

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 29

## Studies: 20 percent of Web surfers clicking onto porn

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP)—Two surveys of Internet pornography use show a growing addiction ensnaring millions of Americans and threatening the health of churches, public safety and national productivity.

Both surveys found that a fifth of American adults who use the Internet visit sexually oriented Web sites.

An official for the Family Research Council said Internet porn sites contribute to such problems as sex crimes, abortion and marital discord.

Released March 21, the latest survey of more than 1,000 adults reveals 20 percent of American adults—as many as 40 million people—click on sexually oriented Web sites. Conducted March 8-10 by the New York-based polling firm of Zogby International, the study was commissioned by Focus on

the Family.

Eighteen percent of respondents who are married visit such sites. Almost the same percentage who called themselves born-again Christians told Zogby they indulge in online pornography.

However, since Christians represented just a fifth of the respondents, the statistical sample is too small to yield an accurate estimate of the number involved, said Steve Watters, an Internet research analyst at Focus on the Family.

Still, Watters said it is clear pornography represents a growing problem the church should address.

The Colorado Springs, Colo., ministry receives 100 calls, letters and e-mails a month about porn-related issues, he said. One of every five calls to its

pastoral care line deals with pornography or Internet problems.

"One of 10 people you see in your church will have visited a sexually oriented Web site," Watters said. "If churches recognize this, we hope it will be easier to bring up in Sunday school and accountability groups.

"What we hear from counselors is people don't get help until they get caught. We hope the church will take a proactive stance and help ward off problems before they get serious. We suspect it is a growing problem."

Ironically, while millions are lured by the idea of finding sexual fulfillment, nearly two-thirds of those polled agree that isn't possible.

In addition, increasing numbers of people are contacting the ministry, com-



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plaining of online porn damaging their marriages, Watters said.

"Viewing pornographic images online or trading intimate messages in chat rooms may seem like 'harmless entertainment' at first," noted James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family.

"However, these activities can quickly lead to the addiction and compulsive behavior that poison relationships in the real world," he said. "Many marriages have already been destroyed as men and women have been lured away from their spouses by online fantasies."

□ See *Studies: 20 percent ...*, page 8



**MISSIONARY** Paul Wells, pastor of Friendship Baptist Mission in Fairbanks, Alaska, goes over a budget proposal with church member Johnna Underwood. The church has Anglos, Native Alaskans, Koreans, Hispanics, African-Americans and representatives of other ethnic groups who worship together to celebrate the message of Christ. "It isn't about culture, it's about Christ," Wells said. He and his wife, Sharon, are among the missionaries whose work is profiled for the 2000 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$47 million. (Photo by James Dotson)

## Missiologists: Cooperation required to win world

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

ABILENE, Texas (ABP)—A chaotically changing world calls for renewed cooperation in missions, speakers stressed during a recent missions conference at Hardin-Simmons University.

The 21st century presents the greatest challenge for missions the church has ever known, insisted Bill O'Brien, recently retired director of Samford University's Global Center.

That challenge can be seen through the "dimensions of migration," he said.

To begin with, God is the "God of

missio-migrants," faithful people who are on the move and on mission for God, O'Brien explained. For example, the story of salvation history begins with God telling the Hebrew patriarch Abraham, "Get up and go."

An almost-chaotic pattern of global movement or migration characterizes the world today, he said, citing a range of examples:

- Political, environmental and economic refugees number in the multimillions and shape national and international policy around the globe, he reported.

- Information will travel at the speed of light, and \$1.5 trillion changes hands daily, as "cybercurrency" is

exchanged over the Internet.

- Because information equates into power, transnational corporations, not national governments, are the seats of power.

- Diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, ebola, hepatitis C and AIDS circle the globe.

- Technology, particularly biotechnology, presents humanity with ethical challenges much more rapidly than the church can respond.

With all these and other global challenges, "frustration is migrating like crazy," O'Brien added. Frustration crops up in tribalism and ethnicity, which produces ethnic cleansing,

□ See *Missiologists: Reaching ...*, page 7

## LaCenter couple waiting for God's next call after Russia, Poland

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LA CENTER—Although illness will cut short their service as field coordinators of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with Baptists in Poland, Larry and Joy Lindsey say they are optimistic as they await God's next assignment.

Mrs. Lindsey already has returned to her husband's West Kentucky hometown, where the couple attends First Baptist Church of La Center when not traveling to recruit volunteers. He will be in Poland until April 7, packing their belongings and hosting a pair of mission teams.

The Lindseys are most familiar to Kentucky Baptists for their work in processing many of the 1,500 volunteers who participated in the partnership with Russian Baptists from 1994-98.

"Of course, there is some disappointment," said Mrs. Lindsey, who couldn't return to Poland after beginning cancer treatment late last year. "We've been living on the mission field for six years. But I trust God with my life and believe He is in control."

In a telephone interview from his Warsaw residence, Lindsey said he hasn't determined his future plans. God has called him to preach, he said, but he is uncertain whether that means as a pastor or director of missions.

Despite the sadness of winding down their ministry there, Lindsey said he's thrilled with the spiritual hunger and anticipation he has seen among Polish pastors and Christians.

□ See *Kentucky couple ...*, page 3

# BAPTISTS

## Day of prayer, fasting focuses on Hindus

**"The good news of God's saving love in Jesus, the Savior, may be offensive to some, but never was it our intent to express that love in an offensive way."**

*SBC International Mission Board statement apologizing for offending Hindus*

RICHMOND, Va.—Southern Baptists' 14th annual Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization will focus on India's 850 million Hindus. The 24-hour period of prayer and fasting will be held from 6 p.m. Friday, June 9, to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 10.

The 2000 emphasis follows last year's release of a controversial prayer booklet published by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board that also focused on prayer for Hindus.

That booklet, released to coincide with Diwali, Hindus' annual Festival of Lights, followed an equally controversial prayer guide urging prayer for Jews during their holy season.

In a statement released last fall, IMB officials apologized for offending Hindus.

"It is distressing to us that elements of the guide may have offended our Hindu neighbors, and for that we are profoundly sorry," the statement said. "We understand that the good news of God's saving love in Jesus, the Savior, may be offensive to some, but never was it our intent to express that love in an offensive way."

Speaking two weeks later at South-

ern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, IMB President Jerry Rankin said, "We have come to realize the blindness of our love as never before in the last few months."

He said Hindus were "absolutely irate, demonstrating before many of our Southern Baptist churches all throughout the nation of India and Nepal—totally offended that somebody would be so arrogant as to claim access to truth and to care enough that the eyes of the world be opened to know the truth that we know in Jesus Christ."

Rankin and Fasting shows Southern Baptists want all the world's people to hear about salvation through Christ.

"We are so grateful for Southern Baptists' love for Christ and the people of the world," he said. "Their unflinching commitment to pray for the unreached peoples of the world is the key to preparing and opening a way for the gospel to reach them."

Southern Baptists who pray for Hindus play an important part in getting the gospel to unsaved millions, said an IMB worker in India.

"For many years, I have longed for

God's love and truth to be focused on the Hindus of India through the concentrated intercession of God's people," said the worker, whose name was withheld for security reasons. "I joyfully expect God to use our prayers as part of His plan to bring peace, freedom, love and joy into the lives of hundreds of millions of Hindus."

In spite of barriers like the Hindu caste system, a multitude of languages and illiteracy, God is at work in India, the worker said.

"God is enabling His people to build bridges across which His love and grace can move into India's various people groups," he said. "The story of God's love—demonstrated in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins—is good news to Hindu India."

"Your prayers will be used by God not only to shine the light of His love into individual Hindu hearts but also to transform India into a land of hope and a beacon of light to the world."

A free prayer kit is available to churches participating in the Day of Prayer and Fasting. To order the kit, e-mail resource.center@imb.org or call (800) 866-3621.

## Baptists help lead manhood, womanhood event

By Herb Hollinger  
Baptist Press

DALLAS (BP)—More than 800 evangelical pastors and lay leaders, including Southern Baptists, heard a call for "clarity, conviction and courage in biblical manhood and womanhood" at a national conference March 20-22 in Dallas.

The conference was described as "the first nationwide gathering of leaders who hold to and defend a complementary view of biblical manhood and womanhood in the home," according to an official of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, one of the sponsors of the event.

Leaders of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville played a prominent role in the conference. Bruce Ware, associate dean of Southern's school of theology, was elected last year as council president. He and Danny Akin, dean of Southern's school of theology, were among workshop leaders.

Randy Stinson, a doctoral student at Southern, was named the council's ex-

ecutive director. Seminary President Al Mohler is a member of the council.

Other Southern Baptist leaders involved in the conference included SBC President Paige Patterson and Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., delivered the conference's closing message, urging participants to stand "courageously in your home, church and community" for the biblical model.

Patterson and his wife, Dorothy, also participated in a panel discussion on "How Submission Works in Practice."

Several speakers commended the SBC for adding a family statement in 1998 to the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Wayne Grudem, chairman of the department of biblical and systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., and a council founder, began the conference with a defense of the complementary view of the manhood-womanhood relationship.

Citing the "key issues" of the view, Grudem said:

■ Men and women are equal in value.

■ Men and women have different roles in marriage as part of the biblical order.

■ There is both equality and differences in the Trinity.

■ The differences are good; the created order is fair.

■ It is a matter of obedience.

■ Controversy over the issue is "much bigger than we realize because it touches all of life."

Dennis Rainey, executive director of FamilyLife in Little Rock, Ark., a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, said, "No nation can rise above the spiritual condition of its families. Today, U.S. families are weak in the understanding of the spiritual life."

Rainey challenged leaders to "seize the Internet for the family and marriages in your community." Churches must become family and marriage equipping centers, he said, and they must be the "guardian and protector of the marriage covenant."

## Mohler labels Catholic faith 'false gospel'

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Differences between evangelicals and Catholics are as pronounced today as they've ever been, Al Mohler said March 22 on CNN's "Larry King Live" show.

"As an evangelical, I believe that the Roman Church is a false church and it teaches a false gospel," said Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "Indeed, I believe that the pope himself holds a false and unbiblical office."

The show's specific topic was Pope John Paul II's visit to the Holy Land, but panelists also addressed relationships among Catholics, evangelicals and Jews.

Other guests included Donald Carson of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill.; Father Gregory Coiro of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Father William Byron of Georgetown University in Washington; and Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of "When Bad Things Happen to Good People."

One of the problems with the papacy as a whole, Mohler said, is its claim to both temporal and spiritual power, which he called a "dangerous mixture."

"The larger problem I have with the pope—this pope in particular—however, is how he has redefined Christianity and the gospel," he said. "He has actually embraced all monotheists, both Jews and followers of Islam, as long as they're sincere within the penumbra of the gospel. That is just unbiblical."

While Coiro and Byron said someone who doesn't believe in Christ could be saved if they lived a good life, Mohler disagreed.

"I can understand the desire on the part of many theologians and many groups to try to find another way to embrace other persons who do not know Christ," Mohler said. "But the Scripture itself is just emphatically clear that salvation is in the name of Jesus Christ and in His name alone."

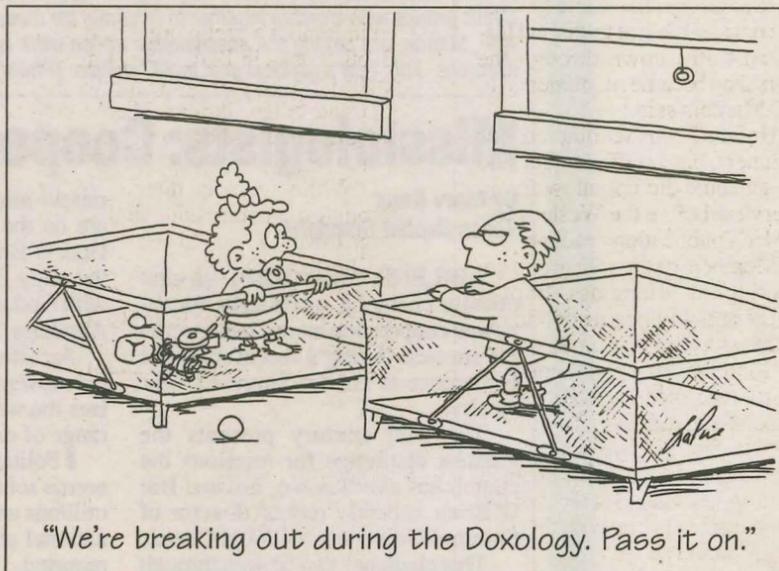
### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Dilday announces retirement.** Russell Dilday, whose 1994 firing as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was a defining moment in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy of the past 20 years, is retiring after six years as a professor at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. Dilday, 69, will retire in August as professor of homiletics and special assistant to the president. He previously served 16 years as president of Southwestern Seminary before being fired by conservative trustees.

