



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## Religious groups' rental freedom bill gets veto, override sought

FRANKFORT—A proposal to exempt religious organizations from renting facilities to groups that hold incompatible religious views was vetoed last week by Gov. Paul Patton.

House Bill 70, sponsored by Rep. Tom Kerr (D-Dist. 64), sought to exclude church camps and other religious-related facilities from Kentucky's civil rights laws. The bill passed the House by a vote of 82-17 and then passed the Senate 17-12. Patton held the bill two weeks before vetoing it the day it would have become law with or without his signature.

Supporters of the bill view it as a religious freedom issue, while opponents voice concerns over limiting civil rights. The Kentucky Baptist Public Affairs Committee voted March 9 to urge the legislature to override Patton's veto.

In his veto message, Patton noted that religious organizations are not required to open their facilities to the general public. He added, however, that religious groups that do rent their facilities to the public "must obey the same laws that non-religious entities are required to obey."

He said HB 70 "violates both the spirit and the meaning of the Kentucky Civil Rights Acts by permitting discrimination on the basis of religion."

Kerr said he disagrees with Patton's view. "I think the original civil rights measure went too far," he said. "I think churches should have discretion in who uses their facilities. That's a basic principle of the free exercise of religion."

Kerr said he will lead efforts to override the governor's action. The House has enough votes for an override but the Senate's previous vote on the issue is three votes short of the two-thirds needed for an override.

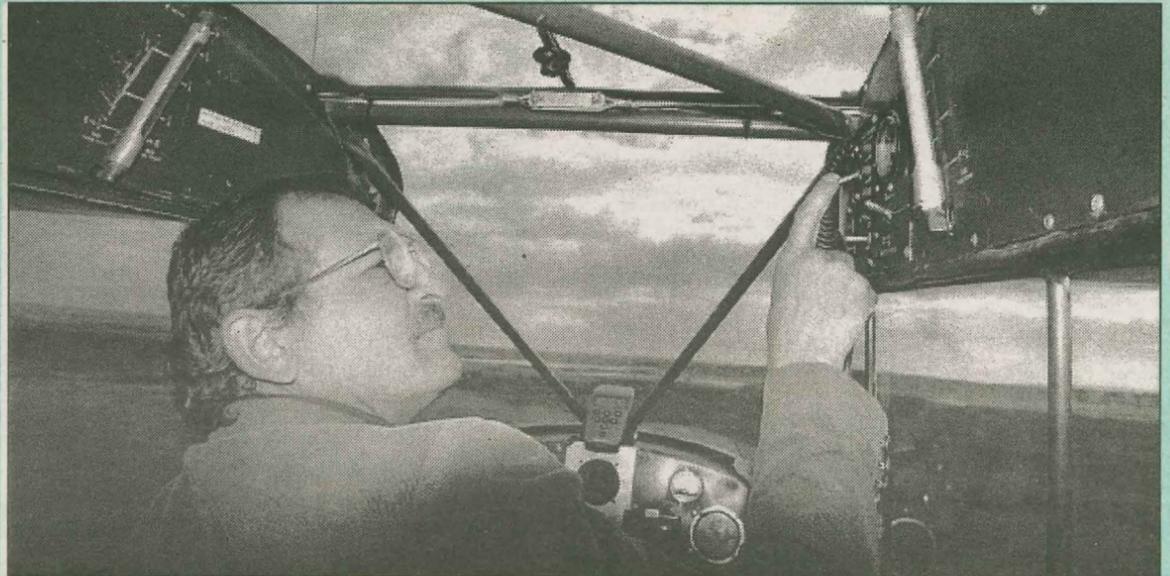
In other legislative action, House members are considering a bill (HB 912) that would weaken restrictions on local option elections for the sale of alcohol.

Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, said the legislation could affect up to 90 counties throughout the state.

The KBC Public Affairs Committee voted to urge the defeat of HB 912, citing concern over the expansion of alcohol sales.

Individuals can contact their state representatives at (800) 372-7181 to express their views on these and other bills.

## High-flying missionary



Mike McKinney is director of missions for two Baptist associations with 29 congregations in eastern Montana. Serving an area larger than Kentucky, McKinney pilots a single-engine airplane in order to keep in touch with the churches. The independent spirit of the west makes it hard for many people to accept the need for a relationship with God, he said. "They work hard, have good morals, good families, but it's hard for them to see the need of a relationship with Christ." McKinney also works to encourage pastors who face harsh conditions, loneliness and sometimes slow growth in sparsely populated areas. He and his wife, Martha, are among the missionaries whose work is profiled for this year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's offering goal is \$47 million.

## Advocates: Church creative ministries growing

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—The number of churches using creative arts in worship and outreach continues to grow, according to leaders at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual Creative Ministries Festival.

"Creative ministry is becoming more acceptable in Baptist churches," said Tom Smoot, director of the KBC's youth department and organizer for the event.

Smoot points to the growing number of churches that bring original productions to display at the annual event. "The churches who perform on (opening night) are getting better and better each year. Leaders are becoming interested in doing quality productions."

The conference, March 3-4 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, attracted 720 people from 67 churches.

Performer Dennis Durrett-Smith agreed that creative ministries are more prevalent in churches. "We see the beginnings of people using comedy, drama and orchestra music."

Durrett-Smith is a co-founder of Fishworks, a five-person drama team that has performed Christian-theme presentations throughout the country and Europe. "Things are growing exponentially, both the quality of the work and numbers of people involved."

Not to mention the eye-catching scenes. The conference's first session provided a colorful backdrop for the singers, dancers, puppeteers and dramatists.

One end of the stage featured a garden fashioned from balloons. A huge red heart loomed over a white cross. □ See Advocates say more ..., page 7



**FESTIVAL** More than 700 people attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries Festival, March 3-4 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. ■ Top: Dennis and Chick Durrett-Smith perform a drama. ■ Bottom: Members of the creative ministries team of Kirksville Baptist Church in Richmond play around. (Photos by Angela Perkins and Brenda Smith)

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 15

## Study committee to release report in May

By Herb Hollinger  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—Seeking to give Southern Baptists enough time to “familiarize themselves” with their report, the Baptist Faith & Message study committee plans to release its report in May.

Committee chairman Adrian Rogers, metro Memphis, Tenn., said he anticipates “rank and file of the Southern Baptist family will be very happy with this document.”

Rogers declined to discuss the committee’s progress or findings since deliberations are continuing.

The committee met March 2-3 at the SBC building in Nashville, the second meeting of the 15-member group appointed by SBC President Paige Patterson last August. Rogers said the committee will meet one more time, in the spring, and again just before the annual meeting of the SBC in

Orlando, Fla., in June.

The committee’s findings will be presented to the SBC annual meeting for a vote by messengers.

“It is a very good committee, with harmony, progress,” Rogers said. “The committee is enthusiastic and anticipates the convention will applaud and appreciate what we have done. We’re not finished yet and it would be premature and inappropriate to give details (at this time) since it is a work in progress.”

Rogers said the May release date for the committee’s report will give “constituents enough time to familiarize themselves with the report and then give an intelligent reaction at the convention.”

Authorized by the 1999 annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta, in a 2,327-1,963 vote, the committee was given instructions to review the document and report back in 2000.

The BF&M, originally adopted in 1925 and revised in 1963, had its first

addition in 1998 at the Salt Lake City annual meeting when a family/marriage article was adopted. Although Southern Baptists have no creed, the BF&M has been seen as a general statement of Southern Baptist beliefs.

Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., said the committee is represented by members from 11 different states.

Earlier, Patterson said he did “not anticipate even beginning to approximate a rewrite of the BF&M. Most folks feel, ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.’” He called the document an “undeniably fabulous statement.”

“However, the messenger making the motion believes, and I concur, that every 30 years or so we need to take a look at the statement of faith, not because our faith changes, but because the issues of the day usually dictate some minor revisions to remove ambiguities or address specific issues,” Patterson said.

## Former missionary elected Southwestern dean



Crutchley

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Expanding what President Ken Hemphill called the “globalization” of Southwestern, trustees March 7-8 elected a dean from South Africa, as well as a Cuban-American professor and a Korean-American administrator. Trustees also elected four other faculty members.

David Crutchley, 45, who joined the faculty of the Southern Baptist seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, last fall after 14 years at Cape Town Baptist Theological College in South Africa, was elected dean of the School of Theology. He succeeds Tommy Lea, who died last July.

Esther Diaz-Bolet becomes the first Cuban-American woman elected to the seminary faculty. She will be an assistant professor of administration.

Jong-hwan (Jonathan) Kim, a former chaplain in the Korea Air Command, was elected associate director of the seminary’s undergraduate and Lay Theological Education programs.

The elections will strengthen Southwestern’s focus on missions and evangelism from a worldwide perspective, Hemphill predicted.

He said Crutchley was selected from a nationwide search for a dean because of his strong belief in the inerrancy of Scripture, his integrity as a scholar and his passion as a former missionary in South Africa.

Crutchley grew up in Rhodesia, the country now known as Zimbabwe. His parents, who now live in Cape Town, South Africa, became “Baptists by conviction” under the influence of Southern Baptist missionaries. “A missions motif runs through my family,” he noted.

He is married to the former Mary Carol Fray, whose parents, Bud and Jane Fray, were Southern Baptist missionaries to Rhodesia. Her father also taught missions at Southwestern for several years.

Because of missionaries’ influence, Crutchley came to the United States for his education. He earned a bachelor’s

degree at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, and after receiving two law degrees in Rhodesia, he returned to the States to earn master’s and doctor’s degrees at Southwestern.

He was a Southern Baptist missionary to South Africa, where he spent 14 years on the faculty of the Cape Town school, serving as a professor and later as acting president. He became an associate professor of New Testament at Southwestern last fall.

As theology dean, Crutchley said he wants to help ministerial students “connect head and heart.” He intends to lead them in a “pursuit of academic excellence together with spiritual vitality.”

He also intends to be an “advocate for the faculty,” he said. “I see the opportunity to teach at Southwestern as a torch, a covenant of trust,” he added, noting he affirms academic freedom guided by responsibility.

“Southwestern stands for certain principles,” and faculty will be expected to teach in accordance with them, he said.

## Baptist Joint Committee installs Brent Walker in executive post

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—Brent Walker, 49, was installed March 5 as the fifth executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The event was held at Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va.

Oliver Thomas, director of Knoxville (Tenn.) Legal Aid Society and former BJCPA general counsel, delivered a charge to Walker. Referring to the biblical prophet Elisha, Thomas told Walker, “Burn your plough, barbecue your oxen, but hold onto your marriage, your family, your sanity and your life, ‘cause ... it’s a two-sided coin.”

Thomas reminded Walker of the paradoxical two-sided coin that the BJCPA’s previous director, James Dunn, often spoke about. Thomas emphasized the importance of balancing “law and grace, freedom and responsibility, no establishment and free exercise.”

“All it takes to be a successful executive

director of the Baptist Joint Committee is all you’ve got,” Thomas added. But “no destination—not even the Baptist Joint Committee—is so important that you can afford to not enjoy the trip.”

Walker became BJCPA associate general counsel in 1989 after graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Previously he was a partner at a Tampa, Fla., law firm.

Reggie McDonough, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, called Walker “the kind of leader that would carry us forward to stand in the gap, in terms of freedom and liberty.”

Walker said education is the key to the future. “We must remind our adults and teach our children that soul freedom is indispensable; and that church-state separation is absolutely essential to protect the first two.”

## Seminary lecture series to address infertility issues

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Christians should be slow to draw conclusions about infertile women in the Bible, professor William Cutrer, Ghens, Professor of Christian Ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cutrer, a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist, will team with Dallas Theological Seminary adjunct professor Sandra Glahn to lead a conference on infertility and spirituality at the Louisville campus April 1. Cutrer and Glahn, who lecture at similar conferences approximately four times a year, have coauthored books on infertility and sexual intimacy.

Cutrer, though, is careful when discussing the Bible’s relevance to infertility.

“The Bible is not an infertility textbook,” he said. “The biblical examples (of infertility) are there because they fit in the messianic line. God was doing a very particular thing. Childbirth is a good thing. Proverbs says the desire for a woman to have a baby is like fire for wood and water for ground. There is no satisfying that. It is a God-given desire.”

The conference will consist of four one-hour sessions. Cutrer and Glahn will address issues such as fertility differently, myths and facts about infertility, medical ethics of reproductive technologies and biblical approaches to infertility.

Such conferences help couples realize that their case is not an isolated one, Cutrer said.

“One in six couples suffer from infertility, and there’s an enormous number of pregnancy losses,” he said. “Probably one-third or more of all conceptions (end in) miscarriage. So this is not an issue for a very small segment of the population. It’s a large problem. People are sometimes comforted to know that they are not walking through it alone.”

Glahn and her husband of 20 years experienced infertility, pregnancy loss and failed adoptions before successfully adopting a daughter in 1995. Glahn will lead the session titled “Men and Women: Definitely Not the Same.”

Cutrer will present the lecture on medical ethics. He wrote a book on the subject, titled “Sexuality and Reproductive Technologies.”

“The secular person may have no issues at all with frozen embryos and in vitro fertilization, whereas Christians ought to think through those issues,” Cutrer said. “I try to direct them into how to think ethically.”

The conference is not simply for people who have experienced infertility. Cutrer said ministers would be well served to learn more about the subject.

For more information, call (502) 897-4406. Registration costs \$40 for couples and \$25 for singles. Scholarships are available.



