

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

May 16, 2000
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FOR THE RECORD

Fire

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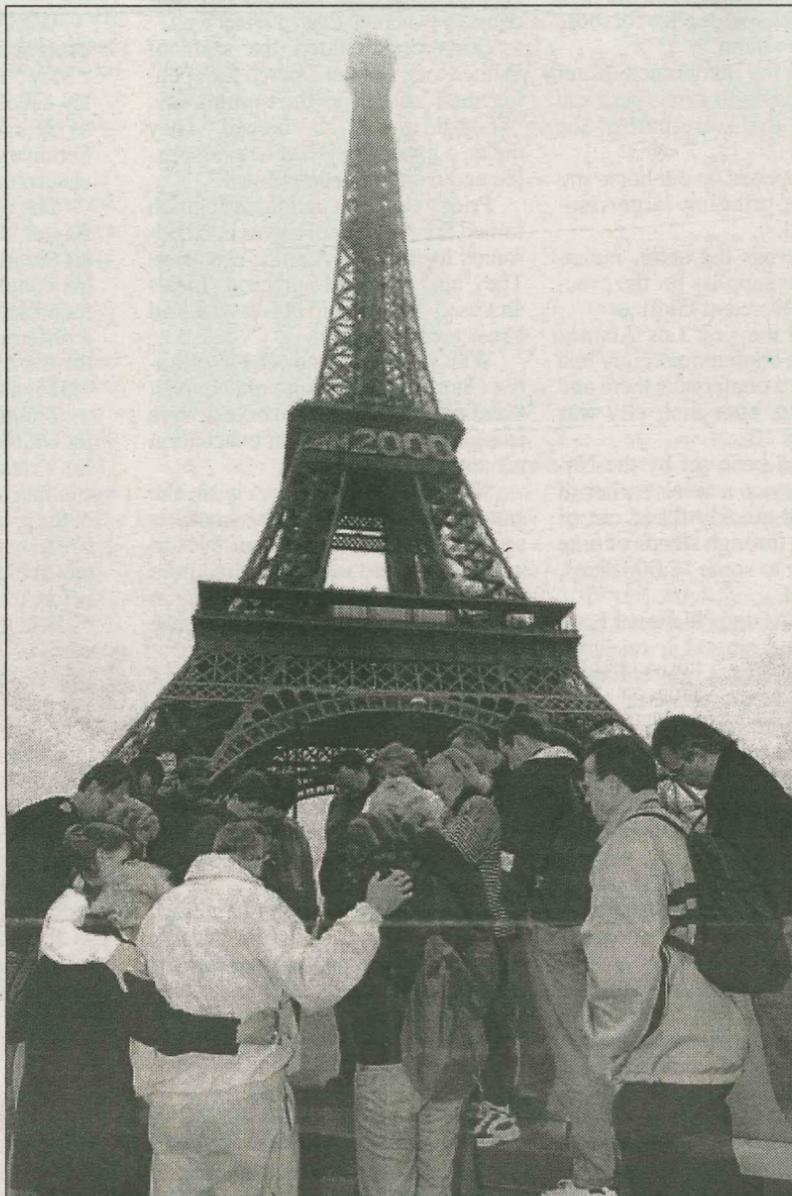
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Baptists prepare for a big event in Chicago. *Page 8.*

Issues

A filibuster is threatened for a bill that would stop assisted suicides. *Page 11.*



PRAYING FOR PARIS A volunteer team from Nashville joins with Southern Baptist missionaries at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris to pray for the 10 million people who live in France's capital. Southern Baptists' International Mission Board is putting more missionaries into the city to increase efforts to start a church-planting movement there, working cooperatively with French Baptists and other evangelicals. Paris-area missionaries have signed up more than 700 prayer supporters but are looking for more. For information about how to pray for Paris, contact IMB missionary Sam Catoe by e-mail at samcatoe@compuserve.com. (IMB photo by Mike Creswell)

Kentucky Baptists add Europe to partnership list

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

CEDARMORE—For the past year and a half, Kentucky Baptists have been involved in international missions partnerships in two other nations. Last week, that number skyrocketed to 24 nations.

Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board voted May 9 to enter a three-year partnership with the European Baptist Convention, an English-language convention with 67 congregations in 22 countries.

"This will be different from any other partnership we've done as we share the gospel with people in these 22 countries," said Calvin Wilkins, the KBC's partnership missions director.

The KBC currently is midway through three-year partnerships in Poland and Tanzania. The European partnership, also approved for three years, will begin in January 2001.

In a video presentation to Executive Board members, EBC General Secretary James Heflin invited Kentucky Baptists to work alongside European Baptists to advance the gospel.

"Europe is, in fact, a mission field," he emphasized, noting that church attendance ranges from 1 to 5 percent of the population in most European nations.

"Most of the people are not hostile to the gospel," he said, "but they are apathetic."

Citing the growth of English-language Baptist work in Eastern Europe since the fall of communism, he said there are "millions who have not heard the name of Jesus or don't know who He really is."

The EBC was established in the 1950s with English-language churches near American military bases. It has shifted its focus in the past decade to-

At a glance

Name: European Baptist Convention

Headquarters: Wiesbaden, Germany

Convention overview: 67 English-language congregations in 22 countries

History: The first EBC church was begun in 1957 in Wiesbaden, Germany. EBC churches originally were started to minister to the needs of U.S. military servicemen and women stationed in Europe. Through the years, the churches have evolved to reflect the makeup of the international communities to which they now minister.

Web site: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/ebc>

ward international ministry in major European cities such as Berlin, Moscow, Paris, Rome and Vienna. Heflin said the convention's 67 congregations include members from more than 120 nations.

Doyle Searcy, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor, now serves as pastor of an international Baptist church in Germany. With members from more than 20 countries, he said his congregation has become a missionary-sending organization as people are disciplined and then return to their home countries.

"Come over and help us," he urged on the video. "We need you and I believe you will be blessed for coming."

Wilkins said the official proposal involves Kentucky Baptists partnering with both the EBC and the Southern See *European Baptist ...*, page 3

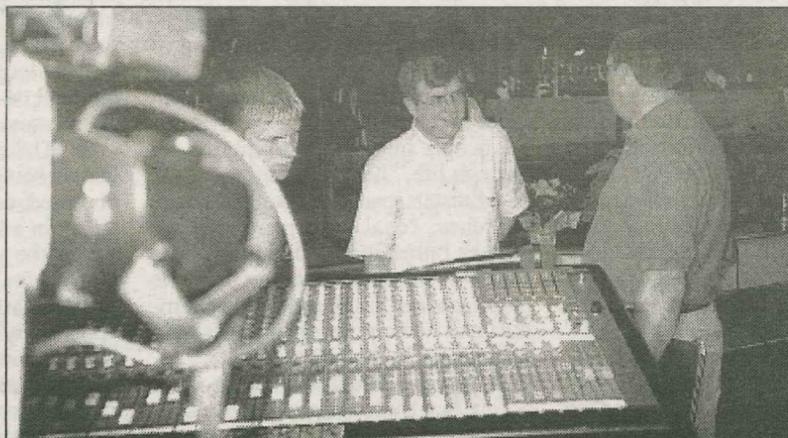
Innovative pastor: Excellence aids worship regardless of style

BOWLING GREEN—The secret to dynamic worship isn't in a particular worship style but in a commitment to excellence in whatever style is being used, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor told people attending a recent conference.

Brad Johnson, who recently left Bowling Green as pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church to join the staff of Saddleback Community Church in California, urged more than 300 technical ministry workers attending the Worship 2000 conference May 6 to "strive for effectiveness" in worship.

"I encourage you to raise the bar of excellence," Johnson said at the conference, hosted by his former church. "No matter what worship style you use or how much technology you have (to aid in worship), the question to ask is, 'Are you doing it well?'"

Johnson encouraged technical ministry workers and worship leaders to put effort into planning, commit the time needed to practice and strive to get the most out of every piece of equipment



LIGHTS, SOUND, WORSHIP David Benz (center), general manager of TV-48 Proclaim Broadcasting in Bowling Green, leads a seminar on sound engineering. More than 300 people attended the Bowling Green conference on technical ministries.

so the result will be a greater opportunity for worshipers to focus on God.

Living Hope, which uses a contemporary worship style that incorporates modern styles of music, humor, drama and video in its services, does so be-

cause it seeks to speak to the congregation "in the familiar language of modern society," Johnson said.

"We want to see (worship), hear it, experience it and participate in it. We want it to touch the senses," he said.

The day-long event was sponsored by the communications/media department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in conjunction with Living Hope Church.

Participants attended seminars on such technical topics as audio sound boards, lighting design, incorporating computer graphics into church services and selecting video projectors. Other sessions covered broader topics such as how to start a church technical crew, how to plan for worship and maintaining integrity in leading worship.

Leaders stressed that worship quality was the purpose for the conference, not worship style, said KBC communications director Robert Reeves.

Organizers originally had hoped for an attendance of about 100 people but were pleased that registration was more than triple, he said.

Those attending represented 92 churches and two college Baptist Student Unions, Reeves said. "There really seemed to be a pent-up demand for this type of training."

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, May 1

BAPTISTS

Glorieta opens doors to firestorm victims

PECOS, N.M. (BP)—Southern Baptists' LifeWay Conference Center in Glorieta, N.M., doubled as a shelter last week as fires raged through Los Alamos.

The firestorm that swept through Los Alamos May 11 destroyed more than 200 homes and forced more than 20,000 residents to evacuate the area.

More than 300 evacuees were staying at LifeWay Conference Center and the facilities were available for others needing shelter.

Billie Koller, the conference center's administration and support manager, said American Red Cross officials indicated they would be directing more evacuees there because no more rooms were available in Santa Fe. Koller said the number of guests could reach as many as 1,000.

"We had no conferences today and tomorrow (May 11 and 12), so we can accommodate them," she said. "We

have contacted several local pastors who have agreed to provide counseling services if needed. Also we will have a nightly chapel service for those who choose to attend."

Koller said the conference center is allowing people to bring pets and other animals that were part of the evacuation.

"We have opened up our horse stables for those bringing larger animals," she said.

Baptists across the state, meanwhile, gathered supplies for the evacuees, to be delivered at Glorieta.

Koller said the first Los Alamos residents at the conference center had been attending a conference there and had stayed over after their city was evacuated May 10.

The fire had been set by the National Park Service a week earlier to clear brush but quickly flared out of control, racing through stands of pine trees as it grew to some 18,000 acres, authorities said.

At the Los Alamos National Laboratory, flames singed a research building, but it did not ignite. Explosives and radioactive material were protected in fireproof facilities, lab officials told Associated Press.

David Sims, pastor of First Baptist Church of Los Alamos, said the church's facilities escaped the brunt of the firestorm. While the pastor's home and the church were spared, Sims said he was afraid that many church members lost their homes to the raging blaze.

"I don't know what God's purpose is," Sims said. "But His purposes are not going to be stopped by any man."

Residents in Los Alamos initially were evacuated to neighboring White Rock. Authorities later ordered residents to evacuate that town as well.

Sims commended the staff of White Rock Baptist Church for opening their church to the community. "They did a super job," he said. "They did an outstanding job of helping people and calming people down."

Prior to the evacuation, the church turned Sunday school rooms into bedrooms for the Los Alamos evacuees. They also prepared numerous meals and used the worship center as a Red Cross command post.

Walt Gragert, pastor of First Baptist Church of Espanola, told Baptist Press several Japanese workers were using their church as an evacuation center.

"It's pretty bad here with the smoke," Gragert said. "The smoke is so thick that it's causing our eyes to swell. We were ready to take more evacuees, but with the fire moving in our direction they canceled those plans."

Don Cass, the Baptist Convention of New Mexico's evangelism director, said Southern Baptists have begun to mobilize disaster relief teams and the teams will be dispatched pending authorization from the American Red Cross.

Texas Baptist feeding units arrived last week in Albuquerque and Glorieta, Cass said.

Mickey Caison, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's disaster relief coordinator, said churches or individuals wanting to assist families affected by the fires should contact the Red Cross.

Truett seminary dean steps down at Sloan's behest

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Students and faculty were stunned by a May 5 announcement that Bradley Creed will step down as dean of George W. Truett Theological Seminary June 1 and return to the classroom full time.

The change was instigated by Baylor University President Robert Sloan, who praised Creed for his contributions during Truett's founding years but said a dean with a different set of skills is needed for the next phase of the 6-year-old seminary's life.

Truett operates within the Baylor University structure, and Baylor's deans serve on three-year contracts renewable at the pleasure of the president. Sloan said he and Creed began conversations about the change more than a year ago, before the end of Creed's contract.

Truett's growth from 92 students to 194 under Creed's leadership is only the beginning of further anticipated growth, Sloan said.

Creed confirmed he and Sloan had been in conversation about the change for more than a year. Although he does not share the president's perspective that this is a good time for a change, he said, he determined to be cooperative in the transition.

Randall O'Brien, professor of religion and executive assistant to Sloan, has been named acting dean at Truett.

MAIL CALL Forest fire evacuees (left) from the town of Los Alamos wait for their mail to be found by Postal Service workers (right) at a relief center near the town, May 12. Many evacuees are being housed at Glorieta, a nearby Southern Baptist conference center. (RNS/Reuters photo)



Gregory: Decade out of SBC limelight teaches valuable lessons

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

ATLANTA (ABP)—A lonely decade away from the limelight led Joel Gregory back to his Baptist roots, the former pastor told the Network of Mainstream Baptists at its inaugural meeting in Atlanta April 26.

As a young minister known for articulate and powerful sermons, Gregory shot meteorically through the Baptist ranks.