■ **Former missionary honored in Singapore.** Charles Carroll, a former Southern Baptist international missionary, is being hailed as a national hero in Singapore for relief efforts to

earthquake victims in Turkey. Carroll, pastor of Community of Praise Baptist Church in Singapore, is credited with spearheading fund-raising efforts for victims of two major earthquakes last year that left 17,000 people dead and 600,000 homeless. Carroll and his wife, Sharon, served 13 years as Southern Baptist international missionaries before being fired by International Mission Board officials in 1995 for charismatic worship practices.

■ **LifeWay launches e-business focus.** Tim Vineyard, vice president of a Tennessee firm specializing in computer Internet services, has been named to direct the new e-business group at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Vineyard, 43, will be responsible for developing LifeWay's Internet presence.



"We're breaking out during the Doxology. Pass it on."

## Doctrinal issues lead to split at Lexington church

LEXINGTON—More than 300 members of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church met Sunday to form their own congregation after splitting because of Baptist doctrinal issues, a deacon said.

"It's been worse than losing a dear family member through death," said Lewis Marcum, 72.

Last month, Marcum led more than 200 people in a walkout from a worship service, claiming Pastor Russell Howard preached heresy. Key points of contention included the church's origin.

"I guess we are the most conservative of the lot, and we believe that the (Baptist) church was founded by the Lord during the days of His ministry and the apostles' and has perpetual existence ever since," Marcum said. "And our pastor started out with the theory that it did not exist until the 16th century and that we (Baptists) came out of the Reformation."

After the initial walkout, Howard and Marcum met and agreed to a statement on the history of the Christian church. Afterward, Howard said he was wholly reconciled with Marcum.

Marcum said some members also took issue with Howard's views on closed communion (whether to limit the Lord's Supper exclusively to local church members) and rebaptism (whether or not to always require baptism of a new member from a non-Baptist, though like-minded church). But Marcum said it was Howard's theology related to the church that led to the split.

Specifically, Marcum said Howard defined the word "ecclesia" as sometimes referring to the worldwide body of Christians and not just a local church. Another point of contention was whether John the Baptist baptized Jesus' apostles, Marcum added.

When members voted 402-316 to support Howard, Marcum and others decided to leave. The doctrinal issues "seem like very small problems to a lot of people, but to those of us who have held to what we consider biblical truths and historical truths down through the years they became monumental to us," Marcum said.

Howard was contacted for comment, but a staff member said his schedule did not allow for an interview before the Western Recorder's publication deadline.

Members of the split group are meeting at Bluegrass Baptist school and will begin soon to organize as a church. Some, including Marcum, suggested going to court over the church's name, property and money.

"We feel like we're Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, but not in location," he said. But most of the group want to get on with their future, Marcum added.

## Appalachian ministry programs identified

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Initiatives such as health ministries and church starting are among the projects organizers are emphasizing for the 10-state program for Baptist missions in Appalachia.

Appalachian Regional Ministry is seeking to link ministries with volunteers to strengthen Baptists' Christian witness throughout the region. Representatives from the 10 participating state conventions recently met in Louisville to discuss goals and programs.

The participating state conventions are offering leadership for Appalachian Regional Ministry to work with local Baptist associations and national Baptist agencies such as Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Executive Director Tommy Goode said ARM leaders identified eight initiatives for ministry focus. They are:

■ **Collegiate ministry.** Organizers want to mobilize volunteers to serve as campus ministry leaders, to lead ministry evangelism events on cam-

pus and to mobilize Baptist students for local missions work.

■ **Health care.** Officials hope to develop awareness of the needs in Appalachia, identify a network of healthcare professionals and support existing ministries while developing new medical missions models.

■ **Literacy.** Goode said ARM wants to respond to the high adult illiteracy and school dropout rates in Appalachia which he called "unacceptably high." ARM will seek to train volunteers for literacy missions, especially participation in Woman's Missionary Union's ministry emphasis, "Project Help: Literacy," for 2002.

■ **Resort, leisure, fairs.** ARM hopes to position ministry leaders in water and ski resort destinations to organize evangelistic outreach efforts, Goode said. Volunteer teams also will be sought to conduct evangelism outreach ministries for local fairs and festivals, he added.

■ **Community impact.** ARM will seek to offer ministries that improve the quality of life for people in economically deprived communities, Goode said. One component will be World Changers, volunteer teams organized by NAMB to do house

repair and renovation. ARM also wants to mobilize churches to respond to their communities through ministry evangelism, he added.

■ **Church planting.** ARM wants to recruit volunteers as church planters, mission church pastors and mission church "strengtheners." The effort also involves mission teams helping new churches with construction and ministry projects

■ **Partnerships and prayer networks.** By linking churches to other churches and associations to other associations, ARM hopes to increase prayer and physical support for ministries, Goode said. Partnerships also would help identify churches willing to help start new works in an unreached communities as well as develop relationships of caring and support for those new starts, Goode said.

■ **Church revitalization.** ARM wants to see if it can help associations and state conventions with their programs to strengthen plateaued and declining churches in the region, Goode said.

For more information, contact Goode at the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, (304) 757-0944.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Georgetown College** will host Crossroads, a spiritual renewal conference April 2-5. Rene Rochester, founder and president of the ministry Urban SET, will be the guest speaker. Admission is free. For more information, call Georgetown at (502) 863-8174

■ **Cumberland College's** Christian lecture series will feature Baptist author and ethicist David Gushee, April 10-11. For more information, call the school's religion and philosophy department at (606) 539-4261.

■ **Campbellsville** University announced it will offer full-tuition scholarships for the children of Southern Baptist missionaries. Students must qualify for the MK School Allowance-Post Secondary, formerly known as the Margaret Fund, officials said. For more information, contact the admissions department at (270) 789-5220 or (800) 264-6014.

## Kentucky couple waits for God's next mission call

Continued from page 1

"It's fun to be in a place where the Lord is at work," said Lindsey, who has welcomed more than 100 Kentuckians to Poland during the past year. "To let me in on what He's doing is exciting. There's something great that's going to happen here, no doubt about it."

While they had been on mission trips to such countries as Kenya, Brazil and the Bahamas, the Lindseys were new to the partnership program when they went to Russia.

Their involvement originated in 1992, when Larry—then pastor of Plumb Creek Baptist Church in Spencer County—said he felt a strong desire to take advantage of post-Communist mission opportunities.

That led to a search that culminated in joining a group organized by a Baptist pastor in Texas. They traveled to the Crimea, part of the former Soviet state of the Ukraine. There Lindsey preached and did street evangelism.

"While he was there, driving through the countryside and seeing large towns, he would ask what kind of Christian work was going on," Mrs. Lindsey recalled. The hosts "would say, 'None.' He was impressed with the need and felt God was calling him to work in that part of the world."

While he was overseas, Mrs. Lindsey had a premonition of one day living in Russia. When they learned about each other's experiences, they enrolled in an introductory Russian class at the University of Louisville.

In the spring of 1993, they stopped

by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Middletown office to talk with partnership director Calvin Wilkins. In an early stage of organizing the Russian partnership, Wilkins asked if they would be interested in serving as coordinators.

"We prayed for about 30 seconds and said 'yes,'" Mrs. Lindsey recalled.

First, they had to apply for an International Service Corps appointment, a program administered by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Once in Moscow, their duties included

coordinating the logistics of housing, meals, travel and interpreters, and debriefing teams before they left Russia. During the last half of their term, they were joined by Sarah and Bob Walden.

Members of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, the Waldens took over many administrative duties. They also filled in after Lindsey suffered a collapsed lung in September of 1997 and had to return temporarily to the States.

When the Lindseys went into Russia, "there were so few missionaries, everyone was floundering," Mrs. Walden said. "It was amazing; they were totally dependent on God. There had never been any missionaries in Russia, let alone partnerships. They had to get out and find resources."

Field coordinators are like anchors in a storm, Mrs. Walden added. Americans are used to being in control, but stepping into a strange land feels like reverting to infancy, she said.

"They take you and lead by the

hand," said Mrs. Walden, who met the Lindseys while helping lead a Highview mission team. "It's not that you're not dependent on the Lord, but it's nice to have someone there to tell you what you can do and not do."

That childlike state is a parallel to the simple—yet strong—faith demonstrated by the Russian people, Mrs. Lindsey said. Soon after arriving, she met a group from Central Baptist Church in Moscow who had prayed constantly for 10 years that God would send revival and helpers to the nation.

"God impressed on me that Larry and I were there as an answer to their prayer," she said. "To me, the whole experience of what we and Kentucky Baptists were doing was an answer to prayer."

Their time overseas left Mrs. Lindsey with many valuable lessons, most notably that she can trust in God for all her needs. Material possessions no longer impress her, she said, especially after observing the closeness of Russian families and their contentment amid harsh conditions.

She also learned about the effects of spiritual oppression. Because the Russian people welcomed communism, today Russia is a more godless society than Poland, she said. Still, she urged Kentuckians to pray for the year-old partnership with Poland.

"It's not easy for Baptist work there," she said. "In Russia I wasn't exactly fearful for my life, but I was always concerned about what might happen at any moment."

"I felt more comfortable in Poland. But 98 percent of the people are Roman Catholic. Ask people if they believe in God and they say 'yes'...but they may know nothing about Jesus Christ. It's two different mission fields with different circumstances."



Joy & Larry Lindsey

## 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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## Speak the truth

It used to be that the argument regarding infallibility of Scripture centered around the "autographs"—those original manuscripts penned by the original authors. Those arguing for infallibility maintained that it is these autographs that are infallible.

What I fear has happened is that the argument has moved along a troubling trajectory. To judge by recent letters published in the Western Recorder, it's not the autographs that are infallible. It's not even a particular English language translation of the Bible that is infallible. What's infallible is a particular interpretation of the Bible.

Those running our institutions of higher learning know:

■ The original manuscript "autographs" are long gone, never to be recovered.

■ The earliest substantially complete New Testament dates from about A.D. 400.

■ There are approximately 5,500 known fragments, papyri and lectionaries containing portions of the New Testament, no two of which are exactly alike until the invention of the printing press.

■ Through recopying by hand, these texts became both "improved" and "corrupted."

■ Even Bibles produced by printing presses have contained printing and other errors.

I feel the issue of biblical infallibility has less to do with a quest for truth than with a quest for power and privilege. The truth is no enemy to God. Why can't those who know better speak the truth about the nature of Scripture?

No version, edition or translation of Scripture has ever captured divine

perfection. For example, how many true believers in the sanctity of the King James Version of the Bible know that the original KJV included the deuterocanonical (apocryphal) books?

There may be easy excuses for expressing particular interpretations of the Bible (such as "God said it, I believe it and that settles it!"), but the Bible itself is far richer and more sublime than can be captured in dogmatic pronouncements.

Gary Millsap  
Louisville

## 'God & Bob' offensive

Recently NBC television, after much hoopla, began airing a new program titled "God, the Devil and Bob." As a Southern Baptist pastor and also one who holds to the Judeo-Christian belief that God is to be addressed and referred to with the utmost in respect and reverence, I was deeply offended by NBC's portrayal of God as an animated character

who possesses less-than-perfect knowledge and who is capable of mistakes.

I called my local NBC affiliate, WPSD-TV channel 6 in Paducah, and lodged a complaint against this type of programming. The spokesman at WPSD was very polite and seemingly agreeable to my view, but suggested that the complaint should be forwarded to NBC headquarters in New York. I was amazed and concerned to learn that only about 25 viewers had complained to WPSD about this program.

Generally speaking, my family and I find the content of most TV programming to be less than ideal for the Christian family. My household and I would appreciate some family-oriented programs that do not depict or glo-

rify violence, immorality or homosexuality, and programs that do not present abortion as commonplace, accepted practice.

Our society may have degenerated to the point that the majority of TV viewers enjoy and even demand such trash as is commonly shown over our TV networks, but I doubt it. I believe there are many households that would appreciate programming that would reflect Judeo-Christian values, but our voices need to be heard. Comments about NBC programs may be mailed to: NBC Programming, Viewer Comments, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112.

James-Keeling  
Dexter

**Editor's Note:** WPSD-TV officials have now received more than 200 calls objecting to "God, the Devil and Bob." They have decided to temporarily stop airing the show and will continue to review it for objectionable material. (See page 7 article in the March 21 issue of the Western Recorder.)

## Unanswered questions

A recent article announcing the transfer of funds for the Carver School of Church Social Work from the control of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to Woman's Missionary Union raises questions that deserve answers:

- Why was a gag order necessary concerning the mediation process?
- Who requested, recommended or insisted on a gag order?
- Who mediated the settlement?
- Was a fee paid for mediation? If so, how much?
- What issues were involved that Southern Baptists, the owners of these assets, could not be trusted to know about?

