In a metaphor appropriate for a former coach, Joe Gibbs told those attending a men's conference that life is like a football game.

"God made us with competitive spirits," said Gibbs, former head coach for the Washington Redskins. "And we always want to win the games we play. The life we get to live is a game, and you and I are the players. Do we want to lose? No."

Gibbs, now a NASCAR team owner, said that in both football and life, "We've got to have a head coach."

Gibbs was among several leaders addressing more than 2,800 men at First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., for an event called "Stand Firm: Men Leaving a Legacy."

The ultimate head coach, Gibbs said, is God.

"When I was a coach, I really cared about my players. And God really cares about us. I loved my players, but I wouldn't have sacrificed either of my sons for them," Gibbs said. "God was willing to do that. That's love beyond what all of us can comprehend."

In life and football, he added, a clock is always ticking.

"Guys, I'm in the fourth quarter of life," said Gibbs, 59. "The game is usually won or lost in the fourth quarter. Before the game is over, you need to start scoring."

Football, he added, is a team sport, and family members are more important in the game of life than your vocation.

"What you're taking care of at home is more important than what you're taking care of at work. Don't ignore your wife and your family in order to be a success. The most im-

portant thing you can leave in life is your influence at home."

As in football, people experience both wins and losses in life, Gibbs said.

"But if you're using God's game plan, no loss is too big for God to handle. Sometimes our losses end up being the greatest victories in our life. The real question is: How are we playing?"

In the wrap-up session of the conference, Henry Blackaby told the men, "God wants to take you from where you are to where He wants you to be."

Blackaby, director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Atlanta, said all fathers must work toward establishing spiritual markers they can relay to their children.

"Let them know how you've become the person you are; they will never know unless you tell them," he said.

Blackaby outlined several ways men can provide a Christian influence to their families. "Establish good relationships with your father. Your relationship with your father will help you in your relationship with your children. You can't be the father you

should be if you have anger toward your own father."

Blackaby also told the men to treat their wives with respect and dignity.

Husbands should openly display affection for their wives, treat them with respect, pray for them, respond to them and help them grow, Blackaby said.

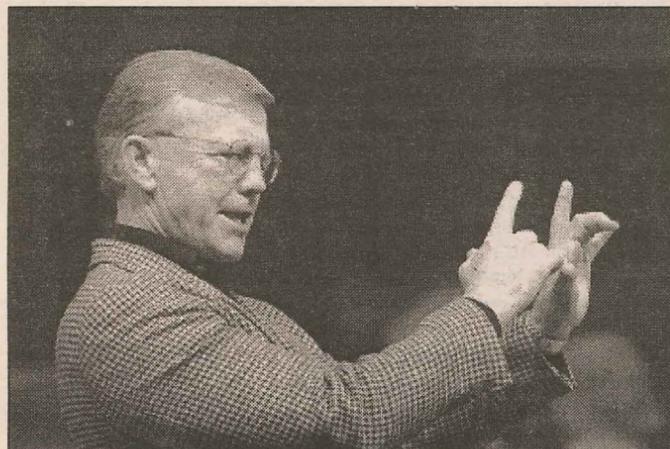
"Live with integrity" as you try to teach your children to do the same, he added.

He advised men to work "one day at a time and every moment" as they attempt to leave a legacy of righteousness with their families. "Do it by choice, by setting priorities, by concentrating spiritually, with sacrifice. You will never leave a legacy with your children if you're not paying the price to do it."

The conference was jointly sponsored by First Baptist of Orlando, Florida Baptist Convention men's department and LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It was one of two regional events of its kind being held this year. The next will be April 14-15 at First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga. For more information, call (800) 254-2022 or e-mail registration@lifeway.com.

**COACH GIBBS** Joe Gibbs, former head coach of the Washington Redskins, encouraged men to live a life for God during a men's conference at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



**Has Your Church Ordered Your Materials for the Statewide Celebration of the Cooperative Program's 75th Anniversary?**  
Items available only while supplies last!



**"Missionary Moments"**  
A calendar guide which encourages prayer support for missionaries at home and abroad.

**"Kentucky Partners in the Harvest"**  
This informative Kentucky Baptist Convention produced brochure offers details on state and SBC giving and highlights how Cooperative Program dollars are used in Kentucky.

**"What is the Cooperative Program?"**  
A brochure which briefly explains how the Cooperative Program began, its purpose, and how it helps ministries around the globe.

**"A Cooperative Program Cram Course"**  
A more detailed (but still brief) information brochure about the Cooperative Program. This is an excellent information piece for adults.

**"I'm a Partner"**  
This attractive Kentucky Baptist Convention produced bulletin insert brings the "I'm a Partner" theme of the 75th anniversary celebration home by focusing on how Kentucky church members are partners in the Cooperative Program. This item is ideal to include in church bulletins on the day of your church Cooperative Program celebration but is versatile enough to use any time during the year 2000.

**"Partners in the Harvest"**  
This excellent video contains five segments that can be used in a variety of church settings. The first segment is a 7-minute upbeat music video of the contemporary Christian song "I Will Follow Christ." The next four segments are narrated and focus on various aspects of the Cooperative Program celebration. These latter four segments (each segment 2-3 minutes in length) can be shown all at once or as stand-alone pieces over the course of a month-long Cooperative Program emphasis.