## Evans issues call for spiritual & racial reconciliation

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Proclaiming a message of spiritual and racial reconciliation, Tony Evans helped set the stage last week for a citywide crusade this summer in Louisville.

Evans, a popular Promise Keepers' speaker, is pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He will be the featured speaker at an interdenominational, interracial crusade June 19-21 at Louisville's Freedom Hall.

Evans' emphasis on reconciliation took on heightened urgency amid the current race-related turmoil between Louisville's mayor and police force. Addressing the issue head-on, Evans said, "More important than the mayor/police issue you face today is where a man will spend eternity."

Speaking March 9 at a pre-crusade rally at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Evans said event organizers are seeking to "merge the theme of reconciliation in the context of evangelism so that men and women are not only reconciled to God, but reconciled to one another."

Citing the need for both "vertical reconciliation and horizontal reconcili-

ation," he added, "This matter of reconciliation and the gospel is no small matter. ... God's children cannot have equal fellowship with God if they despise their siblings."

Comparing today's racial issues to Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, Evans said Jesus responded to "a spiritual need that overrode cultural tradition."

"Spiritual needs always are more important than personal differences," he insisted. "Because Jesus was willing to deal with her as a person, He could now deal with her as a spiritual being."

Although Jews and Samaritans despised each other, Evans noted that Jesus used the site of Jacob's well to point out the two races' common heritage. "If you want to be serious about reconciliation," he added, "start with what you have in common, not with your differences."

Even though the woman recognized Jesus as a Jew, Evans noted, "He didn't stop being what God made Him to meet somebody else. He didn't give up His background."

In today's world, Evans said, "God is not calling blacks to be white or whites to be black." However, he added, "whatever God has made you, don't



**RALLY FOCUS** Tony Evans said Christians must face racism as a sin problem rather than a social problem.

let it get in the way of the gospel."

Warning that racism can "make good men bad," Evans declared, "It doesn't take 400 years to solve a racism problem; it takes about four minutes. Why haven't we been able to solve this problem of race and culture? We've kept it as a social problem and not a sin problem."

Urging pastors to "be biblical leaders and not cultural representatives," he said, "When you take this Book serious-

ly, it doesn't take long. What God is calling all of you to do is to model heaven on earth.

"I believe there are two answers to every question—God's answer and everybody else's answer—and everybody else is wrong," Evans declared. "God has spoken and He has not stuttered. ... You don't let other folks who are not going to do right hold you back."

During an interview after the rally, Evans said current racial tensions in Louisville "heighten the need for the Christian perspective."

"This provides a very natural opportunity for Christians to call for reconciliation," he noted. "From a spiritual sense, it creates hunger and sensitivity in people for this kind of event."

Evans said he hopes the June crusade will lead to a formal coalition of area churches seeking to promote reconciliation throughout the area. "If that happens," he said, "the crusade is more than an event; it becomes a movement."

Affirming the importance of both spiritual and racial reconciliation, he added, "We want to bring people into a relationship with Christ through the gospel which establishes the foundation for them to be in right relationship with each other."

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ The "Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry" conference will be simulcast April 8 at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville. Registration costs \$35 for individuals and \$32 for groups of six people or more. To preregister by March 31, call Wellspring Christian book store at (502) 895-4071.

■ Campbellsville University will host a lecture by David Gushee, founding director of the Center for Christian Leadership at Union University, March 22 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend. For information, call (800) 264-6014.

## At halfway point, Cooperative Program on another record pace

Kentucky Baptist gifts through the Cooperative Program are on a record pace midway through the state convention's 1999-2000 fiscal year.

CP gifts totaled \$10,893,548 through the end of February, 6.5 percent ahead of last year's pace and 7.9 percent above budget. That follows three consecutive years of surpassing the Kentucky Baptist Convention's CP goal, including last year's first-ever total of more than \$20 million.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said giving during the fiscal year, which began Sept. 1, has been consistently strong. Although giving typically is higher during the first half of the fiscal year due to year-end giving and other factors, he voiced confidence that Kentucky Baptists will continue to strongly support CP efforts throughout the year.

"I'm grateful for Kentucky Baptists' generosity and their willingness to share their resources beyond their own local churches to carry out the Great Commission here and around the world," he noted.

With a 1999-2000 budget goal of \$20,192,239, the balance needed to exceed the goal by the end of August is approximately \$9.3 million.

In addition to Baptists' ongoing commitment to missions support, 2000 marks the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. The history and future of the denomination's giving program are being highlighted throughout the year by state convention leaders.

The midyear giving report also indicates most special offerings are ahead of last year's pace, including gifts to state mission, North Ameri-

can missions and international missions. That is a change from a year ago when all three major offerings fell short of their goals.

The Annie Armstrong Offering, 1.1 percent short of its goal last year, currently is 7.3 percent ahead of last year's pace. The Lottie Moon Offering, which missed the 1998-99 goal by 1.5 percent, is 3.4 percent ahead. The Eliza Broadus Offering, which fell short of last year's goal by 7.1 percent, is up 3.2 percent.

"We're delighted by the support of Kentucky Baptists," said Joy Bolton, Woman's Missionary Union executive director. "I hope the strong giving is reflective of people's belief that our mission work is headed in the right direction. People vote with their feet and their dollars."

Affirming the vital role of the annual offerings, she added, "We have to understand that in all of our offerings the dollars represent ministries for the purpose of sharing Christ."

One of the few budget areas that has experienced a decline is the Restricted Kentucky Only funds designated specifically for state convention ministry efforts. The midyear total of \$202,708 is 9.9 percent below the previous year.

Combined CP and RKO funds, however, are more than \$645,000 above last year's pace.

"I think there's an intense desire among Kentucky Baptists to work together to accomplish the mission our Lord has for us," Mackey said. "I would anticipate that if a continued positive spirit prevails in Kentucky and the economy continues to do well, Kentucky Baptists will continue to grow in their support of missions and evangelism."

## Former mountain missions director Wendell Belew dies

By Joe Westbury  
Georgia Christian Index

ROME, Ga.—Wendell Belew, 77, noted Southern Baptist missiologist and former mountain missions director for Eastern Kentucky, died March 8.

Belew had been hospitalized after injuries received in an automobile accident in Rome, Ga., Feb. 24. His wife, Edna, sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Belew served with the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, now North American Mission Board, for 37 years before his retirement in 1988. A Kentucky native, he began his ministry with the agency as director of mountain missions with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1951.

"Wendell became the great interpreter of mountain missions work, not only when he was here but all throughout the rest of his ministry," said Bob Jones, who followed Belew as Kentucky mountain missions director.

Belew served in that position five years before moving to Atlanta to work at the board's national office. He served in several positions, retiring as director of the missions ministries division.

Belew was known as a masterful storyteller and a hard worker for planting new Bible studies and congregations, according to A.B. Colvin, former Kentucky Baptist director of missions and evangelism and a distant cousin to Belew.

"His ability lay in doing the thing and then sharing with others what he did, how he did it, how they could do it and then giving them the inspiration to get with it," Colvin said. "He filled himself with the subject and the Spirit, and from the overflow he spoke."

For years Belew was a regular speaker at national Woman's Mission-

ary Union and Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings, sharing firsthand stories of missions needs—met and unmet—especially in the rural areas of his native Kentucky. His storytelling skills gave insight to the needs encountered on the field and how Southern Baptists were meeting the needs through sacrificial giving.

He wrote the popular "The Dark's A-Creepin," a 1965 mission study book on home missions which was later expanded and published by Broadman Press in 1979; "Song of Hawaii," a 1969 book on home missions; and "Churches and How They Grow," published by Broadman Press in 1971.

He also wrote "Tomorrow's Land: A Story of Baptists in Kentucky's Mountains," commissioned by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, and several other articles and books for Woman's Missionary Union, the Home Mission Board and the former Brotherhood Commission.

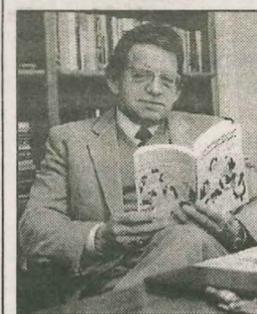
He was the recipient of the 44-millionth copy of "Good News for Modern Man" in recognition of having instigated the American Bible Society to produce a translation in the Today's English vernacular—an easy-to-understand version that was a breakthrough in Bible publishing.

Belew also was an artist who painted baptistry scenes in hundreds of churches throughout Eastern Kentucky. "Half the baptisteries in Eastern Kentucky were painted by Wendell Belew," Colvin said.

Belew is survived by his wife, Edna, and three children.

Services were held at Second Avenue Baptist Church in Rome with burial in Spring Hill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, Ky.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey



Belew

## 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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## Balancing the past, present & future

By Bob Terry

For three generations, it had been a wonderful country church. Pictures hanging in the hallway showed the old white frame building with scores of people crowded around the front door. But time took its toll. Bigger farms and fewer jobs meant fewer people in the community and in the church.

Being small in numbers was not a problem. All the families knew each other. It seemed everybody knew everybody else's family history. It was a strong fellowship, and most of the members liked it that way.

That is why the older members were restless about what was going on in the church. A few new families had joined. Others were visiting. The new folks lived in what used to be a pasture. Now it was a subdivision between the church building and the nearest town. At first the church welcomed the new people. It was not long before they became wary of them. New ideas, new ways of doing things, little respect or knowledge for the way things had always been at the church—these and other issues began to surface.

Wherever the longtime members gathered, a common refrain could soon be heard: "Things are not like they used

to be." No matter who said it, others would join the lament. For some, the changes became a grief experience. Their church was "not like they used to be," and that sent them into depression.

For others, the grief of things "not being like they used to be" turned to anger. "Who did these new people think they were, taking parking places used by old-time families for decades?" some asked.

And they even sat in their pews! Complaints intensified when new members asked about the informal way decisions of the church were made by two or three people outside of business meetings.

When a new member suggested changes to the new member's Sunday school teacher who had been serving in that department for the past 41 years, feelings boiled over. Some were willing to fight. They said the new members either had to be satisfied with the way things were done at this church or they had to go. If it took a fight to keep their church like it had always been, then a fight it would be. It was a confusing time. Many asked, "Should we fight? Should we accept the changes? What should we do?"

Confusion became paralysis. One thing was sure—the church "was not

like it used to be," and no one knew how to adjust or how to handle it.

The past is important. For most people, the past helps define who they are, what they are about and where they fit in. Even with their drawbacks, most people choose to "live with the devils they know rather than risk the devils of the unknown."

But when one holds on to the past so tightly that it prevents hearing or seeing what God is doing in the present, the past becomes like a millstone around one's neck. The past becomes a weight to be cast off.

In Isaiah 43:18-19, God declares, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up. Do you not perceive it?"

In the verses above, the Lord promised His presence in the midst of changes facing His chosen people. Today the Christian has the promise of God's presence, the power of His Spirit and the purpose of His commission. Much of this is confirmed from the past.

But God never said He was recreating the past. He said, "I am doing a new thing." Memories of the way things used to be, one's past with all its meaning, must not be a stumbling block to God's activity in the present.

Bob Terry, editor of the Alabama Baptist, is a former associate editor of the Western Recorder

## COMMENTARY

## Thanks for change

I am doing it for the second time. Following the 1999 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, I wrote my very first letter to the editor to express my despair with the amount of talking that often obscured the program personalities. I have just returned from this year's conference where things were dramatically different. A fairness demanded that fairness demanded another letter. I agree.

I would again like to take advantage

of this forum to express my joy and gratitude. I am not so naive or arrogant to believe that my letter could effect this change, but I do want to be as quick to voice a positive opinion as I was a negative one.

As a member of the Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale, I want to thank Kentucky Baptists for allowing us to share our faith through song. Thank you for the way you respectfully listened with us as we sang.

Randy Holt  
Paducah

## Aid restores hope

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the Baptist Men's disaster relief workers who responded so generously to Vanceburg and Lewis County the last weekend of February.

On top of the depressing economic situation and the devastating of 1997, this new flooding devastated several families, taking not only material resources but hope as well. Your efforts in the name of Jesus have illustrated love and restored hope in the midst of difficulty.

Truett Cocanougher  
May's Lick

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

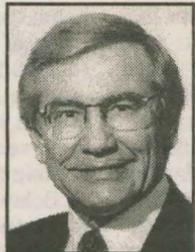
## Keys to finishing life well

Many articles and books have been written about finishing well. When most people think about it, they want to finish life in a way that provides a sense of fulfillment, significance and accomplishment. The Apostle Paul addressed this in Philippians 3:14 when he said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." And, again in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

On a recent weekend in Ohio Valley Association, I learned about two people who have finished well. The first was the late Aileen Holt who had left a gift of \$70,000 to go to the Cooperative Program through her church, Woodland Baptist Church of Morganfield. In honoring Mrs. Holt and her church, I was privileged to share a list of mission causes that benefited from their giving.

A public school teacher most of her

life, Mrs. Holt and her husband did not have children. Her local church, and other causes, benefited from her estate as well. All who knew Mrs. Holt gave testimony about her love for missions.



Bill Mackey

This was a wonderful demonstration of commitment to missions. I pray that others will give consideration to this kind of legacy.

Following the morning worship service, Director of Missions Royce Pile invited my wife, Kay, and me to a luncheon at First Baptist Church of Sturgis, to honor John Coble who had taught school and served as a bivocational pastor for more than 40 years.