In 1983, as a young professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, he presented a series of theme interpretations at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. In 1985, as pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, he was asked to nominate both SBC presidential candidates, Winfred Moore and Charles Stanley. In 1987, he was elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. In 1988, he preached one of the most famous SBC sermons ever, "The Castle and the Wall." In 1990, he became pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, then the largest Baptist church in the world.

Gregory turned out his own spotlight in 1992, when, burned out and disillusioned, he abruptly resigned the Dallas pastorate. "I had a gift to preach. That gift propelled me into positions and expectations I was not prepared to face," he said of his as-

cent and decline among Baptists.

After a time as "a door-to-door salesman of funerals," he now owns and operates a small publishing business in Fort Worth. And in the past two years, he has begun to preach again—70 percent of the time in African-American congregations and 30 percent in "small Baptist churches."

"Now I have as much perspective of a layman as an ordained minister, which I still am," Gregory told the Atlanta gathering, describing "what I found out about myself, the church and Baptists over the past decade."

"As someone who moved from the pulpit of a 'super church' to the other side of the pew, I saw my own ignorance about how hard it is for the people in the pew simply to get through life," he confessed.

Ministers, particularly in very large churches, "deal with people in the masses rather than individually," he said. But since his departure from the pulpit, he has "encountered the dilemmas and difficulties of life of people who sit out in the pews."

"Small is beautiful," he reported, noting that truth has grown out of his reacquaintance with people in the pews.

"Texas Baptists, we think bigger is better. But I recall the Lord Jesus said, 'The Kingdom of God comes without observation,'" he said. "God is not always in the large, the grandiose, the big. He also is involved with much

that is never seen, known, noticed.

"Baptist triumphalism needs to be muted by knowing God is doing a lot in the world we never know about."

"The Kingdom is God's Kingdom with a capital 'K' and not our kingdom," he said.

Gregory compared himself to the neurotic rooster who thought the sun came up because he crowed. "A burden I found too heavy to bear was that rooster phenomenon—that the kingdom was mine," he acknowledged.

"What God does in His kingdom is like a river flowing through time. It was there long before we arrived, and it will be there long after we are gone. We are the craft on the river. It carries us; we do not move it."

"The church is an institution of human beings with a divine origin," he observed, conceding he had as pastor "lived in a situation that tended to divinize the pastor and the institution around him."

"The last decade has been a good opportunity for me to get in touch with the humanity of the church," he said. "God is working in, through and around an institution that should not be treated triumphalistically."

His experience caused Gregory to re-evaluate "my own journey with and about the Bible, my life, times and education," he noted.

"I grew up with simple biblicism—a profound confidence that this is God's word for us," he said, holding up his

Bible. "I fell into what a number of Baptists fell into in the '80s, an attempt to define, analyze and denominate Scripture."

Regarding politics that divided the denomination, he said: "In the late '70s and early '80s, I was like a number of younger Baptist preachers in Texas. We really believed (the controversy) was about the Bible. One by one, we were disabused that was what it was about."

"It was more about style and hermeneutics," the approach to biblical interpretation, he explained. "It was about uniformity and a certain style or way of doing church. Of course, it was about power."

The years out of the limelight also caused Gregory to examine "the value I attached to my own roots as a Baptist," he noted. "I had the experience of being cut off from virtually every root that had been mine."

So, he had to ask himself, "Where do you come from?"

"The values in my life had to do with the Baptist heritage I received as a child growing up in Connell Baptist Church in Fort Worth," he said. They included "the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the church and the emphasis on a simple biblicism in which the Bible was not used as a tool or a wedge."

"My own heart is back at home, where I grew up," he said. "Those simple, basic Baptist truths have sustained me through a decade of challenge, loss and surprising friendships."

Church members patronize beer-free store after vote

By Rowena Bolin
Louisville Courier-Journal

LOUISVILLE—Members of a Valley Station church that was instrumental in preventing a new convenience store from selling beer came out in force last week to lend the store their financial support.

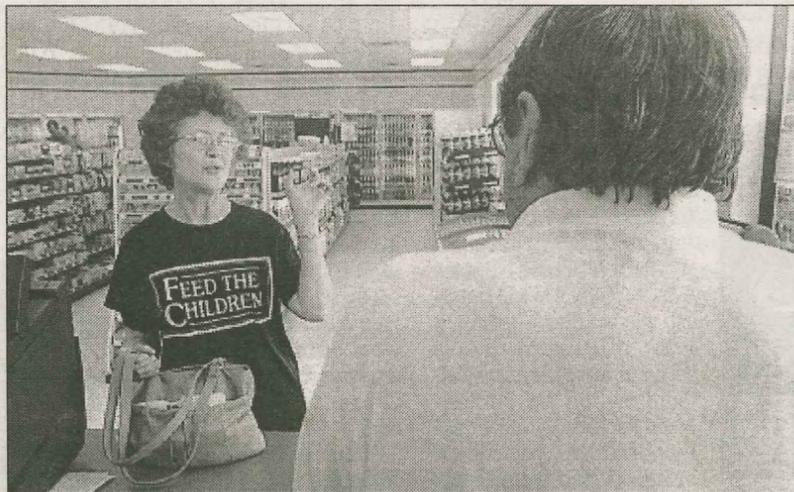
Pastor Kevin Hamm of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville declared Monday, May 8 "Valley View Day" at the Short Stop Food Mart at 801 Valley College Drive and encouraged members to stop by the store for gas or groceries.

"We want to put our money where our mouth is," Hamm said. "It would be easy to sit back and say, 'We won.'"

Jeff Holbrook, president of that food mart, wanted to sell beer at the store, which opened May 1 in a dry precinct. He requested a special election, hoping residents of Precinct 126 would vote to permit alcohol sales. Voters defeated that proposition 47-18.

Before the April 11 election, members of Valley View distributed fliers to inform residents of the election. The fliers did not tell people how they should vote; it merely informed them of the date, time and place of the election.

The church is not in the precinct, but some members' homes are, Hamm said. Holbrook said after the election that



BEER-FREE STORE Ellena Perkins, a member of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville, chats with manager Jim Elder while stopping to purchase gas at the Short Stop market on Valley College Drive. Church members patronized the business after helping defeat a bid for the store to sell beer. (© Louisville Courier-Journal photo by Sam Upshaw Jr.)

not being able to sell beer would leave him at a competitive disadvantage because stores in nearby precincts do sell beer.

"The last thing we would want to happen is for his store to suffer financially," Hamm said.

He introduced the idea of "Valley View Day" at the previous Wednesday evening service and mentioned it again Sunday, May 7. Members were enthu-

siastic, he said.

"I think it will show him (Holbrook) and show the community that we are not a church that wants to force everybody to think and do the way we do," Hamm said. "Our folks want to be a bridge rather than a barrier."

Store manager Jim Elder estimated that by 1 p.m. May 8 the store had had about 70 customers, many of them from the church. Because the store has been

open only a week, he could not estimate the amount of increase over the average day.

"Today's been real good," he said. The busiest time was between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., when he and clerk Teresa Baldrige were busy and customers sometimes were standing in line, he said.

Customers bought a variety of items, including gasoline, soft drinks and sandwiches, he said.

Greg Crowe, a church member who was buying gasoline at the store, said he was happy to have a store in the area that is not selling alcohol.

"I think it's great with the schools and churches that we have around here," he said. "I think it sends out a great message."

Ellena Perkins, another church member who was buying gasoline, agreed.

"It's wonderful to have a business in our area that is not selling alcohol," she said. "We need to be a good influence, and our businesses need to support building character in people. Not selling alcohol is a wonderful way." She added that she wants the store to succeed.

Holbrook, the company president, was out of his office and could not be reached for comment.

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KBC staff honored for service

CEDARMORE—Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board members honored KBC staff members who have reached specific tenures of service. Staff members honored during the May 8 banquet were:

■ Rick Trexler, campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, 20 years.

■ Jim Clontz, discipleship training department director, 15 years.

■ Chip Miller, church leadership specialist, 15 years.

■ Jo Ann Porter, administrative secretary to the business manager, 15 years.

■ Cathi Roy-Sanders, accounting services department director, 15 years.

■ Linda Songer, administrative secretary, state missions department, 15 years.

■ Doug Strader, discipleship and stewardship department director, 15 years.

■ Cheryl Davis, research/program assistant, church growth team, 11 years.

■ B.J. Watts Jr., support services department director, 11 years.

■ Calvin Wilkins, partnership missions department director, 11 years.

■ Tony Hough, extension-ministries department director, seven years.

■ Alice Seymour, secretary, discipleship and stewardship department, seven years.

■ Linda Stettenbenz, secretary to extension-ministries department director, seven years.

KBC Executive Board expresses support for children's homes

CEDARMORE—Expressing support for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board voted May 9 to share their views with Gov. Paul Patton and Lt. Gov. Steve Henry.

In other action during the May 8-9 meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, board members approved a 2001-02 Cooperative Program budget of \$21 million and implemented a new "Reaching Kentucky for Christ Fund."

Bill Class, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Covington, called for the Executive Board to affirm KBHC President Bill Smithwick, trustees and staff "for their stand for moral principles in hiring and continued high standards in ministering to the children

and families under its care."

The motion came in response to a lawsuit filed last month against the KBHC by the American Civil Liberties Union. The suit, filed April 17 in federal court, charges the KBHC with religious discrimination for dismissing a lesbian employee in 1998.

Executive Board members adopted Class' motion without opposition, agreeing to forward copies to Patton and Henry. State leaders currently are debating whether to renew the KBHC's two-year contract to provide child care services for the state.

During an earlier report, Ed Erwin, chairman of the board's agencies and institutions committee, said Smithwick and the KBHC staff "have done an excellent job."

"We share the conviction that homo-

sexuality is morally wrong based on the Scriptures," said Erwin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville. "As Baptists, we are standing for biblical values and I believe it shows."

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, said the proposed CP budget is 4 percent above the current budget. The totals include \$13,524,000 for Kentucky Baptist ministry efforts and \$7,476,000 for Southern Baptist Convention causes. The budget will be presented for final action during the 2000 KBC annual meeting in November.

The "Reaching Kentucky for Christ Fund" was proposed by Kentucky Baptist Foundation leaders. It will be funded by a portion of management fees for a new personal investing option available through National Asset Manage-

ment, the foundation's primary fund manager.

Foundation President Barry Allen presented KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey with a \$400 check as the first contribution to the fund.

"While this check is small, it is symbolic," Allen said. "We think the potential here is huge." Future income from the fund will be used to minister to internationals in Kentucky and to help churches and associations start new ministries.

Board members also voted to rename a general scholarship fund established last year the "Ministers' Continuing Education Scholarship Fund." The fund will be used to provide scholarships for bivocational pastors and to aid ministers serving in KBC-related new work assignments.

European Baptist needs include evangelism, vacation Bible school

Continued from page 1

Baptist International Mission Board.

"Our goal is to assist churches to help accelerate church planting and meet human needs," Wilkins explained. He said the IMB has agreed to help provide an International Service Corps couple to live in Germany during the partnership and coordinate missions efforts throughout the 22 countries.

Wilkins said anticipated projects will include evangelism, vacation Bible schools, music groups, pulpit exchanges and interim pastorates.

"This looks like projects Kentucky Baptists will respond to and get involved with, especially by those who may be intimidated by language barriers in other settings," he added.

Citing the challenge of maintaining three diverse partnerships, Wilkins said, "There are enough people in our

churches in Kentucky who have a missions interest who could fill these requests without depleting our resources. On an average year, we're talking about 750 to 1,000 people to take care of the projects for all three partnerships.

"This next year will be a testing time to see how people respond to three partnerships," he said. "It's going to require us to be more proactive in recruiting volunteers for these projects."

Wilkins said there have been six projects in Poland and three in Tanzania so far this year, with an additional 16 scheduled in Poland and 13 more in Tanzania.

Noting that two teams recently have returned from Tanzania, he said there already have been more than 400 professions of faith in Christ during missions projects there this year.

Coy Webb, pastor of First Baptist

Church of Monticello, recently led a five-member team to Losimingori, Tanzania.

"We worked among the Masai people and had a tremendous time there," Webb said. "We were doing evangelism, sharing with people in their huts, and did some light construction on a ministry center."

Webb said the team also showed the "Jesus" film to a group of about 275 people. "Many of them had never seen a movie," he noted. "Some of them walked as far as nine or 10 miles to see it."

Webb said the trip resulted in 46 professions of faith in Christ, including conversions by more than 30 Masai warriors. "By reaching them, it can make a tremendous difference in their community," he added.

"For me, this was probably the first

time I've ever had to share Christ with people who had never heard the name of Jesus before," Webb said. "It's one of the most significant things I've been able to do in my ministry."

John Walker, director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association, led a team of 10 volunteers from his association to Dar es Salaam.

"We had a great trip. We had 367 salvation decisions recorded," Walker said. "That was the most exciting part of the trip."

Walker said most of the professions of faith came during daily hut-to-hut visitation efforts by team members.

Urging prayer for the pastor and members of Vingunguti Baptist Church as they disciple the new converts, Walker said involvement in partnership missions is "one of the most spiritually rewarding experiences you can have."

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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Stand for what's right

As a pastor of a Southern Baptist church in Kentucky, I enthusiastically support Dr. Bill Smithwick and the leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in their decision not to settle the lawsuit brought against them by the American Civil Liberties Union. Sometimes it is necessary to settle things like this before court action is taken, but not in this situation.

I know the KBHC is under pressure from without and within to give in and compromise their beliefs on homosexuality. That's the politically correct thing to do. Major American corporations have done that as well as state governments and even some denominations.

But as an organization that we should remember is a Baptist ministry supported by people who like to be called "people of the Book," to compromise on a central biblical teaching such as this would be nothing short of sin.