Bill Hancock  
Louisville

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### FAITH at work in Kentucky churches

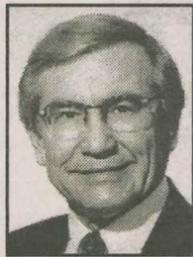
FAITH is a Sunday school-based evangelistic outreach ministry that is working in more than 4,000 Southern Baptist Convention churches. I regularly have received reports about the success of FAITH in Kentucky Baptist Convention churches.

On March 20 I spoke at the Laurel River Association Evangelism Rally. Varlene Stokes, a member of First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt, gave a powerful FAITH testimony. She had always wanted to be a witness and had been to the altar many times requesting prayer.

She rationalized that she would witness through her life rather than through her words because she was afraid that she would offend someone or say the wrong thing if she spoke out. She had great reservations about participating in visitation but was able to overcome her fear through FAITH training.

"I go with great fear and great joy because I know I am obedient," she said. Recently, she and her team as-

sisted a 40-year-old man in confessing his faith in Jesus Christ. "All of the barriers and fears filed in the glory of a transformed life," she exclaimed. She described FAITH as the greatest joy of her life.



Bill Mackey

Her pastor, Ken Felty, believes FAITH is the evangelistic tool that God will use to enable the church to reach its long-range goal of 1,000 people in Sunday school.

Plans are under way to expand educational space to accommodate 600. With assistance from a transportation ministry, more than

100 children participate in mission organizations each Wednesday. Although many parents are not active, a growing number of children are coming on Sunday.

Jammie Woodyard, minister of evangelism and youth, shared that East Bernstadt is in its second cycle of FAITH with 56 participants and near-perfect attendance for Sunday and Wednesday sessions. Nine youth teams (with some adult members as drivers) are showing great

enthusiasm. In the first seven weeks 20 people have prayed to receive Christ. Seventeen have prayed for assurance. There have been 274 attempted visits, 158 visits and conversations with 274 people. Twenty-six people have been enrolled in Sunday school. The Sunday school average attendance for February was 182, compared to 155 one year ago.

Felty believes the church will baptize a record number of people this church year. James Adams, a layperson, is leading an advanced group in FAITH. As one member stated, "FAITH has not only changed lives, it has changed our church."

There are 142 Kentucky Baptist Convention churches involved in FAITH, according to Darryl Wilson, KBC Sunday school department director.

If you are interested in attending a national certification seminar or learning more about FAITH, please contact Darryl Wilson at (502) 254-4730 or (888) 254-5709 or via e-mail at darryl\_wilson@kybaptist.org.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## INSURANCE

### Keys to avoiding common life insurance errors

By Don Spencer

Having adequate life insurance is an essential piece of a person's total financial planning. Without adequate insurance, you're betting your life savings that nothing bad will happen.

In the area of life insurance, there are several mistakes that are frequently made. Many of these mistakes can have serious consequences and all of them could easily be avoided.

■ **Having inadequate insurance.** Life insurance agents can help you determine if your coverage would provide adequately for your survivors. Do you have enough to provide life's necessities for your family? What about education expense for your children? What about burial expenses, medical expenses and other debts?

■ **Naming your estate as beneficiary.** You should name individuals as beneficiaries. This avoids the delay of probate, can reduce expenses and may avoid others having access to some of those funds.

■ **Naming only one beneficiary.** If your beneficiary dies before you (even if only minutes before), the proceeds will be paid to your estate. Be sure secondary beneficiaries are named.

■ **Failing to review policies regularly.** Life insurance needs change. Beneficiary information often needs to be updated. Check your policy at least every three or four years. Does the type of policy still meet your needs? Is the coverage still adequate, or too much?

■ **Having the wrong kind of life insurance product.** Level term or decreasing term? Whole life or universal life? What about variable life? All of these are decisions to be determined by your need. Life insurance contracts, like life insurance agents, are not all alike. The lowest price or the highest possible projected return are not always the mark of the right policy for you.

■ **Making a policy payable to minor children or grandchildren.** A trust or other settlement option appropriate for minor children should be used.

■ **Forgetting that term insurance "runs out" or becomes prohibitively expensive to carry.** Remember that term insurance is by definition for a specific period of time. If it is designed to continue into your later years, it can become quite costly.

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



## How can parents help child focus on homework, grades?

**Q:** We need help with our daughter's school work. She is in the seventh grade and until this year made mostly A's and B's. Now she does not seem to care about learning. She waits until the last minute and often does not do her homework. We try to help, but she gets quarrelsome and upset. How can we help her?

Your daughter could be experiencing any of a number of pressures. She could be a bright student who has poor study habits who previously could make good grades without trying. If so, be patient and help her set up a specific study time and place. Consider a study skills class at a private learning center.

She could be experiencing tension with her peer group. Perhaps someone has suggested that making good grades is not popular. Talk with her or have her discuss her feelings with her school counselor, her youth minister or a professional counselor.

Perhaps her classes are beyond her abilities and she is ashamed to tell you. Check with her teachers to see if she is in the proper track for her capability.

There is a slight chance she suffers from depression or allows something to control her (alcohol, drugs or sexual difficulties). If you suspect any of the above, get help immediately.

Consider rewarding her for good grades and withholding privileges until her grades improve. Set aside an hour or so each day for her to either do homework or read something enriching to her mentally or spiritually. Restrict her access to the phone, TV, videos, electronic games and the computer until her grades improve. Show an interest in her work and make a commitment to work with her school to resolve this before she gets too far behind.—*Wade Rowatt*

## Q: Should I let my children watch professional wrestling?

Professional wrestling continues to grow in popularity and influence. Each week, the World Wrestling Federation and the World Championship Wrestling attempt to outdo each other with slamming sensationalism. Television programs with names like WCW Thunder, WWF Metal and Monday Nitro draw millions of viewers each week, many of whom are children. Parents may not be fully aware of the content of these programs or of the influence they are having on children. The influence is intensified by an aggressive marketing plan that includes action figures, trading cards, posters and music.

In addition to the violence inherent to the sport, pro wrestling features a continuing barrage of shouted challenges, insults and put-downs. Even the toy action figures engage in trash talk.

Wrestling role models counter the very character traits most parents are seeking to build in their children, including respect, gentleness, self-control and sportsmanship. The fact that all involved are simply play-acting does not diminish the influence.

As pro wrestling has moved from harmless fun to big business, profanity, sexuality and violence have continued to creep in. WWF telecasts have been described as increasingly raunchy, and at least one major sponsor (Coca-Cola) has withdrawn its advertising dollars.

The cumulative effect of constant exposure to the mayhem and morality of wrestling cannot be easily dismissed—a fact parents would be wise to consider when choosing channels, activities and toys for their children.—*David Garrard*

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



## Ministry is like a basketball game—sort of

It's March Madness time again—and this year's NCAA basketball tournament has definitely lived up to that billing.

Although neither Kentucky nor Louisville was picked to make it to the Final Four this year, die-hard fans always hold out hope for the unexpected. Unfortunately, both teams suffered early exits from this year's tourney. At the same time, such unlikely contenders as North Carolina and Wisconsin (with 13 losses each) put together two weeks of quality basketball at precisely the right time.

Amid the annual upsets and the survival of only one top-seeded team, the excitement of the Final Four still looms large. Millions of college basketball fans throughout the nation will be glued to their TV sets next weekend to see if Michigan State can win it all—or if one more upset awaits.

In the midst of another topsy-turvy tourney, it appears that timing is everything. Yet there are many other factors that contribute to tournament success—sort of like successful ministry efforts in the local church.

Not convinced? Let me share a few examples:

■ **Talent.** Obviously, talent is a key factor in teams making it to the NCAA Tournament. It becomes even more of a factor among those teams battling for Final Four glory.

On the local church level, we don't talk as much about talent as we do about gifts. Ephesians 4:12 emphasizes that spiritual gifts are given "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." For our churches to truly experience effective ministry, it is essential that all church members use our God-given gifts and talents to help accomplish His game plan.

■ **Training.** Regardless of how much raw talent a basketball team has, if players fail to gain adequate training, there's little chance they will have long-term

success. Coaches and players know the importance of focused practice and conditioning long before the tourney invitation arrives. To do otherwise would border on incompetence.

The same is true in the local church. Church members who fail to take advantage of ministry training opportunities are limiting their potential for success.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God," 2 Timothy 2:15 urges. Effective training for ministry can range from personal Bible study and faithful involvement in Sunday school to participation in special training events on a variety of topics. Here in Kentucky, we are fortunate to have a state convention staff and associational leaders who consistently take the lead in offering timely training options for the benefit of local churches.

Are you personally taking advantage of training options to strengthen your ministry talents? In the words of Nike, "Just do it!"

In addition to talent and training, the most important ingredient in any winning basketball program is:

■ **Teamwork.** We know it's true on the local church level, as well, but we sometimes choose to do our own thing without considering the impact on fellow church members. For a congregation to be effective in ministry in its own community, the pastor, deacons and other leaders must be headed in the same direction.

Spiritual ball hogs who are looking for personal glory or disgruntled players who merely sit on the bench and gripe do not contribute to team unity. "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" declares Psalm 133:1. Kind of sounds like teamwork, doesn't it?

The goal of the faithful Christian is to fight the good fight, to finish the course, to keep the faith ... to, um, win the tourney! The starting point is talent, training and teamwork—but the greatest of these is teamwork. Just do it.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Prison ministry reflects Christ's love

By David Parker

*"There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed 500 denarii, and the other 50. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." He said to him, "You have rightly judged." (Luke 7:41-43)*

Jesus told this parable to the Pharisee who was upset that Jesus allowed a repentant street woman to wash His feet with her tears. He went on to say, "Her sins which are many are forgiven, for she loved me much; but one who is forgiven little, shows little love."

Sometimes it is the brokenhearted and the unloved who truly understand how precious Jesus Christ's love and forgiveness are. I don't think the church fully understands the depth of this love or forgiveness. Yet Jesus is calling us to take this love to those who are bound in our prisons and jails.

This love and forgiveness crosses all barriers—social, racial, gender, age

or educational. The love of Christ is unconditional. Forgiveness is the only hope for sinners. Those incarcerated need to know the love and care of God even in their time of punishment. The church must be the agent to give encouragement to those who have repented and paid for their crimes.

If the things that hurt Jesus hurt you, hear the cries from the jails and prisons in Kentucky. Here are some facts from Prison Fellowship Ministry about those who are incarcerated:

- Two-thirds are from broken homes.
- Ninety-five percent of men have no father image.
- Two-thirds abuse themselves with drugs and alcohol.
- Eighty percent of the women have been physically or sexually abused.
- Half never got past the sixth grade.
- Many inmates view themselves as failures and have little hope that the future will be any better than the past. We need to help them see themselves as God sees them. People respond to truth. We need to show prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families a way of

thinking that is based on God's truth.

The problems for prisoners do not end when they get out. I have met inmates who, in my opinion, are rehabilitated but are afraid of what waits for them on the outside. Will the same Jesus they met in prison be there when they get out? Who will meet them when they come out? It has been said, "Prisoners become who meet them at the gate."

There are a number of ways to get involved in prison ministry. The criminal justice ministry at First Baptist Church of Madisonville started out ministering to the families of prisoners. We received training through Prison Fellowship. We go to prisons throughout the state, leading "Experiencing God" weekends and Prison Fellowship seminars.

We are setting up a mentoring program for inmates who are soon to get out. We also plan to begin a preventive ministry for juveniles at risk. Soon we want to provide ministry to victims of crime and to law professionals.

If your church needs help joining God in a church-based prison ministry call the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood department at (502) 245-4101 for more information.



David Parker is coordinator of the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood department's criminal justice ministry



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## Missiologists: Reaching the world requires cooperation

Continued from page 1

he said. Even the superpowers cannot deal with global terrorism. Fundamentalism is making an impact on all the major world religions. And persecution is rampant, with 160,000 Christians martyred last year alone.

Still, Christians are making progress in world missions and evangelism, he added. "The church is big-

ger than you think," he said. "The most dynamic churches are in the Southern Hemisphere and the Eastern bloc."

And that means missions-minded Christians must team up if they're going to share the gospel with the whole world. "The last frontier of missions is collaboration," he said. "Be open to new ways for new days."

But Christians must avoid the temptation to recreate old methods that weren't effective to begin with, warned Keith Parks, recently retired coordinator of global missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and former longtime president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

"The face of missions is already in rapid transition," he said. The world's missions-minded Christians encountered the most recent shift in missions thinking and approach in 1966, Parks reported.

They "began to emphasize people, not nations" as a way to approach spreading the gospel around the world, he said, admitting, "Baptists were slow to recognize this."

The focus on reaching the ethnolinguistic people groups of the world recognized the global migration of

people of similar racial/ethnic background and language, as well as the diminished legitimacy of national borders for defining people, he said.