**Wristband**  
Purple wristband with "I'm a Partner" inscribed in gold thread. Great giveaway item for children!

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<b>"Missionary Moments"</b> Quantity: _____ <small>Limit 10 per church</small>	<b>"I'm a Partner" Insert</b> Quantity: _____	
<b>"Kentucky Partners in the Harvest"</b> Quantity: _____	<b>"Partners in the Harvest" Video</b> Quantity: _____ <small>Limit 2 Video Tapes per church</small>	
<b>"What is the Cooperative Program?"</b> Quantity: _____	<b>Wristband</b> Quantity: _____	
<b>"A Cooperative Program Cram Course"</b> Quantity: _____		

Or Order Online at  
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# RESOURCES

## Wrong goals yield unhappy men, author tells conference

By Terri Lackey  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—A man cannot separate himself from his actions, author Patrick Morley told hundreds of men attending his seminar during a men's conference.

"You are what you do," Morley, a real-estate developer from Orlando and leader in the Christian men's

movement, said during the premier event of "Stand Firm: Men Leaving a Legacy."

Morley, author of several books that deal with issues Christian men face in today's world, said obedience to God is the key ingredient of godly behavior.

But in today's culture, men are not so intent on being obedient to God as they are to being successful in life, he said.

"How is it that a man can get exactly what he wants and still not be happy?" Morley asked. "It's not because he's failing to reach his goals; it's because he probably has the wrong goals. One definition of failure means to succeed in ways that don't really matter."

If economic success makes people happy, then why has the U.S. suicide rate (31,000 in 1999) reached a national epidemic, he asked.

"In John 14, Jesus said: 'If you love Me, you will obey what I command,'" Morley said. "It doesn't say, 'If you obey Me, you will love Me.' Obedience is not the purpose of gaining the cross or of earning salvation. There is nothing you can do that will ever make you good enough for God to love you.

"He loves you because He made you. So if your motivation as a man of God is to please God and make Him happy, set yourself free," he said.

Instead, Morley said, "Obey God because you love Him."

Morley listed several ways men can show their love for God:

■ *Tithing.*

■ *Loving their wives.* "The Bible says you should love your wife like Christ loves the church."

■ *Serving God.* "A lot of men say they are unhappy in their vocations and they need a change. It's very common for men who feel unsettled and unhappy to make a change and find they are just as unhappy as they were before."

Morley said he advises Christian men thinking about making a significant life change to spend six months serving

God at church before doing it. Many men find they were unhappy spiritually rather than vocationally, Morley noted, and serving the church helps revitalize all aspects of their lives at work and at home.

In a separate session, Sid Woodruff, men's ministry specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, said men of God do not have to buy into the cultural stereotypes the world has placed on them.

"How many times have you heard the statement, 'Be a man?'" Woodruff asked. "All the worldly definitions of that phrase are far from what God's Word says about being a man."

For example, he said, the world tells men not to display their emotions.

"But Jesus was not afraid to show His emotions. Your life would be more full if you would just open up and connect with your wife and children," he said.

The world tells men they should have power and position, Woodruff said. "Yet Jesus washed the feet of His disciples."

Woodruff admonished men to teach their sons what it means to be a good father and husband by demonstrating it. "You have to leave a legacy for your sons. If we put our boys together right, somehow the world turns out all right."

More than 2,800 men attended the conference, Feb. 18-19. It was sponsored jointly by First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida Baptist Convention men's department and LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**"One definition of failure means to succeed in ways that don't really matter."**

Author Patrick Morley

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## Jackson ministers through SonPraise

By Robert Dunston

Archie Jackson, son of Andy and Jenny Jackson of Charleston, S.C., spent this past summer serving on the Kentucky SonPraise team. Each weekday the team worked with young people at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. On weekends they ministered through churches.

SonPraise is a praise band team. Jackson played drums in the weekday worship services, but on weekends he played guitar. He said the summer helped him improve his skills on both instruments.

While music was an important avenue of ministry for the team, team

members also led in worship services in other ways, taught Bible studies and led work groups.

Jackson said the best part of the summer was working at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. He typically worked with junior high and senior high young people. During the summer he formed close relationships with numerous young people and was able to help them work through their difficulties by listening, modeling the Christian life and being a friend.

He said the most difficult part was constantly giving without be-

ing able to adequately recharge his own spiritual batteries. During the summer he learned to rely on God and His power to get everything done.

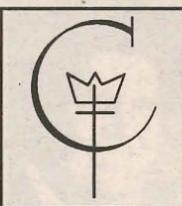
Jackson said the summer provided a wonderful learning opportunity. He always had assumed that one day he would be a good Christian husband, a good Christian father and a good Christian man. His summer experiences reminded him that maturing in faith is a process rather than an instantaneous event. As he said, "If I want to be a good Christian, I have to start now."

Jackson, a senior whose major is communication and theater arts and minor is religion, hopes to minister through Christian music and is in the process of seeking to make his dream come true. At the same time he knows he must be well-rounded to be an effective minister for Christ. For him, "music is a tool to reach others for Christ."

We are grateful that Jackson is employing his musical talent and deep commitment to Christ in reaching people with the gospel.

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

CUMBERLAND  
COLLEGE



"I was a  
stranger and  
you took me in."

Matthew 25:35

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## Nigerian rioters kill Baptist student and storm seminary

**Eleven church buildings in Kaduna, Nigeria—including four Baptist buildings—reportedly were burned during the riots.**

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

KADUNA, Nigeria (BP)—Dozens of people—including a Baptist seminary student—were killed when riots erupted Feb. 21 between Christians and Muslims in Kaduna, Nigeria.