The Bible clearly condemns the practice of homosexuality as sin. For a religious body to be forced to hire people who are in open rebellion against God would be disastrous for all religious bodies, not just Baptists. And if we have forgotten, the KBHC still answers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

I realize there is a chance that the KBHC could lose the suit and that the state may decide to pull its contract with the KBHC. If either happens, layoffs at that important child treatment facility are likely. And I take that seriously because I work at the KBHC on the Southern Region Campus. But this is a Bible-based position on a problem that has serious implications for the family.

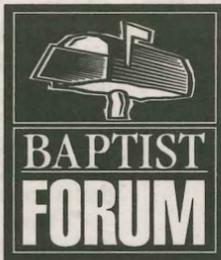
I know of several others I work with who agree with me. We don't want our employer to be a "faith-

based" child care facility, but a Bible-based program that stands for right and against wrong.

Bill Meece
Somerset

Don't pervert gospel

Throughout church history there have been religious leaders who did not believe that salvation is "by grace through faith," plus nothing, despite the explicit words of Jesus and Romans 3-5. A church-wide council was called within 20 years of Pentecost (Acts 15) because some said, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." To them, Jesus



was necessary to salvation, but not enough.

Galatians 1 states that certain teachers "pervert(ed) the gospel of Christ." Some "troubled" Galatians turned "to a different gospel—not that there is another gospel." The Apostle Paul went on to say twice: "If we or an angel from heaven preaches to you another gospel... let him be accursed."

Jesus "offered one sacrifice for sins forever" (Hebrews 10:12). But Romanism teaches that purgatory is necessary as preparation for heaven, despite the fact that the Word of God says: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." Romanism still encourages and accepts "gifts" so that masses will be "said" to shorten the stay of deceased loved ones in purgatory.

I suspect that if Edward Clark of Danville has been in Galatia when Paul's epistle was first read, he might have said: "Paul reduces Christianity to a level that will not ever be matched even by a seminary president."

It would appear that Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler is in good company with the Apostle Paul.

Donald MacDonald
Louisville

Life's like a race

Racing can be fun and exciting. The Kentucky Derby and the Indy 500 are seen by millions of people around the world. Both are multi-million dollar industries. Then there is the Olympics, which goes all the way back to the glory days of ancient Greece.

The Apostle Paul reminds Timothy that life can be compared to a race. He provides a plan for Timothy to follow; a plan that is meant to be a message for each of us as well.

First, there is preparation. Every race requires a lot of time, energy and work prior to the event. No novice or unprepared athlete ever entered the Olympics. And only the best are winners.

Paul describes the process and struggle one will encounter in the Christian life. He reminds Timothy to do the work of ministry, to "convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). Good work requires preparation, whether one is a skilled laborer or a surgeon.

Second, there will be a price to pay. Every athlete knows that to be a winner, one must discipline one's body, mind and spirit. No one becomes a champion without paying a price. Paul tells Timothy to "be watchful, endure afflictions and work."

There also will be positive results. The person who is prepared, who endures the struggle and the strengthening process will achieve positive results.

For the Christian, life is a race worth running, because it has an ultimate purpose in Christ. But that does not mean the race will be easy. There will be obstacles, trials and disappointments to endure and overcome.

Paul reminds Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Paul ran well the race that God laid out for him. What an example to follow.

Gary Bonnell
Paint Lick

GIVING

Endowment fund gifts can impact lives for Christ

By Laurie Valentine

You don't have to be a millionaire to be able to provide financial resources that will change people's lives in Christ's name.

Whether you wish to provide support for ministries to hurting children

and their families; state, national or international missions work; your church; or financial assistance to students attending Kentucky Baptist educational institutions, you can establish funding through the creation of your own endowment fund or with gifts to an existing endowment fund that will continue to give until Christ returns.

An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund managed either by the cause that will be benefited by your gift or another entity such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Only the earnings of the endowment assets are distributed to the charitable cause to be used for the purposes you designate.

A large gift is not required to establish an endowment. An endowment can be started with any amount that you can add to from time to time over your lifetime. This permits even those of modest means to do much more than they ever dreamed possible. As your fund grows, more lives will be touched and blessed through the support provided.

Endowment funds can be funded with outright gifts or bequests. You also can set up future funding of an endowment by designating the endowment fund as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan or IRA death benefits or life income gift (charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust).

Gifts made to an endowment fund during your lifetime will entitle you to an income tax deduction.

If you use appreciated assets, such as stocks, bonds or real estate, to make a gift to an endowment fund, you also save capital gains taxes. Gifts to an endowment fund at your death will provide estate tax savings.

Whether done through a single gift of capital assets during life or at death, or through a lifetime of modest levels of such giving, establishing an endowment fund permits you to demonstrate your gratitude for God's blessings and your desire to be involved in touching lives in Christ's name.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Women's conferences offer fun, inspiration

"When people hear the stories of my own disasters and flaws and how they can actually be fuel for humor and connection with others, they are encouraged," says author and humorist Becky Freeman who will be speaking at the Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences May 22-23. "They walk away thinking, 'If that crazy woman can laugh at herself and at life, and write books and speak to women, I believe God can certainly do something with me.'"

I'm hoping every participant will be thinking along the same lines after experiencing the spiritual renewal, fun and laughter of the conferences to be held in three locations across Kentucky. I encourage all Christian women to make plans now to attend one of these dynamic conferences. Each will give women encouragement in their faith walks and challenge them to share the joy of the Lord with others.

Freeman, a young mother and au-

thor of such books as "Marriage 9-1-1" and "Worms in My Tea and Other Mixed Blessings," will be just one of the exciting presenters. The other keynote speaker is Dottie Williamson, a multihousing ministry director in South Carolina. She was a schoolteacher when God called her to ministry. Her natural humor and ability to laugh at herself always makes her a favorite of the audience.

The conferences also will feature Alicia, a singer, songwriter and former Dove Award nominee. Alicia has a special gift for leading praise music and an incredible solo voice.

Two of the conferences will be held May 22, the first from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Cold Spring. Later that same day, the conference will be offered from 6:45 p.m.-9 p.m. at St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville. A third conference will be conducted the next day in Owensboro. Bellevue Baptist

Church will host this conference from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

It has been my experience that the women of the host churches roll out the red carpet for their guests. You will have a delightful experience.

On-site registration costs \$15, which includes the conference and refreshments. Group registration through your women's missions leader is encouraged. For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team office at (502) 254-4737 or toll-free at (888) 254-5722.

Shelly Hill, women's evangelism associate for the KBC, is coordinating the conferences, in cooperation with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, Women's Missionary Auxiliary of the General Association of Baptists and the Central District of the General Association of Baptists. It's an exciting partnership that allows us to bring you an extremely high-quality conference.

Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship, inspiration and challenge as you live out your faith. My wife, Kay, and I plan to attend. We hope to see you!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

Teach and model contentment to help children stop whining

Q: What can parents do about their children whining?

When we talk about whining, we're talking about complaining that moves beyond legitimate criticism, distress or fear and becomes an almost automatic response to anything that doesn't go our way. Synonyms include griping and sniveling. The words "high-pitched" and "irritating" complete the not-so-pretty picture. Unfortunately, the picture describes many of today's children.

Why do children whine? Whining and complaining come naturally for most of us, but other factors also contribute. The world overflows with adults who whine and complain when things don't go their way. Children watch and learn. In a world of abundance and stuff, many children don't know how to take "no" or "wait" for an answer, and so they complain and whine when they don't get what they want and what they feel they deserve. Perhaps most important for parents to understand, children whine because all too often, whining gets results.

What can parents do about whining?

- Don't be a whiner. Remember the importance of your example and be careful when you complain.

- Explain whining to your children as unacceptable and inappropriate behavior. Paint a picture of a whiner as a person who is not very happy and who does not have many friends.

- Don't reward whining. Do not allow your children to manipulate you by giving in when they whine. Help them learn that whining simply will not work.

- Teach contentment as a cure for whining. Scriptures like Philippians 2:14 and 1 Corinthians 10:10 can help teach your child the importance of being satisfied and thankful. Paul learned to choose contentment over complaining. Your children can learn, too.—David Garrard

Q: Our church has a large number of older members who are living alone or who are homebound. In addition to visiting regularly, we have several people who would like to start a telephone reassurance ministry. What is the best way to start such a ministry?

What a wonderful title for the ministry. Space will not permit a complete or detailed description. However, here are the essentials.

Preparatory steps:

- Decide if your group can take sole responsibility or if you need to network with others.

- Select an enthusiastic coordinator.

- Decide who you will recruit as volunteers.

- Determine how many individuals need the ministry and what geographical area you will serve.

- Map out an ongoing publicity strategy, as well as budget costs and emergency plans.

- Provide the necessary tools and training for the callers.

Implementation procedures:

- Training for the callers. This is extremely important and must be required for an effective program. Determine the boundaries and rules for callers such as length and frequency of calls.

- Obtain permission from those to be called and establish ground rules for the ministry.

- Evaluate the ministry every six to eight weeks.

This brief outline should get you started. Caring for those who need this reassurance will provide remarkable security for many who feel lonely and vulnerable.—Jon Rainbow

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



KBC answers 'Macedonian call' for Europe

Some Kentucky Baptist leaders have described it as a modern-day Macedonian call. James Heflin, general secretary of the European Baptist Convention, has invited Kentucky Baptists to join the EBC and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in a three-year missions partnership beginning in 2001.

Just as the Apostle Paul saw a vision of a man from Macedonia urging him to "come over into Macedonia and help us" (Acts 16:9), Heflin has extended a similar invitation for Kentucky Baptist volunteers to minister in the EBC's 67 English-language congregations located in 22 nations.

And just as Paul responded to God's call to preach the gospel to the Macedonians, Kentucky Baptist Executive Board members voted last week to accept God's call to share the gospel throughout Europe.

Kentucky Baptists have been involved in a number of successful missions partnerships in recent years ranging from Brazil to Russia. The convention currently is midway through a pair of three-year international partnerships in Poland and Tanzania.

That is where part of the challenge of the latest partnership opportunity comes into play. In addition to seeking to launch a new missions endeavor in cooperation with European Baptists, Kentucky Baptists must be careful to maintain strong, healthy partnerships in the two nations where work already is under way.

Calvin Wilkins, director of the KBC partnership missions department, is confident Kentucky Baptists can meet the challenge. Noting that the three partnerships could require up to 1,000 volunteers a year to meet project needs, he said, "There are enough people in our churches in Kentucky who have a missions interest who could fill these requests without depleting our resources." He added, however, that "it's going to require us to be more proactive in recruiting volunteers for these projects."

What are the benefits of putting time, money and energy into overseas missions partnerships? The direct benefits are at least threefold:

- The spiritual impact in the lives of the people

where volunteers serve.

- The personal spiritual growth gained by individual missions volunteers.

- The missions vision that is shared and multiplied among church members back home.

So far this year, more than 400 people have made professions of faith in Christ as a result of three partnership missions projects in Tanzania. While projects in

Poland haven't reaped as much measurable spiritual response, a number of projects have helped train leaders to be more effective in reaching people for Christ in the years ahead.

The new partnership with European Baptists will include a combination of challenges and opportunities. On the positive side, individuals who are uncomfortable with the language barrier on many international-mission fields will have the opportunity to minister in English among the EBC congregations. Evangelism projects, vacation Bible schools, church planting efforts, leadership training seminars and other projects can be accomplished without the aid of an interpreter.

Such practical matters as the convenience of flights to Europe, affordable travel costs and comfortable accommodations in most settings also should help eliminate concerns sometimes faced by first-time missions volunteers.

Among the challenges is the fact that EBC churches are located in diverse cultural and geographical settings. With congregations located in nations ranging from Norway and Great Britain to Germany and Bulgaria, Kentucky Baptists must work diligently to discover creative ways to share the gospel throughout Europe.

Despite the challenges, missions volunteers typically describe their involvement in overseas projects as a "life-changing experience."

Just as the Apostle Paul had the opportunity to make a spiritual impact in Macedonia, Kentucky Baptists have that same opportunity in Europe, Poland and Tanzania. Begin now to seek God's will for your involvement in Kentucky Baptists' Macedonian call for the 21st century.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Have you heard about the senior surge?

By Roger McCurry

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18a).

Does your church have a vision for ministry to senior adults? It's time for churches to develop a vision for reaching seniors, ministering to seniors and mobilizing seniors for ministry.

Consider these facts:

- Two-thirds of all people age 65 or older who have ever lived are alive today.

- By 2025 the 65-plus population will outnumber teenagers by two to one.

- By the year 2030 people age 65 and older will represent almost 23 percent of the U.S. population.

- When the last of the baby boomers reach retirement age, 25 percent of the population will be over 65.

Older adults have become the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States.

What does it mean? It means new challenges for a new day. It means that this group has created an age wave, a senior surge that is transforming the national landscape. Some people be-

lieve the population shift soon will produce the most profound social revolution in our history.

Ken Dychtwald, a noted social scientist and demographic observer, says the population shift "is going to be of a significance that matches the dawn of the industrial age or the invention of the microchip." He says it is like a tidal wave sweeping across America. If only in terms of sheer number, the age wave will change every facet of our society in coming years.

Is your church preparing to catch this age wave? It's not enough just to be aware of this information. The church needs to understand the potential and challenges that the age wave is presenting. Churches need a purpose and plan to meet senior adults' needs and to mobilize them for ministry. God is providing a unique opportunity for the church. Don't miss the boat.

Traditional ways of ministry may no longer be effective. It's important that we understand senior adults and try to be innovative and creative to meet their needs. Senior adults have unique needs. Understanding the different characteristics of the younger senior and the cen-

tenarian is important in programming.