While sitting next to him for lunch, I could hear expressions of appreciation from his ministry to their family and to them personally. Others thanked him for being a caring teacher. One young pastor appreciated the way he taught seminary extension classes. There were

## FAMILY

## Should Christians tithe on 'extra' income sources?

By Jeremy White

In this month's column, I will continue to answer financial questions received from Western Recorder subscribers.



**Q. Do you think I should tithe on just my**

**regular income or other things as well (bonus, inheritance, gifts or side jobs)?**

My dad has always told me, "You can't outgive God." This implies you shouldn't get too legalistic or methodical in computing your tithe. Just give! Remember that he who gives generously will reap generously (2 Corinthians 9:6).

But you asked for my opinion, so here it is. I think you should tithe on all income sources. I don't find any scriptural basis that says to give your tithe only on your W-2 regular income.

Instead, the scripture says to give based on all your increase (see Leviticus 27:30). I believe this includes bonuses, inheritance, gains from stock sales or interest income.

However, I do not think you need to tithe on reimbursements. For example, if you receive a rebate from a purchase, mileage reimbursement for work or insurance reimbursement, you are not receiving a net increase.

As a practical matter, tithe on your 401(k) or IRA's increase when you begin withdrawing it.

**Q. What is the proper way to cancel a credit card account after payoff? Do I mail the card back or just cut it up?**

Inform the credit card company you wish to close the account. Most companies will let you cancel your account over the phone. Then, they will instruct you to cut up your card.

Some people try to close their accounts by cutting up their cards without notifying the company. I do not recommend this because you risk possible fraud. Someone else may obtain your account number or may receive the new card when the old one has expired. Also, you may be charged an annual fee (if any) if you have not properly closed your account.

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

## If my child needs counseling, where should I turn for help?

### Q: How do I choose a good counselor for my child?

Most children encounter a few bumps in the road as they grow. Many times children simply need encouragement and focused attention to deal with events at home, school or church, and casual counseling will suffice. Other situations, like divorce, death, unexpected illness or sudden tragedy, are more serious. Children may need the help of trained professionals—a special friend to help them work through what has happened.

Many counselors specialize in working with children and families. Ministers, schoolteachers and administrators or other parents may be able to suggest names. Evaluate references and reputation.

Meet with any prospective counselor and assess your comfort level. Ask yourself, "Do I respect this person? Can I trust this individual with my child?"

Ask how the counselor plans to connect with your child. Be prepared to share interests, hobbies and activities your child enjoys. Find out if group sessions are an option. Some children will be more responsive in group settings. Ask about fees and find out when and how payment is expected.

Choose a counselor who, in addition to having good skills, shares your values and brings a Christian mindset to therapy. Certification by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and membership in the American Association of Christian Counselors identifies a counselor who combines excellence in clinical training with Christian commitment. Once a counselor has been chosen, help your child approach the sessions with a positive attitude.—David Garrard

### Q: I've been fascinated by all the discussion about television's recent marriage game show. Obviously, that couple did not do it the right way. What things should a person consider when choosing a partner for marriage?

You are correct that a game show is not the way to find a mate with whom you can have a successful marriage. Here are some suggestions:

Take the Ephesians 4:25-32 test by asking:

- Is everyone telling the truth? Honesty is essential.
- Have you worked through any anger over past relationships? That which is not grieved may be repeated.
- Are you looking for someone to "save" you or is your life involved in serving others?
- Are you aware of the Spirit's presence in your present?
- Are you working through things like bitterness, wrath, clamor and slander?
- Are you working on things like kindness, tender-heartedness and forgiveness?

Based on the advice of Neil Clark Warren's book, "Two Dates or Less," ask yourself:

- Does either party lack emotional health? Check for neuroses, character disorders and addictions. At the very least, get counseling for these problems before the wedding.
- Are there important areas of basic incompatibility?
- Are there sufficient similarities in intelligence, values, communication intimacy, personal habits, financial attitudes, verbal skills and interests? These can be explored through the use of such premarital counseling programs as PREPARE or FOCCUS (ask your pastor for referrals).

In summary, use wisdom! Know thyself before pursuing or being pursued by someone else. Use your head and your heart in tandem with the Spirit's call. While you may not marry a multimillionaire, you'll greatly increase your chances of a successful marriage.—James Stillwell

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.



## Seeking reconciliation is worth the effort

Reconciliation. There are few needs any greater in today's world and few tasks any more challenging.

Webster defines reconciliation as restoring friendship or harmony; settling or resolving differences. The urgency of reconciliation is evident in news reports about racial tension, shooting rampages, domestic violence and even church conflicts.

Here in Kentucky, extensive media coverage of Louisville's race-related turmoil between the mayor and city police offers a daily reminder of the challenges of bridging racial prejudice and suspicion.

In the midst of such turbulence, plans already were under way in Louisville's Christian community to host a summer crusade aimed at spiritual and racial reconciliation. The Tony Evans Greater Louisville Crusade, set for June 19-21 at Freedom Hall, is designed to "celebrate Jesus in 2000 by proclaiming His message of reconciliation."

The same week that the mayor/police feud dominated local front-page news, Evans came to town for a pre-crusade rally. Preaching mankind's need for "vertical reconciliation" to God and "horizontal reconciliation" to one another, Evans urged pastors to be "biblical leaders and not cultural representatives."

Proclaiming the need for reconciliation across racial, cultural and denominational lines is one thing; seeing it accomplished on a practical level is quite another.

Evans, the founder and president of The Urban Alternative, an organization dedicated to spiritual renewal in America's urban settings, offers a simple, straightforward solution. "In four minutes, any racism problem can be solved," he insisted. The problem, he explained, is that racism has been labeled as "a social problem and not a sin problem."

"God has already spoken on the matter," he declared. "You don't let other folks who are not going to do right hold you back."

What is the motivation for seeking spiritual and racial reconciliation? According to 2 Corinthians 5:18, God "reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

While vertical reconciliation to God is the most crucial aspect of spiritual health, it also is the foundation for horizontal reconciliation on the human level. As Christians, if we permit skin color, social status, educational level or any other factor to become a barrier to ministry, we will limit the spread of the gospel in direct contrast to Christ's personal example.

Hard-fought civil rights efforts of the 1950s and '60s altered the landscape of racial relations in our nation. Decades later, however, much work remains to be done.

It is not enough merely to tolerate racial and cultural diversity in today's society. Christians should be at the forefront in modeling brotherhood and fellowship across racial lines as well as sharing the gospel with anyone in spiritual need.

Last week's editorial emphasized that after gathering in the spiritual huddles of evangelism conferences and similar settings, the real game begins as we seek to impact our world for Christ.

The need for racial reconciliation is no exception. It's essential that Kentucky Baptists join with fellow Christians across racial and denominational lines to communicate the gospel in communities and cities throughout the state.

This summer's Tony Evans Crusade is a great place to start. It is one example of the real game of life where we can do more than just talk about making a difference. We can invite unsaved friends to hear a life-changing message of spiritual reconciliation to God.

Anyone interested in more information about the June 19-21 crusade may contact (502) 635-1004 or [www.tecrusade.org](http://www.tecrusade.org). It's worth the effort.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Liability risks: Is your church prepared?

By James Taylor

*"A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it" (Proverbs 22:3).*

The most litigious society in the world is becoming even more litigious. The number of lawsuits filed in the United States each year continues to increase at a rapid pace.

As more Americans abandon the concept of personal responsibility and look for someone else to blame for every harm they may endure, even minor occurrences are viewed as an opportunity for instant wealth.

The general increase in litigation is mirrored by an increase in the number of suits filed against religious institutions. Ministers, churches, associations and other denominational entities are named as defendants with increasing frequency. Kentucky has been no exception, with claims pursued not just by strangers, but by church members and even pastors and their families.

It is no wonder that denominational entities are devoting significant time to risk management issues. The same should be true for churches.

Risk management has two key aspects: prevention and protection. Prevention involves establishing policies and procedures designed to minimize

the risk of an occurrence that might lead to litigation or liability. The protection aspect involves taking steps to safeguard the church, its assets and the assets of its members.

Churches should seriously consider the protection offered to their members by incorporation. Specifically, congregations need to recognize the burden placed on the shoulders of the trustees in churches that are not incorporated.

In most churches, the trustees are responsible for overseeing and maintaining the church's property and therefore can be sued for incidents arising from the use of the church's property. A faulty stairway or a poorly maintained van can

lead to a situation where the personal assets of the trustees are placed at risk. Even with liability insurance in place, there is a possibility that the amount of the loss will exceed the policy's limit. Therefore, incorporation provides the most certain means of protecting the personal assets of church members who serve as trustees.

Liability insurance also is critical to effective protection. Churches should find an agent who has or is willing to gain a good understanding of the church's activities and ministries. It is important to purchase an insurance policy that provides coverage for all facets of the church's activities.

Concerning the amount of insurance to purchase, a church must balance its ability to pay premiums against the level of risk it can tolerate. While for many years \$1 million in coverage was deemed adequate, that is probably no longer the case. One can easily envision a disastrous accident involving a fully loaded church van in which \$1 million in coverage would be exhausted quickly.

Umbrella or excess policies often are the solution to providing additional coverage. Such policies provide a second layer of coverage and usually are surprisingly affordable.

Another tool to be considered is the use of waivers or releases. Despite a belief by many that such waivers are worthless, Kentucky's courts continue to recognize them as valid when properly drafted and executed. Releases are strongly recommended for activities away from the church and for activities involving children and youth without their parents.

To be effective, releases should contain a complete description of the activities involved. Separate releases should be obtained for each trip or event. Finally, the release must be signed by an adult with the authority to do so, generally the child's natural parent or guardian.

James Taylor, a Lexington attorney, has served since 1993 as legal counsel to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He is a member of Providence Baptist Church in Frankfort.



## Pastor lists timing & renewal as keys to transition

**"If people don't think their leaders are listening to them, they'll look for someone else who will."**

*Troy Dobbs, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria*

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Timing and renewal are key components when church leaders are helping a church transition from traditional worship and programming into more contemporary elements, according to a Northern Kentucky pastor.

"Timing is absolutely everything," Troy Dobbs said at a resource conference during last month's Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism conference in Louisville.

Using the acrostic TRANSITION, Dobbs outlined some of the factors that helped transition Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria to include more contemporary elements in its worship.

Other transitions at Main Street were to have an intentional discipleship strategy and equipping every member to become involved in ministry, he said. Not every church needs to have a contemporary style of worship, said Dobbs, who has been at the church about two years.

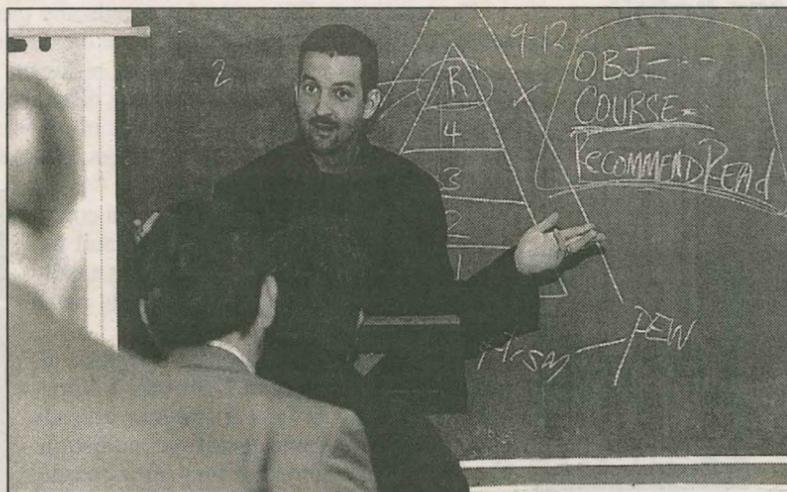
**T** stands for "timing." Dobbs said timing is important both in knowing when to change and knowing who to involve. "God has the right people for the right time for this transition."

Quoting pastoral leadership authority John Maxwell, Dobbs noted that actions by leaders have four possible outcomes, all of which deal with timing:

- The wrong action at the wrong time results in disaster.
- The right action at the wrong time results in resistance.
- The wrong action at the right time results in mistakes.
- The right action at the right time results in success.

Churches that aren't keeping up with the growth of their communities are more likely to consider making changes, he added. "I believe a church in decline is much more transitional than a church that is plateaued or growing."

**R** stands for "renewal." "True renewal has more to do with theology than it does with technique," Dobbs said. "Renewal is something that is God-breathed, it is not program-planned."



**LOOKING TO CHANGE?** Troy Dobbs, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, outlined methods of incorporating contemporary worship styles. "It's not about your preferences or my preferences, is it?" he asked. "We want to do what God is leading us to do."

If renewal comes as a result of changes, he added, it is more difficult for people to object. "People cannot argue when people are walking the aisles and getting saved," he said. "If people were not coming to know Jesus, I probably would have been fired 18 months ago."

**A** stands for "ask God." Citing James 4:3, Dobbs said churches should ask God to help members pick the right style of worship. "It's not about your preferences or my preferences, is it?" he asked. "We want to do what God is leading us to do."

**N** stands for "needs assessment." Churches should know their situations and the demographics of their communities and congregations to consider what changes might be necessary, he said.

**S** stands for "story." A congregation's story is its DNA, shaping its beliefs and subcultures, Dobbs said. "Know existing traditions and take them seriously," he counseled. "You start messing with the story and you will get yourself booted out of there."

Rather than trying to re-write a church's story, he said, "Add new chapters."