The next morning, a mob breached the wall of the Baptist seminary compound there and set all the buildings ablaze.

The student died when violence broke out between Muslim youth and thousands of Christians peacefully protesting calls for strict Islamic law to be implemented in the northern Nigerian state.

Neighboring Zamfara state implemented "Sharia" law in January, and other northern states are considering similar moves.

"When, where and how the violence broke out is uncertain," reported Southern Baptist missionary Ray Davidson, who is stationed in Abuja, federal capital of the massive country in West Africa.

"Mosques, churches and businesses have been burned. Hundreds of vehicles have been destroyed or damaged."

The seminary campus was attacked the morning of Feb. 22.

A gang began throwing firebombs into the seminary compound about 9 a.m. Within an hour, all classrooms, the administration building and the chapel were burning, said Southern Baptist missionary Don Copeland.

The mob soon breached the wall, and 500 men, women and children of the seminary community fled the campus. Dale and Brenda Gray, the only Southern Baptist missionaries on campus at the time, were reported safe at a nearby air force base.

Eleven church buildings in Kaduna—including four Baptist buildings—reportedly were burned during the Feb. 21 riots. Two other seminary students also were injured.

Bodies spilled from smashed cars and buses in the city center, where rioting mobs had caught people trying to escape the violence, according to news reports.

Dozens of corpses littered the streets. Nigeria's federal government ordered troops to join local police in efforts to stop the rioting.

The violence reveals enormous religious and ethnic tensions between Nigeria's largely Muslim northern region and the largely Christian and animist southern states.

After years of domination by military leaders controlled by northern influences, the more populous south prevailed in polls last year and elected President Olusegun Obasanjo, a southern Christian with Baptist roots.

Tensions already were running high among northerners who felt excluded from high government posts when Zamfara state announced it was instituting strict Islamic law.

The establishment of Sharia contradicted the federal constitution, which guarantees religious freedom.

Muslim activists in Kaduna, which has a large Christian population, called for their state to follow suit. While a commission had been set up to study the idea, the state government had not promised to adopt Sharia law.

"So far, the disturbance is limited to Kaduna and its environs," Davidson reported. "Unfortunately, with so

many northern state governments instituting Sharia, the whole situation was a powder keg waiting for a spark."

"Pray that lives will be spared and that God's will will be done," added Copeland. "Pray that He will get glory for Himself in all this trouble and suffering."

### Do you want to lose your life savings if you need personal care in your golden years?

One out of two Americans need home health care or go to a nursing home as seniors—80 percent have to spend down to poverty level. Medicare and other health care providers combine to pay only 3 percent of the cost of long-term care.

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### 'And one of them ... turned back ... and glorified God'

Seven years ago this week, two brothers enrolled in our school. The older brother was in the seventh grade and the younger was in the sixth grade. They came to us from Ethiopia during a time of famine and civil war in their country. Thousands of boys and girls would have liked to come to the United States. These two were among a fortunate few.

While our faculty and staff helped both of these boys, they became especially close to the younger. His personality made it easier to befriend and help him. He was a strong student from the start. To my knowledge, he was on the honor roll all seven years. He made the "A" honor roll several times and ranked fourth in his graduating class. He also was active in choir, drama, soccer, swimming, track, wrestling, baseball and basketball. He was involved in student council, Baptist Student Union, Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and philosophy club. He was an office aide, a lifeguard, a hall monitor in the dorm and a work supervisor. It was no surprise our faculty and staff voted him "Mr. Oneida," one of our highest awards.

For various reasons, contact from his Ethiopian home was minimal. Financial support eventually stopped, along with letters and phone calls. In all honesty, we considered sending both boys back to Ethiopia, mostly because there was no line of communication between our school and their father. At one time, nearly three years went by with no contact from home. These boys found themselves increasingly dependent on Oneida.

The younger brother graduated last year and now is attending a large university. He visits our campus at times and is quick to express his deep gratitude for all Oneida has done. Unlike so many others who have been helped but rarely express any apprecia-

tion, it did not surprise me to receive this letter from him:

"Dr. Underwood, I don't know exactly how to start out in this letter. I suppose I should start with my appreciation. For many years I was taken care of by Oneida. When I say Oneida, I include all the faculty and staff, from the cooks to the president, the parents of certain friends and all the people who faithfully donate for Oneida's mission. Oneida, through the years, raised me and molded me to what

I am today. There hasn't been a day that I don't think of Oneida and thank God for everything. Now I realize that I need to catch up on my thankfulness and show it. At least say it. I want you to know that I appreciate every single opportunity that I was given. ... College is slightly different than Oneida in many ways. ... I have explored some of my curiosities. They have turned out to be good and bad. ... Now, what I notice is that I have a big conscience and I give the credit to Oneida. See, I believe that it's the good in me that creates my conscience, ... and I know it was created by God and His goodness. There is no way to know, but I've won-

dered if it's God's Holy Spirit. ... I think of all these things and I realize that I am a product of Oneida. Most of my memories are from there, the people I call friends and family are from there. Now I am an 18-year-old away from home, trying to start his own life. Thank you Oneida.

"P.S. I have seen Jesus through the mission of Oneida. Please thank everybody for me in chapel."

Reprinted from *Western Recorder*, April 8, 1997

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

### Come to MissionsFest 2000

On March 25 Clear Creek will give extra emphasis to the Great Commission when the campus hosts MissionsFest 2000.