When programming, remember to provide balance to meet the spiritual, mental, physical and social needs of seniors. Programming should include spiritual enrichment, learning opportunities, action groups, support ministries, socialization, physical fitness, recreation, serving ministries, caring ministries, evangelism and outreach. The most exciting challenge is to mobilize this group to continue using their spiritual gifts, talents, time and passions to serve God. Two good resources for those who work with seniors are "Forward Together" by Jay Johnson and "Catch the Age Wave" by Win and Charles Arn.

One organization focusing on senior adult needs is the Kentucky Baptist Association for Ministries with the Aging. The purpose of this organization is to create opportunities for fellowship, networking and training among church senior adult leaders. The association, along with Karl Babb and the Kentucky Baptist family ministries department, will sponsor a Senior Adult Leadership Summit Nov. 2 at the Baptist Building in Louisville. Contact Roger McCurry at (270) 765-7822 or Karl Babb at (888) 254-5704 for more information.

Roger McCurry is minister of senior adults at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

MISSIONS

Missionary and son reunited after shooting, kidnapping

"God is in control. He's going to use those things for His purpose."

Joy Hortman, mother of missionary Travis Forsythe

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

BOUAKE, Cote d'Ivoire (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary with ties to Kentucky in Cote d'Ivoire was wounded May 8 when gunmen hijacked his car and drove away with the missionary's son still in the vehicle.

Travis Forsythe was driving home to Dabakala, where he and his wife, Kim, serve among the Djimini people group. His 2-year-old son, Nathanael, was with him.

When Forsythe stopped for food late in the day at the city of Bouake, two bandits took the car from him at gunpoint. Forsythe clung to the open door of the vehicle, trying to convince the gunmen to let him get Nathanael out. The driver shot and slightly wounded Forsythe, who chased the car as it sped away with his son in the back seat.

Forsythe's wife and their 5-year-old daughter, Gloria, were not with him at the time. Mrs. Forsythe, who was observing her 30th birthday at home, had been ordered to bed by her doctor because of complications in her pregnancy.

Forty-five minutes after the carjacking, the gunmen put Nathanael out of the vehicle and left him alone on a dark road in the village of Katiola. Villagers



put him in the care of a midwife, who fed and bathed the child and put clean clothes on him while authorities located his parents.

Nathanael was back with his father by 1:30 a.m. His mother, however, was hospitalized for a few days because the shock of the carjacking and kidnapping exacerbated the complications of her pregnancy.

Forsythe's mother, Joy Hortman, is a member of Georgetown Baptist Church. Affirming the power of prayer, Mrs. Hortman said, "God is in control.



HIJACKED Travis and Kim Forsythe are Southern Baptist missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire. Travis was wounded May 8 when gunmen hijacked his car and drove away with their son, Nathanael, still in the vehicle. The Forsythes are pictured with their children Nathanael and Gloria. (IMB photo)

He's going to use those things for His purpose."

Mrs. Hortman said she was in contact with her son and Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials throughout the eight-hour ordeal before Forsythe was reunited with his son. "When everybody's back together, it's such a relief," she added.

That the carjacking occurred on Mrs. Forsythe's birthday may have been the saving grace for her husband and son.

Many Southern Baptist publications include prayer calendars with the names of missionaries and their birth dates. Thousands of Southern Baptists were praying for Kim Forsythe as the gun-

men were attacking her husband and kidnapping her son. The number of intercessors multiplied as word of the kidnapping flashed through electronic prayer networks.

The incident highlights the importance of praying for missionaries, said Wanda Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union.

"We never completely know what we are praying for when we pray for missionaries on the prayer calendar," Lee said. "It is humbling and exhilarating when we learn about experiences like the Forsythes' and know, in faith, that our prayers played a role in resolving it."

"We praise God for His provisions in the lives of Nathanael and his family," she said. "We will continue to pray for them as they process this event. We also are praying for the hijackers. We pray that they will come to know Christ and be able to turn away from a life of crime."

Reflecting on the incident, Mrs. Hortman said, "Before I gave birth to my son, I committed him to the Lord. I don't think this is going to dampen their desire to be missionaries. ... We are praying for healing now."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson and Teresa Dickens of WMU

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MISSIONS

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Rev. David Scott, Louisville, Ky., minister of music and senior adults, Ormsby Heights Baptist Church; conference music leader.

Dr. Don Spencer, Middletown, Ky., Director of the Annuity Department, KBC; conference seminar leader on the minister and church finances.

Dr. Gayle Toole, Nicholasville, Ky., retired pastor and former KBC president; conference pastor.

For more information contact:

Rev. Wes Ross, Office of Church Relations,
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Cumberland College
Williamsburg, Kentucky

Nigerian Baptists expect riots to multiply churches

By Sue Sprengle
SBC International Mission Board

KADUNA, Nigeria (BP)—The building's walls crumble when you touch them. Chipped and broken cinder blocks litter the floor, along with charred scraps of wood and broken glass.

During the night, attackers threw Molotov cocktails inside the Baptist church in Kaduna, Nigeria. The attackers ripped down the large cross hanging behind the pulpit and burned it outside for all to see. The final touch of vandalism involved spray painting "Shari'a or War" on the wall in bright red letters.

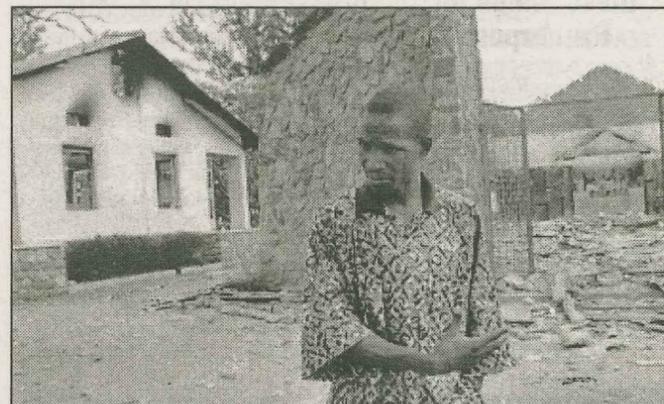
Despite the terror of that night in late February, church members walked fearlessly onto the grounds the next day for worship. They came in pairs, as families or even alone.

"Nothing can ever stop us from worshipping our God," said Bidam Mallam, a member of the church. "We will come back and keep living the way we have always lived, We will live for our God."

Riots began Feb. 21 over a proposal to institute Islamic criminal law, or Shari'a, in northern Nigeria's Kaduna state. An estimated 1,000 people died in the violence.

Uche Enyioha, president of Kaduna Baptist Seminary, said that, for many people, moving past the riots involved taking a stronger stand for Christ.

"I saw courage in the local Christians after the major bombings. People still assembled on Sunday in the bombed auditoriums all over town," Enyioha said. "They told me that they must worship the way God has called them to worship. They have decided not



to run, but to stand strong in their faith."

The first Sunday after the riots, 30 people attended the service at First Baptist Church of Kaduna. Since then, attendance has almost doubled each Sunday.

Enyioha attributes the surge in attendance to curiosity. He said people want to know how Christians can be persecuted and still worship openly. Enyioha prays that the seminary will serve as an example for local Christians in persevering and reaching the non-Christians.

As the riots reached a pinnacle Feb. 21 and 22, the seminary bore the brunt of the destruction. More than 800 students, faculty and staff members held off the attackers for a day before escaping to an air force base.

The seminary campus was destroyed as the attackers beat down the walls, bombed the chapel, library and classrooms and looted student housing. Enyioha estimates it will cost millions of dollars to rebuild.

Despite the loss of buildings and textbooks, classes for seniors resumed May 2 in a makeshift classroom. Graduation is slated for July 2. Plans are to start rebuilding after graduation and re-open in January 2001.

Historically, the process of rebuilding riot-damaged churches in northern Nigeria always has resulted in more people becoming Christians. In 1987, attackers burned churches and killed Christians. The church buildings not only were replaced, but more congregations were planted in the process. In 1992, church buildings once again were burned to the ground and the number of congregations more than doubled.

The latest fires ignited the Christian community, said Isaac Gbadero, seminary student body president. Standing over a mass grave containing Christians killed during the riots, he said, "Our brothers and sisters died for Christ. We must be willing to do the same."

As Gbadero spoke, his eyes moved from the grave to a stone wall not far away—a wall that separates the Christian cemetery from the Muslim cemetery. On the other side stood an identical mass grave of Muslims killed in the riots. "I pray that God will break down the walls that separate us," Gbadero said. "Many families are split because of that wall."

"Pray not only that hearts will be open to the Holy Spirit but that someone else will step forward and risk their life for the spread of the gospel," he said. "That is the only way the wall will ever come down."

REMEMBERING Isaac Gbadero, president of the student body at the Baptist seminary in Kaduna, Nigeria, recalls the late-February attack that destroyed the seminary campus and took the lives of 11 people. The perseverance of Kaduna's Baptists in the face of persecution has been a powerful witness to the community, observers say. (BP photo by Bob Siddens)

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MISSIONS

Chicago Baptists preparing for 'SearchLight' project

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

SEARCHLIGHT CHICAGO
Chicago's sprawling Grant Park, located between the city's massive downtown region and the shore of Lake Michigan, will be the base for SearchLight, a July 8 evangelism emphasis involving thousands of volunteers and churches throughout the metro area. (BP photo by James Dotson)

CHICAGO (BP)—Chicago is called "the windy city," a moniker drawn from the constant breezes blasting off Lake Michigan.

But this year Southern Baptists and other evangelicals are praying that a fresh breeze of Spirit-led revival will make its presence known with just as much intensity.

Chicago is one of two cities receiving special attention from Southern Baptists nationally this year through a North American Mission Board-coordinated effort known as Strategic Fo-

cus Cities. Beginning this year in Chicago and Phoenix, the mission is to impact two major cities each year with the gospel of Jesus Christ as never before.

Activities are planned throughout the year in the four Southern Baptist associations and 276 churches that make up what locals refer to as Chicagoland. Events include training conferences, block parties, prayer journeys, revival meetings, area-wide crusades and two evangelistic circuses planned for June. And to help new Christians grow in their faith and serve effectively, new churches of all varieties are being started.

But if there is a central focus for the effort—which in Chicago operates under the name "Celebrate Jesus 2000"—it is the one-day evangelistic blitz planned for July 8 known as SearchLight.

Through SearchLight, tens of thousands of evangelical Christians will draw together to "search out" those in need of the gospel and share with them the love of Jesus Christ.

"We have to take on the responsibility for which God has called us," said SearchLight director Tom Kleinfeldt.

A key aspect of SearchLight is the

distribution of "The Book of Hope," a small evangelistic book published by the Christian Broadcasting Network that shares the gospel message through a question-and-answer format.

Strategic Focus Cities/Celebrate Jesus 2000 partnered with CBN in providing 300,000 copies of the books and related materials for distribution on July 8. CBN, meanwhile, is underwriting a media campaign familiarizing residents with the project.

"We'll use them door-to-door, at Taste of Chicago (an event being held the same day in Grant Park) and at block parties," said Kleinfeldt, who serves on the staff of Chicago Metropolitan Baptist Association.

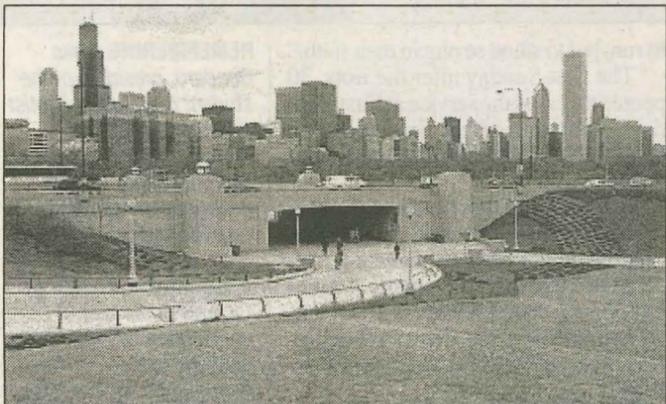
Local church efforts will be focused on the primary themes of the "Lighthouses of Prayer" movement that is also a part of the emphasis: praying for people, caring for people and ultimately sharing the gospel. While all three are present in most of the efforts, the theme illustrates the varied aspects of effective evangelism.

The event in Grant Park will involve day-long entertainment—including a gospel music festival—as well as volunteers who will walk throughout the park sharing their faith. The "Taste of

Chicago" event is expected to bring thousands of people to the area.

In the evening, volunteers participating from across the city will converge on the park for an evening celebration.

For information about SearchLight and other opportunities related to the Celebrate Jesus 2000/Strategic Focus Cities effort in Chicago, visit the www.chicago2000.net Internet site or call (800) 645-2412.



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NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Gay adoption ban signed.** Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove signed legislation May 3 to ban homosexual couples from adopting children in the state of Mississippi. Musgrove, a Democrat and Baptist layman, gave his approval of the law after it passed a vote in the state's legislature. Supporters said the legislation was spurred in part by Vermont's new law giving homosexual couples nearly all of the benefits of marriage. The American Civil Liberties Union has threatened to file a lawsuit. Mississippi is the third state to ban homosexuals from adopting children.

■ **Malcolm X's murder discussed.** Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan admitted in a "60 Minutes" report broadcast last Sunday that his words might have contributed to the 1965 murder of Malcolm X. Members of Malcolm X's family long have believed that Farrakhan held some responsibility for the murder on Feb. 21, 1965, in Harlem. "I may have been complicit in words that I spoke leading up to Feb. 21," Farrakhan told "60 Minutes" correspondent Mike Wallace. "I acknowledge that and regret that any word that I have said caused the loss of life of a human being." In

1965, Farrakhan sharply criticized Malcolm X for breaking away from the Nation of Islam and wrote that Malcolm X "was worthy of death."