A national approach to missions fails to recognize all the people groups within a particular nation and also fails to track the movement of people groups to other nations, he added.

The world now is home to about 13,000 distinct people groups, Parks said. Of those, 6,000 groups are comprised primarily of Christians. Another 3,000 groups represent a "missiological breakthrough," with people expressing receptivity to the gospel. Still another 2,500 groups have very small indigenous churches, "with such a limited witness that there is limited human anticipation of spreading the gospel," he said. And the final 1,500 groups have absolutely no indigenous churches or missionaries serving among them.

Missions-minded Christians must support new and innovative methods for getting the gospel to people who have not had the opportunity to accept Christ as Savior, Parks urged.

Many Christians "would try to say: 'It really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you're sincere. We're all on different paths to the same place,'" he lamented. "I don't believe that. Scriptures don't teach that.

"What we're engaged in is a spiritual battle. We've never really participated in intercessory prayer (for missions) and grappled with the notion of spiritual warfare. ... We must try to extend the kingdom of God the furthest, the fastest for God's glory, not ours."

That extension of God's kingdom is happening through collaboration among Christians "on the last frontier," the part of the world that has not yet been evangelized, said Kent Parks, Keith Parks' son and a missions strategy coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"We can't do the job by ourselves," Kent Parks conceded. "And we cannot fully know God from the perspectives of all the people groups of the world."

Collaborating mission organizations are weaving three main emphases to reach the unreached people groups, he added. They are "social justice, evangelical proclamation and a celebration of mysticism and belief in the power of prayer."

Most people unreached by the gospel are adherents of other faiths, and the key to communicating with them is "incarnational wisdom," said John Jonsson, professor of world religions at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and the son of Swedish Baptist missionaries to the Zulu people in South Africa.

"We should be less propositional and more human—winning friends across cultures," Jonsson advised.

Propositional faith, which focuses almost exclusively on ideas and rational thought, tends to divide people and even subordinate people who hold different ideas, he said.

Incarnational wisdom, on the other hand, grows out of common humanity and relationships, he explained.

Jesus personified incarnational wisdom—God became a human being, Jesus, who lived among and related to other human beings, he said.

"Incarnational wisdom is all about rubbing shoulders with these people," the non-believers of the world, he said. "And if we consider ourselves the royal citizens of the kingdom of God, then they need to be rubbing shoulders with us."

That challenge is "an unfinished task," insisted Dellanna O'Brien, recently retired executive director of Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, who spoke at a luncheon held in her honor.

"We must embrace the world," she said, particularly challenging WMU members. "Having seen the need, we cannot withdraw."

The challenge of spreading the gospel through the whole world is "an unfinished task," she declared. "Our future depends upon how willing we are to pick up the needs of the world."

**"The last frontier of missions is collaboration. Be open to new ways for new days."**

*Bill O'Brien, former director of Samford University's Global Center*

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## Studies: 20 percent of Web surfers clicking onto porn

### Survey says:

Statistics for the Stanford/Duquesne study came from nearly 9,300 respondents who completed a 59-item survey on the MSNBC Web site in March and April of 1998. A full report will appear March 29 in *Sexual Addiction and Compulsion: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention*.

#### Among its key findings:

■ 70 percent indicated they keep their online sex usage a secret. Cooper calls that alarming. "Denial and secrecy are what keep an addiction going."

■ The Internet offers a new, powerful place to act out behavior. And, significant numbers of people who never had problems before are at risk of developing difficulties because of the ease of using search engines.

■ 70 percent of e-porn traffic occurs between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on workdays. Twenty percent of men and 12 percent of women use their work computer to access sexual material.

■ The problem is largely male. Men represented 83 percent of the users visiting the top five sexually explicit Web sites. While men preferred visually oriented material by a 49-22 percent margin over women, females favored sex-oriented talk in chat rooms by a nearly identical margin.

■ There is a direct relation between Internet sexual pursuits and the degree to which it is a problem in respondents' lives. Cybersex compulsives were more likely to report sexual and non-sexual risk-taking behaviors, supporting theories that these people are chronically depressed or dissatisfied and use these activities to fill the void.

*Continued from page 1*

The Zogby poll parallels the findings of another study conducted by researchers from Stanford and Duquesne universities. It found a minimum of 20 percent of American adults on the Internet visit sexually explicit sites.

The authors classified only 1 percent of users as "cyber sex compulsives," but that represents at least 200,000 people, based on the report's estimate that 20 million people visit porn sites each month. Compulsive activity was defined as consuming at least 11 hours a week.

In addition, even more people are at risk, said lead investigator Al Cooper of Stanford University in California. He is also affiliated with the San Jose Marital and Sexuality Center.

"There is indeed a significant minority (8 to 17 percent of the sample) for whom online sexual behaviors may become a potentially serious problem," Cooper said.

The senior director of legal studies for the Family Research Council in Washington called the findings "pretty scary."

Jan LaRue, who has been involved in fighting pornography for eight years, said viewing Web porn leads to serious consequences. Police officers posing as children have arrested numerous pedophiles across the nation who use the Internet to attempt to entice victims, she said.

"I've always said because of the anonymity of the Internet we'll see people acting out more quickly," LaRue said. "Because of this, we'll see people acting out sexually explicit online behavior. What's attendant with that are sex crimes, murders and people being stalked."

The study also should concern employers, she said, because of the "monumental" potential for sexual harassment and a hostile work environment. She also questioned how much productivity is lost because of time spent accessing sexually explicit material.

Internet pornography also holds ominous implications, LaRue added. She cited a Time magazine story last year that said 44 percent of teenagers have visited sexually explicit sites.

"Psychologists are literally calling

this a time bomb from what they know right now," she said. "Women and gay men are especially vulnerable to limiting and destructive chains of sexual compulsion."

She said the study's results validate the family educational and lobbying group's push for federal legislation. FRC urges requiring filtering software by schools and libraries that receive federal funds for Internet connections.

The council advocates blocking access to material that already has been declared illegal by Supreme Court rulings, such as child pornography. Ironically, she said, a defendant in Arizona recently argued he shouldn't be prosecuted because the same material was available at the public library.

"The material on the Internet is worse than anything we've seen in adult bookstores," LaRue said. "Child porn is above ground again because of the speed with which people can access it."

"Pedophiles send e-mails to each other about the best public libraries to download child porn," she added. "A guy in Los Angeles was operating his own child porn Web site at the library and soliciting sex with children from there. The only reason he was caught is because a police officer connected with him."



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Discipleship Training Department

# ISSUES

## Study says Internet porn is rampant at public libraries

By Tom Strode  
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty  
Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The viewing of pornography on the Internet by adults and minors is common in many of the country's public libraries, according to a nationwide survey by an Oregon librarian.

More than 2,000 documented incidents of library patrons accessing pornography, obscenity and child pornography were found in a six-month investigation, author David Burt said in his recently released report for the Family Research Council. The results were announced at a news conference sponsored by FRC, a Washington-based, pro-family, public-policy organization.

The problem in America's libraries may be much worse than these figures indicate, Burt said in the report. Although nearly all public library systems in the country were contacted with Freedom of Information Act requests, only 29 percent responded to Burt's survey.

Based on the responses—plus analysis of computer log files from three libraries, uncovering thousands of unreported incidents—the number of incidents of library patrons viewing pornography on the Internet could total

400,000 to 2 million a year, Burt estimated.

Documented incidents "are just the tip of the iceberg," Burt said. That documentation, according to the report, included a variety of incidents witnessed by librarians, including:

- Adults trading in child pornography.

- Adults teaching children how to access pornography.

- Adults and minors masturbating at Internet terminals.

The report cites 472 instances of children accessing pornography and 106 cases of adults exposing children to porn.

More than 170 of the incidents found by Burt described criminal offenses such as public indecency and accessing obscenity or child pornography, but the police were notified in only six cases.

A major reason for the widespread failure to crack down on Internet porn in libraries is the American Library Association, said Burt, an information technology librarian in Lake Oswego, Ore., and a member of the ALA.

The ALA opposes filtering software, which Burt and FRC recommend. ALA

officials state that instead of ineffective technology, parents and children should be educated about Internet use.

The ALA "has exhibited an appalling lack of leadership within our profession," librarian Wendy Adamson said at the news conference on behalf of 47 employees of the Minneapolis Public Library. "Not only has it failed

to acknowledge the extent of the problem, but it has established a party line which categorically discourages consideration of any kind or extent of filtering as a solution. Rather than facilitating an open and inclusive forum for discussion, the ALA has circled the wagons, thus disenfranchising thousands of librarians who do not agree with the official stance."

"The truth is that America's libraries are increasingly becoming dirty bookstores and peepshows open to children and funded by taxpayers," FRC spokesperson Janet Parshall said in a written statement.

Longtime librarian Heidi Borton resigned in protest of her library's Internet policy because it involved her in "moral compromise," she explained at the news conference. She left after nearly 10 years as a librarian in the King County system of the Seattle area.

"Picture this. You are a librarian who sees a 10-year-old boy not two feet from a man viewing a full screen of sexual intercourse," Borton said in a prepared statement about events that happened to her colleagues and her. "Or you must answer the disgusted teacher who reports to you one evening that teenagers are viewing porn in full view. Your only allowed answer: The lame excuse that libraries must not hinder anyone's rights to view anything on the Internet and that, despite the preponderance of unaccompanied minors in the library, it is solely a parent's responsibility to supervise their children."

Adamson, in her statement on behalf of 47 employees of the Minneapolis Public Library, said her colleagues and she have seen an "alarming increase" in the last two years in the number of people viewing pornography online at the library and it has been "indiscribably disturbing" for them. The library board and director have refused to install filtering software to block access to porn sites, she said.

The ALA wants children to have an "effective and safe Internet experience," but filters are "an incomplete and insufficient approach," ALA President Sarah Long told Baptist Press. "Filters don't really teach anything about the Internet."

The association has no authority over local libraries and thinks decisions about installing filters "are best made locally," Long said. The "imaginary problems" cited by opponents of filters contrast with the "many real, well-documented incidents of real harm being inflicted on children by unfiltered Internet access in public libraries," Burt said in his report. "The failure of librarians to control these problems supports the appropriateness of laws requiring filtering software."

The entire report can be viewed on the Internet at [www.filteringfacts.org](http://www.filteringfacts.org).



## 'Your cyber-counselor is ready for you'

By David Briggs  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

WARREN, Ohio (RNS)—In a wired-up world where soothsayers, "psychics" and sexually oriented chat rooms provide companionship for a fee, one Ohio firm is hoping there is also room for a Christian cyber-counseling center.

The Barnabus Christian Counseling Network, a Warren, Ohio-based venture providing pastoral help over the Internet, connects Christians too shy or unable to get help in person with 50 counselors from Northeast Ohio to Australia.

Prospective clients can click on [www.barnabus.com](http://www.barnabus.com) and research the resumes of electronic counselors, all of whom are members of the American Association of Christian Counselors. After they make their choice, they can sign on for computer-assisted therapy with a pastoral counselor for \$27.50 an hour or a clinical counselor at \$35 an hour. There are also options for writing a journal entry, and, for \$15 to \$20, clients will receive a written response.

Network founder Glenn Robitaille of Ashland, Ohio, said he got the idea for the service after noticing in his own work as a pastoral counselor an increase among Christians in addiction to pornography on the Internet.

The same people who would not think of walking into an adult bookstore or attending a pornographic movie would spend hours in Internet chat rooms or on Web sites devoted to sinful sexual activities, he said. Why not use the same means to counteract the problem, Robitaille figured. People not wanting to be seen visiting a counselor may seek pastoral help privately on the Internet, he said.

"If anonymity is the spoon that stirs the sauce, then anonymity is the soap that cleans the spoon," he said.

Since starting the service in August, Robitaille said about 270 people—some from as far away as Saudi Arabia, Israel and Trinidad—have signed up for counseling. About 15 percent are regular clients, seeking help each week.

There are limits to online counseling, starting with the concern that one cannot notice the physical mannerisms and vocal inflections of computer clients, he said. Medicine cannot be prescribed online, and some serious mental illnesses cannot be diagnosed over the computer. People having a psychotic episode are referred to doctors.

Ellen Rothchild, a Cleveland psychiatrist and past chairwoman of the American Psychiatric Association's Committee on Telemedical Services, said there is a recognition the Internet is being used for counseling, but there is "a crying need" to determine the best applications, and to provide proper safeguards.

Rothchild, who said she is not familiar with the Barnabus network, said the advantages include increasing access to counseling services and providing anonymity.

But even anonymity can be a liability, she said.

For example, she said, a counselor may not know who to contact to get outside help to a client in an emergency. And the ability of the service to keep out hackers raises privacy issues.

Robitaille said the main advantage of the Internet service is reaching people with counseling help who may be self-conscious about visiting a counselor in person or who are in remote areas where regular visits are not possible.