The planning started months ago, and we pray for a larger response than the nearly 500 people who attended a similar event in 1995. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Conferences and displays in the Family Life Center will focus on international, home and state missions.

Between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Clear Creek students will provide activities for children in grades K-6, while youth and adults attend conferences. Conference topics include urban missions, KBC partnerships with Poland and Tanzania, the Clear Creek Nehemiah Project on church planting in cooperation with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, our Russia pastor's school, deaf ministries and how to pray for missionaries.

Lunch and the mission exhibits will be available between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Approximately 25 mission exhibits will provide opportunities to talk personally with missionaries, view national dress and artifacts and see

the results of mission giving. Some of the countries represented will include South Africa, Russia, Philippines, Australia, Nigeria and South Korea.

The KBC disaster relief team will provide lunch for a minimal fee for everyone ages 5 and up.

For a minimum fee, the Irene Peterson Child Development Center will be open to care for children ages two weeks through four years. Call (606) 337-1758 to pre-register your child; the center also provides lunch.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board prayer strategist Randy Sprinkle will be the featured speaker at the 2 p.m. worship service. The Clear Creek Singers also will be on the program.

Bring the family and tour the world! Bring church mission groups. We pray that MissionsFest 2000 will bring renewed interest and support for the mission work of our churches and that it also will result in individuals responding to the call of mission service.

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

## Faith groups help take aim at genocide

By Kenny Byrd & Robert O'Brien  
Baptist Joint Committee  
& Associated Baptist Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (ABP)—Despite the vow, "Never again!" that marked the end of the Jewish Holocaust, the theme since then degenerated into "again and again" with regard to ethnic cleansing, said participants at a recent international conference.

"The 20th century was the bloodiest in human history," said Greg Stanton, director of the Washington-based Campaign to End Genocide.

Stanton said conservative estimates show that 170 million people were murdered by their own governments in the last 100 years. "We've just got to make the 21st century different," he said.

Forty-four participants from a variety of nations, religions and ethnic backgrounds gathered Jan. 29-31 in Stockholm, Sweden, for a conference on "Reverence and Reconciliation: A Healing Response to Ethnic Cleansing."

Conference coordinator Doug Tipps convened the meeting to explore how people of faith can act to end ethnically motivated dehumanization and violence.

Among actions proposed by the group are a second meeting this summer and production of a document on ethnic cleansing and reconciliation. Participants named two of the three individuals who will draft the "Stockholm Accords," which will be circulated for editing and then signed in a public ceremony probably in mid-August.

"The Stockholm Accords will be the first document of its kind in the 21st century," said Tipps, president of Global Strategies, an international organization working for personal and civil liberties. The public signing will be followed by signings by governments, organizations and individuals around the world, he said.

Tipps, who also is pastor of First Baptist Church in San Marcos, Texas, said the Stockholm Accords would be "a document of the people" that will also be posted on the World Wide Web, allowing individuals to endorse it around the world. He said a Web site would be created in March and linked to the Global Strategies Internet page at [www.globalstrategies.org](http://www.globalstrategies.org)

"Some may think we're foolish to say we can solve this problem," said Derek Davis, director of Baylor University's Institute for Church-State Studies, which co-sponsored the event along with Global Strategies.

"But I think we're cowards if we don't do something," Davis told conference participants from Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Argentina, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Zambia, Kenya, Germany, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

Conference organizers admit the accords won't mean much unless signers are committed to abiding by them. "It's one thing to sign documents and another to uphold them," said Lonnie Turner, a representative of the Cooper-

ative Baptist Fellowship who works with the diplomatic community in Washington, D.C.

Turner noted that 80-90 percent of conventional weapons used around the world are provided by the five nations who sit on the United Nations Security Council. "It's easy to sign a document, but where are the weapons coming from?"

Tipps emphasized that the Stockholm Accords will not end with words decrying ethnic cleansing.

"We hope the document will provide compassionate leverage for us in urging governments, organizations and individuals to help us work in specific areas of crisis and conflict to bring about ethnic reconciliation," said Tipps.

Personal stories drove home the lessons of the meeting. Holocaust survivor Martin Selak from Yugoslavia described tearfully how 750,000 of his Eastern Orthodox people, including 35 members of his family, died in the Holocaust. He was rescued just before he was scheduled for extermination.

Now a Chicago businessman and evangelical Christian, Selak said he was reluctant to talk about the past, wanting to remain positive and "thankful for what God has done for me."

But, as the meeting progressed, he said he realized he should remind present generations about past atrocities. "We must leap into the future and become the conscience for society—rejecting aggression, even if we're just a little voice in the wilderness."

## Specialist tracks 8 stages leading to genocide

By Kenny Byrd

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (ABP)—Genocide unfolds in eight predictable stages and, at each stage, preventive measures can be used to stop it, according to the director of the Campaign to End Genocide in Washington, D.C.

The third stage on the genocide scale—"dehumanization"—is when humans start overcoming their natural aversion to murder, Greg Stanton told participants at a conference on "Reverence and Reconciliation: A Healing Response to Ethnic Cleansing."

"We are first of all human," Stanton told government, humanitarian, educational and religious leaders gathered from around the globe in Stockholm to launch international accords and direct action against ethnic cleansing.

"Our Creator made us all human, and genocide is a denial of that," he said. Stanton described these stages of genocide and preventive measures:

■ **Classification.** All cultures have categories to distinguish people into "us and them" by ethnicity, race, religion or nationality. "Bipolar" societies that lack mixed categories, such as Rwanda and Burundi, are the most likely to have genocide.