■ **Presbyterian losses growing.** The Presbyterian Church (USA) lost members at a faster rate last year than in the previous two years. The church reports that in 1999, membership dropped by 27,473 to a total of 2,560,201. In 1997 and 1998, the annual decline had slowed to about 20,000. Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the church's General Assembly, said the church "needs to be more active in our evangelization, and in building up the strength and health of our congregations."

■ **Baptist backs bill.** A Southern Baptist Convention lobbyist is among those urging passage of a bill aimed at protecting children and women forced into sexual slavery in the United States. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill May 9. "We urge the U.S. Senate to follow the House of Representatives' lead at once, in speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves and helping end the selling of women and children into sexual slavery around the world,"

said Richard Land, president of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

■ **Methodists to stay in council.** The United Methodist Church voted May 11 to continue its membership in the National Council of Churches despite growing frustration in some church circles that the ecumenical body has grown too liberal. During the group's quadrennial General Conference, delegates defeated a motion that would have ordered the church to withdraw from the NCC by the end of the year. The United Methodist Church is among the NCC's largest financial supporters.

■ **Christian Web site spurned.** A Christian Web site was declined as an advertiser for commercials during the CBS miniseries "Jesus," raising questions of a double standard. CBS rejected the ads by iBelieve.com during the miniseries, saying the content was too similar to the program and might cause confusion among viewers. Citing Nike ads that aired on the network during the college basketball tournament, executives at iBelieve.com questioned whether they were being held to a double standard.

Judge rules against building a brick wall to surround Jesus

MARSHFIELD, Wis. (RNS)—A Wisconsin judge has ruled that the city of Marshfield should place a wrought-iron fence around a statue of Jesus on a private piece of land within a public park rather than a masonry wall requested by atheists.

The 15-foot-high statue has been in the park since 1959 but has been a source of dispute since the Madison-based Freedom From Religion Foundation sued to get it removed because its members thought it violated the First Amendment.

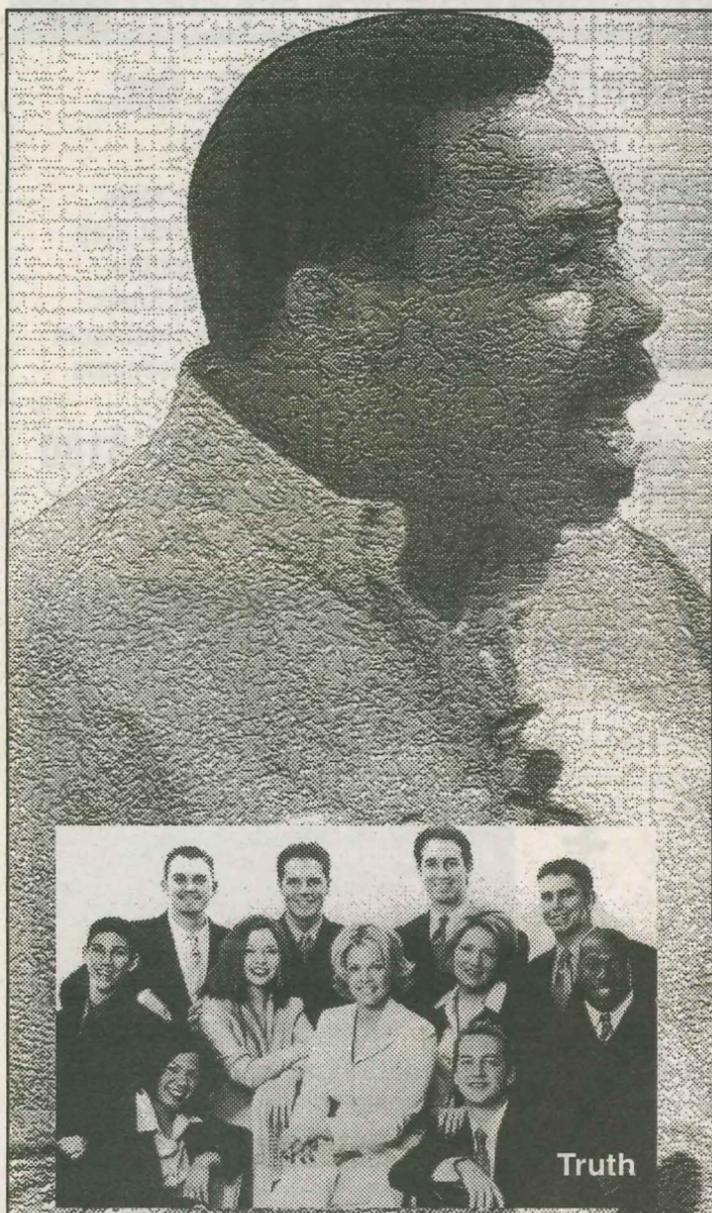
The city sold the statue to a private landowner, prompting dismissal of the suit in December 1998. An appellate court told the city to differentiate between the public property of the park and the private property on which the statue stands.

The city proposed the 4-foot-high fence and a sign indicating the statue was on private property. The Freedom From Religion Foundation requested the statue be enclosed behind a 10-foot high concrete wall.

U.S. District Court Judge John Shabaz ruled May 9 that a "visual separation" of the statue from the rest of the park was not required. He accepted the city's proposal for the fence.

Francis Manion, senior regional counsel for the Midwest of the American Center for Law and Justice, called the decision "a victory for common sense."

Foundation spokeswoman Annie Laurie Gaylor said her group had hoped something other than the proposed fence would be put up in the park located next to a highway. "They're not going to see a wrought iron fence going at highway speed."



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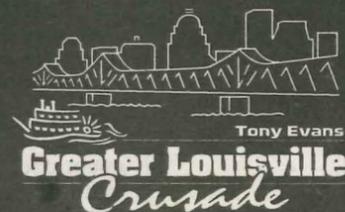
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Methodists vote to keep bans on marriage, gay clergy

Report rules on Mormon baptism

CLEVELAND—United Methodists last week approved a report that distinguished Christian baptism from the immersion that Mormons practice.

Delegates to the church's General Conference approved a report that called on Mormon converts to receive a new baptism, saying the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints "is not a part of the historic, apostolic tradition of Christian faith."

The Mormon report, approved without a vote, was the result of difficulties faced by Methodist pastors in Mormon-heavy western states. Pastors were unsure whether a Mormon baptism could count as baptism in the Methodist church. The report responded with a strong but cautious no.

Because of doctrinal differences with the Mormon church, the report recommended that Mormon converts receive a new baptism in the United Methodist Church.

In the Mormon church, adult baptism by immersion is a necessary step toward entering an eternal "celestial kingdom." Mormons are urged to undergo baptisms "by proxy" for ancestors so that they might also enjoy an eternal kingdom. Those who are not baptized "shall be damned," according to Mormon scriptures. The United Methodist Church, like Baptists and most other Christian churches, does not embrace such theology.

Because of major doctrinal differences with the Mormon church, the report recommended that Mormon converts receive a new baptism in the United Methodist Church. "What it's saying, bottom line, is that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not a Christian faith," said Gayle Felton, a consultant with the Methodists' General Board of Discipleship.

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—The United Methodist Church voted decisively on May 11 to retain policies prohibiting homosexuals from ordination, banning same-sex union ceremonies and describing homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching."

The three votes all carried by 2-to-1 ratios, and the results were expected.

The votes were overshadowed by an emotional protest that brought the denomination's top decision-making body to a standstill and resulted in arrests of at least 27 people.

During two emotionally wrenching sessions, more than 200 activists disrupted the meeting by storming the convention floor and circling the auditorium to protest the votes.

At the height of the morning demonstration, a woman threatened to jump from the arena's balcony, but was held back by others. "I am gay, I have been gay all my life and I love God," the woman said before attempting to jump.

The United Methodist Church—the nation's second-largest Protestant body with 8.4 million members—was meeting for its quadrennial General Conference to set policy and doctrine.

The church has become ground zero in the battle for more inclusion of gays in church life since the Gen-

eral Conference last met in 1996. Because of a series of seemingly contradictory rulings on same-sex union ceremonies, pro-gay activists had hoped this meeting would bring a change in policy.

One of the church's most specific statements on the issue calls the practice of homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching," and has served to mold the church's doctrine on such related issues as ordination and same-sex unions. Delegates voted 628-337 to retain the statement.

Traci West, a pastor from New York, urged delegates to remove the statement and stop using Scripture to exclude homosexuals as it once was used to justify slavery or the subjugation of women.

"Let us seize this opportunity to step into the love of God," West said. "Is there not already enough hate, enough war, enough prejudice, enough use of the Bible to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation? Let us worry about the ones Jesus calls us to care about—the oppressed."

On the issue of prohibiting the ordination of "self-avowed practicing

homosexuals," delegates voted 640-317 to uphold the ban. After delegates had voted to continue the "incompatibility" language, many said lifting the ordination ban would be inconsistent.

"We are a people ... who want the church to be a place where all are welcome and where grace abounds," said delegate Mark Fenstermacher of Elkhart, Ind. "But while we are a people of grace, we are also a people of (biblical) truth."

Delegates voted 646-294 to keep the ban on same-sex unions, and also defeated a motion that would have changed the wording of the prohibition from "shall not" to "should not."

The protests and the three votes left many unsure of the future of the denomination which meets again in 2004.

The General Conference is the only body that can speak for the entire church, and meets only once every four years.

Several bishops tried to strike a hopeful note during a press conference, but pro-gay activists were not persuaded. Still, they vowed to continue to lobby the church to change its stance.

The gift of a lifetime

Many of you have taken advantage of the generous tax incentives provided by Congress to encourage you to save for your retirement years. The most notable "qualified" plans are individual retirement accounts, qualified pension and profit-sharing plans, simplified employee plans, 401(k) plans, Keogh plans and tax-sheltered annuities.

These plans typically feature income tax benefits at the time contributions are made to the plans. Furthermore, the assets in these plans accumulate tax-free and typically are not subject to income tax until they are withdrawn. The Roth IRA differs in that it features contributions of after-tax dollars with tax-free withdrawals in future years.

It used to be one's personal residence was one's asset with the highest value. For many of you today, however, your retirement account is the asset with the highest value. Many overlook retirement assets when estimating the value of their estates.

Because retirement assets are included as part of your taxable estate at death, your retirement account could be subject to federal estate taxes. That's not all. Double taxation is also possible. When your

heirs receive the balance after estate taxes, income taxes will also be due, as much as 40 percent or more. Some tax experts estimate the combination of federal income and estate taxes can snatch 60-80 percent of retirement assets at death. The Internal Revenue Service forgives, but it does not forget. In other words, the IRS allows retirement

assets to grow tax-free during your lifetime, but it collects the taxes from your heirs at your death.

Careful planning can minimize taxes due on retirement assets during life and at death. By directing retirement assets to make charitable gifts from your estate, you might very well be able to give more to your family than if your charitable gifts were made from other estate assets. Your retirement plan may be the asset that makes it possible for you to make the gift of a lifetime.

Please give Laurie Valentine or me the privilege of assisting you in planning your gift of a lifetime. We are just a toll-free call away.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

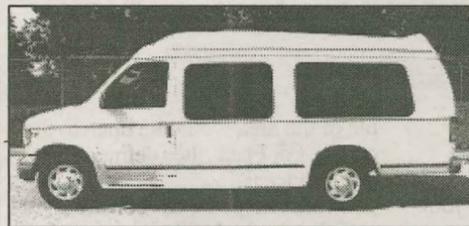


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ANNUIY BOARD

ISSUES

Filibuster threatened for Congress' assisted suicide ban

By Jim Barnett
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—One day soon, some of the U.S. Senate's most powerful members will hold a debate that determines the future of Oregon's law allowing physician-assisted suicide.

The exchanges could be sharp and personal. Senators' values could be called into question. Relationships could be strained.

But this debate won't take place amid the dark-varnished desks and blue carpet of the spacious Senate chamber.

Rather, it likely will be limited to a handful of the chamber's top Republicans meeting in the seclusion of a Capitol anteroom. And despite the fact that the Oregon law is driving their disagreement, discussion of the law's merits is the last thing on the senators' minds.

The Republicans' dilemma is this: Should they please their conservative base by passing legislation that blocks the Oregon law? Or spend precious election-year floor time on other issues that resonate with a broader spectrum of voters?

"The fact is, assisted suicide is the subject of intense, but not widespread interest," said Ross Baker, a political science professor at Rutgers University. "My guess is there would be some measure of impatience with a bill that seemed to be so narrowly focused."

On one side of the intra-party de-

bate is Assistant Majority Leader Don Nickles, R-Okla., the No. 2 Republican. Nickles is the chief proponent of the Pain Relief Promotion Act, which would prohibit doctors from prescribing lethal doses of federally controlled drugs. The Judiciary Committee approved the bill two weeks ago, delighting right-to-life groups.

On the other side is Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. Lott is a co-sponsor of the pain relief bill, but other measures would take higher priority on a crowded calendar, a spokesman said. Some of Lott's closest advisers, including Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., hold a similar view.

Aides to Lott and Nickles downplay the chance of a rift within top Republican ranks. But building tension between them is crucial to a last-ditch defense of the Oregon law being mounted by Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and a handful of Democratic allies.

Lott and Nickles are known to have feuded over party priorities in the past, and their relationship is tatty at best. Now, Wyden hopes to raise the stakes in the Republican leaders' private debate over assisted suicide.

Wyden's tool of choice is the Senate rulebook.

For months, Wyden has threatened to filibuster the pain relief bill, invoking his right to discuss Nickles' bill on the Senate floor indefinitely. To stop him, Nickles would

have to get 60 senators—all 55 Republicans plus at least five Democrats—to vote in favor of a cloture petition.