Robitaille said a large number of clients disclose traumatic incidents such as sexual abuse or incest in the first session, something they would be unlikely to reveal in face-to-face therapy for at least six sessions.

"The level of honesty goes up with the level of anonymity," he said.

What counselors hope is that by helping people recognize they have aberrant feelings, even if sometimes it is only a single conversation, there is less chance of them acting on those impulses, Robitaille said.

By experiencing the value of counseling through the safety of the computer, more people might be encouraged to seek personal help, he said. "I believe in this. I believe it's going to be a great resource for people."

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**Students presented evidence of 18 campus organizations that both receive student fees and engage in political and ideological activities, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Campus Center; Madison AIDS Support Network; and Students of National Organization for Women.**

## High Court OKs required student fees despite free-speech issues

By Kenny Byrd  
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Public universities may use mandatory student fees to fund a variety of college groups, even if students find some of those groups objectionable, a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled March 22.

The high court upheld the University of Wisconsin's program of disbursing student fees to campus groups, reversing a lower-court ruling.

The program was challenged by several conservative students who said they should not be forced to subsidize groups counter to their religious and political views, including homosexual and women's rights groups.

"If a university decided that its students' First Amendment interests were better protected by some type of optional or refund system it would be free to do so," said the majority opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy. "We decline to impose a system of that sort as a constitutional requirement, however."

The decision said extracurricular discussions on philosophical, religious, scientific and political subjects that are held outside the lecture hall can enhance students' education.

"If the university reaches this conclusion, it is entitled to impose a mandatory fee to sustain an open dialogue to these ends," the decision said.

Students attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison must pay mandatory student fees each semester or they cannot receive their grades or graduate. During the 1995-96 academic year, students paid \$166 in fees each semester,

During the 1995-96 academic year, a group of students sued the board of regents, claiming that the school's policy violated their First Amendment rights.

"As a conservative Christian, it was frustrating to see the money going to organizations I personally disagree with," Scott Southworth, one of the objecting students, was quoted as saying in recent news reports.

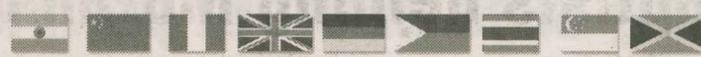
The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with the students, holding that the University of Wisconsin-Madison burdens the free-speech rights of objecting students when it uses their mandatory activity fees to fund groups they find offensive.

Reversing that decision, however, the Supreme Court said the policy does not violate the students' First Amendment rights.

Earlier rulings on the use of mandatory fees paid to bar associations and teachers' unions for political advocacy do not apply to a university, the court said. In those cases, the court said such fees could be used only for activities that are "germane" to the mission of the associations.

"To insist upon asking what speech is germane would be contrary to the very goal the university seeks to pursue," the court ruled. "It is not for the court to say what is or is not germane to the ideas to be pursued in an institution of higher learning."

But the six justices signing the majority opinion did say the students are entitled to some level of protection of their First Amendment interests. For that reason, the justices required that the university use "viewpoint neutrality" in allocating funds to student groups.

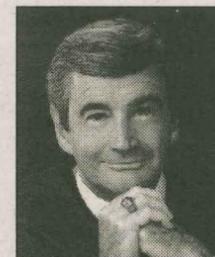


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### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Priest appointed House chaplain.** U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., appointed a Catholic priest as the new House chaplain March 23, seeking to end a lengthy controversy on Capitol Hill. Daniel Coughlin, vicar for priests of the Chicago archdiocese, succeeds James Ford, a Lutheran who retired after serving in the post since 1979. Coughlin is the first Catholic to serve as House chaplain. He was appointed by Hastert after Charles Wright, a Presbyterian minister, withdrew his name from consideration. Wright had been picked by House leaders over Catholic priest Timothy O'Brien, sparking charges of anti-Catholic bias.

■ **Church sues over storefront location.** A church that was denied the use of a storefront location has sued the city of Grand Haven, Mich. The zoning dispute arose when Haven Shores Community Church requested a building permit to remodel space it rented in a shopping center. City officials determined that a church was not permitted in that business district. The church unsuccessfully sought an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow it to hold services at the shopping center. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, Mich. In response, the city council issued a resolution stating, "The existence of a church in smaller retail zones ... may discourage retail activity in those districts."

■ **Religious activists rally.** Chanting "Free Burma!" as they waved signs that proclaimed "Burma, the new South Africa," about 60 activists and interfaith leaders rallied on the steps of the Supreme Court March 22 in support of a Massachusetts law that limits state purchases from companies doing business with Burma. A Supreme Court decision on the law, being challenged by corporations, is expected by summer. Nine interfaith religious leaders and groups, including Episcopalians and Methodists, have signed an amicus brief supporting the state of Massachusetts.

■ **Episcopalians still boycotting hotel.** Episcopal Church leaders are sticking by their decision not to patronize the Adam's Mark hotel chain, even after the hotel agreed to an \$8 million settlement with the U.S. Justice Department over alleged racial discrimination. Earlier this year church leaders pulled out of a contract with the hotel chain for their upcoming convention in Denver, costing the church more than a million dollars. Church leaders said, however, their conscience would not allow them to stay at a hotel that unfairly treated black patrons. The St. Louis-based hotel chain agreed last week to the settlement after black patrons in Florida said they were charged more than white patrons, were given substandard accommodations and were not allowed in hotel restaurants.

### The Belle and other boats

Perhaps you have followed the unfolding saga around the fate of the Belle of Louisville during the last couple of months. The Belle of Louisville is a magnificent old stern-wheeler riverboat that has been around for many years as a popular tourist attraction.

Not long ago, it became obvious that the Belle needed hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of repairs if she were going to be "river-worthy" for the upcoming Great Steamboat Race.

The city of Louisville wasn't sure whether funds were available—about \$600,000—for the repair. During the last couple of weeks, however, corporate and individual contributors have come forth and donated the \$600,000 to "save the Belle."

As I watched this process unfold, I thought about the fact that at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore we will launch our annual "spiritual" that we know as summer youth camps. Our youth camp weeks are near capacity at both places, and this year we will host more than 5,000 youth in the two camps, a record number for us. When youth come to camp, God moves. He calls youth to Him. He calls youth to missions. He calls youth to make a difference in their schools, reaching other students for

Christ. Nearly half of all the decisions that youth make for Christ are made in camp and retreat settings. We have no more worthwhile evangelistic ministry in this state.

However, as our Crossings at the Creek youth camp is in its first year of operation, we find ourselves still in the process of acquiring the necessary equipment for our camp ministry. We desperately need two top-rate ski boats. I am asking for support to purchase these boats. I know the resources are out there. I am praying that God will speak to some of you reading this even now and that you will feel led to help us on this major investment for our new youth ministry at Jonathan Creek. Will you prayerfully consider how you can help us in this matter? I am

praying that you will. Call me at my office, (502) 254-9007. If Louisville can easily raise \$600,000 to save a tourist attraction, surely we can raise the necessary funds to launch this new ministry in the proper way.

To God be the glory for what He is going to do this summer as we reach this younger generation for Christ.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

## Baptists helping Mozambicans recover, find new life

By Sue Sprenkle  
SBC International Mission Board

MACIA, Mozambique (BP)—When Rebecca Augusto surveys the Macia relief camp, she doesn't see the makeshift tents made out of torn tarp or children crying because of hunger. Instead, she sees a miracle.

"Without God's help, I would not have survived. Look at me! I am a cripple," Augusto said, pointing to her shriveled legs. "When the water came with such power, I got up and ran. I don't know how God did it, but I got up and ran to a tree. I am alive today because of Him."

From Augusto's perch in that tree, she watched homes and churches destroyed. Since the flooding began in early February, nearly 1 million people have lost their homes in this impoverished African nation.

Tragedy struck when Cyclone Eline hit Mozambique and rains spread west into South Africa, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Botswana. As the rains thundered into inland catchments, streams became rivers, rivers became torrents and dams overflowed, sending sheets of water east through Mozambique to the sea.

The Limpopo River, not long ago reduced to almost a trickle by drought, swelled to nearly 10 miles wide. It washed away village after village, as well as the regional capital of Xai-Xai.

Though the official death count is fewer than 500, aid workers fear it will climb well into the thousands as floodwaters recede. With food scarce and

livestock rotting in the water, the tragedy only worsens.

Many Mozambicans escaped with only the clothes on their backs. When the waters finally recede, there will be nothing for them to go home to. "I don't have anything but the ground where my house once stood," Augusto said. "I have no food, no crops. I have nothing."

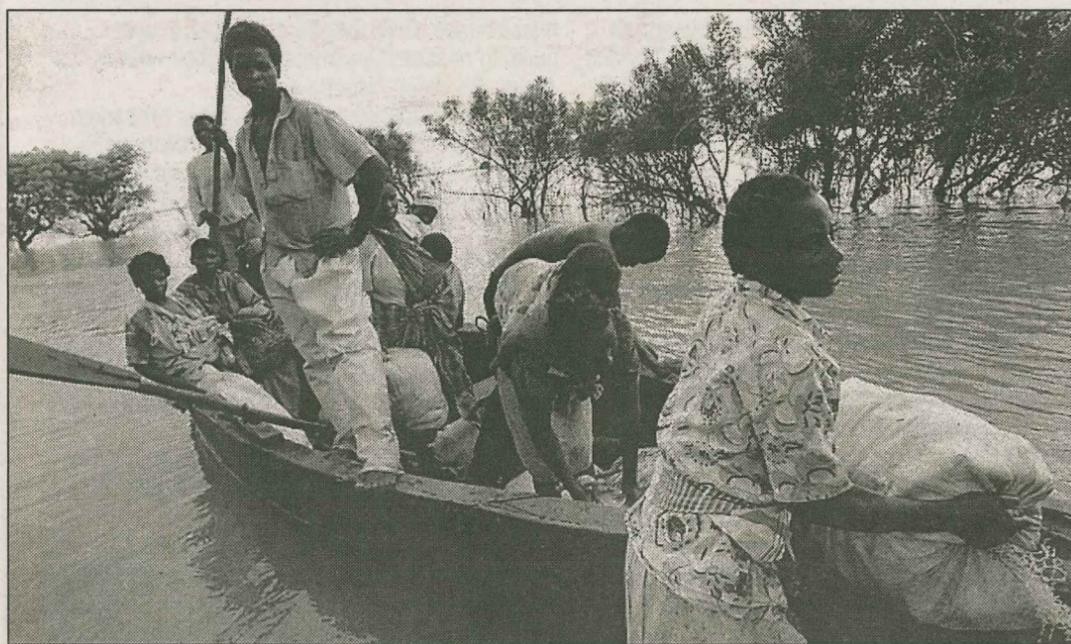
As the reality of what happened sinks in, Southern Baptists hurry to help soften the blow.

A long-term relief project is scheduled to help people like Augusto. Southern Baptist missionary Dianne Randolph realizes that most of the aid currently circulating will meet only short-term needs. Not only are people hungry now, she said, but they still will be hungry next year if no one helps them replant their farms.

"All of their crops were washed away. This means that not only do they not have food, but they also don't have seed to start all over," Randolph said. "If they don't replant now, the hunger could last up to 18 months or more."

According to the World Food Program, an estimated 370,500 acres of staple food crops were wiped out while another third of the national cereal production suffered severe losses. That means hundreds of thousands of subsistence farmers must be fed until the next harvest in six months—if seeds arrive in time for planting season.

With planting season starting in April, missionaries and Baptist volunteers from the United States and South Africa put together "agriculture buckets" to help farmers get back on their



feet. The buckets contain seeds for planting everything from corn to okra. Farming tools also are included, as well as New Testaments and tracts.

As part of the relief project, Randolph's team will use parables from the Bible to teach farming techniques. "The main people we are focusing on with this project are the Ndaus. They are unevangelized and have been resistant," she said. "But since the flooding began, we have seen many doors open."

Those doors swung wide open for Domingos Pedro Rhice, who was stuck for five days with 27 other people on top of 5,000 cinder blocks. The pastor

of Chokwe Baptist Church shared Christ's love with them the whole time.

"People are wondering why they were chosen to survive. They watched the person sitting in the tree next to them lose their grip and vanish in the powerful water," said Rhice. "Those who do not believe are recognizing that Jesus is Lord. The door is open now. We must get out and tell people about Jesus."

Contributions toward relief in Mozambique can be sent to: SBC International Mission Board, Hunger and Relief Fund—Mozambique Flood Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

**FLOOD RELIEF**  
Mozambican refugees transport their remaining possessions by boat. Hundreds of flood victims lost all their belongings. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

### Spring break in Philadelphia

By Robert Dunston

People usually think of college students migrating to Florida for spring break, but one of Cumberland College's nine spring break mission teams journeyed northeast to Philadelphia.