The preventive measure at this stage is to develop institutions for all people that can transcend ethnic or racial divisions, actively promote tolerance and understanding and provide new classifications that transcend divisions.

■ **Symbolization.** Names or other symbols are given to the classifications. People are labeled "Jews" or "Gypsies" or are distinguished by colors or dress. When combined with hatred, symbols

may be forced upon unwilling members of pariah groups: the yellow star for Jews under Nazi rule, the blue scarf for people from the Eastern Zone in Khmer Rouge Cambodia.

Governments can legally ban hate symbols, but this approach will fail if it is not supported by popular culture. When widely supported, however, denial of symbolization can be powerful. A case in point is Denmark, where many Danes chose to wear the yellow star, depriving it of its significance as a Nazi symbol for Jews.

■ **Dehumanization.** One group denies the humanity of the other group. Members are compared to animals, vermin, insects or diseases. As a result, oppressors lose their natural aversion to killing them. At this stage, hate propaganda in print and on hate radio is used to vilify the victim group.

In combating dehumanization, officials must be able to distinguish between protected speech and incitement to genocide.

■ **Organization.** Genocide is always organized, usually by the state and sometimes by terrorist groups.

To combat this, membership in these militias can be outlawed and leaders denied foreign-travel visas. The United Nations should impose arms embargos on governments and citizens of countries involved in genocide massacres.

■ **Polarization.** Extremists drive groups apart. Hate groups broadcast polarizing propaganda. Laws may be created to forbid intermarriage or social interaction.

Prevention may mean security protection for moderate leaders or aid to human-rights groups.

■ **Identification.** Victims are identified and separated because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up. Members of victim groups are made to wear identification symbols. They often are forced into ghettos, concentration camps or confined to a famine-struck region and starved. This is the stage where killing becomes inevitable.

Stanton said prevention at this stage should involve mobilization of the United Nations Security Council.

■ **Extermination.** Mass killing, legally called "genocide," begins. It is "extermination" to the killers, because they do not believe their victims to be fully human. When it is sponsored by the state, the armed forces may work with militias to do the killings. Sometimes the genocide results in revenge killings by groups against each other, as in Burundi.

At this stage only rapid and overwhelming armed intervention can stop genocide, Stanton said.

■ **Denial.** This final stage always follows genocide. The perpetrators of genocide dig mass graves, burn bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that crimes were committed and often blame what happened on the victims. Perpetrators block investigations and flee into exile. They remain in exile with impunity, like Pol Pot or Idi Amin, unless they are captured and a tribunal court is established to try them.

Stanton said the Campaign to End Genocide supports ratification of the treaty creating an International Criminal Court, which has not been ratified by the United States.

## Southern students see church starting overseas firsthand

By Bryan Cribb  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Chad White didn't know whether to be amazed, excited or afraid for his life.

Balancing on the back of a speeding motorcycle driven by Pastor Icdang, White clung for his life as the Filipino preacher negotiated the dirt road to the mountain village.

When the inevitable happened, White and Pastor Icdang picked themselves up out of the mud and the pastor apologized.

"I never slid before," Icdang said.

White and 11 other students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville went to the Philippines in January to take missions classes on the field and to gain exposure to international missions and strategies. For White, the trip exposed him to even more.

"I've never gone 50 miles per hour down a dirt road on the back of a motorcycle before," he said.

But the bike ride wasn't the only first on the trip for White. At the village, White also preached his first funeral.

"I never thought that my first funeral would be halfway across the world in a tribal village," said White, who added that several people responded to his presentation of the Christian faith.

Experiences like these were exactly what trip leader George Martin had in mind for the excursion to Mount Carmel Baptist Assembly—a base of many Baptist missions activities located south of Davao City on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines.

"It was more of a learning experience for our students—an exposure to missions and various methodologies, approaches and strategies," explained Martin, associate professor of Christian missions.

Martin initially planned to go to Mindanao alone in order to teach four Southern Seminary students who are currently on the mission field.

The program is part of an international church planting degree in which students obtain the last 25 hours of the degree on the field.

But when several students expressed interest in going with him, Martin opened the opportunity to the campus. Twelve students decided to travel with him at their own expense to take the classes.

Learning was not limited to the classroom lessons though.

Team members learned much from the simple and devout lives of the Filipino believers in Mindanao.

"The sense of hospitality and the fellowship of Christians is far beyond what I've experienced in the States," said student Gordon Hayworth.

The Filipinos' outreach strategies also impressed the students. The approach that affected the students most was the farming and church starting ministry of Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center.

The rural life center uses agriculture and human needs as an entrée for the gospel and for church planting. The rural life center teaches techniques on how to reforest and farm with basically no income and no tools. Farmers then use this knowledge to open doors to plant both crops and churches in the upland areas of Mindanao.

"It's the most effective type of evangelism," Kaufman said, "building a relationship and showing Christ rather than just shouting down at somebody."

Another highlight was learning "chronological storytelling"—an evangelism method which builds a foundation for the gospel by telling the stories of Scripture.

The trip also exposed students to Filipino-style church growth. One church they visited was decreasing in membership because everybody in the church had become involved in outreach Bible studies and planting new churches.

"The church is dying because everyone is leaving to go start new churches," White said. "Is that amazing or what?"

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Nationals in Ifakara, Tanzania, who are in training to teach theological education by extension courses.