Even if Wyden loses the cloture vote, Senate rules guarantee him a total of 60 hours of floor time—30 hours on the "motion to proceed" and 30 hours on the bill itself. Given the Senate's usual pace, Wyden and his allies could hold the floor for about two weeks.

In a recent interview, Wyden said he hoped he wouldn't have to carry out his filibuster threat. But the threat remains in force because it adds pressure to Nickles' negotiations with Lott, Wyden's top aide said.

"The ball is in Senator Nickles' court," said Josh Kardon, Wyden's chief of staff. "He will have to demonstrate to Senator Lott that he has the votes to keep this issue from burning a limited amount of floor time."

Baker, the Rutgers professor, agreed that Wyden's threat could work. If an impasse develops among leadership, he said, some of the Senate's Republican rank-and-file might urge Nickles to withdraw the pain relief bill.

"A certain amount of social pressure builds up among other senators who want to have legislation debated and acted on," Baker said. "So it's not just Lott and Nickles. It becomes Lott and other senators who have business they want the Senate to deal with."

For his part, Nickles has said that

Bill could face legal challenge

PORTLAND, Ore. (RNS)—Advocates of Oregon's doctor-assisted suicide law are virtually certain to battle the U.S. government in court if Congress passes legislation barring doctors from prescribing lethal drugs for that purpose.

The legal challenge—potentially a joint effort by Oregon's government and private physicians and patients—would assert that Congress unconstitutionally overstepped its authority and interfered with the state's role in regulating the medical profession.

Ultimately, it could put the six-year-old fight over the state's doctor-assisted suicide law before a U.S. Supreme Court that's taken an increasingly positive view of states' rights.

Gov. John Kitzhaber's spokesman, Bob Applegate, said the Democratic governor and former emergency room physician hasn't decided whether to join a legal challenge, although he strongly opposes the legislation.

Defenders of Oregon's law would argue that the congressional act violates the 10th Amendment of the Constitution. That amendment says any powers that are not given to Congress by the Constitution belong to state governments or to the people themselves.

he has more than the 60 votes needed to cut off a filibuster that would be led by Wyden and likely joined by Sens. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

A key to Nickles' strategy is putting pressure on moderate Democrats. Nickles has convinced six of them to sign on as co-sponsors of the pain relief bill. And he must rely on them to break rank on cloture votes, which typically fall along party lines.

Highlights from Houston

By Robert Dunston

One of Cumberland College's spring break mission teams journeyed all the way to Houston to minister through a Baptist center in an Hispanic section of the inner city. Mike Cabell, a junior at Cumberland College, led a student team consisting of Nikki Andrews, Emily Flack, Heather McKenzie, Travis Proffitt and T.J. Wright.

The team arrived Sunday evening after a 16-hour drive and began work bright and early Monday morning. For four days they ministered through the center doing typing and filing, working in the clothes closet, painting, laying carpet, repairing steps, working with children of all ages and helping teach courses in English as a Second Language.

Flack loved ministering in an area with such a diversity of races, cultures and languages. The language barrier presented a problem in trying to build relationships and in worship, but she saw the message and love of God break down barriers and unite people.

The volunteers in the center impressed Flack. Most were past retirement age and now invested their time in ministry. They prayed that the peo-

ple of the area would be open to the gospel. For Flack, they defined "what true service is."

Proffitt helped with construction and also worked with the teen clubs, fixing spaghetti, playing basketball, giving his testimony and singing songs. He also helped with the smaller children. "Seeing their smiles and giggles made the whole trip."

Wright enjoyed being with the youth best. The youth who attended did not resemble the church youth he had worked with previously. They talked in very real terms about themselves and seemed to appreciate having someone listen to them.

One particular young man opened up to Wright as the week progressed. He said he had dropped out of school but wanted to go back and perhaps play basketball on the high school team as he completed his education. Wright was able to help him begin to sort out some of the issues in his life.

Team members described the trip as tiring but invigorating. We appreciate their willingness to go into a new environment to minister for Christ.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Forums need you for success

Last week Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children began a series of church and community forums that will take place across the state.

The forums are designed to update Kentucky Baptists on the work of their ministry to children and families. We also want to get the word out that we continue to covet your prayers and other acts of support as we prepare to face the American Civil Liberties Union in court. Elizabethtown and Pikeville were the locations of our first two forums. The third will be June 1 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in the old sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Somerset. For information about any of the forums, call our communications department at (800) 456-1386.

If you are a KBHC supporter, I hope you will attend the forum nearest your community. We need to be reminded that we are not alone in this fight.

If you have questions about any aspect of our ministry, or the ACLU matter, we really want you to be there. Misinformation is a formidable foe. We want to educate you and keep you informed throughout this process so you can be an ambassador for the kids in your church and community.

We have made a commitment across the agency to continue to do what we do best, which is take care of the children and families God has sent our way. Our mission has not changed, and it will not change. The suit is a distraction, but not a deterrent. Please pray that we will rise to this challenge.

If you have not done so, please contact the governor, lieutenant governor, your state senators and representatives on behalf of the children who could be denied care from us should the commonwealth of Kentucky break its contract with KBHC.

It is for a cause greater than KBHC that I urge you to this action. Do it for the future of the children in crisis whose guardian will become the state.

To find out how to contact your senator or representative, call (502) 564-8100. Call Gov. Paul Patton and Lt. Gov. Steve Henry at (502) 564-2611. You can e-mail them at governor@mail.state.ky.us or shenry@mail.state.ky.us.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Christian band C-Squared seeking crossover breakthrough

"To effectively reach my generation, I think you need to have a rocking band and also original songs."

*Christian musician
Christin Cook*

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

HOUSTON (RNS)—Though she turned only 18 this spring, Christin Cook already has redefined her ministry after doing an inventory of her spiritual life. She's burying self-importance.

That might be hard to do for the singer, songwriter and musician who performs with a three-man backup band at churches, youth fellowships and coffeehouses and appears on the verge of a breakthrough into stardom in the world of Christian music.

Under the moniker "C-Squared" meaning "C for Christ and C for Christin," she spreads her view that teens should take a stand and outlines the lives she believes they might lead if they depended more on God and less on themselves.

Since childhood, Cook has studied music. Today she is learning to play the guitar and concentrating on songwriting.

Last summer she toured with the Christian rock band Nickel and Dime, as an apprentice. The band's singer, Jon Shirley, she said, significantly influenced her music.

"Though the songs I've recorded so far are Christian, the ones I'm writing now are crossover," she said, referring to the growing number of Christian artists who seek to make music appealing to both secular and sacred fans.

Reaching both appeals to Cook.



CHRISTIAN MUSICIAN Christin Cook poses with her back-up band, "C-Squared." Cook said she hopes to use her songwriting abilities to help the band cross over from the evangelical Christian market to the secular market without losing its essential message.

She said her audiences—and teens in general—yearn for something to believe in, but distrust people who talk down to them or who don't listen to their hopes, dreams and ideas.

"To effectively reach my generation, I think you need to have a rocking band and also original songs," she said.

In a ministry that takes place mainly in informal speaking or singing engagements, she encourages teens to hold onto faith as a ballast during the tough years of adolescence.

"Ministry is being a leader," she said, and the two songs on her debut CD, "Waiting," celebrate high ideals. "I Will Wait" declares her intention of waiting to marry her husband, before having sex. "Break Me" asks God to live and work through her ministry.

A third new song, "Hold On," encourages weary teens and people in general to let God support and guide them.

Effective ministry grows from "making sure you're plugged into the power source," Cook said.

Being plugged in refers to not be-

ing needy, Cook said. "You're not going to other people with heavy need. You're looking to God to meet your needs.

"You're falling in love with God and letting God be the power source in your life. What I mean is, you fall so passionately in love with God that it overflows, seeping out to every person you come into contact with."

When she was 13, Cook began to realize she had something to share with others.

"I was actually an outcast in various ways," she said. "I was a little bit more chubby than the other girls. I just didn't fit in fully. I began to allow myself to dig into getting to know the Lord more. When I did, He became my best friend."

In that friendship, she said, she learned to set a standard for herself and for others, especially people who are hurting.

She reaches out to teens and leads Bible studies when she isn't performing.

"In a high school, you see lots of people who are hurting deep down, who are not satisfied. It's almost like deep underneath they're screaming, 'There must be more.' ... I want them to see that if you can find that satisfaction, you don't have to go through all this heartache."

John Durham, minister to students at Houston's First Baptist Church, said "purity, energy and integrity" are the qualities he associates with Cook. "She is an exceptional young lady."

194 cups of cheese

By Denise Spencer

On Friday, April 28 our students enjoyed a night of fun, and I do mean an entire night.

Our dean of students and dean of girls organized a lock-in as a reward for students on the academic honor roll. Everyone who was on the honor roll for at least two of the first three quarters of this school year was invited to participate. Of these 139 students in grades 6-12, 97 attended.

The idea for the lock-in originated with the student council. Dean of Students Harold Underwood sought input from the council. He explained, "I wanted to schedule several activities so the kids could say, 'Hey, my days at Oneida were fun!'"

The festivities began in the gymnasium at 11 p.m. Young people joined in a number of recreational activities, including volleyball, hula hoops, pogo sticks, parachute beach balls and badminton.

After about an hour of free-style play, there were two organized games for the whole group. For "the birth order game," students had to arrange themselves according to the month and day of their births—without talking. "Mr. Harold" used a megaphone to explain the rules of the game. "Just getting them all quiet was an accomplishment," Billie Faye Hoover, dean of girls, said with a laugh. Next, students played "flip the lid," in which they had to remove and replace clothespins on a volleyball net using their mouths.

At 12:30 a.m. the hungry group moved to the dining hall for a build-your-own-pizza party. Each person chose a partner with whom to make a pizza. At various stations they added their choices of sauce,

cheese, sausage, ground beef, pepperoni, olives, onions and peppers. They used 97 packages of cheese, with two cups per package. "That's a lot of cheese," Hoover noted.

When the pizzas were topped, students carried them to the kitchen door. Adult volunteers logged in the pizzas, baked them, and kept them in order. "It was amazing," Hoover said. "To my knowledge, not a single one got mixed up." Once baked, each pizza was put in a box donated by a local pizzeria.

An adult volunteer delivered each pizza to the students. While waiting for their pizzas, the young people took part in a coloring contest and played board games.

After consuming the pizzas, it was time for Bingo, played using Skittles candy. That was double fun; when the game was over, the students ate the Skittles.

Mark, a senior, remarked, "The sports were fun, and the pizza-making was a good idea." He added, "Bingo was fun, but I never won."

At 3 a.m. the group went back to the gym to watch a movie on a wide-screen TV. Staff designated a boys' corner and a girls' corner for those wanting to catch

a few winks. Moviegoers were treated to concessions as they watched "Tarzan." By 5 a.m. the film was over, and students returned to the dorms for a day of sleep.

Nine staff members stayed all night to help with the lock-in, and several others volunteered for part of the night. Underwood described the event as "a complete success. The kids kept saying, 'Thank you, Mr. Harold.'"

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Graduation memories

Several hundred friends of the college and family of 35 graduates attended the 2000 commencement on May 5 at Binghamtown Baptist Church.

Bobby Jay Kelly, a 1988 alumnus, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and preached the sermon, challenging graduates to adopt the ministry model found in 1 Thessalonians 2.

Jenkins native Rose Dings received a standing ovation in recognition of her grade point average. When this mother of five and grandmother came to Clear Creek, I knew we were still in adult education. We joked with her that much of her financial aid would be from Social Security checks. She had Bells Palsy her first semester and arthritis made

it difficult to climb the Kelly Hall steps. God used her to encourage and guide many single students in the dormitory. She treasures the times fellow students came to her room to talk.

The President's Award went to Stan Lewis, a Virginia student who served as president of the student body. On May 8, Lewis became director of computer services.

Stewart Skaggs received an academic award for highest grade

point average, and the faculty chose him for the Trustees' Award. Skaggs served three years as chaplain at the Bell County Forestry Camp. On mission trips to Russia and Ohio, he "put into practice some things I had learned at Clear Creek." He is the new pastor of Cold Spring Baptist Church in Battletown.

Shawn Vallance, of Clay County, received the Claude Fox Award for the student demonstrating the most progress. Vallance is one of five students from Horse Creek Baptist Church. Two years ago, he became pastor of South Side Baptist. Gary Webster walked across the platform with more appreciation than others, rejoicing in the remarkable recovery from a major automobile accident last semester.

Mark Lukens was glad to complete commuting to class from Jefferson City, Tenn. His wife, Kristen, and their six children attended the celebration. Three couples graduated together. Randy Burns proposed to Delia in a service during the 1998 campus revival. Pray for these new graduates.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



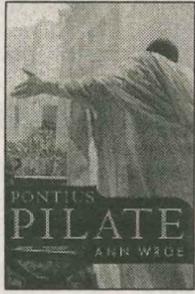
Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

Pontius Pilate. Ann Wroe. Random House, 1999. 412 pages. \$26.95
◆◆◆◆◆ (Out of five)

As a Roman official, Pontius Pilate was a minor figure who served a post in the empire that no one desired. In the official history of Roman, little is known of him or his rule over Palestine. However, Pontius Pilate, because of his role in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, has gained eternal notoriety as a major player in redemption history.

In actuality, little is known about Pontius Pilate outside the pages of the New Testament. Though many have tried to piece together a picture of this man, most of what is known is conjecture, myth and outright distortion. Ann Wroe admits as much as she presents her biography of Pilate. She does not claim to have written a detailed, accurate-in-every-detail account



of the life of this obscure Roman ruler. "Pontius Pilate," rather, is a kind of living recreation of his life drawn from what is known of the social/political history of the Roman Empire at the time of Christ, the various accounts of his life related by authors and artists throughout church history, as well as the minimal historic documentation of his life.