**I** stands for "intergenerational issues." Pastors and other church leaders

should study the characteristics of the various generations and work to build unity among the various age groups despite their differences, Dobbs said.

**T** stands for "talk." Church leaders should talk to their congregations and not at them, Dobbs said. As an example, he described the time when Main Street Baptist Church added drums to its worship service.

Dobbs said he had everything taken off the podium and placed the drums in the center of the stage for a Wednesday evening meeting.

Many of the people were surprised and some didn't like them, he said, but he was determined to talk about the issue. "I wasn't going to stick them in the corner and act like they're not there."

"If people don't think their leaders are listening to them, they'll look for someone else who will," he added.

As much as the drums presented an opportunity to talk about preferences, Dobbs said it also showed members that he wanted to be honest with them, even if there were disagreements.

**I** stands for "initiate." Pastors should be active, not reactive, Dobbs said. "Don't wait for your church to be who you want it to be. Be who you are."

**O** stands for "on mission." Church leaders should constantly be teaching

### Renewal principles

Citing the book "Spiritual Entrepreneurs" by Michael Slaughter, Pastor Troy Dobbs listed six principles of church renewal:

■ **Lordship principle.** Without a clear focus on Jesus, Dobbs said, teaching and preaching can become bogged down by "vague theisms."

■ **Biblical principle.** The Bible should be the ultimate authority for all a church does, he said. "If the Bible isn't your final source of authority, you'll have people sliding into anything they want to do."

■ **Liturgical principle.** A focus on worship as being for God and not a "spectator sport" will focus people on God and not themselves, Dobbs said. "If people are never moved in worship, it ought to tell you something about your worship."

■ **Covenant principle.** Churches should equip members and elevate membership standards, he said. "Are we into making disciples or club members?" Dobbs asked. "Your church is only going to be as strong as its members."

■ **Priesthood principle.** Create a learning environment to train the laity, he said.

■ **Leadership principle.** The pastor should be the chief dreamer in the church, Dobbs said.

that the function of the church is to be on mission. "The church exists for people she hasn't met yet."

**N** stands for "need a clear vision." A vision for the church must be both logical and theological, Dobbs said. "Be realistic while still being a dreamer."

Dobbs said Main Street defines vision as "God's dream for the future of the church."

The relationship between church leadership and the rest of the congregation is vital to gaining acceptance of a vision, Dobbs added. "People are going to have to buy into you before they buy into the vision."

## Speakers warn against worship that focuses on people instead of God

By Cindy Kerr  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Worship is a lifestyle, and Christians worship only through living daily in God's presence, said Bruce Leafblad, coordinator of the Worship 2000 Conference held Feb. 14-18 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"A denomination that looks to annual revivals for renewal has still not figured it out," said Leafblad, Southwestern professor of church music and worship.

True worship "is about living with God in such a way that renewal becomes a way of life and not an episode from time to time," he said.

The conference sought to examine worship in the 21st century, including current debates over form and style.

All debate is silenced when the reality of who God is and the glory due Him comes into focus, said Gordon Borrer, pastor-elder of preaching and worship at First Baptist Church of Milwaukie, Ore.

"To the degree your view of God is distorted, your life is out of focus," said Borrer, who called for a balanced ministry that explores God's wrath and mercy.

"Don't just preach and sing what everybody wants to hear," he said, warning that church should not take its cues from the world.

"The collective view of society is more and more distant from the Bible," he said. "I challenge you to ask people, 'Who is God and what is He about?'"

The evangelical world's lack of confidence in the Bible can lead to such distortion even in the church, according to Anne Ortlund.

Ortlund, a co-founder of Renewal Ministries, said she finds many Christians don't know the Bible because they substitute Bible study with study of books about the Bible.

"We strive so hard to put God's Word into our own words and to make it relevant. It is relevant. We make it confidence in the naked truth of Scripture," she said.

Borrer said Americans' affinity for entertainment causes many people to expect a show when they attend church. Conference speakers said church leadership and congregations share the blame.

"With the TV revolution, we expect the pros up front to amuse us—to make us laugh, cry or feel good," Ortlund added.

Borrer challenged conference participants to practice responding to God

by viewing worship services as a rehearsal for the performance of life.

"How do you know when you have worshipped?" he asked. "When you obey."

With this mindset, Borrer said, everyday living becomes an act of worship because the Holy Spirit reminds God's followers that they are made in His image.

Not all worship trends, like the seeker movement and church services targeting one specific group, reflect that image, some speakers said.

"The church is meant to gather around God," Ortlund said. "When the audience is our focus, we screw up."

Regular services that are limited to one age group or subculture can result in an erosion of biblical knowledge, Borrer added. "We desperately need the stability the aged bring and the energy the youth bring us."

# RESOURCES

## Consultant: Dramas keep gospel message interesting

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—A modern commandment for attracting newcomers to church is, "Thou shalt not bore them," a drama consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources told a workshop at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries Festival March 3-4 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Christy Haines, who has 26 years of experience in drama, said the church must be innovative to address a resurgence in spiritual hunger in society.

"We need to be able to connect with people where they are today," Haines said. "It's not just young people. Old people watch TV and go to movies. We're in competition with the world, and we have the best story ever told. It's awful if we make it boring."

Young people's preference for interactive learning means young Christians can reach their classmates by

getting them involved in interpretive movements, puppetry or clowning, she said.

"Don't be so exclusive you exclude people," Haines said. "The kid who sits next to you in algebra might come and be part of your troupe."

Drama continues to grow in popularity, she said, with many churches turning to dinner theater and Broadway-style productions to attract visitors.

Haines outlined three other drama-video alternatives that are having a large impact throughout the country:

■ **"Judgment House"** is a walk-through drama whose story line includes eight scenes in which characters eventually face eternal judgment. Its growth recently led creator Tom Hudgings to organize a full-time ministry, New Creation Evangelism.

■ **"Heaven's Gates, Hell's Flames"** is produced by a group based in Canada. Haines showed a video of one of seven scenes featured in the play. Organizers bring sets and costumes to a church and train members to play the

roles. "At first I was a little critical of it as more scare tactics," Haines said. "But I took a group of kids to it and they were touched."

■ **The "Jesus" movie**, available on video, was filmed in the Holy Land and draws its dialogue from the book of Luke.

After the workshop, Haines acknowledged that some dramas, such as "Judgment House" and "Hell House," have drawn criticism for alleged scare tactics and insensitivity.

Audiences are going to see and hear what they want, she said, but the church must emphasize the message of hope to balance the portrayals of sin that upset some people. "I don't know if there's any way to avoid controversy up front," she said.

"We're under such persecution in everything we do. If a church is afraid of controversy, it may not be for them," she added. "There are different kinds of evangelistic outreaches, like the 'Jesus' film, which is less controversial and can reap benefits just as good."

### Drama resources

■ **LifeWay Christian Resources'** drama department. Call (615) 251-2052 for a catalogue or (800) 458-2772 for products. For consultant **Christy Haines**, call toll-free (877)-CH-DRAMA.

■ **Judgment House**, Box 30, Clearwater, FL 33757-0037; (813) 449-1100.

■ **"Heaven's Gates, Hell's Flames,"** Reality Outreach, Box 412, Niagara Falls, NY 14302-0412.

■ **Creative Resource Group**, Box 1627, Franklin, TN 37065-1627; (800) 400-7063 or [www.churchideas.com](http://www.churchideas.com).

■ **"Jesus"** video, (800) 29-JESUS.

■ **Gateway Films**, Box 540, Worcester, PA 19450-0540; (800) 523-0226; [www.gatewayfilms.com](http://www.gatewayfilms.com).

■ **Group Publishing**, Box 481, Loveland, CO 80539; (970) 669-3836; [www.grouppublishing.com](http://www.grouppublishing.com).

■ **The Resource Book**, Production Resources, Box 80344, Portland, OR 97280; (503) 977-2923.

■ **Seeker Solutions**, 12271 103rd Ave. N., Largo, FL 33778; (888) 867-7369; [www.seekersolutions.com](http://www.seekersolutions.com).

## Advocates say more churches are using creative ministries

Continued from page 1

Nestled beneath were multi-colored, green-stemmed "flowers." Clowns circulated through the crowd beforehand while some audience members played with finger puppets.

After an opening song and a puppet octet bouncing to gospel rap, a husband-wife duo known as "Re Creations" demonstrated a useful application of drama. Charles Reese and Rebecca McCoy-Reese of Maryville, Tenn., used an audience-participation skit to tell how Joshua conquered Jericho.

The Reeses involved the crowd as marchers, trumpet players and congregation while weaving the biblical account into their narration. They added

such humorous twists as cheering, "Joshua, Joshua, he's our man, he can lead us to the promised land."

Afterward, Mrs. McCoy-Reese described a drama they performed two days earlier at Clear Creek Bible College in Pineville relating the parable of the prodigal son from the older brother's perspective.

When they finished, a pastor walked up to her with tears in his eyes and said, "I've never seen the gospel preached as powerfully as I did this morning."

"We have to get out of our comfort zones," she said, noting that some churches use video, multi-media and electronic presentations during services. "The world we live in is different

than 50 years ago. If we're going to reach people, we have to go where they are."

Reese said creative ministry helps prevent the gospel story from getting stale. "This helps us to see what's been there all along."

Such creativity can excite audiences, which "Fishworks" discovered on its first mission trip to London. A pastor at Durrett-Smith's church helped arrange the trip to England, where the group was amazed at the receptivity on the streets to comedy-flavored, gospel-based dramas.

On a return trip, a youth pastor invited them to perform at his church, which offered housing to a group of

street kids. When they arrived at the church's gym, the air was thick with cigarette smoke. The teens wore black leather jackets, leather boots and mohawks or spiked hair.

Although those in the crowd tried to keep a straight face, when one kid laughed, others followed, Durrett-Smith said. Afterwards, the "toughs" invited the group to stay for serious conversation about drugs, sexuality, marriage and the gospel.

"We told them the truth and how God felt about these things," he said. "They thanked us and said, 'You're the first guys who ever came (to our rooms) and talked to us.' We were on spiritual cloud nine that night."

But creative ministries can be expensive and time-consuming, he cautioned. Durrett-Smith and others offered a variety of suggestions for churches wanting to get involved:

■ Don't get discouraged if it takes time to develop, Durrett-Smith said, because there is so much to learn.

■ Find a director who has previous performing experience to provide necessary guidance. Usually, someone will emerge who has the talent and feels God's call, he said.

■ Don't assume it takes a lot of money. Reese and his wife use a limited number of props, relying on humorous twists, sound effects and narration to maintain audience interest.

■ Creative twists to worship services only require a little imagination, said Christy Haines, drama consultant for LifeWay Christian Resources.

For example, she said, churches can have the choir enter the sanctuary from different areas each week, enlist several participants for Scripture readings or videotape (in advance) some of the morning announcements.

"Take ordinary elements and make them interesting," she said. "There are ways to combat boredom, to not let people know what to expect. Do the same thing in different ways."

The festival was sponsored by the KBC's youth and Brotherhood departments and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.



**"Things are growing exponentially, both the quality of the work and numbers of people involved."**

*Dennis Durrett-Smith, co-founder of the Fishworks drama team*



### Missions & Adventure Camp 2000

This summer young men from grades 1-12 will have an opportunity to learn about missions, focused on Christ, through Missions & Adventure Camp 2000. Activities such as horseback riding, archery, mountain biking, outdoor living and many more allow for unique opportunities to teach valuable life skills in a fun environment.

There are four Missions and Adventure Camp options for young boys and youth involved in RAs, Challengers, Kids in Action, Mission Kids or other missions & discipleship programs.

#### Option One - Mid-Continent College in Mayfield, KY

June 12-16 or 19-23 - Grades 4-8 • June 16-17 - Father/Son Overnight Grades 1-3

#### Option Two - Camp RABRO, Bagdad, KY

June 26-30, July 10-14 or July 17-21 - Grades 4-8: 6 day/5 night camps  
July 5-7, July 24-26 or July 26-28 - Grades 1-3: 3 day, 2 night camps for boys  
July 7-8 or July 28-29 - Father/Son Overnights, Grades 1-3 - A weekend for Fathers and Mentors

#### Option Three - Outdoor Leadership Challenge

June 30-July 5 - Grades 9-12: 3 night/2 day hiking and backpacking trip into the Red River Gorge.  
Origination location: Camp RABRO, Bagdad, KY.

For full camp descriptions, costs and registration forms, find us on the Internet: [www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood.htm](http://www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood.htm).

Or call the Brotherhood office: 888-254-5720 or 502-244-6489



## State Department report lists religious-freedom abuses

**"Too much of the world's population still lives in countries in which religious freedom is restricted or prohibited."**

*The U.S. State Department's 1999 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*

By Larry Chesser  
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Violations of religious liberty, including religious persecution, are not confined to one country, religion or nationality, according to the U.S. State Department's 1999 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

"Throughout the world, Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and other believers continue to suffer for their faith," the report states.

The lengthy country-by-country analysis of human rights issues was released Feb. 25. The report focuses on democracy, human rights, religious liberty and labor.

Harold Koh, assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, noted a growing U.S. emphasis on human rights.

In 1977, the State Department's

first human rights report ran only 137 pages and covered only a fraction of the world's countries. The latest report covers 194 countries and totals 6,000 pages.

"Too much of the world's population still lives in countries in which religious freedom is restricted or prohibited," the report's introduction states. "Totalitarian and authoritarian regimes remain determined to control religious belief and practice."