Sophomores Jennifer Leigh Cox and Kris Gilliam, seniors Brooke Andrew and Mike Adkins and Baptist Student Union intern Ann Payne engaged in a variety of ministries during the week.

All day Monday and Thursday afternoon the team worked at the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank sorting more than 3,000 pounds of food to be used to feed the hungry in the Philadelphia area.

Tuesday and Wednesday the team worked at Thrift for AIDS, a store whose profits are used to assist AIDS patients and their families. Initially they sorted clothes, but they soon found themselves sorting and organizing 30,000 used books.

The team spent Thursday morning ministering in an area nursing home. Half of the group worked with a music therapy program and the other half with an exercise program. When the sessions ended, team members visited with residents.

The high point for everyone on the trip was the Sunday morning worship service at Spirit and Truth Fellowship. The church is comprised of Asian, African, Hispanic and Caucasian members, and worship is a multi-cultural experience. The students were amazed that lawyers, doctors and street people sat together in worship with no racial

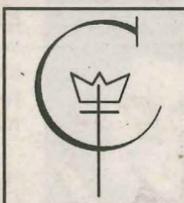
or economic group in the majority. The service included Bible readings in both Korean and English, the singing of a Spanish hymn, testimonies, a sermon and lots of music. No one noticed that worship lasted two hours.

Much of the ministry performed by the team members was behind the scenes. Payne said the four students on the team learned a valuable lesson. "Ministry is ministry," she said. "It doesn't matter if you're in front of a pulpit or sorting books."

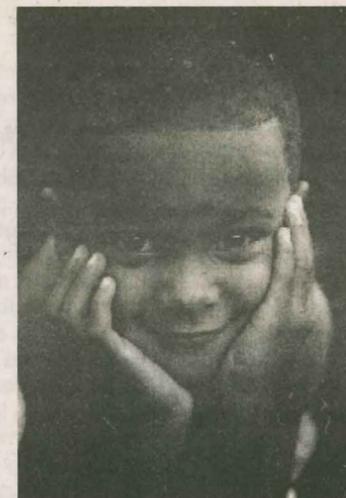
The Philadelphia team's spring break affected who they are as God's people and how they will serve in the future. Their lives and the lives they touch will be richer for their experience.

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

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# MISSIONS

## Kenya missionaries return to plant churches in Idaho

POCATELLO, Idaho (BP)—After 25 years of planting churches in Kenya, missionaries Clay and Pat Coursey are returning to the United States where they still will be involved in missions that would be foreign to most American Christians.

The Courseys intend to plant churches in Pocatello, Idaho, a city of 75,000 people with a heavy influence from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"Our desire is to see God do something great in this L.D.S. area," Coursey said.

"Our people are really building up enthusiasm for seeing the kingdom grow. In fact, (pastor) Luman Gilman in Pocatello meets with the pastors of evangelical churches here in town. He says that these pastors are the most turned on toward seeing the kingdom grow than they have been during his entire 30 years as pastor here," said Coursey, who will serve two years with the Eastern Idaho Southern Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The key challenge in Pocatello, Coursey said, will be to nurture a deeper desire to start new churches on the part of the two local Southern Baptist churches' leadership.

"I don't know how it is humanly possible to start so many churches here," Coursey said, "but in Kenya we were told that because of so many Muslims in the area, starting churches would be impossible. Yet it happened."

Twenty-five years ago, as missionaries with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, the Courseys envisioned a time when the Giriama people of Kenya would be able to start churches on their own without the help of American

missionaries. Over the years, through prayer, building relationships and sharing their faith in Jesus, the vision became a reality.

Before leaving Kenya, the Courseys embarked on one final church-starting venture. Working in partnership with the IMB, they organized a month-long project last summer involving many Southern Baptist laypeople from America. From this effort, 131 churches were started.

"My own heart says that in a city this size we need 10-15 churches," Coursey said of Pocatello. "Our biggest goal right now is to develop fellowship between already existing Southern Baptist churches and to develop the spirit of church planting."

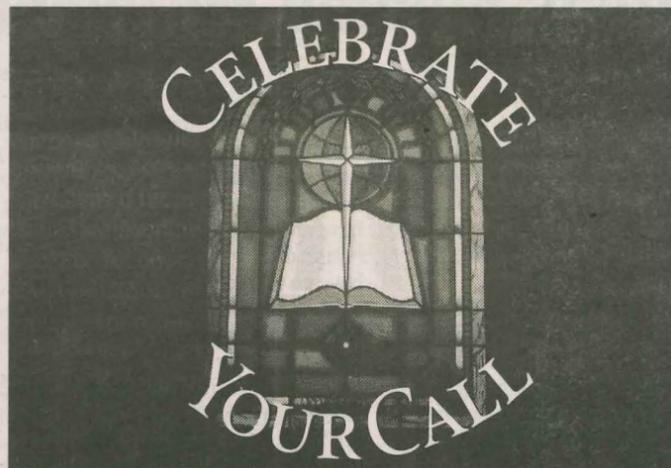
Starting churches in Kenya was in some ways easier than in Idaho, but both places require divine intervention, Coursey said.

"It takes miracles of the Lord," he said. "I've seen God work in such unusual ways overseas, and I know He can do the same here."

"People here feel that fellowship is already soaring," he added. "More churches are represented now at associational meetings than in years past and communication is improving."

Natives of Texas, the Courseys moved to Gooding, Idaho, in 1963, where they started First Southern Baptist Church. It was while serving there that they said God called them into international missions. "My wife likes to say that we were first called to foreign missions when we were called to Idaho," Coursey said.

"It is foreign in many ways up here compared to Texas," Mrs. Coursey added. "But everything we've ever done has always prepared us for what we are going to do next."



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## Class of 2000, part 1

Our students were gone last week for spring break. Some of the surrounding schools had to forfeit part or all of their spring breaks because of snow days missed this winter. One of the many blessings of a boarding school like Oneida is that snow days do not exist. We do have some day students who are not always able to make it to school, but those situations normally are taken care of on an individual basis.

When our students return, most will have only one thing on their minds: the end of school May 19. Seniors have the added anxiety of final exams and graduation May 20. Every spring, I ask each senior to write a brief essay titled, "My Oneida Experience." They are asked to express their views on a variety of topics that relate to their Oneida experiences. I find most of the essays to be interesting and informative. Frankly, with so many students, I often forget some of the details surrounding a particular student's enrollment. These essays not only give the seniors an opportunity to express their thoughts about various topics, it also gives them an opportunity to refresh my memory about their pre-Oneida days.

Off and on for the next three months, I am going to share some of their stories. Since some of the information may be embarrassing, I will use fictitious names. I hope you will rejoice as you read in their own words what Oneida has meant to these students.

"My name is 'Nichole.' I was born in Texas and now I live in Florida. ... Before I came to Oneida, my grades weren't good and I was getting into trouble. My mom worked with a lady who used to go to Oneida, and she told my mom

about the school. ... My folks brought me to Oneida. I didn't even know about the state of Kentucky. ... When I came to Oneida I thought everyone was gonna be real country and sort of like the Beverly Hillbillies. ... I met a lot of people when I got here, but it took me a while to get used to everything. ... Oneida Baptist Institute isn't all that bad. ... The thing that I most like about Oneida is how you meet and interact with a lot of people.

"I'll never forget the daily chapel services. ...

I've enjoyed going to chapel, I need Jesus. ... Since I've been at Oneida my grades have improved a whole lot. ... I've learned self-discipline, so I'll get my work done, I have learned good study habits, and that it's important to pay attention. ... Since I have been here I have played softball, volleyball and was a cheerleader. ... A lot of people have helped me. One of the deans was the first to help. I love that lady and her cooking. I could talk to her about anything. ... My teachers were there for me too! ... One always has some weird saying and real good advice. But I'm really going to miss him. ... I have really

grown to have a lot of respect for him. He is a really good person even though his jokes are corny.

"After I graduate from Oneida I plan to be somebody and make something of myself. ... I feel I'm a strong enough person to go out and do for myself and make good decisions. ... I realize that life is much easier with God and that as long as you have faith anything can happen. ... To make a long story short, my faith is the thing I've personally gained."

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

## Alumni memories

Our first annual alumni phonathon brought the opportunity to hear some memories of alumni from the days of L.C. Kelly and the early years of D.M. Aldridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Johnson, class of '50, members of First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington, said, "I will always be grateful for my time there." A granddaughter is going to Brazil as a career missionary.

Joseph Gadd, '50, of Independence, married a few months before he moved to campus. A doctor told his wife she would be unable to have children. Joe said, "I guess the school sulfur water changed all that!" He remembers campus employment at 45 cents an hour. "You name it; I did it—cleaning Kelly Hall, making cedar chests, managing the tool room. I was age 18 and a 10th grade dropout. Dr. Kelly encouraged me to get my high school diploma."

Henry Davidson, '53, remembers the house-raising day when 1,000 volunteers built 10 homes on Holly Hill. "We stayed up all night welcoming men from all over the south. R.G. Lee was on campus to preach. My wife was pianist for the male chorus." The Davidsons live in Jefferson City, Tenn.; he teaches

the men's Bible class at First Baptist Church.

Ted Bashford attended for two years in the '50s and today directs a rescue mission and children's home in Norfolk, Va. He remembers Mrs. Kelly. "She picked out promising men that she thought should attend a junior college. She worked with me to complete my

GED and I transferred to Tennessee Temple. My wife worked two years as a cook for the camps. I had a friend who came without a place to stay and the Kellys let them move into their basement."

Charles McCall, '57, was pastor of Dewitt Church while a student. Since his retirement, he has been interim pastor of 18 churches. His wife died in 1990; he resides in Savannah, Ga.

After Harry Sharp completed school in 1958, he was pastor of five churches in Oregon. Three of those he helped start as missions. He now lives in Modesto, Calif.

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

# MISSIONS

## Breaking barriers

### Alaska missionary celebrates diversity to share Christ

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—In the land of extremes that is modern Alaska, the cultural diversity is often as rich as the reasons people have for winding up there.

Nowhere is that more true than at Friendship Baptist Mission, where Anglos, Native Alaskans (Eskimos and Indians), Koreans, Hispanics, African-Americans and others together celebrate the universal message of Jesus Christ.

For Paul Wells, the missionary pastor of the congregation, the concept was something of a revelation. It also is something of a defining point for the work of the church and his ministry.

"What I see God wanting to do here is He wants to have His church, one that's not based on culture at all but is based on the Spirit of God," said Wells, who has served 17 years as a Southern Baptist missionary in Alaska. "It isn't about culture, it's about Christ."

Wells and his wife, Sharon, are featured missionaries for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$47 million.

The Wellses, like most of the pastors in Alaska, came out of a sense of missionary calling from the southern United States, where extreme cold, snow and midwinter darkness are simply not a factor. His home was North Carolina, but his heart was for areas like Alaska desperately in need of a Southern Baptist witness.

He first served two small churches near Palmer, Alaska, to the south, then was called to Friendship seven years ago. The church was founded as a Native mission during the '40s, and has become widely known for its English language and citizenship classes that became a nationwide ministry model.

Today Friendship is actually something of a hybrid of multicultural ministry, meeting some needs of individual groups but not completely separating into separate congregations. While the 11 a.m. worship service in English is for everyone, a Korean-language service meets separately in a newly acquired building across the street.

Sunday school is offered jointly to help bring the congregation together, and it also addresses a shortfall of single-culture churches—offering people from mixed-culture families a place to feel at home.

"We want to create a place where all children can come and feel like they have a home," Wells said.

Other efforts that also seek to break down the cultural barriers include joint services at Christmas and Easter.

"You pray in the language with which you are most comfortable, and you sing in the language you are most comfortable," Wells said. "We're all singing the same music, but we all sing a lot of different words. But it sounds good, it really does."

The overall goal is to make sure that



**PLAYING AROUND** Paul Wells, pastor of Friendship Baptist Mission in Fairbanks, Alaska, plays with a group of children before a Sunday morning service. The multicultural congregation has a long history of work with Native Alaskans and other ethnic groups. (NAMB Photo by James Dotson)

everyone feels they are equal partners in the work and no single group becomes dominant.

"The time that you actually arrive is when native people understand that they are missionaries to white people, just as much as white people are missionaries to them," Wells said. "Or when Hispanic people realize that I am here to tell a white man about Christ, not just Hispanic people."

Sharon Wells also has learned her own lessons about helping congregations help themselves. In their first pastorates, she said she was in leadership almost to a fault: contributing to a feeling that the members were not as qualified to do the work. "It's good to be involved, but when you try to do everything you don't give other people a chance to be used by the Lord. You take away their blessing."

Today, although she still is active in the church and is the pianist, she also feels part of her calling is through her work at the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, a local retirement center. "My office is right in the center of the home, so I still have a lot of contact with residents."