■ Missionary Steve Neill, treasurer of the mission team in Tanzania.

■ Missionary Bill Stiles at Kipoke Secondary School in Tanzania. As a result of work at the school, Stiles has baptized 44 students.

■ Urgent need for a semester student missionary or a volunteer to work with summer church planting efforts in Boston. Check out [www.geocities.com/Athens/3492](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/3492) or call the Kentucky partnership missions office for information.

■ Perry and Andrea Polnaszek who are beginning a medical clinic in inner city Boston as the first step in planting a church.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Salem Church will host revival services March 12-15. Music evangelist **David Livingston** of Louisville will be the evangelist. **Michael Goodwin** is the pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, a camp for six southeast Kentucky Baptist associations, will build a new dormitory this spring. Construction of the building to house 72 people will begin in March and be finished in June. **Pat Callahan** is director.

■ **GLENDAL**—Gilead Church will host revival services March 12-16. The evangelist will be **Kevin Hamm**, pastor of Valley View Church, Louisville. For information, call (270) 369-7868. **Ken Jewell** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Ovesen Heights Church will host **The Veter-**

**ans Quartet** in a southern gospel music concert March 12 at 11 a.m. For information, call (270) 358-8041. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Baptist Church called **Terre Jasper** as minister of youth and activities. Her husband, **Kevin**, was called as assistant minister of activities. The Jaspers previously were at Arkadelphia First Baptist Church in Arkansas. **George Smith** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Baxter Avenue Church called **Tom Campbell** as pastor. He comes from Tennessee.

Crescent Hill Church will host an open house March 12, 2 p.m., of its newly renovated facilities for community children and family programs. For information, call (502) 896-4425.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Fairmount Memorial Baptist Church is looking for a full-time minister of youth. Our membership is 600+. We are in a growing metropolitan area. Send resumé to: FMBC, 4205 Ravenswood Road, Richmond, VA 23222, or fax (804) 329-2549. Telephone (804) 329-5420.

**SEEKING:** New Hope Baptist Church, a small, rural, conservative (KJV) Eastern Kentucky church, is searching for a bivocational pastor. Contact: Pulpit Committee, PO Box 62, West Liberty, KY 41472. Stephen Howard, (606) 743-7437.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and youth. House available. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Chaplin Baptist Church, Box 93, Chaplin, KY 40012.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist, Taylorsville, seeks energetic, self-motivated minister of youth and young adults (full-time). Prefer college and/or seminary training. Send resumé with references to: Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 446, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

**SEEKING:** Full-time secretary/office assistant. Self-starter to assist with desktop publishing (newsletters, flyers, brochures, programs, etc.) and other clerical work. Responsible for bulk mailings several times a year. Salary plus benefits (health and life insurance, retirement). Knowledge of Southern Baptist churches helpful. Send resumé and samples of publishing work to: Brenda Price, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

**SEEKING:** New Banklick Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking applicants for full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, New Banklick Baptist Church, 10719 Banklick Road, Walton, KY 41094.

**SEEKING:** Allen/Monroe Association has an opening for director of missions. Resumés will be accepted until April 1. Please send resumé to: Doug Cain, 3541 Finney Road, Glasgow, KY 42141.

**SEEKING:** Daycare teachers: full-time days, part-time afternoons. Infants through 5-year-olds. Lynn Acres Daycare, 5007 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY 40214. Mail resumé or call Marlene, (502) 363-3300.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister. Send resumé to: Jeff Anders, Eastern Gate Baptist Church, PO Box 6686, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist, Shepherdsville, is looking for a half-time minister of youth—great bivocational or seminary student position. Contact: Personnel Committee, FBCS, 238 Frank E. Simon Ave., Shepherdsville, KY 40165. (502) 955-7372.

**SEEKING:** Edgewood Baptist Church of Nicholasville, Ky., is receiving resumés for the ministry position of minister of youth and education. Please forward resumés to: Kevin Lee, 717 South Main St., Nicholasville, KY 40356.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of West Jefferson, Ohio, is searching for a full-time youth pastor. You may send resumés to the church at 686 West Jefferson-Kiousville Road, West Jefferson, OH 43162, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Resumés are being sought from individuals who desire to be considered for director of missions for Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville, Ala. (82 churches with 48,000 members). Send resumé to: Dr. Walter G. Nunn, Chairman of Search Committee, 1007 Speake Road, Huntsville, AL 35816. Deadline is March 15.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for a loving church in Bowling Green. Must be experienced and ambitious. Send resumé to: Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education. Please send resumé to: Crestwood Baptist Church, 1006 East Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Minister of Education Search Committee. For information regarding our church, please visit our Web site: [www.crestwoodbaptist.com](http://www.crestwoodbaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking applicants for pastor. Please send resumé to: FBC Pastor Search Committee, 1400 South Main St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**FOR SALE:** Used diesel school-buses, automatic transmission, air brakes, 65-passenger. Call Fisher Buses at (502) 267-5191 or e-mail Fisher Buses@aol.com.

## Jay Bell knows success puts him in the limelight

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

PHOENIX (BP)—As spring training begins, Jay Bell has the World Series in his sights, hoping to reverse four previous tries that came up empty.

Three of those appearances were in the early 1990s with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Then last year Bell, a Baptist layman, was a key to the Arizona Diamondbacks' 100-victory season, which catapulted them into the National League Championship Series. But they bowed out in October's first round, losing three of four games to the New York Mets.