While admitting she has not written a thorough account of Pilate's life, Wroe nonetheless contends she captured the spirit of the man, and given a reasonably plausible account of his motivations and actions. Her work plays a vital role in understanding why the gospels give him such a prominent place in the passion narratives. But she moves beyond that to demonstrate the contemporary relevance of the Pilate figure.

I picked up this book because the title and subject grabbed my attention. I kept reading it for the same reason. *Jim Holladay*

To Fight or Not to Fight? Should a Pastor Resign Under Pressure Or Stay and Fight? Jeff Barnes. Barnes Institute, 2000. 190 pages. \$16.95.
◆◆◆◆◆

This is a book for pastors and staff written by a former pastor who was forced to resign his pastorate.

Jeff Barnes has written from his own experience as a pastor forced to resign. Those who track this growing phenomenon say that each month more than 1,300 pastors are forced to resign.

The forcing sometimes comes through votes of the church and sometimes through smaller groups of people who apply the pressure. Either way, what no one ever expected in his or her ministry becomes all consuming. One's sense of call, self-esteem, financial stability, physical and emotional health and spiritual life are all put in question.

Barnes begins by discussing reasons for forced termination. One of the most intriguing reasons he cites is that the pastor is over-committed. Barnes then turns to a good discussion of the stages of conflict that might lead to forced termination.

The core chapters discuss making the decision to stay and fight or resign. Once that decision is made, the remainder of the book addresses ways to handle the conflict or how to deal with the consequences for the minister and family upon resignation.

Many ministers won't want to admit the need for this book. The problem is that once there is a need it might be too late. Reading this book now could save heartache in the future. If you can't find it in your local bookstore, you can order it through the Barnes Institute at www.barnesinstitute.com. *Wayne Hager*

Hallelujah, What a Savior! 25 Hymn Stories Celebrating Christ Our Redeemer. Kenneth Osbeck. Kregel Publications, 2000. 124 pages. \$15.99.
◆◆◆◆◆

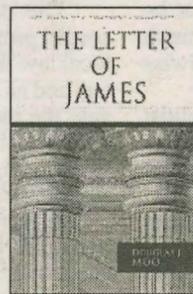
Hallelujah, What a Savior! 25 Hymns Celebrating Christ Our Redeemer (musical disk). Discovery House Music, 2000. \$10.99. ◆

Kenneth Osbeck continues his work of providing devotional resources from the hymnody of the church with this book and CD package.

Thematically, the hymns and reflections are designed specifically for the Lenten season, though they also are quite appropriate for the weeks after Easter. Designed to carry the reader through the last days of Jesus' life, the book employs a nice mix of hymns from classical to gospel to spirituals.

The format follows that of Osbeck's earlier works. Each chapter begins with a passage of scripture, followed by the complete text and musical score of the hymn. The reflection that comes next seeks to move the reader deeper into the theme of the hymn by either picking up on the words and movement of the song itself, or by relating its historical setting. Each chapter closes with a verse of poetry from an author other than the hymn writer.

The accompanying CD is designed to be used in conjunction with the book, with the play list paralleling the book's chapters. Unfortunately, the light jazz style of the hymns are more of a distraction than an enhancement. Most of the songs start out the same way and have such a common sound that the rich variety of musical style is lost. The vowels are flattened or pinched, with vocalists straining to hit many of the upper ranges. This means the full impact of many of the hymns is lost.



If you can find the book without the CD, I would recommend buying the book. If you can only buy them together in the package, keep the book and lose the CD. *Jim Holladay*

The Letter of James. Douglas Moo. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000. 271 pages. \$28. ◆◆◆◆◆

As a pastor I am always on the lookout for a new commentary series that I can depend on for my Bible study. If Douglas Moo's commentary on James is an indication of the quality of work in the Pillar New Testament Commentary series, then I have found a series to set alongside the Harper, New Century, Anchor, Word and New International commentary series.

Moo's commentary on James is for both serious Bible students as well as the general reader. While Moo does his work with the Greek text, a working knowledge of Greek is not necessary to glean important meanings from James. Moo's word studies are thoroughly academic but entirely understandable to the general reader.

As one of the most recent scholarly commentaries on James, the book considers the most up-to-date background material. Following the usual pattern of a commentary, Moo first considers introductory issues of authorship and audience before he moves into the text itself.

It is in the exposition of James' pastoral concerns that Moo's work shines. Moo sees the goal of James as encouraging wholehearted commitment to Christ. In his exposition, Moo provides practical application of James' message to today's church.

If you need a fresh voice on James, I highly recommend Moo's work. *Wayne Hager*

Miniseries seeks to show both Jesus' divine nature and humanity

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

HOLLYWOOD (RNS)—Jesus's claim that he was both human and divine confounded many early Christian thinkers, and it also has been a recurring challenge for filmmakers struggling to balance these seemingly contradictory concepts in their movies about Christ.

People who argued Jesus was wholly divine but not human were charged with the heresy of gnosticism. And some critics say Franco Zeffirelli's 1977 film "Jesus of Nazareth" portrayed just such a removed, otherworldly Christ.

On the other hand, those who denied that Jesus was divine and eternal were charged with the heresy of Arianism. And films like 1973's "Godspell" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" and 1988's "Last Temptation of Christ" portrayed an all-too-human Jesus.

When Lorenzo Minoli, producer of a dozen Old Testament films, began work on his Jesus film five years ago, he took his story line from John's mystical Gospel but also grounded Jesus in the historical realities of first century Palestine, complete with its rich Jewish culture and its long-running tensions between Jews and Romans.

The stunning result is "Jesus," a

four-hour mini-series airing Sunday and Wednesday of this week on CBS.

CBS was the first major network to announce it would broadcast a New Testament film but was beat to the punch by NBC (last November's "Mary, Mother of Jesus") and ABC (Easter's claymation feature "The Miracle Maker").

Jesus once said the last would be first, and that's the case with "Jesus," which is by far the best of the three TV offerings.

"Everyone has an opinion on Jesus, rightfully or wrongly," says Minoli, who won an Emmy for his production of "Joseph," one of his biblical epics broadcast on TNT. "You have to deal with as many opinions as you can if you want to make a movie that is not offensive."

Although the film features Hollywood veterans like Jacqueline Bisset as Jesus's mother Mary, Armin Mueller-Stahl as father Joseph and Gary Oldman as Roman governor Pontius Pilate, Minoli chose relative newcomer Jeremy Sisto to play Jesus. His warm and expressive portrayal balances Christ's humanity and divinity in creative and compelling ways.

The movie's script, which was reviewed by Jewish, Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Muslim experts, features a Jesus who not only walks on water and

rises from the dead but also laughs and clowns with his disciples, swings children through the air with glee and dances at a wedding celebration at Cana.

That celebration is important, for it was where Jesus performed His first recorded miracle—turning water into wine. Minoli says he struggled to portray the scene.

"He is reluctant," Minoli says. "He is being Jesus the man. But His mother says, 'Hey, it's time to do Your work.'"

The criteria Minoli used to determine when to elaborate on the Bible and when to play it straight was simple. "Generally speaking, where the Gospel is specific, we try not to be creative. But when the Gospel is not specific, we try to be creative within certain boundaries."

Two of the most creative scenes feature Satan tempting Jesus: during His 40-day fast in the desert, and on the night before His crucifixion.

"We don't know exactly what happened, because Jesus was tempted by Himself," says Minoli, who portrays Satan as a well-groomed man (Jeroen Krabbe) in a stylish, velvet-trimmed 20th-century suit. "We wanted to give a contemporary sense to the story and say, 'Hey, this story is still alive today. It's not just 2000 years ago. We are still dealing with same issues.'"

Filed for \$24 million using a Mor-

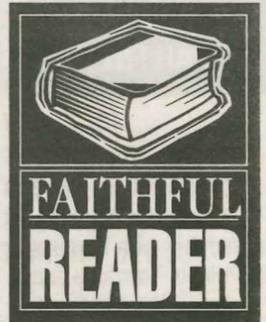
roco set that has also been used for films like "Gladiator" and "Rules of Engagement," the film won rave reviews and great ratings when it aired in Minoli's native Italy last year after he and cast members had a private audience with the pope.

In America, the film has been publicized with the help of both an original score soundtrack and a separate "Music from (and Inspired by) Jesus" recording featuring Leann Rimes, dc Talk and Sarah Brightman.

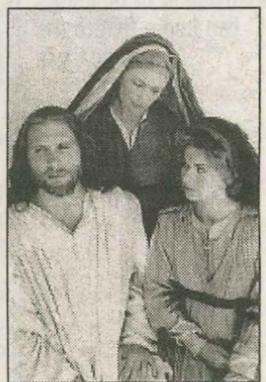
Raised as a Catholic ("In Italy there is only one kind of Christian"), Minoli moved to America 10 years ago, where he was amazed by the diversity of Christian expressions and married a Unitarian. "I don't like to label myself," he says, "but I would say I am a proud believer in Christ."

But the man who for a decade has had a profound impact on the way Americans envision the Bible says "Jesus" is his last biblical epic. His next project is a Bill Cosby comedy feature.

"When I began doing Bible movies, I was thinking like Gutenberg did," he says. "I am doing a visual Bible. There are great stories to be told, and it happens that the content agreed with my interests at the moment. But I've done it for a long time, and had all the success I felt I could get. Now I want to do contemporary stories."



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C., and Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville. Holladay and Hager welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: docholladay@juno.com or jwhager@surry.net



"JESUS" Actor Jeremy Sisto, left, stars as Jesus, along with Jacqueline Bisset as Mary, Jesus's mother, and Debra Messing as Mary Magdalene, in "Jesus," a four-hour mini-series airing on CBS this week. (RNS photo)

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Urgent needs:** A vacation Bible school team needed to work in New London, Conn., in July, and two vacation Bible school teams to work at Christ Baptist Church in Worcester, Mass., in June or July. For information, contact the KBC partnership office at (502) 245-4101.

■ The weekly Tuesday night Bible study recently begun by missionaries Jim and Patti Barrett in Poland. They ask prayer that "Przemek and Ewa will be faithful in their attendance and continue to be open to hearing God's Word."

■ Missionaries Dan and Pam Johnson offer praise that they have found land for three new preaching points among the Pogoro in Tanzania. The Johnsons ask prayer that the usual lengthy process of purchasing the land will be shortened and that construction of buildings can begin before the rainy season.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BURGIN**—Edwin Holt Jr., youth minister at Burgin Church, was licensed and ordained to the ministry at Burgin Church April 9. Joseph Vest is pastor.
 ■ **CADIZ**—Locust Grove Church hosted a reception to honor Pastor Archie Brock for 50 years of ministry.
 ■ **DRY RIDGE**—Corinth Church will host revival services May 14-18. Mitchell Ash will be the evangelist. Bob Sain is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church's women's event, DaySpring, will be June 3 at 8 a.m. Esther Burroughs will be the featured speaker. Registration costs \$20; \$25 after May 21. For information, call (270) 765-7822. Billy Compton is pastor.
 ■ **HICKORY**—Hickory Church called Russell Wirt as pastor. Terry Sills has served as interim.
 ■ **LATONIA**—Latonia Church is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout the year 2000. Special recognition will be given in the May 28 service to armed forces veterans and the Decoursey, Rosedale and Ashland Avenue churches started by Latonia. A picnic and evening worship service will be held at Bullittsburg Baptist Assembly. For information, call (606) 431-8004. Jim Abernathy is pastor.
 ■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will host a community block party May 21 at 5 p.m. For information, call (502) 452-2681. Todd Robertson is pastor. Lee Warf resigned as pastor of Lakewood Church effective June 4.
 ■ **MANCHESTER**—Scottie Sumner

resigned as pastor of Horse Creek.

■ **PROVIDENCE**—First Church will host the Childress Family Singers May 21 at 1:30 p.m., after morning worship and lunch. For information, call (270) 667-2212. Alan McCutchen is pastor.
 ■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Richard Lloyd resigned as pastor of First Church to accept a pastorate of First Church, Newport, Tenn.
 ■ **SOMERSET**—Woodstock Church called Doros Zachariades as pastor.
 ■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Harold Mauney, pastor for more than 18 years at First Church, announced his retirement effective July 1.

Former Kentucky pastor rescinds resignation, insists he did nothing wrong

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—A Florida pastor with Kentucky ties is seeking permanent disability because of a mental illness and maintaining innocence amid charges that he falsified documents to mislead church members about deposits to a Swiss bank account.

Deacons of Deermeadows Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., meanwhile, have hired a lawyer and independent auditor to investigate the matter and are moving forward with plans to replace their pastor.

About 400 of the church's 2,100 members met three-and-a-half hours May 10 to clear the air about controversy surrounding their pastor of 10 years, Altus Newell.

The members-only meeting was closed to the media. A press release

issued May 11 termed it "a productive meeting." Newell, former pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, did not attend.

"The deacons stated they have sought professional assistance from a local law firm to handle all legal matters and an accounting firm to investigate the dispute regarding the distribution of funds sent to the East Europe Evangelism Program," the unsigned statement said.

The funds in question are about \$184,000 deposited in the church's name over several years in a bank account in Switzerland. Newell, who endorsed at least some the checks, said they were contributions he and another church member made to help Baptists in Eastern Europe who face persecution for their faith.

Newell produced documents purportedly acknowledging receipt of part of the funds by officials at International Baptist Theological Seminary in the Czech Republic. Newell was once the seminary's president before it relocated from Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The school's current European leaders, however, said the documents were fake, that the account number cited on them does not belong to the seminary and that there is no such thing as an "East Europe Evangelism" program at the seminary.

Newell reportedly admitted to a group of church leaders that he attempted to mislead the church in order to protect the identity of the people receiving the funds. A lawyer representing Newell wrote a deacon lead-

er May 5 insisting the pastor has done nothing wrong. Given proper time, Newell is anxious to produce evidence to "remove any stigma attached to his name by the allegations of some who do not have all of the facts," the attorney said.