Wells also has extended his personal ministry beyond the church through his involvement in weekend drag races at a local military airfield.

His interest in clocking fast times in his supercharged 1993 Mustang GT Cobra is certainly personal, but the hobby has allowed him to get to know many individuals who would have never darkened the door of the church.

"These people are sometimes almost shocked when they find out I'm a minister," he said. "They say, 'That's not a preacher's car' and 'You're not like any preacher I ever saw.' It really opens the door for me to talk to them about Christ, and what I believe Christ has in store for them."

It goes back to Wells' view of how culture—whether based on race or any other factor—too often has defined the church to the point that outsiders don't see themselves fitting in.

In his own life, Wells said he never imagined himself being a pastor, but only because of a lot of the preconceived notions he had about preachers—not all of them positive. For many non-Christians today, Wells said, similar misconceptions often keep them from coming to faith in Jesus.

"The church is about culture a lot, and they see it and we don't," he said. "When they see a guy who doesn't exhibit the normal view of what a preacher is, it makes them stop and think, 'Well maybe this is different.'"

## New Zealand Baptists confront challenges of atheism & apathy

By Lynn Clayton  
Louisiana Baptist Message

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (BP)—Guitars, a synthesizer and drums strike the opening chord as four singers standing on the platform begin a praise chorus.

The congregation eventually rises to its feet and joins the singing—some clapping to the beat, some moving slightly from one foot to the other in time with the music.

A couple of older men in the congregation wear suits and ties. But others, including the ministers, are dressed casual.

This could be a Southern Baptist church most anywhere, except the accent is too southern—a few thousands miles too far south and west. The accent and location are down under, in New Zealand.

"When we left New Zealand for 17 years, the worship style was formal," said Julie Belding, who serves as editor of the New Zealand Baptist newspaper. "While we were gone, something happened. Now, most Baptist churches in the country have this style of worship."

Winsor Baptist Church is a thriving suburban congregation in Auckland, New Zealand, the island nation's principal seaport city. The church's attractive facilities—a converted nightclub—are filled twice each Sunday morning with 500 adult and youth worshipers and a beehive of activities during the week. The church has seven full-time ministers.

But this fifth-largest of New Zealand Baptist churches is not necessarily representative of Baptist life in this British Commonwealth that just voted to become independent from Britain.

"Membership seems to be declining," said Belding, who attended Southern Baptist churches in the United States while her husband studied and then taught computer science.

New Zealand Baptist Union churches now claim 22,456 members.

Being a Christian in New Zealand is significantly different from the United States, Belding noted.

"Being an atheist is an asset in this country," she said. "It costs something to say you are a Christian."

While many people claim membership in the Catholic or Anglican churches, most of the population attend services only on special occasions, Belding said.

Even a local bus driver explains that people want a church "only for marriage and burial purposes."

In addition to a secular society, church membership is not stressed—even by churches, Belding reported.

Baptist Union statistics verify her point. While total resident membership is stated at about 20,000, average Sunday attendance at New Zealand Baptist churches is twice that, leaders reported.

Baptist denominational missions in New Zealand also are experiencing significant challenges.

"The New Zealand Missionary Society seems to have fallen on hard times," Belding said. "They have told New Zealand Baptists that unless gifts to the society increase significantly this year, they will have to recall some missionaries."

The mission program seems to suffer because of a lack of denominational loyalty, Belding continued, and parachurch groups have become the primary missionary-sending agents.

As an illustration, Belding's daughter recently began serving an 18-month stint with Wycliffe Bible Translators. A friend of the Belding family recently returned from a year of service in North Africa with an independent missionary agency.

Despite concerns, Belding said she remains optimistic about the future of Baptists in her homeland.

"There are churches that are reaching people and growing," she said. "It's just not easy—and it is going to take more and more dedication on the part of Christians."

# 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:

■ Missionaries Pam and Dan Johnson in Tanzania as they look for new meeting sites for preaching points that have grown beyond current space.

■ A smooth adjustment for missionary journeyman Bryan Brigham as he begins ministry with the Maasai people in the Longido area of Tanzania.

■ Missionaries Jim and Patty Barrett who began work in Silesia, Poland, earlier this month.

■ Give thanks with missionaries Doug and Marcy Shaw in Poland: "Praise the Lord that we have seen good results to the prayers we have been praying regarding spiritual warfare in the Rzeszow area," they write.

■ Church planter Bill Combs in Salem, Mass., as he works with a disgruntled church member.

■ Church planter Matt Turner in Bridgewater, Mass., as he prepares for the coming of five summer missionaries to help plant a new congregation.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Meadowview Church called **James Padgett** as youth minister. **Jewell Hall** is pastor.

■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church will host revival services April 9-12. **Duane Lyon** will be the evangelist. For information, call (270) 265-2239. **David Wilkerson** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Dry Run Church called **Ira McMillen** as interim pastor beginning March 12.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Victory Church ordained **David Warren** as deacon. The church has entered a Challenge to Build program with a goal of \$400,000 to build a fellowship hall with educational space. **Mike James** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bashford Manor Church will host a Celebrate Jesus 2000 revival April 2-5 at 10:45 a.m. Sunday

and nightly at 7 p.m. **Michael Duff** will be the evangelist. **Eric Garvey** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church called **Tomara Brown** as youth minister. Brown, from Beaver Dam, is attending Southern Seminary. **Bill Shoulta** is pastor.

West Broadway Church called **Brian Jones** as youth minister. Jones previously served in that position part-

time. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—First Church has begun a year-long celebration of its 150th anniversary. Special guests will include former pastors and music ministers including **Steve Custer**, April 2; **Wayne Causey**, April 30-May 3; **Bill Tichenor**, May 28. For information, call (270) 365-5591. **Tom Hughes** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church will host **Steadfast** in concert April 2 at 6 p.m. **Larry Sizemore** is pastor.

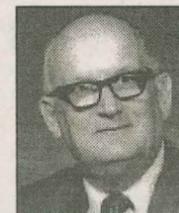
■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church honored **John Brandon** and his family on his 10th anniversary as pastor.

### What will your church be doing for Easter?

Is your church hosting an Easter musical, drama or sunrise service? Let us tell others about your plans by sending your schedule to Shirley Wooton at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: shirley\_wooton@kybaptist.org.

## I. Houston Lanier, 84

LEXINGTON—I. Houston Lanier, 84, a former director of mountain missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died March 23.



Lanier

"He was just a gentle giant," said A.B. Colvin, former director of missions and evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Lanier intimidated

some who did not know him, but his demeanor won them over, Colvin said.

"When you thought he was going to scare somebody to death, he would have them just eating out of his hand."

Kentucky churches where Lanier was pastor are Manchester Baptist, First Baptist Church of Sturgis and Columbia Baptist Church.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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.

**EVENT:** Rich Pond Baptist Church presents four performances of "Thieves in the Night," an Easter pageant, April 20-23. For free tickets call: (270) 842-2593. Jim Krutza is minister of music.

**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.

**FOR SALE:** Grand piano. Excellent condition, price reduced. Phone: (270) 247-1717.

**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.

**SEEKING:** The First Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor. A progressive, multi-staff church, First Baptist has two morning services (one contemporary, one traditional), a very active Sunday school, and numerous opportunities for midweek prayer meetings and congregational fellowship. It is a church that reflects the values of true Christian love and gender equity. For more information about our church and the requirements of the position, visit our Web site at [www.fbcashlandky.com](http://www.fbcashlandky.com). Resumes should be sent to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787, Attn: Dr. Eugene H. Foster.

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

**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:** Associate planned giving director. If you have an interest in a career helping people make decisions which will both benefit them during their lifetimes and a worthwhile Christian cause through their estate planning, this position will be of interest. The Salvation Army is seeking for associate planned giving directors to reside in the following areas: Southern Florida; NC; Baton Rouge, La.; Nashville, Tenn.; Fort Worth, Texas, and McAllen, Texas. While experience in planned giving is not mandatory, a demonstrated track record of achievement is. Experience in financial planning, health or life insurance, or pastoral background is a plus. The successful candidate should be willing to learn the field and be open to 60 percent travel. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package. For information, send or fax your resume to: Carr and Associates APG/SA, 10880 Benson, Suite 2330, Overland Park, KS 66210. Fax: (913) 451-9228.

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

**SEEKING:** Palestine Baptist Church of Campbellsville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking candidates for a full-time pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Palestine Baptist Church, 80 Church Lane, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**SEEKING:** Rineyville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of pastoral care and music. Church is located in a rapidly growing rural community five miles west of Elizabethtown. Direct all correspondence and inquiries to RBC, PO Box 197, Rineyville, KY 60162, or Rineyville Baptist@msn.com.

**SEEKING:** Williamstown Baptist Church, Williamstown, Ky., is prayerfully seeking applications for full-time pastor. Please send your resume along with a cover letter, statement of ministry and faith, and audio or video tapes if available to: Pastor Search Committee, Williamstown Baptist Church, 214 N Main St., Williamstown, KY 41097. Resumes will be received until April 21, 2000.

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

**SEEKING:** The health, physical education and recreation department at Southeastern Baptist University seeks applications for a tenure-track assistant professor of health and physical education beginning August 2000. Teaching load is 24 hours of undergraduate courses in health and physical education per academic year. Candidates must be evangelical Christians. Doctorate in health, physical education or related field required, effective interpersonal and organizational skills, teaching experience in higher education desired, a potential for excellence in teaching and commitment to undergraduate, church-related (Southern Baptist) education. Preference will be given to Southern Baptists. Send letter of intent, curriculum vita, statement of Christian educational philosophy, statement of faith and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Linda Wooderson, search committee chair, Southwest Baptist University, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. E-mail: [lwooders@sbuniv.edu](mailto:lwooders@sbuniv.edu). Fax: (417) 328-2009. Review of applications begins 4/1/2000.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Corbin seeks a full-time minister of music to give leadership to a comprehensive church music ministry. We are seeking a candidate who is creative in worship planning, compassionate in pastoral care and competent in vocal and instrumental church music to serve on a ministry team of three full-time staff members. Our worship follows the Christian calendar, and our music style may be described as predominantly traditional with a history of appreciation for variety and creativity. Our current music program consists of an adult choir, a graded choir program and a handbell choir. FBC is affiliated with both the CBF and the SBC. The successful candidate will possess a graduate degree in music from an accredited seminary or university, as well as commensurate experience. To apply, send resume to: Lynne Robinson Huff, Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 North Laurel, Corbin, KY 40701.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for an excited and growing SBC church in Cloverport. Please send resume to: Cloverport Baptist Church, 314 W Main St., Cloverport, KY 40111, or call (270) 788-6650.

**SEEKING:** Alexandria, Ky., seeks full-time minister of youth/recreation. For job description and salary info, please call (606) 635-5725. Please send resume to: Youth Search Team, Main Street Baptist Church, 306 West Main St., Alexandria, KY 41001.

**SEEKING:** Part-time activities assistant. Dependable, compassionate individual to assist in implementing recreational program. Apply in person: Meadowview Health & Rehab Center, 9701 Whipps Mill Road, Louisville. (502) 426-2778.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Twelve Mile Baptist Church, California, Ky. (eight miles south of Alexandria). Send resume to Linda Winkler, 8 Raintree Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059-9612.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister for Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky. If you feel God is calling you to this area to work with children, send resume to: Ms. Bryan, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** Resumes are currently being sought for position of pastor. Please send resume to: Edgewood Baptist Church, 212 Sanderson Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Search Committee. Fax to (270) 886-7359, or e-mail to [edbc@commandnet.net](mailto:edbc@commandnet.net).

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

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

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

## Exodus Ministry brings new life to ex-offenders

By Stacey Hamby  
Missouri Word & Way

HOLTS SUMMIT, Mo. (ABP)—A career in prostitution began simply enough for Karen Keaton. Estranged from her husband and arrested for possession of drugs, she needed money for an attorney.

"I paid off the lawyer, but I got hooked on the fast money," recalled Keaton, 36, of Holts Summit, Mo. "I worked all day from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and had \$800 in my pocket and nothing to do. I got into drugs."

That led to more trouble with the law. "I got further and further away from any thoughts of God," said Keaton, who grew up as a Catholic in St. Louis. "Then I was working for the money just to buy drugs."

That cycle landed her in and out of prison and drug-treatment programs for five years. The mother of three found herself divorced, alienated from her parents and due to be released from prison. She had nowhere to go, no family to welcome her and not a penny to her name.

But a Missouri ministry changed all of that. Exodus Ministry, which operates in Jefferson City and Bolivar, Mo., helps ex-offenders and their families become productive.

"I wouldn't be where I am now if not for Exodus," Keaton said. "I'd almost certainly be back in prison or dead."

Today, she has her own apartment, a job and custody of her 2-year-old son,

Cody. She plans to attend nursing school in August.