"The individual stuff is wonderful, but when you have team success it's much more enjoyable," said the Diamondbacks' second baseman, who hit a team-record 38 home runs in 1999.

To go with that, he scored 132 runs, drove home 112 more and hit .289. The performance boosted his major league career average to .269, two points higher than after 1998.

But don't expect the Florida native to aim for a personal repeat.

"As far as trying to emulate last season, I've never really set goals for myself," Bell said. "During the course of the year, what I've tried to do is do my share on a daily basis to help the team win. With the team we've put together the last couple years, it's been a very enjoyable place to play."

Not to mention a pleasant place to live. Although they retain their membership at Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., Jay and his wife, Laura, have settled in as year-round residents of the Phoenix area.

Last fall they began attending Foothills Baptist Church, whose pastor is former pro football player Brian Goodman.

Christianity has been a part of Bell's life since just before his 12th birthday. Growing up in church, he had often heard the gospel. But something "clicked" when a guest singer performed at a Methodist church in Pensacola, Fla.

"It was just a point in my life when I was ready," Bell said of his decision to accept Jesus Christ. "One of the things that's so special, I think, is that God puts someone in your life at some point where they present the gospel and you end up saying, 'It's time for me to commit my life to the Lord.'"

"He has a wonderfully boring testimony," said Kelly Green, staff evangelist at Bell Shoals. "He grew up in a good home and he and Laura are childhood sweethearts. He's remained true to Christ. He's very quiet and a big family man."

Green and Bell became friends after meeting in 1993. Bell serves on the board of Green's ministry, which includes Frontliners, a cooperative venture with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. The summer-time crusades bring teens into an area for an evangelistic "youth blitz."

Low-key, Bell sometimes seems embarrassed by his celebrity status, Green said. He has observed the player talking to anybody who approaches him and staying after games—even big loss-

es—to sign autographs.

"He's been a blessing to us," Green said. "He connects with people who have been raised in church all their life. He encourages them that they don't have to have a 'gutter to glory' testimony to have a testimony."

But Bell does encourage new believers to find someone who can disciple them. He said he wishes he could have added a mentor to his early life as a Christian.

"I basically lived a Christian lifestyle that wasn't bad," Bell said. "But there was no growth. One of the things I've really had on my heart, especially since I've had kids, is to make sure not only do I present the gospel, but that I also disciple those who come to the Lord that I'm around to disciple."

He also wants to be consistent in his lifestyle. For seven and a half months each year, other players get to watch him up close and see how he reacts to the ups and downs of pro baseball.

Ironically, he said he might have a better chance to demonstrate his beliefs during a "down" season than during 1999's record-setting performance.

"I would say you have more opportunity to witness during bad years than good," Bell said. "Your teammates want to see how you react in both situations."

So do fans. And around Phoenix, they love Bell, said David Johnson, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church. The church hosted him for a Sunday night service in mid-January to promote Frontliners.

Though not advertised or heavily promoted, the event drew more than 500 people. After speaking, Bell stayed late to autograph everything from pictures to baseballs to tennis shoes. He still was signing and smiling while the pastor was trying to shoo kids away.

"That was a very strong statement to me," Johnson said. "The reason he's received so well is because people love him."

Another thing that impressed Johnson was Bell's statement about the highlight of his career.

Instead of mentioning a playoff series or great game, the Arizona star talked about hitting a grand slam home run last season that won a woman a million dollars. Her name was drawn in a contest sponsored by a local dairy producer, with the homer coming in the perfect inning.

"He said what he did changed that woman's life," the pastor said. "He has very strong moral character, but he doesn't say a lot about it."

Though modest about his athletic achievements, Bell doesn't think the limelight includes too much pressure. Since he has been open about his faith, people should expect that he will act a certain way, he said.

"Whenever you are open about it, and you claim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you're going to be watched very closely," Bell said. "There's a lot of non-believers out there who take religion very seriously. ... We understand we're going to fall way short, but, yes, I believe we are held to a higher standard," he added. "We need to conduct ourselves in such a manner."

# PEOPLE



**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER** Every Sunday he's home, Jimmy Carter, now 76, leads a lesson for the hundreds who attend his Sunday school class at Maranatha Baptist Church, a modest, steepled structure on the outskirts of Plains, Ga. (RNS photo)

## Carter still teaching the Bible most Sunday mornings

By Kristen Campbell  
Religion News Service

PLAINS, Ga. (RNS)—They come for a president and a picture. They also get a parable:

A man serves as president of the world's most powerful nation. But at age 56, he finds himself unemployed and uncertain of his future. He could spend retirement reliving his reign. Instead, he goes out to fight poverty and injustice in the poorest of countries.

He does such things, he says, because the Bible tells him so.

The first shall be last, and the last, first. The kingdom of God is open to everyone. Christ calls us to lives of adventure.

Every Sunday he's home, Jimmy Carter, now 76, shares this message with the hundreds who attend his Sunday school class at Maranatha Baptist Church, a modest, steepled structure on the outskirts of town.

On a recent Sunday in February, long before Carter's lesson begins, men and women line up by the dozens outside Maranatha's front door. They arrive in tour buses and vans. Their cars bear license plates from Iowa and Illinois, Maine and Minnesota.

Invited inside at 9 a.m., they cram into the plush, crimson-upholstered pews and settle on folding chairs. They scan the sanctuary, taking in its lime sherbet walls and its 10 geometrically patterned stained glass win-

dows.