Newell initially offered to resign pending approval of a "closure agreement" involving severance benefits. He since has been diagnosed by Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic, however, as suffering from "severe depression," his attorney said.

As a result, Newell has withdrawn his offer to resign and instead is asking for medical disability. Once permanent disability is established, the attorney said, Newell will withdraw formally from the church.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Evangelist Wyman Copass has some open dates June-August and November. Good dates available in 2001. Call (270) 683-6040. E-mail: wcmmin@aol.com.

FOR RENT: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental, Sanibel Island, Fla. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$650. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752.

FOR SALE: Church pews. Call (502) 495-3908 for further details.

NEEDED: Bibles (new and used) to be given away at crusades by home missionary. Contact: Jerry Shepherd at (502) 543-6088.

NEEDED: Optometrists for mission team to Ecuador, July 19-31. Contact Tim Scott, (606) 223-7441 or doctimscoth@hotmail.com

SEEKING: Musicians—organist/choir director, Sunday morning service. Bell choir experience a plus. Pianist or guitarist to lead music twice a month Sunday evening contemporary service. For information, call Buechel Presbyterian Church (502) 499-0977.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and senior adults. Send resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Burlington Baptist Church, PO Box 48, Burlington, KY 41005; (859) 586-6529.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Mo., is seeking a full-time minister of students and recreation. Job description heavily emphasizes "purpose-driven" youth ministry. Send resumé by June 15 to: Personnel Chairman, First Baptist Church, 301 E Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Stamping Ground Baptist Church, PO Box 67, Stamping Ground, KY 40379.

SEEKING: Full-time director of family life and conference center. Send resumé: Student Affairs, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977.

SEEKING: Full-time church secretary with knowledge of MS Word for Windows (MS Publisher and church accounting software helpful). Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church 2580 Springfield Road, Bardstown, KY 40004.

SEEKING: Experienced full-time youth/children's minister for a 1-1/2 year old contemporary style, growing church (225+) in a small town in central Kentucky. Must be self-motivated, creative, a team player and able to work in a portable church situation. Send resumé to: River of Life Community Church, PO Box 192, Springfield, KY 40069.

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister. Send resumé to: Beechmont Baptist Church, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214, or fax: (502) 368-5807.

SEEKING: Second Baptist Church of Greenville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resumé to: Mr. John Mark Pendley, Search Committee, PO Box 253, Greenville, KY 42345.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister in combination with associate pastor or programs minister. Russellville, Ky. Contact church office: (270) 726-2468, or Thomas Bouldin, (800) 718-7372.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky., is seeking an organist. Contact Dick Ham, minister of music, for job description and organ specifications. Phone: (606) 623-4028. Fax: (606) 623-5978. Deadline for applications: May 31.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music (approximately 15 hours/week). Send resumé to: Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Piggott, Ark., is seeking mature, experienced full-time senior pastor. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, FBC, PO Box 365, Piggott, AR 72454.

SEEKING: Knoxville Baptist Church (Crittenden Association) is seeking a part-time minister of youth to work with grades 6-12. Applicant should be available weekends and Wednesday evenings; should be able to lead youth-oriented Bible study and a variety of spiritual and recreational activities. Music ability a plus. Send resumé to: Bro. Dwight Parker, 2150 Dry Ridge-Mt. Zion Road, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children. Calhoun Baptist Church needs an individual with a passion for young people to provide leadership for a cutting-edge ministry to the heart of McLean County, Ky. Send resumé to: Calhoun Baptist Church, PO Box 283, Calhoun, KY 42327.

SEEKING: Rapidly growing church in Paducah, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of education. Send resumé to: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, c/o Anthony Gilbert, 78 Owen Drive, Kevil, KY 42053.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/music minister for Hyattsville Baptist Church, Lancaster, Ky. Please send resumé with salary requirements to: Mike Bolin, Personnel Committee chairman, c/o Hyattsville Baptist Church, 1365 Richmond Road, Lancaster, KY 40444. (606) 792-4851 or 792-6610.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music to lead overall music ministry including traditional and contemporary worship services, handbells, all age-group choirs. Also interested in forming other music ministries. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 201 North Main St., Barbourville, KY 40906, Attn: Minister of Music Search Committee. You also may send your resumé to our e-mail address: fbc@barbourville.com.

SEEKING: Full-time youth and music minister, FBC of Anderson Hills, Cincinnati. Contact Tom Porter: (513) 232-6945, or church: (513) 474-2441.

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

SEEKING: Part-time children's minister for Farndale 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 resumé to: Ms. Bryan, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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

PEOPLE

Blackaby leaving Baptist agencies for own ministry

By Martin King
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Don't even suggest that Henry Blackaby is retiring. Rather, he is "transitioning" from being an employee of three Southern Baptist agencies to a new venture called Henry Blackaby Ministries.

The 65-year-old best-selling author and speaker ended his unique joint employment relationship in April with the SBC's publishing agency, LifeWay Christian Resources, and its two mission boards, the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board.

Blackaby said he will continue to write and speak concerning revival and spiritual awakening through his new ministry, as well as focus on spiritual leadership development for pastors, denominational leaders and lay leaders.

"The constant request from leaders is, 'Would you help us know the kind of leader we're supposed to be, that God uses?'" Blackaby said. "I don't see much today but a mix of the ways of the world and some Scripture, and God never does that. Our people are reading the books and ideas of men and mixing in some Scripture, and God will not honor that."

Henry Blackaby Ministries already has a staff, a monthly newsletter, a daily radio program and an Internet site, www.henryblackaby.com.

Although his new ministry organization will work across denominational lines, he said he is still firmly committed to the Southern Baptist Convention, its organizational entities, and his local church, First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, Ga.

"Each of the presidents of the three SBC agencies I've worked for has asked me to continue to work with them in a consulting relationship," Blackaby explained. "But I'll be able to more freely decide which meetings to attend and which efforts to be involved in within the context of the new ministry."

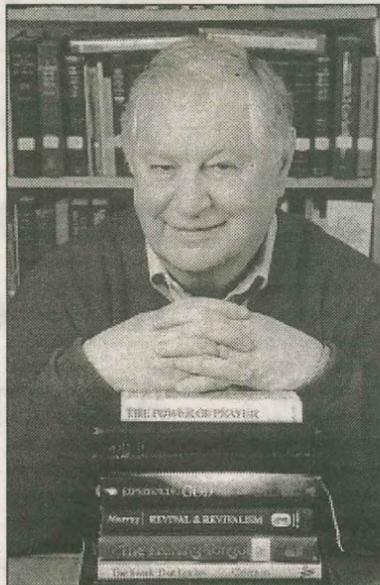
A graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary near San Francisco, Blackaby previously served as pastor of churches in California and his native Canada.

He was hired as director of prayer and spiritual awakening by the former SBC Home Mission Board in 1988, and six years later was jointly employed in a similar capacity by the SBC's three largest agencies.

His discipleship study, "Experiencing God," has sold 3.5 million copies, been translated into more than 40 languages and spawned dozens of discipleship products and conferences.

"Henry Blackaby has been a great blessing to the Christian community at large and to Southern Baptists in particular," said NAMB President Bob Record.

LifeWay President Jimmy Draper



HENRY BLACKABY The 65-year-old best-selling author is leaving employment with three Southern Baptist agencies to start his own venture called Henry Blackaby Ministries. (NAMB photo)

Jr. said his agency is indebted to Blackaby for his "monumental writing to bring us to experience the continual reality of the presence of our holy God."

Blackaby said he believes his ministry has had some role in turning the Christian community "back to the Scripture and to a personal relationship

with God, but I don't believe we're out of the woods as far as God's judgment is concerned. I cry for revival but also for God to withhold His judgment upon us and turn His people back to Him so He can change our nation."

Blackaby's "heartcry" for Southern Baptists, he said, is a return to a relationship with God "that He can use to turn a nation back to Himself. I think Southern Baptists still have the potential of being the catalyst to pull all evangelical groups together and see a nation come back to God."

"But I think that window of opportunity will not always be open," he added. "If we do not pull together with one heart and one mind around a relationship with God on His conditions, we're of no use to God."

"Southern Baptists are fracturing," he added. "Too many are doing their own thing, and we've lost our interdependence. The '60s produced an independence that we have not gotten over. I think the single greatest need is to return to a sovereign interdependence among the people of God."

Blackaby said he and his wife, Marilyn, look forward to spending more time with their five children—all of whom are involved in vocational ministry—and 13 grandchildren. "If there was ever a time in their lives and ministries when they needed us to walk alongside them, it's now," Blackaby said.

"I think the single greatest need is to return to a sovereign interdependence among the people of God."

Henry Blackaby

WMU ministry event gets participants excited about missions

By Todd Deaton
South Carolina Baptist Courier

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP)—It won't be Rainbow Row and the Battery in Charleston, S.C., or even Fort Sumter and the historic harbor that 260 women from 19 states will remember most from their recent visit.

Instead, they will recall the faces of 3,471 lives they touched through the first Woman's Missionary Union MissionsFEST, April 30-May 6.

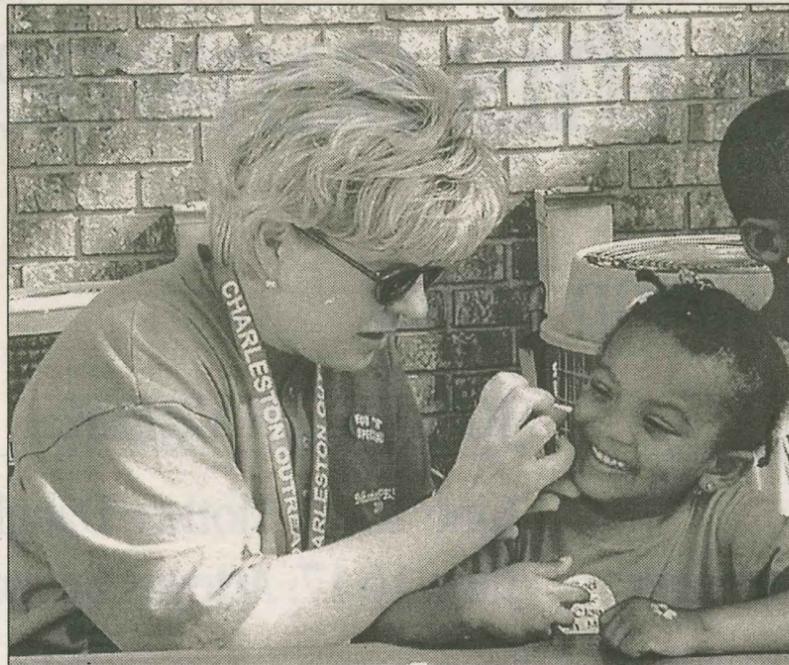
Working with Charleston Outreach, a ministry of the city's Baptist association, and missionary Jack Little, the women were involved in more than 20 missions projects in North Charleston and with the association's Seafarers Center.

"MissionsFEST is an opportunity to be Christ's hands," Wanda Lee, executive director of the national WMU, told the women in the opening worship service. "Whenever someone asks you 'What is WMU?' I want you to think MissionsFEST," she urged.

"Yes, we actively support missions with our prayers for the missionaries. And, yes, we are supporters of missions through our promotion and giving to the missions offerings," Lee said. "But the heart of who we are in WMU is found in doing missions. We have heard God's call to touch a hurting world and share his love with those we meet."

Among missions opportunities from which participants could choose were:

- Construction on inner-city homes.
- Teaching sewing.



- Leading adult Bible studies.
- Reading to school classes.
- Prayerwalking.
- Visiting nursing homes.
- Delivering furniture to needy families.
- Distributing bread to hungry residents.
- Hosting backyard Bible clubs.
- Repairing bikes.
- Hosting block parties.

WMU leaders said they hope the MissionsFEST participants will return home excited about missions.

Each night at services hosted by Charleston's Highland Park Baptist Church and at the celebration service, the women shared how God was at

work through their lives. About 70 decisions for Christ were reported.

"Our church got involved with MissionsFEST because we felt that being with a large group we could really do a lot," said Lisa Pearce of Oxford, Ala.

"We wanted to be more involved in missions, and we want our children to become involved," she said. "We came to learn and take home what we experience to do in our own community."

Jeannette Thomas of Knoxville, Tenn., who visited nursing home residents, told of a woman who said she had been praying for three weeks for someone to come and bring her a Bible.

MissionsFEST events are scheduled



MISSIONSFEST Women from 19 states visited Charleston, S.C., recently to participate in WMU-organized missions events.

■ **Left:** Lisa Pearce of Oxford, Ala., paints a child's face during a block party. ■ **Top right:** Each day of MissionsFest started with a devotional time and ended with an evening worship service. ■ **Bottom right:** Pam Freeman of Moore, S.C., and Jimmie Creach of Charleston Baptist Association repair a floor as semester missionary Renee Frye of Raleigh, N.C., looks on.

for three locations next year:

- Stone Mountain, Ga., April 26-28.
- Little Rock, Ark., June 24-30.
- Philadelphia, Oct. 4-6 and 7-13.

For more information, contact Delane Tew at (205) 991-4097; e-mail, volconnection@wmu.org; or visit the www.wmu.com web site and select Ministry Opportunities.



Because of your gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, special ministries and missions education, girls from Kentucky who go to GA and Acteens Camp are ...

“Never the Same”

It's not too late to send girls to camp this summer

Camp Dates

CEDAR CREST:

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

JONATHAN CREEK:

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

Contact Kentucky WMU for more information today! (888) 254-5726 or (502) 244-6485. Visit our Web Site: www.kybaptist.org/kywmu