The report notes that some governments are hostile to minority religions while others tolerate, and thus encourage, persecution and discrimination.

Some countries favor certain religions and disfavor others, and some democratic states have "indiscriminately identified minority religions as dangerous 'sects' or 'cults,'" the report states.

Among the religious-freedom abuses cited in the report:

■ In Burma, the government has imprisoned Buddhist monks who promote human and political rights. Security forces have destroyed and looted churches, mosques and Buddhist monasteries and have used coercive measures to induce Christians to convert to Buddhism.

■ China has continued to restrict religious freedom and intensified controls on some unregistered churches. Unapproved groups, including Protestants and Catholics, experienced varying degrees of interference, repression and persecution.

In Xinjiang, the government reportedly detained tens of thousands of Falun Gong members in outdoor stadiums and forced them to sign statements disavowing the new religious movement before releasing them.

In Tibet, the government intensified its "patriotic education campaign" designed to increase pres-

ures on Tibetan Buddhists, control monasteries and expel supporters of the Dalai Lama.

■ In Iran, Baha'is and other religious minorities are targeted by conservative judicial and security authorities. In February and March, 13 Jews were arrested on suspicion of espionage on behalf of Israel.

■ In Iraq, the government "has conducted a campaign of murder, summary execution and protracted arbitrary arrest against the religious leaders and adherents of the Shi'a Muslim population," the report states.

■ In Sudan, discrimination and violence against religious minorities has continued. "Eyewitnesses reported aerial bombardments of Christians, Muslims and animists in the Nuba Mountains," the report states.

Among other countries cited for religious-freedom violations in the report are Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, India, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

## U.S. Supreme Court declines to hear Good Friday holiday case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court said March 6 it will not hear an Indiana man's challenge to the governor's designation of Good Friday as a state holiday.

Earlier this year, the nation's high court refused to hear a similar challenge to a Maryland law that closes public schools on Good Friday.

Upholding a federal magistrate's decision to dismiss the Indiana case, a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Indiana holiday choice does not violate the Constitution.

Good Friday has been a legal holiday in Indiana since 1941. Russell Bridenbaugh, a taxpayer from Bloomington, Ind., sued Gov. Frank O'Bannon for making Good Friday one of the state's 12 holidays in a non-election year.

Bridenbaugh said the holiday amounted to a "law respecting an establishment of religion," specifically Christianity.

But the appeals court, in a 2-1 decision, disagreed.

"Indiana does not celebrate the religious aspects of Good Friday; for Indiana, the holiday has absolutely no religious significance," the appeals-court panel said. "To Indiana, Good Friday is nothing but a Friday falling in the middle of the long vacationless spring—a day which employees should take off to rejuvenate."

The holiday contrasts "sharply with other legal holidays such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day," the panel said, "where the government not only gives the day off, but endorses Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophies and principles."

The judges also said Indiana had secular reasons to choose Good Friday as a holiday, such as the fact that more than 30 percent of Indiana schools are closed on that day, making it a "logical" choice.

"While there may be few secular aspects surrounding Good Friday, there are many secular aspects to Easter—the Easter bunny, Easter baskets, jelly beans, dyed eggs and Easter-egg hunts," the panel said. "And Indiana has intrinsically tied the Good Friday holiday to the now-secularized Easter holiday, making it a 'movable feast day.'"

A dissenting judge said the case should have gone to trial. "Good Friday does not have the relevant attributes of Sundays, Christmas and Thanksgiving," the dissenting opinion stated. "It is a day of solemn religious observance, and nothing else, for believing Christians, and no one else. Unitarians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists—there is nothing in Good Friday for them, as there is in the other holidays we have mentioned despite the Christian origins of those holidays."

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Jonathan Adams  
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Raleigh, NC

## Vermont town meeting voters oppose homosexual unions

MONTPELIER, Vt. (BP)—Voters throughout Vermont sent a message of opposition to state lawmakers scheduled to cast their own votes on the issue of granting legal benefits to homosexual couples.

More than 50 of Vermont's 246 communities voted March 7 in opposition to same-sex marriages, and fewer than 10 towns recommended that the state legislature approve legal benefits for homosexual couples.

The non-binding votes were considered by many lawmakers to be a bellwether vote on legislative deliberations slated this week.

In Montpelier, 1,500 voters said no to homosexual unions and one town clerk said she would quit her job before she would sign a marriage certificate for a homosexual couple.

"They will have to find a new town clerk. I will not do it," Darlene Wyman told the Rutland Herald newspaper.

Dave Russell, pastor of Restoration Baptist Church in Burlington, told Baptist Press the issue has divided many churches in Vermont. "It's pitted the conservative churches on one side of the issue and liberals on the other," Russell said. "It makes it difficult for the aver-

age person on the street to decide when they see the churches split."

And while opposition was strong to homosexual unions, the ultimate decision rests in the hands of the state legislature.

The House is scheduled to take up a bill that would allow same-sex couples to enter "civil unions," which would have the same legal benefits now available to traditionally married couples.

The bill was drafted in response to a decision handed down by the Vermont Supreme Court in late December. That ruling said homosexual couples were entitled to the same legal rights and benefits extended to married couples.

While granting benefits to same-sex couples, the House bill also affirms that under Vermont law marriage is a union between a man and a woman.

Thus far, no state has legalized gay marriage. Hawaii's Supreme Court raised the possibility of same-sex unions in 1993 but later barred gay marriage.

Since 1993, Congress and 30 states have passed preemptive laws stating they will not recognize such marriages if legalized in another state.

*With additional reporting from Religion News Service*

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **You win some.** Evangelical Christians hailed California's March 8 vote approving a referendum that bars the recognition of gay marriages. The fight to approve the measure was financed and led by religious conservatives. One of the nation's most outspoken conservative groups, the Washington-based Family Research Council, said California's decision shows that the traditional definition of marriage is something all religions can agree on. "Mormons, Muslims, evangelicals, Catholics and others may disagree on religion, but all can agree that the heart of family life is marriage, the foundation of our civilization," FRC spokeswoman Janet Parshall said in a statement.

■ **You lose some.** Meanwhile, California voters approved a proposition allowing Indian tribes to expand gambling on tribal lands. "It won big which means California lost big," said Art Croney, executive director and lobbyist for the Committee on Moral Concerns. "People want to help the Indians but they have no idea what they've done. Basically with that vote they've turned California into a Las Vegas-style casino gambling state."

■ **Minute of silence bill passes.** Virginia schoolchildren may soon find themselves bowing their heads in a moment of silence before classes begin after the state's House of Delegates passed a bill last week to institute a mandatory morning pause in the state's schools. Virginia Gov. James Gilmore III has said he will sign the measure, according to the Washington Post. The House bill requires students and teachers to remain seated and silent for one minute before classes begin.

■ **Report: Fetus parts sold for profit.** An illegal industry based on the sale of aborted fetus body parts was the subject of an ABC "20/20" undercover report last week. The news show used a hidden camera and an undercover reporter to compile information for three months on an industry that sells tissue and organs from aborted children for hundreds of dollars to medical researchers. While federal funding of fetal-tissue research has been permitted since 1993, the law does not permit high fees to be charged for the tissue.

■ **Senate again OKs education accounts.** A bill that would allow tax-free savings accounts to be used for public and private schooling at the elementary and secondary levels was passed by the U.S. Senate, but the proposal fell two votes short of overriding an anticipated White House veto. The Affordable Education Act would permit parents or others to place as much as \$2,000 a year for a child in an account with no tax on the interest if it is used for education.

■ **Necklace dispute settled.** An Alabama school board has settled a lawsuit filed by a sixth-grader who was prevented from displaying a cross necklace. The settlement permits Kandice Smith to wear her cross outside her clothing and requires the Walker County Public Schools to revise their dress code policy. A school official said more students have been wearing religious necklaces since the board temporarily allowed them to do so pending the outcome of the lawsuit, including one student who wears a pentagram and states his religion is witchcraft.

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## Going to Kentucky Promise Keepers event? Take money

**The men's ministry announced earlier this month it will charge \$69 for adults and \$49 for youths 18 and younger.**

DENVER (RNS)—Don't forget to take your wallet if you're planning to attend this summer's Promise Keepers event in Louisville.

The men's organization has decided to charge fees once again at its evangelical men's conferences.

The men's ministry announced the change of plans earlier this month, saying it will charge \$69 for adults and \$49 for youths 18 and younger.

Louisville is among the cities scheduled for conferences this year. The July 28-29 event will be held at Freedom Hall.

Promise Keepers President Bill McCartney had told supporters in a Jan. 28 fund-raising letter that mentioned the upcoming conferences that the ministry was "committed to keep them admission-free."

But Steve Chavis, Promise Keepers' director of public affairs, said the ministry's leaders re-evaluated the decision soon after the letter was mailed. "It's really wanting to help conferences be more self-sustaining and continue to grow into these new areas, like the second radio show," Chavis told Religion News Service.

In January, Promise Keepers launched a daily radio commentary by McCartney called "4th & Goal."

The ministry also is producing a documentary to mark its 10th anniversary this year and a second radio program called "Promise Keepers Radio Highlights." It also plans to offer a fil-

tered Internet access system called pkFamily.com.

"The return to charging a fee for conferences comes from earnest prayer and evaluation," McCartney said in a statement. "Also our attendees have been asking us to return to a fee-based conference."

Promise Keepers announced in 1997 that it was dropping the fees charged for its stadium and arena meetings.

At the time, the move was designed to attract nominal and non-Christians who would be hesitant to pay to attend the meetings.

But Chavis said supporters had an "it wasn't broke, don't fix it" attitude about paying the conference fees and wondered why the ministry decided to drop the fees for the last two years.

"We had 10K decisions for Christ in 1999 alone," he said. "But that was along the lines of what we experienced before."

In January, the ministry announced personnel reductions and regional office closings, which have resulted in a current staff of about 170.

Despite the restructuring and the new fees, Chavis said the ministry expects to continue.

"The financial condition of the ministry is solid," he said. "We're not going away. We want to continue to grow. We had the explosive growth, we contracted. There's a momentum right now."

## Barna: Female church members still the backbone of churches

VENTURA, Calif.—Women make up the backbone of Christian churches, showing more commitment to their faith and the work of their congregations, according to a recent study.

In a poll by the Barna Research Group, an organization that studies issues related to churches and Christianity, women outranked men in at least 12 faith-related activities, including:

■ **Church attendance.** Forty-five percent of women said they attended a Christian church service during the previous week, compared to 35 percent of men.

■ **Evangelism.** Twenty-seven percent of women interviewed said they had shared their Christian faith with another person, compared to 21 percent of men.

■ **Sunday school attendance.** Twenty-two percent of women reported attending a Sunday school class in the past week, compared to 14 percent of men.

■ **Church leadership.** Fourteen percent of women reported serving in a leadership capacity at church, not including pastor, compared to nine percent of men.

George Barna, president of the firm that conducted the research, noted that recent years have brought a lot of talk about shared responsibilities in the household. In the area of

family spiritual health, however, the responsibility still falls to women, he said.

"Women, more often than not, take the lead role in the spiritual life of the family. Women typically emerge as the primary—or only—spiritual mentor and role model for family members. And that puts a tremendous burden on wives and mothers," Barna said.

Churches must encourage men to be full partners in developing their family's spiritual health if they are to stem the tide of biblical illiteracy and waning commitment, he added.

Another danger is the potential for church burnout among women, Barna noted. "Many women appear to be burning out from their intense levels of involvement."

The number of women attending church has dropped 22 percent since 1991, the report says, and during the same time period nearly an equal percentage—21 percent—stopped volunteering for church activities.

"We may continue to see tens of thousands of women leaving the church unless there is a widespread, aggressive, thoughtful approach to recognizing and appreciating women," Barna said. "Churches need to consider whether or not they are providing sufficient opportunities for women to receive ministry and not just provide ministry to others."

### Call now, operators are standing by

Less than three weeks ago registration opened for this summer's Discovery Youth Camps at Cedarmore.

The great tradition and ministry of these camps are well known by many Kentucky Baptists, and we are all thankful for Tom Smoot's leadership in this area over so many years. Working with our campus ministers across the state and continuing the Son Team ministry, we are blessed once again. The theme this year is Xtreme Love, based on Ephesians 3:17-19.

This year, in only the first 10 days of registration, we received more than 1,900 reservations for the seven weeks of the camp! Since our capacity for the summer is around 300 for each of six weeks and 225 for the seventh, our total capacity is around 2,025 teenagers. So we are approaching capacity already!

If you plan on bringing your youth group to Cedarmore this summer for a Discovery Youth Week, I urge you to call us now at (502) 747-8911 and see what space is available.

In Western Kentucky we also are near capacity for Crossings at the Creek, the new camp beginning this summer at Jonathan Creek. But we have limited space available for a few of our weeks, so if you're still looking around and making plans for this

summer, give us a call at Jonathan Creek, (270) 354-8355, to see what's still open.

I am thankful for your response in support of both of our youth camps this summer. I met with Steve Thompson and Bill Mackey of the Kentucky Baptist Convention a week ago and thankfully showed them that this summer, for the first time, we

will serve almost 5,000 youth during our camp season. As a matter of fact, right now our projection is for 4,955 teens between the first week in June and the first week in August. This is nearly 2,000 more than ever. Please pray specifically for these camp weeks as God works in the hearts of this younger generation, that their lives would be changed. Oh, that we would bathe this

summer in prayer like never before! We are planning an overnight prayer walk at Cedarmore in the near future. We're going to walk the entire perimeter of the 1,500 acres as we pray for the power of God to fill the place this summer.