Exodus Ministry Executive Director John Bird said Keaton is an example of how the ministry is supposed to work. She is one of 33 ex-offenders who have been through the program at the Jefferson City site. Only two have returned to prison after graduating from Exodus.

Two women have completed the program in Bolivar, where Candace Betts is director.

Bird and his wife, Marty, members of Memorial Baptist Church in Jefferson City, started Exodus Ministry seven years ago. The Birds live upstairs in the Exodus office building. Next door are six apartments for ex-offenders in the program.

"Mainly, we need to have someone on site," Bird said. "We need to watch who comes in and make sure our residents are not associating with known felons, because that could be a violation of their parole."

Exodus is different from so-called "halfway houses," which usually are for individuals who stay only three to six months, Bird said. "We usually have a whole family here. Most have children, whether they're a husband and wife or a single parent, and ours is a whole year."

Exodus Ministry also is recognized as an alternative to prison. That means courts can sentence offenders who meet certain criteria to participate in the program while on probation.

People who have participated in Exodus have been in prison for a vari-

ety of crimes. But in most cases, Bird said, the underlying problems involve drugs and alcohol.

Participants must follow strict standards. They observe curfews and attend church and self-improvement classes, such as parenting.

The Birds and volunteers from churches in the community also provide a healthy dose of Christian love.

"I knew about God because I went to a Catholic school," Keaton said. "But the God I knew was one to punish you if you did something wrong. John and Marty and the classes helped me see more clearly how God is there for me to love me unconditionally, not to punish me."

Keaton said she already was on the road back toward God when she first arrived in Jefferson City, but she might never have matured without the love and discipline provided by the Birds and others.

"John and Marty were always there for a hug, and if you needed a foot in your butt to straighten up," she said.

Keaton—whose self-described spiritual awakening started after Cody's birth in prison—said incarceration gave her time to reflect on her life.

"I had no stable place to live, and here I had this baby," she recalled. "That's when I got down on my knees and asked God into my life and asked Him to guide me."

"That's when I realized God didn't turn His back on me, I turned my back on Him."

Keaton heard about Exodus from

someone in her drug-treatment program. Bird said word of mouth now is how most inmates hear about Exodus.

The day Keaton got out of prison, she owned only the clothes on her back. The Birds helped set her up in an apartment. All of the apartments are furnished, down to the first couple of weeks' worth of groceries.

The Birds then helped her find a job and drove her to and from work.

"My self-esteem skyrocketed that year in Exodus," Keaton said. "John and Marty were always next door, but they didn't come over. They gave me space."

They also made sure she attended the church of her choice regularly.

"One time, I was going to a church to speak about Exodus, and I realized this was the first time I had worn a dress since the escort service," she said. "This time, I was wearing it for the Lord."

Because of the changes in Keaton's life, her parents and sister have re-established a relationship with her.

The Birds also helped her make the transition to full-time motherhood when she obtained custody of her son.

"I had been afraid to take custody of Cody too soon and be overwhelmed," she said. "I hadn't been a mom to my other two children; I wanted to be a mom to Cody."

Keaton said she is just grateful she heard about the program.

"People from the goodness of their hearts reached out to me. They didn't want anything from me. They didn't even know me. That was a new concept to me."

**"I realized God didn't turn His back on me; I turned my back on Him."**

Karen Keaton, Exodus Ministry participant

## Blind woman memorizes New Testament

By Polly House  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Picture in your mind a woman who has memorized the New Testament, all 260 chapters, every word.

You might think she'd be the quiet type, introspective, very pious. She'd probably be frail, not someone with a social life. Probably lives alone with several cats.

Then Nadine Hammonds would surprise you. She's full of life.

Scripture memorization has always been a passion, she said. "Even as a child I loved the Bible," she said. "Memorizing has always been easy for me, just as it was easy for my mother."

Wanda McDaniel, Hammonds' best friend since they met at Southwestern (now Rhodes) College in Memphis in 1951, would drive from her southeast Missouri home to Hammonds' home in northeast Arkansas, and they'd drive over to Memphis together.

"Nadine, minister to me from the Word," McDaniel would often say, and so Hammonds would begin quoting the Bible. "It would minister to me so much," McDaniel recalled.

Hammonds would ask her friend to "try her" on quoting Scripture. "I guess I'd call out about a dozen chapters, and she could tell me every one of them. ... Her concentration is absolutely uncanny," McDaniel said.

A few years ago when Hammonds decided to see if she could memorize an entire book of the Bible, she chose the Gospel of Matthew. "It's such a

good place to start," she explained.

"I've always believed that statement, 'To whom much is given, much is required,'" Hammonds said. Memorizing Scripture has been her way to give back and do something for God.

Hammonds said she isn't content to simply parrot words back. "I like to know I can tell it back with expression, conversationally. That's when it can touch someone."

Hammonds has been blind since birth, but as she says, "Everybody has something to deal with, and being sightless doesn't have anything to do with memorizing. I learn with my brain, not my eyes."

Her philosophy: Don't major on the minors. "I don't dwell on that. Let someone else tell that story."

"I've worn out a whole set of Braille New Testaments in the past few years," she says. "I'm on my second set."

"There really isn't a trick to memorizing Scripture. It's just work. I love a challenge. You do have to have a certain mindset, and you have to concentrate."

Rather than taking hours each day, Hammonds said she just fits it in as she's washing dishes, watching television with her husband, Bob, listening to music or riding in the car. "I'm a real extrovert. I'm going and doing all the time. I don't just sit at home. I'm very active."

Now that Hammonds has fulfilled her goal of memorizing the New Testament, she still isn't finished.

"Have I arrived? Absolutely not. No, no, I realize how much more I have to

do," she said quickly.

Hammonds said it took her about three years to get the memorization done. She had memorized Scripture all her life, so she had a history of Scripture knowledge, but her goal of memorizing the whole New Testament took shape the last few years.

"The 'begats' are some of the hardest to learn—all those names no one has ever heard of," she said. "But if God put them in the Bible, they must be important."

Hammonds has become something of a celebrity. She has been interviewed by newspapers throughout the country and has appeared on television. Paul Harvey even spoke about her on his radio program, and this past November she was honored in New York City by the National Bible Association.

Having the opportunity to witness about her faith is important, she said. "Being interviewed is hard. But I look at it as an opportunity from the Lord."

Hammonds now is working on some of the Old Testament. "I've got the Book of Ruth now and about 16 or 17 other Old Testament chapters, but I won't get all of it. It's too hard keeping it all."

Comparing memorizing Scripture to baking bread, she says, "It can't be rushed. Your memory has to set, like bread. You don't just mix it up and put it in the oven. It has to have time to rise."

"Memorizing Scripture, hiding it away in my heart, has been the highlight of my life—the most thrilling thing," she said. "It truly is a way to make yourself a living sacrifice."

## Maryland church's baptisms in cattle trough draw unchurched

GLEN BURNIE, Md. (BP)—When pastor James Pope leads a baptismal service, it's hardly a routine affair.

Invitations are sent to friends of the baptismal candidates, people pack the church house and the new believers are immersed in a cattle trough.

North Arundel Church in Glen Burnie, Md., was founded seven years ago with an emphasis on reaching unchurched people, and baptism is a key part of the outreach.

"Baptism becomes an event in itself," Pope said. "And that is what it should be, what it was designed to be. In Bible times, new converts were immersed in high-traffic places as a witness to the watching world."

"Over the years, baptisms have evolved into in-house affairs, rarely attended by the uninitiated," Pope said. "The focus has shifted: What should be a witness to the lost is often solely an encouragement to fellow pilgrims."

At North Arundel Church, new believers are baptized once a quarter in a special Sunday evening service, in part because the cattle trough is heavy and cumbersome. By the time the pre-arranged date rolls around, between 15 and 20 candidates are waiting to be baptized.

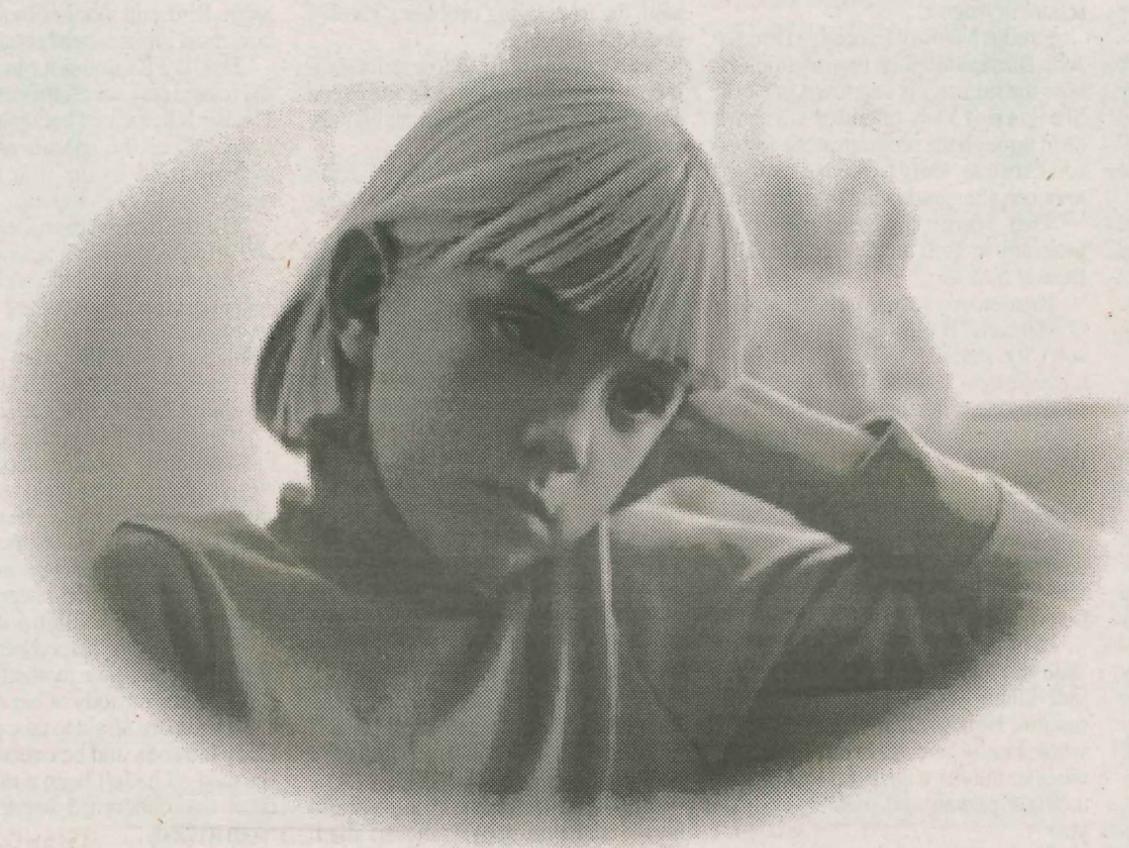
The church also provides invitations that are distributed throughout the community. "Attendance at our baptism service rivals Easter Sunday," Pope said. "People will come who won't come to anything else."

The unique baptismal services allow the church to present the gospel to a large number of people who might otherwise never hear.

After a brief time of praise and worship, Pope prepares the congregation for the service by explaining baptism. Then, the lights dim and the trough is illuminated by a spotlight.

Thinking creatively is a necessity for Christians who are serious about reaching the lost, Pope said, noting that sometimes something old like baptism can become something new.

# One hurt child is one too many.



A child growing up in Kentucky could face a troubling, abusive future. Thousands of children are beaten or endure other kinds of physical trauma inflicted by adults. Thousands are victims of incest and other sexual abuse. Still others are the forgotten, neglected children, growing up with no supervision, consistent medical care, nutrition or proper discipline.

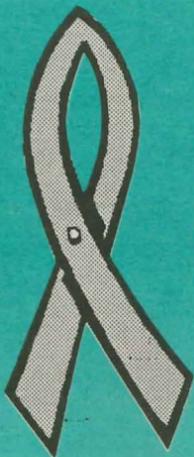
## Consider the lives behind these statistics:\*

- Kentucky ranks second in the nation in the number of confirmed incidents of child abuse and neglect.
- Kentucky ranks third in the nation in the number of confirmed cases of physical abuse against children.
- In 1996, physical or sexual abuse or neglect was confirmed in more than 27,000 children in our state.
- In 1996, 22 Kentucky children *died* from abuse or neglect.

*\*Child Welfare League of America*

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Wear and display blue ribbons to show your concern about the abuse and neglect of children.



For More Information, Contact:

### Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

10200 Linn Station Road • Triad East, Suite 200 • Louisville, KY 40223

(502) 245-2101

1-800-456-1386

[www.iglou.com/kbhc](http://www.iglou.com/kbhc)

email: [kbhc@iglou.com](mailto:kbhc@iglou.com)