A few minutes after 10, the hour when Carter enters the sanctuary through a side door, the flash bulbs explode, but for only a moment. The tittering ceases.

The few hundred people focus on their teacher and the day's lesson, this Sunday taken from the second chapter of Mark's Gospel.

In a navy suit and bolo tie, a still-spry Carter paces the pea-green carpet at the front of the sanctuary. He reads Scripture. He stops to explicate, providing a nuanced Greek translation. He asks questions, factual and philosophical. He ponders modern-day applications of the centuries-old text. He prays aloud.

On this particular Sunday, Carter considers Jesus' interaction with Levi, now better known as Matthew. As a tax collector for the Romans, Levi was ostracized by many in the Jewish community. But Jesus saw him in Capernaum and told him, "Follow me."

"And," continues Mark's Gospel, "he rose and followed Him."

"What was remarkable about this? What would have been Levi's status if he had tried to go into the temple to worship?" Carter asks.

"He would have been excluded not only as a sinner, but also a thief and disloyal to the Jewish people themselves because he had formed an alliance with the hated occupying Romans," Carter says.

"And so it was a dramatic thing for

Christ in all the village—we don't know how big it was then, I've been there, but I don't know how big it was then—to pick out this well-known, maybe the most famous sinner in the whole town."

The sanctuary is silent, men and women sponging every syllable as Carter continues teaching.

"This is the kind of structural breaking that Jesus utilized to show that a new day has come, and to tell those who were particularly religious and proud of their own faith that 'You are wrong. You are wrong to live in a cocoon. You are wrong to be self-satisfied. You are wrong not to seek how to reach out.' And Christ gave them and gave us an example of what Christianity is.

"That rubs a little bit, doesn't it?"

By his own account, Carter's passion is for those on society's fringes. A year after he left the White House in 1981, the nation's 39th president and his wife, Rosalynn, founded the Carter Center in Atlanta. According to the center's mission statement, work there is "guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering."

Carter often talks about such efforts for a few minutes before he begins the Sunday school lessons at Maranatha, according to Dan Ariail, his admiring pastor of 17 years. This past Sunday, for example, Carter spoke of the perils of Guinea worm disease and river blindness, devastat-

ing illnesses prevalent in parts of Africa.

Carter's neighbors know he's been around the world and back. But he's still the boy next door, says Sandra Walters, 60. She lives in Plains, population 716, and manages the Vision 2000 Tourism Team of the Georgia Visitors Center.

Stationed at Plains' cabin-like visitors' center, Walters spends her days handing out maps, directing traffic and telling travelers about the town's most famous son. Even so, she can't work herself into a frenzy over a presidential sighting, casually noting Carter had just been riding his bicycle around the tiny downtown.

"I've just known him all my life," Walters said. "When I see Jimmy Carter I really kind of forget he's a president. He's a neighbor."

At Maranatha, he's also a carpenter and a groundskeeper. The church is filled with bookcases and tables he has built; he crafted the four walnut offering plates used on Sundays. And on various weeks throughout the year—several February days being no exception—Carter is responsible for the lawn's upkeep. This being winter, his latest outdoor duties were limited to collecting trash strewn onto the property by passersby and gathering branches that have fallen from pecan trees.

"Around here he's just Jimmy," Ariail says. "That really says it all. This is his home. We're his—either family or his church family or community family."

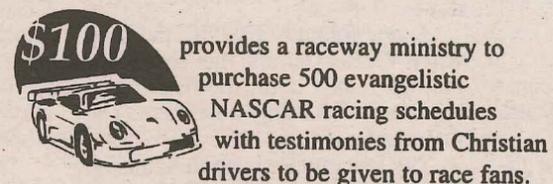
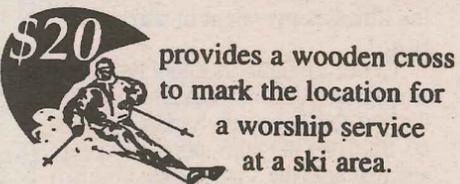
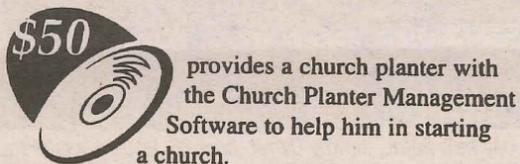
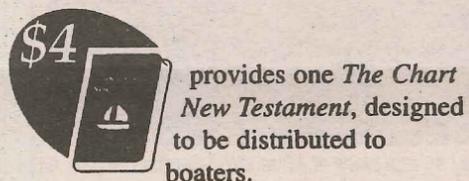
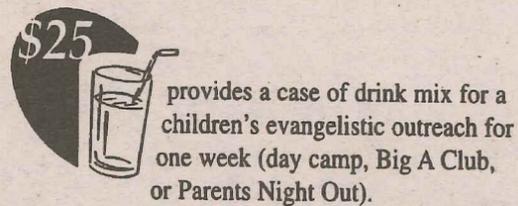
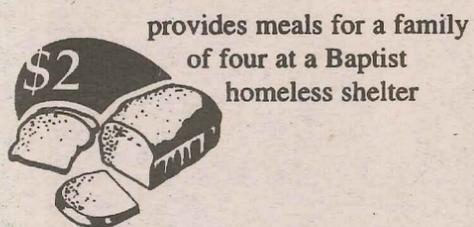
"Around here he's just Jimmy."

Dan Ariail, pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Ga.

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