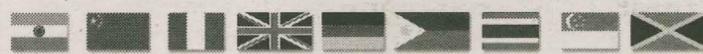
Believing God's going to do great things, I am thankful to be serving Kentucky Baptists.

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

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## Churches unite to fight U.S. sex trafficking

By Shelvia Dancy  
Religion News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. (RNS)—Wearing scarves and dark sunglasses to protect their identities, two women from Mexico told of the nightmarish months they spent as two of the estimated 50,000 women brought to the United States by sex traffickers.

"Inez" wore a disguise because she feared her former captors might discern her identity and retaliate against her family in Mexico. She said her captors lured her to the United States in 1997 with promises of a job in a restaurant, then told her she owed them a \$2,500 "smuggling fee."

"I was given tight clothes to wear and told what I must do," she said. At the end of each night, the number of men she saw represented a deduction in that smuggling fee, she said.

"Every 15 days we were transferred to another trailer in a nearby city. This was to give the customers a variety of girls and so we never knew where we were in case we tried to escape. I could not believe this was happening to me, but even worse, was that some of the girls were as young as 14 years old," she said.

Her story—and that of her friend "Maria"—was the dramatic highlight of a rally last week sponsored by the Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking—a group of faith-based

and human rights organizations—aimed at drawing attention to the plight of the estimated 2 million women and children transported around the world each year in the sexual trafficking trade.

Inez said her nightmare ended when law enforcement officials raided the brothel where she was kept. Though some of her captors were arrested, others evaded capture.

"Those are just two stories," said Lisa Thompson, policy representative for the National Association of Evangelicals. "Now multiply that by thousands."

The event comes as Congress considers anti-sex trafficking legislation that would give sex traffickers stiffer penalties as well as offer social services and visas for victims brought from other countries. The legislation also would permit the United States to enforce sanctions against nations that participate in sex trafficking.

On March 6, Cambodia announced its own national campaign to end sexual trafficking, though the government chose not to ban government officials from visiting brothels to have sex with children and women. The country's Ministry of Women's Affairs estimates about 40,000 women and children in Cambodia have been trapped in the sexual slave trade.

Sandra Hunnicutt, founder of the anti-sex trafficking organization Captive Daughters, said sexual traf-

ficking does not only happen outside the United States. She identified Kentucky as among the dozens of states through which children and women have been brought into the United States.

"Americans want to believe it doesn't happen here, that it's 'over there,'" said Hunnicutt. "Let me tell you, the sex trade is alive and well in America."

Graham St. John-Willey, a member of the United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, said fear often keeps victims from testifying against their captors, who are difficult to capture since the sex trade crosses national borders.

"An old Japanese proverb says 'The traveler knows no shame,'" said St. John-Willey, who is also a minister and founder of Action for Children Campaign, a human rights organization. "The abusers are also men traveling from developed countries, your fellow countrymen and mine ... someone's husband, someone's boyfriend, someone's brother, someone's work mate and some mother's son. If there were no purchases of sexual services, there would be no sex trade."

He urged nations to commit themselves to harshly prosecuting those who sell children and women into sexual slavery.

"So few traffickers are ever prosecuted, and even when they are the penalties for trafficking are often less than for trafficking in drugs or guns," he said. "It's time for such criminals to face far tougher penalties."

## School drops interracial dating ban but asks what parents say

GREENVILLE, S.C. (RNS)—It won't take a note from mom and dad, but it could get students referred to counseling if they decide to date interracially at Bob Jones University.

The South Carolina school officially dropped its ban on interracial dating when president Bob Jones III appeared on CNN's "Larry King Live," March 3.

Shortly after the announcement, officials said students would need parental approval to date interracially.

Later officials said approval wouldn't be required, but the university will encourage students to notify their parents if they wish to get involved in any "serious dating relationship."

School spokesman Jonathan Pait said that if parents did not approve of a student's decision to date interracially, the school would suggest students undergo counseling, but would not initiate any disciplinary proceedings.

The 50-year-old ban on interracial dating was instituted to prevent Asian and white students from dating. Black students were not allowed to enroll at the university until 1970.

The school's policy on interracial dating made headlines when Texas Gov. George W. Bush spoke there during his presidential campaign.

Jones told King that the controversy had distracted the school from its central mission. "Our concern for the cause of Christ, our concern for our graduates," had been overshadowed, Jones said.

University officials said the theological justification for the 50-year-old ban stemmed from the biblical story of the Tower of Babel, where God scattered the people into many different races. Officials said they believe God wanted to prevent one race of people, and therefore the races should be kept separate.

## Summer 2000 conference

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College's Pastor/Staff and Family Conference will be held July 17-19. This year marks our ninth annual conference, and we are expecting it to be a great one.

Gayle Toole will be conference pastor this year. Toole is a retired Kentucky pastor with 38 years of ministerial experience. He has been active on both the associational and state levels, including serving as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. His sermons will encourage all who are seeking to minister in Christ's name.

Don Spencer, director of the annuity department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be a seminar leader. Spencer consults regularly with churches and ministers regarding retirement planning, insurance, ministerial taxes and other financial issues. He also continues to be involved in church music. His seminars will provide ministers with helpful information for the present and the future.

Cumberland's own Kenneth Faught, an associate professor of religion, will be the conference Bible study leader. He will lead

participants in a study of the book of James, the January Bible study book for 2001. Faught has served as a pastor in Louisiana, Kentucky and Ohio, and he continues to be active through interim pastorates and Bible studies. His Bible teaching will bless and challenge all who come.

David Scott, minister of music and senior adults at Ormsby Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, will lead music for the conference. This is Scott's second year to lead music for the conference. His musical talents will help all participants refresh their souls and worship God.

Cost for the conference is \$30 for an individual and \$50 for a family, which includes lodging on the Cumberland College campus and all meals. The registration deadline is July 10.

For more information, contact Wes Roy at (606) 539-4154, or by e-mail at wroy@cc.cumber.edu. We would love to have you here.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## The process of hopelessness

Sometimes the process begins innocently. A parent spends more time on the phone than with her newborn. Then, the infant is passed from relative to relative, neighbor to neighbor, while mom deals with the latest crisis or pursues jobs, parties, relationships.

The temporary caregivers become resentful, and the baby spends most of her time in a crib or playpen. She has to cry a long time before someone will change her or feed her. Those are the only times she is held or touched.

At home she learns the only way she will get attention is if she cries or yells—so she cries and yells a lot. Mom yells back and sometimes hits. Mom's boyfriend has no patience and leaves. This makes mom angrier so there's more yelling, more hitting. Then one day, mom asks her boyfriend to babysit, just for a little while. When she returns, everything seems OK, but later she notices blood on her daughter's panties. Mom ignores it. She doesn't want to lose her boyfriend.

Months sometimes turn to years before a teacher notices the bruises, the sad expression, outbursts of anger or tears, inappro-

priate language and behavior toward others.

She makes the call, and after an investigation by social services, the child is removed from her mother's care. Because she's never known any other home, she has no concept that things are different in other families. Despite the shame, the arguments, the terror, the abuse, she doesn't want to leave her mom.

She comes to us after 15 placements in residential treatment facilities and foster homes. Imagine 15 different temporary "homes." Imagine how many assessments, interviews, counselors, social workers, doctors and foster parents. She comes to us mistrustful and ready to leave as soon as she gets here. How do we make things different for her?

That's where you come in. You pray for her. You support the staff who care for her. You send her a birthday card. You send her to camp. You are the difference. Thank you.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

## Baptists helping purify water in flood-ravaged Mozambique

DALLAS (ABP)—Baptist volunteers from Texas, North Carolina and South Africa are purifying water for flood victims who have relocated to refugee camps in southeastern Mozambique.

Cyclone Eline and subsequent storms have forced more than one million people in southern Mozambique from their homes over the past month. In addition to destroying villages and displacing residents, the floodwaters introduced water-borne diseases and parasites into the available water supplies.

The Baptist disaster relief workers set up two water-purification units along a creek near Jantique, a few kilometers east of the refugee camps, and they pumped the purified water into a storage pool.

Each of the two units, assembled in South Africa by the Texas Baptists from locally available components, is capable of purifying eight gallons of water per minute.

Tanker trucks provided by the Save the Children organization have delivered the water to the refugees in at least four camps.

"We had to search and search just to find water halfway decent enough to pump through the units," said team leader Dick Talley.

Reporting by satellite from Ireland, Talley said much of the water was so filled with silt that it clogged the water purification units' filters and hoses. "We finally found some water that was running through some reeds that was fairly clear."

When the mission is completed, the units will remain with the South African Baptists, with whom Southern Baptists have worked for about 50 years.

Jim Furgerson, executive director of Texas Baptist Men, asked Christians to pray for the safety of volunteers. He noted that the area in which the volunteers are camping not only carries the risk of water-borne diseases and parasites but also venomous snakes seeking higher ground.

## Samaritan's Purse Sudan hospital bombed

KHARTOUM, Sudan (RNS)—A hospital operated by a U.S. relief group in Sudan was bombed March 6 for the second time in six days, prompting sharp criticism of Sudan's government.

"The government of Sudan just continues to demonstrate that they are a terrorist nation," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse and son of evangelist Billy Graham. Samaritan's Purse operates the bombed hospital.

"For more than 25 years, Samaritan's Purse has helped people all over the world recover from wars of hatred, but this is the first time we've ever been so blatantly and continuously rejected by the government of the very people we are trying to help," Graham said.

No one was killed in the attack. Two people were injured in a bombing at the hospital March 1.

The March 6 bombing followed an attack March 4 on Concern Worldwide, an Ireland-based international relief agency with operations in rebel-held territory in southern Sudan. The Sudanese government dropped two bombs inside the group's compound, though no one was hurt.

The government also destroyed a grade school in the Nuba Mountains in early February, killing 14 children and a teacher.

Concern and Samaritan's Purse are two of about 24 international relief groups that remained in southern Sudan after signing a memo of understanding that gave greater control of their agen-

cies' operations to the Sudan People's Liberation Army, a rebel group in southern Sudan that has fought for autonomy from the north and its Islamic-run government for the past 17 years.

The rebel army had given relief agencies to face expulsion from the area, but 11 groups, including Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam and World Vision, rejected the document and withdrew from the region.

The bombings were denounced by the U.S. special envoy to Sudan, Harry Johnston, who began talks about Sudan March 8 with Egyptian foreign ministry officials in Cairo.

"In my meetings with Foreign

Minister (Mustafa Osman) Ismail and Justice Minister (Ali Mohamed Osman) Yassin, I shared the United States government's grave concern and condemnation of the Sudanese government's bombings of civilian targets," said Johnston, who visited Sudan March 4-7.

Human Rights Watch also denounced the attacks, as did Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

"The sustained and intentional bombing of civilian targets by the government of Sudan is reprehensible and clearly demonstrates to the world that this administration is unconcerned with the human security of its population," Axworthy said.

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## It was a big, really big event

I don't know what I was thinking last spring when my principal and head basketball coach asked me if we could hold the district basketball tournament on our campus. It seemed like such a simple request. No big deal, right? I mean, in our 100-year history, nobody can remember ever having the district tournament here, so what would be the problem?

I think the coach and principal were both so surprised when I gave my permission, that they wasted no time leaving my office before I could change my mind. I thought about it for the next several days, and I did begin to have some second thoughts. But if my principal and head basketball coach thought it was a good idea, why should I question it?

From time to time over the next several months the subject came up, I think just to remind me so I couldn't say it slipped my mind. Then a few weeks ago, the reality of that decision nearly a year earlier began to take on a whole new meaning. The district basketball tournament would be right here in our own gym, on our very own campus.

Apparently, I was not the only one beginning to have second thoughts. Three weeks ago my principal/athletic director came to me with some recommendations about the tournament. We discussed a few incidental things and then got down to business. "We need more seating, much more seating in our gym." My mouth dropped open, my eyes opened wide and my heart sank to my toes.

The reality of our small gym, by today's standards, was beginning to come into focus.

Could we do this or that in order to make more room for additional seating? A recommendation was made to put chairs at each end of our ball court.

"We have much more room than we really need at the end of the ball court," I was told.

I gave it some on-the-spot consideration. Then, not wanting to argue with the athletic director, I just sort of slipped out of the gym.

The next day I was back in the gym looking over the situation. "Could we put three rows of chairs on the floor at the end of the ball court?" was the question posed to me again. How could people on the second and third rows see over the heads of the first row? What if a player ran into the chairs? What if—well there were more questions than answers. I left the gym again deciding that little could be done in such a short period of time.

A day or two later, I met with my construction manager and asked if we could build risers for the second and third rows of chairs.

Could they be made quickly, made to provide safety for the fans, made portable so they could be removed after the tournament, but able to be used again? It was decided that everything could be accomplished in time for the tournament. A few days later some of the risers were completed and installed to see how they looked.

The extra seating arrangements were it possible for about 200 additional fans to see the game. Our gym is only about one-fourth the size of today's big county gyms, so every extra seat would be a big plus. The first night we were to play our traditional county rival, so it would be a packed house. At the tip-off, every—I mean every—seat was filled. We made it. No one was turned away.

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

## Moses plays the drum for Jesus

Moses Mivedor came to America from Togo through the efforts of A.B. Colvin. He attended a year at Oneida and was admitted to Clear Creek last summer.

Because of a mix-up in his entry visa it looked like Moses would have to return to Africa this spring. Fervent prayers, appeals from supporters and persistent efforts with congressmen brought a change from the immigration department. Moses received the news about his student visa on his birthday! The government also issued him a Social Security number, enabling him to secure student employment.

Moses was part of an "Experiencing God" Bible study group that my wife and I hosted last semester. His faith and desire to grow in Christ enriched our fellowship. He continues to gain proficiency in the use of English, and his grades have improved. He has visited the churches of several students and had the opportunity to share his testimony with youth groups.

Clear Creek translates as "Etokokoe" in Moses' native language of Mina, a dialect spoken in his home region of Togo and parts of Ghana. Moses gave the name of Etokoke to a band of Clear Creek

students he taught to play drums. Moses grew up watching men make drums and plans to make additional drums from fallen trees on our campus.

Student Jimmy Shaw said, "The African melodies are difficult to learn, but if a person has some sense of rhythm you can learn to play. Moses begins the beat and we join in." The group played for the Pineville community tent crusade and last November journeyed to Nashville to assist in the start of a new church. Now the group hopes for a longer mission trip in the summer.

Moses recounts his restlessness and desire to know real life. He vividly remembers a vision of an angel who spoke to him. When he later attended a church, the pastor spoke the same words Moses had heard in the vision. That day, Moses surrendered his life to Christ.

His desire is to be equipped in Bible knowledge and return to his people as a missionary. His presence at Clear Creek has enlarged our own mission vision.

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Taiwan earthquake relief resulting in new Christians

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

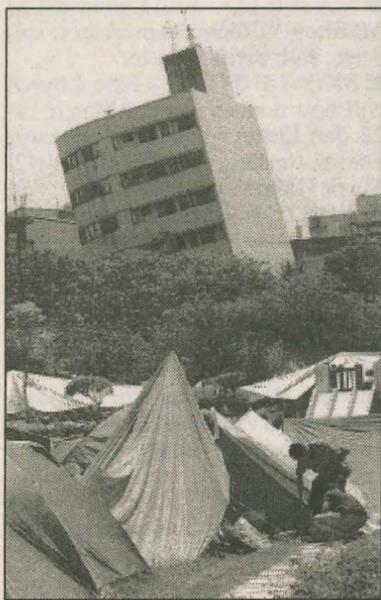
TIONG-LIAU, Taiwan (BP)—Hundreds of people have become Christians as a result of ministries in the aftermath of Taiwan's strongest earthquake in a century.

One worker said volunteers have found a tremendous openness to the gospel and believe they not only will be able to help people rebuild their lives but also will see churches started where none existed before.

Southern Baptist missionaries, their Taiwanese Baptist co-workers and other evangelical Christians, working under the umbrella of the Chinese Christian Relief Association, set up 17 relief centers in central Taiwan after the Sept. 21 quake, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale.

"The openness to the gospel in this area is remarkable. It has been so evident that God is mightily at work here," said Southern Baptist missionary Robert Burris. "Many, however, are still broken from having no hope. This is a critical time for stepped-up ministry."

The CCRA partners are setting up more than 700 prefabricated housing units to help families whose homes were destroyed in the quake, Burris said. An estimated 300,000 people were left homeless by the tremor, which killed 2,474 people



**EARTHQUAKE** Residents lived in tents after last September's earthquake damaged Tungshih in central Taiwan. Thousands of residents were made homeless, and more than 2,000 people were killed. But Christians say ministry after the quake is resulting in people accepting Jesus as Savior. (REUTERS/RNS photo)

and caused \$14.1 billion in damage.

The CCRA was established in 1999 after Cameron Byler led disaster relief training for more than 200 Taiwanese Baptists and for Project Taipei, a team of missionaries fo-

cused on reaching the Taiwanese capital for Christ. At least one of those training sessions was held in the Nan-Tou area, near the epicenter of the September earthquake.

"Many of us feel the Lord was in this training and the timing of it," Burris said of the several weeks of training led by Byler, a veteran of 60-plus major disaster relief efforts, and others.

Aided by \$75,000 in Southern Baptist International Mission Board relief funds, the missionaries and believers from four Taiwanese Baptist churches have concentrated their post-earthquake efforts in the seven villages of Tiong-Liau township, Burris said.

Many residents of the severely damaged area are poor fruit farmers who face almost insurmountable challenges in putting their lives back together. Some residents have committed suicide, he noted, and many people still are living in tents and face an uncertain future.

Before the relief effort, no churches of any kind existed in the Tiong-Liau area, and no efforts to share the gospel had been made in at least 40 years, Burris explained. The area also had no medical facilities at all.

Now at least 115 people in the Tiong-Liau area—among them a village leader and his wife—have made decisions to follow Jesus, and

multiple ministries are under way. Among them are home visitation and Sunday school, English classes and tutoring for children. Three of the prefabricated housing units have been set aside for medical ministries, which Southern Baptist missionaries Sue Gardner, Mary Dickey, Susan Thompson and Ron West are helping establish.

In the quake area, hundreds of people have become Christians, Burris said.

"Four churches are channeling workers and resources into this area," he said. "They have a long-term vision to help the people rebuild their lives but also to see churches born in this area."

Some of the ministry participants have a vision that the ministry area will become a "training center" for Taiwanese believers who will go out as missionaries to other parts of Taiwan and beyond, Burris added.

"We want to do all we can to help that vision become a reality," he said. "We hope Southern Baptists will continue to pray for all the people living in the areas affected by the quake."

Contributions toward the relief efforts in Taiwan can be sent to: SBC International Mission Board, Hunger and Relief Fund—Taiwan Earthquake Relief, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

Fletcher Allen contributed to this article

## No safety exit in sight for Church of the Holy Sepulcher

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Israeli officials said last month they won't take unilateral action in order to open a safety exit in Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which tradition holds is the burial site of Jesus.

Meanwhile, it appeared increasingly unlikely the Catholic, Greek and Armenian church bodies with rights to the famous holy site are likely to come to an agreement on their own about where and how a door would be opened before this month's upcoming visit by Pope John Paul II.

The pope is expected to be accompanied by thousands of pilgrims—most of whom are expected to want to visit the church. Similar crowds are expected during millennial Easter celebrations.

Without an emergency exit, the number of visitors who safely can be permitted into the labyrinthian church structure at any one time is significantly more limited.

"There is no question a second door is needed," said a spokesman in the office of Israel's Minister of Public Security, Shlomo Ben Ami, who has tried repeatedly to mediate a solution. "But out of respect for the sanctity of the site, the Israeli government will not take unilateral action to open an emergency exit. We will only do so with the agreement and co-ordination of the heads of the churches."

## Family readies for ministry in war-torn Angola

By Corrie Cutrer  
SBC International Mission Board

LISBON, Portugal (BP)—Iona McHaney loves to play.

At her preschool in Lisbon, Portugal, she fits in quite nicely with the other 4-year-olds who play alongside her—so nicely, in fact, that it's sometimes hard to believe she isn't Portuguese.

It's even harder to imagine that soon she and her family will be missionaries in Angola, a battle-scarred country in southern Africa recently identified as the worst place in the world for children.

Iona and her two sisters are headed to the war-torn country with parents Scot and Leslie McHaney.

Moving to Portugal to prepare for missionary service in Angola forced the family to adjust to a different country and culture. But the move to Angola after language study will demand all the flexibility and faith the family can muster.

War has ravaged Angola for almost four decades. The conflict began when Angola asserted its independence from Portugal in 1961. The war for independence lasted until 1975, when Portugal—emptied of finances and full of its own political turmoil—relinquished power.

But freedom did not translate into peace for the Angolans. Civil war immediately broke out between a Marxist force supported by Soviet and Cuban troops and an anticommunist group backed by the United States and South Africa.

Nearly a quarter century later, the

battle continues.

The prolonged conflict has taken its toll on the Angolan people. Millions are dead, and hundreds of thousands of civilians still flee villages under attack.

Camps of refugees lace the outskirts of Luanda, Angola's overpopulated capital.

Clyde Berkley, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Richmond-based associate to missionaries in southern Africa, tried explaining the rough circumstances to the McHaney family when they first said they sensed God calling them to Angola.

"I said everything I could to try to convince them not to go," Berkley remembers. "I wanted them to realize how bad a situation it is—so they would know what they were getting themselves into. But they are confident God wants them there."

The McHaney family are so confident that they don't flinch when they hear news about the bleak state of affairs in Angola.

The United Nations, for example, issued a report in mid-July pinpointing Angola as the worst country in the world for a child to grow up in.

Polio is a serious concern. Almost 100 children died of the crippling disease this past year in Luanda alone.

"We have obvious concerns for our children," McHaney says, "but there are advantages as well. They will grow up knowing there are people who need the gospel. They will see how Jesus does change lives. And they will realize that the little they do in faith can make a big dif-

ference in our world."

The McHaney family will work as strategy coordinators in Luanda to reach various people groups. They join two other couples already serving in Luanda as Southern Baptist missionaries.

Eddie and Janice Ray are strategy coordinators for all of Angola. "The situation has deteriorated to the point that U.N. monitoring teams have completely pulled out of Angola," Ray says.

They work alongside Thomas and Janice Brown, who serve as maintenance and construction workers, and with Donald and Carol Minshew, who are based in nearby Namibia.

The Browns facilitate the work of other missionaries in the region. Brown says he recognizes the importance of missionaries ministering in a place where the needs are so great. "The people are hurting and they need to know somebody cares about them."

Limitations define daily life in Angola. As nationals try to cope with the uncertainty and oppression often accompanied by war, the missionaries say they wait in expectation for God to heal the hearts of a broken people.

"When peace does come for the people and the country of Angola, it will be a new day," Ray says.

Until then, the Browns, Rays and McHaney family resolve to continue in the work God has put before them.

"We are in the nail-scarred hands of Christ," McHaney says. "And come what may, we do not want to be anywhere else."

### WORLD VIEW

■ The British Army will spend more than \$3 million to hire more chaplains after an internal study revealed the army's effectiveness could be in jeopardy because of a lack of spiritual and moral values among the troops. Under the plan, enough chaplains will be hired to staff each unit with its own chaplain, who will travel with the troops. "We are in the business of war for the purpose of peace and you cannot begin to understand your place in this business unless you have clear moral understanding," said Brig. Sebastian Roberts, an army spokesman.

■ Forty-four religious groups and some constitutional scholars in Bulgaria are opposing a draft law that would grant special status to the Orthodox Church. The bill, approved in a first reading by the Bulgarian National Assembly last month, would create a two-tiered system of state recognition of religious groups. Only the Orthodox Church would be granted full religious freedom and be afforded a "special place" in Bulgarian law. The law would give power to local authorities to determine where a church building could be located and impose fines for religious activities for unregistered groups.

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Urgent need:** Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Lewiston, Maine, needs a construction crew to replace the roof on the church building. Contact the KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ **Urgent need:** South Coast Community Church in Portland, Maine, needs volunteers to construct a meeting facility. Contact the KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ **Volunteers needed in Maine Baptist Association.** Check out the association's new Web site for more information: [www.mainesbc.org](http://www.mainesbc.org).

■ **Members of a sewing class and Bible study led by missionary Pauline Eardensohn in Mbeya, Tanzania.**

■ **Wisdom for members of three new preaching points at Kiberegbe, Bomani and Mang'ula, Tanzania, as they look for permanent meeting places for worship and Bible study.**

■ **Missionaries Steven and Deborah Reece in Gliwice, Poland, as results of their work seem slow in coming.**

■ **Susan Carson and the student ministry in Warsaw, Poland.**

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Harrods Fork Church called **Landon Hadley** as pastor.

Mt. Washington Church called **Jimmy York** as pastor beginning March 19. York previously served as pastor of Brownsville Church.

■ **GOSHEN**—Liberty Church called **Howard Bagley** of Mt. Washington as pastor.

■ **LA GRANGE**—DeHaven Memorial Church called **Matt Stephens** as children's minister. **Anthony Rose** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the **Journeymen** from Shepherdsville March 26, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Crescent Hill Church will host Sun-

day evening concerts March 19-April 21, 6:30 p.m.: March 19, **Michael Tunnell** and **Meme Tunnell**; March 26, **Stanley Warren**, **Louie Bailey**; April 9, **Laura Lea Duckworth**, **Allison Hammons**, **Louis Bailey**, **Jubilation Ringers** and **CHBC orchestra**; April 16, choral tribute to **Robert Shaw**. For information, call (502) 896-4425. **Ron Sisk** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will host "Homeward Bound," a music drama March 24, 7:30 p.m. and March 26, 7 p.m. Dinner available March 26, 5:30 p.m. For reservations, call (502) 239-0316. **Linda Barnes** is pastor.

Woodland Church will host a men & boys' breakfast March 18, 8 a.m., featuring ventriloquist **Mark McClintock**. **Mike Sharp** is pastor. Also the

church hosted a winter Bible study with **Bill Cubine** as teacher. Average attendance was 43.

■ **MAYFIELD**—First Church called **Matthew Williams** as minister to students. **Bob Swift** is pastor.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will host revival services March 19-22. **Jeff Eaton** will be the evangelist. For information, call (270) 389-1042. **Mark Galloway** is pastor.

■ **NORTONVILLE**—Nortonville Church called **Bobby Reno** as pastor. Reno previously served at Cherry Hill Church in Muhlenburg County.

■ **PENDLETON**—Sligo Church will ordain **Earl Perry** to the gospel ministry. **Perry** will serve as pastoral care minister. **Robert Franklin** is pastor.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Dover Church called **Thomas Leach** as pastor. Leach previously was a Bowling Green policeman.

■ **SYMSONIA**—Clarks River called **Don Gregory** as pastor.

## George Beasley-Murray dies

George Beasley-Murray, 83, a New Testament scholar and former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, died Feb. 23 in England.

Beasley-Murray was professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern from 1973-1980.

An author, he wrote more than 20 books on New Testament themes, many of which have been published in the United States. His final publication was the revised edition of his "Word Commentary on John," which he finished just six months before his death.

Beasley-Murray was often in demand for teaching January Bible studies. He and his wife, Ruth, were members of St. Matthews Baptist Church while they lived in Louisville.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**NEEDED:** Join mission team returning to rural mountain village in Ecuador, July 19-31. Seeking dentists, optometrists, physicians, translators and laborers. Contact Tim Scott at (606) 223-7441 or [doctimscott@hotmail.com](mailto:doctimscott@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Executive director. Ministries United in South Central Louisville (MUSCL) is currently accepting applications for its executive director's position. Bachelor's degree with experience is required; MSW or MDiv is preferred. Experience in administration and working with a board is helpful. Position requires someone able to work with a diverse population. Duties include: planning, designing and implementing programs; networking with community churches, business and civic groups and governmental organizations; supervising and supporting staff; acting as liaison with funding sources and administering grants. Salary is \$25,000 to \$27,000 plus benefits. Interested applicants need to send a resumé to: MUSCL Search Committee, 1207 Hart Ave., Louisville, KY 40213. Deadline for submission is April 1, 2000.

**SEEKING:** Director of student ministries, Samford University. Devise and implement a ministry to students at a private Christian university in Birmingham, Ala., with historic ties to the Alabama Baptist State Convention. Master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school required. Must have previous experience in ministry to students in the university or local church context. Experience in the following areas is strongly desired: leadership formation, counseling, creative outreach and international missions. Recruit and train students for summer missions work. Must implement effective promotion of student ministries programs and activities, and must cultivate an appreciation for religious, denominational, ethnic and cultural diversity. Send resumé by March 31 to: Dr. James Barnette, Minister to the University, Samford University, Box 292215, Birmingham, AL 35229. E-mail: [jrbarnette@samford.edu](mailto:jrbarnette@samford.edu).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Hall Street Baptist Church, 1102 Hall St., Owensboro, KY 42303, Attn: Music Search Committee.

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

**SEEKING:** President of Baptist Foundation of S.C. Located in Columbia, S.C., the foundation is strongly committed to continuing the work of Baptists through the management of endowments and trusts that benefit agencies, institutions and churches of the S.C. Baptist Convention. The foundation also assists individuals through estate planning and living trusts. The successful candidate will be an individual of integrity, wisdom and vision, with significant experience in financial management through a knowledge of planned giving, ability to articulate the importance of Christian values in today's financial environment, effective business development skills and thorough knowledge of fiduciary management and investments. Application materials consisting of a resumé and a letter describing interest will be accepted immediately. Inquires, nominations and applications should be sent in confidence by March 30 to: Dr. Lonnie H. Shull, Presidential Search Committee, 400 State St., West Columbia, SC 29169. EOE.

**SEEKING:** Full-time staff member to work with music, youth and children in growing church. Dry Ridge is in a growing area and has great potential in all three of these areas. A church parsonage is available if desired, and salary will be determined by experience, qualifications and need. If you are interested, please inquire by telephone: (606) 824-5501 or 824-9229, or send resumé to: Dry Ridge Baptist Church, 19 Broadway, PO #14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

**SEEKING:** Individuals with secretarial experience and computer application skills to work in temporary positions. Contact: Administrative Services Dept., Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Dr. Tom Stokes, Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159. Or call (270) 563-4011.

**SEEKING:** Day care director with emphasis in children's ministry. Logan Street Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Ill. Applicant must have 60 semester hours from an accredited college or university with 18 semester hours related directly to child care and/or child development from birth to age 6; or two years' experience with 30 semester hours including 10 semester hours related to early childhood development. Send resumé and copy of transcript to: Logan Street Baptist Church, 601 S 21 St., Mt. Vernon, IL, 62864, Attn: Day Care Director Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 506, Hindman, KY 41822, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Pastor of lay ministries and pastoral care to coordinate, supervise and provide leadership and encouragement to all lay ministries of the church. Also, to provide training and serve as a resource for ministries whose responsibilities are to provide care for those with various spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Send resumé with references to: Personnel Committee, Living Hope Baptist Church, 1805 Western Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104. For church profile: [www.lhbg.org](http://www.lhbg.org).

**SEEKING:** FBC, Bronston, Ky., is prayerfully seeking applications for pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, FBC, 401 Highway 790, Bronston, KY 42518.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor for Lake View Baptist Church, 320 Drake Road, Fairview Heights, IL 62208 (St. Louis area). Contact person: Nancy Hodge, (618) 235-4000. Fax resumé to (618) 235-9828.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education. Comprehensive benefits package. Experience preferred but not mandatory. Send resumé to: Pleasant View Baptist Church, 1834 U.S. 70E, Morganton, NC 28655, or fax to (828) 437-2103.

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

**SEEKING:** Youth minister for a vibrant, growing suburban church. Youth group of 80+ has significant opportunity for growth. Seminary degree required. Send resumé and cover letter indicating general philosophy of youth ministry to: First Baptist Church of Newport News, 12716 Warwick Blvd., Newport News, VA 23606. Or submit documents via e-mail by sending them to [staff@fbcnn.org](mailto:staff@fbcnn.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Piney Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 1563, Corbin, KY 40701, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

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

**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:** 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:** 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.

**DIRECTORY:** One of America's most respected church directory companies is now offering a professionally done pictorial directory for your church that allows you to keep your membership roll, pictures, committees and other information in one book, and it can be kept up-to-date. For more information, call Jim Hensley at (800) 500-6526, ext. 777.

**FOR SALE:** RENA DA 300 direct address printer (top-of-the-line in barcode printers). Like new. \$800. Call the Temperance League of Kentucky at (502) 635-0002.

## Missionary helps pastors face challenges

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

FORSYTH, Mont.—It's not every church where a bright yellow Piper Super Cub airplane could pull up in the parking lot on a Sunday morning.

But at Alzaida Baptist Church in the southeast corner of Montana they're getting used to it. That just means that the director of missions, Mike McKinney, is visiting. He lands on the highway in front of the church.

Welcome to eastern Montana, where wheat and cows are plentiful but people—clustered in small communities like Alzaida—are relatively scarce. The 29 churches and missions McKinney assists in the Big Sky and Hi-Line Baptist associations cover a 64,000-square-mile area larger than the entire state of Kentucky. And the single-engine aircraft he pilots is about the only thing that allows him to cover it effectively.

McKinney and his wife, Martha—both Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries—are among those whose work are being featured for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

McKinney said it was during seminary in the mid-1970s that he first felt the call to missions in the Northwest, after hearing Alaska Baptist Convention executive Troy Prince speak of the needs.

"Every time a church called me I always told them that some day I am going to (do) missions work in the Northwest," McKinney said.

Then in 1991 the opportunity came to serve as pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Missoula in western Montana. Three years later he was asked to serve as director of missions for the two associations that make up most of the state's eastern half.

"I needed 22 years of experience as a pastor to know how to work with pastors, and to help them with the difficulties and situations in their churches," he said. The experience also has been helpful in securing volunteers and partnering churches to help with the work.

Unlike farther west, Eastern Montana is a desolate land of large ranches producing cattle, sheep or wheat.

The isolation can be stressful for pastors, so fellowship is important. Regular meetings are well-attended, and McKinney also makes an effort to visit pastors regularly.

The challenges are particularly difficult because pastors' families in most cases must adjust to a bivocational lifestyle. Pastors can be found driving trucks, working on ranches, doing construction or anything else that gets the bills paid.

"Wherever they are they just look for whatever is available to supplement their income," McKinney said.

The churches in Montana are small primarily because there just aren't many people, McKinney said. But even so, the independent spirit that goes along with such wide-open spaces also makes it hard for many people to accept the need for a relationship with God.

"They work hard, have good morals, good families, but it's hard for them to see the need of a relationship with Christ," he said.

Evangelism, therefore, is almost exclusively a matter of building relation-



**NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS** Mike McKinney, director of missions for the Big Sky and Hi-Line Baptist associations in Montana, often travels by plane in his ministry to 29 churches and missions in eastern Montana. The two associations cover an area larger than Kentucky. The single-engine aircraft he pilots is about the only thing that allows him to cover it effectively. "I needed 22 years of experience as a pastor to know how to work with pastors, and to help them with the difficulties and situations in their churches," he said. Challenges can include loneliness, hard winters and slow growth of churches.

ships over time. "It requires them seeing the genuineness of your faith. You've got to come alongside them and work beside them. . . . You build a relationship with them, and as you do so you win the right to share with them about the Lord."

McKinney often can be found doing just that himself as well. On the cattle ranches, for instance, it is not unusual for one or two men in a family to operate an entire ranch of tens of thousands of acres. Then when it comes time for the fall roundup or spring branding, all of the ranchers pitch in to help each other. McKinney often finds himself herding cattle right alongside them.

Because of the value placed on relationships, McKinney has found special fellowship events particularly successful for drawing people. Last year, for instance, he received a tremendous response from his efforts to bring the traditional Texas barbecue to Montana.

Although most of his efforts are geared toward strengthening existing congregations, McKinney regularly acts as a catalyst for churches to reproduce themselves in nearby communities that often do not have any evangelical church presence.

"I say to the pastors, 'You and I are going to develop a plan to start a Bible

study, even if it's just once a month,'" he said. The pastor will then lead the study, which eventually may grow to a weekly study. If the people see the need, a church eventually will take shape. McKinney himself is leading a Bible study near Cohagen, a small ranch community about 40 miles north of his home in Forsyth.

Despite the hardships of working in Montana, McKinney said the list of applicants is surprisingly long. The problem, he said, is that some pastors want to come for the wrong reasons: they need a change in their ministry, or the potential for adventure seems appealing.

When the winters hit, and the excitement fades, they find themselves wanting to go home. Finding pastors who truly are called is the challenge.

In the end, however, those who are truly called stay and thrive. For Mrs. McKinney as well, that is what makes the difference.

"Just knowing that we're doing what God has called us to do is of course rewarding," she said. "Sometimes things don't go how you hoped they would go . . . but overall it is a joy to see churches ministering to communities, and knowing that we have had a part in helping them."

## Seminary soccer team has more in mind than just winning games

By Bryan Cribb  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)—The players gasp for breath. After playing almost an hour of indoor soccer, the exhausted seminary students of the "SBTS Crew" struggle for their second, third and fourth wind.

The Crew's February game versus a U.S. Army team from Fort Knox, Ky., is tied with little more than five minutes to play. The battle to win intensifies, but these players have a greater goal than just scoring goals.

As part of the Mockingbird Valley Soccer Club, 10 students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville are seeking to proclaim Christ while playing in the community indoor soccer league—winning converts to Christianity while winning games.

In the game with Fort Knox, the Crew fell short of the second objective. The game ended in a tie. But the Crew left satisfied, knowing steps had been taken toward scoring their primary goal—evangelism.

"We get to do the two things we love the most—share Jesus with other people and play soccer," said student Barry Lagg.

The idea of combining soccer and evangelism was first raised by Lagg, who had played soccer in college and is part of a soccer missions team that travels around the world.

When several Southern students began playing regularly at the seminary, Lagg suggested they use their soccer talents to open doors to share the gospel.

The Crew's evangelism strategy focuses on praying with the other team before the game and getting to know the other players during the season.

Sharing Christ in the soccer subculture has proved challenging to the members of the Crew. Consumption of alcohol—which is sold at the club—and drugs are not uncommon among some of the players.

With the Crew's identification with Christianity comes the necessity of a consistent Christian witness on the field.

"Our praying before lets them know who we are, so we have to back it up," explained Stoney Douthitt, a master of divinity student from Paducah. "We can't afford to act inconsistently."

But in the heat of the moment in a sometimes-violent sport, composure can be difficult to maintain—especially, Douthitt said, "when they score on you in the last 25 seconds."

"You can be a very strong witness to your opponents, to your teammates and to spectators when you emerge from those challenges and maintain a Christ-centeredness in your life."

The team's level of play has also bolstered the Crew's witness. Their record is 1-1-1.

"One of our fears is that we would get into the league and wouldn't be any good at all," Douthitt said, "and they would just laugh at these preacher boys that had this idea of playing soccer."

But after the recent game with Fort Knox, one soldier expressed his surprise at the Crew's competitiveness.

"One guy asked me, 'Are you sure you're a religious group?'" Douthitt recalled. "I said, 'Yes, why?' And he said, 'Because you guys are kind of violent.'"

"I take what he meant by that is that he was surprised that people that would go by the name of Christian would not be weak people," he added. "We have developed a respect among the teams."

After the games, Southern's players try to capitalize on this respect by developing relationships with players. After a recent game, students from Cameroon exchanged phone numbers with one of the Fort Knox players from Sierra Leone.

Crew supporters also have joined in the witnessing efforts. Spouses, friends and kids have an opportunity to interact with the opposing team's supporters before and during the game.

The Crew's successes in both their evangelism and athletic efforts have come as a surprise, Douthitt said. "It's almost amazing that we can play together the way we do."

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