

May 30, 2000
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KENTUCKY NOTES



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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, May 31

Lexington pair leaving jobs & possessions to serve in Poland

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LEXINGTON—They sold their house, gave their car to one of their daughters, held two yard sales and even sold a few items over the Internet on eBay.

John and Jan Strimple are serious about their missions assignment in Poland. Besides getting rid of most of their material possessions, they are moving halfway around the world from their two young adult daughters. Strimple even resigned his pastorate at Mallard Point Baptist Church in Georgetown, and his wife quit her job at the Toyota plant.

The Strimples, who leave next week for Warsaw, have been appointed International Service Corps workers through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. They will serve as field coordinators for Kentucky Baptists' missions partnership with Polish Baptists.

"Wherever the Lord wants, you just go," Strimple explained. "We've felt this particular call to missions for a long time and have been waiting for this opportunity."

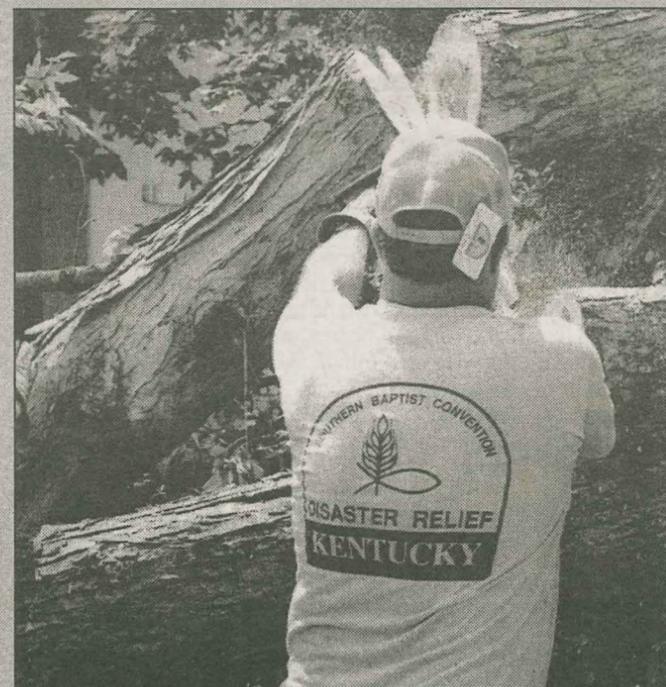
"It's kind of liberating—no house payment, no car payment," Mrs. Strimple added. "We're free to go and free to follow wherever God leads and not feel those ties. When God calls, you have to go; that's the bottom line."

Strimple noted that "the hardest thing for me was giving up the church. I loved the church and people. That's been hard, traumatic for me."

He added, however, that "the people who are close to us are not surprised. We've got a little bit of a history of just doing what God

□ See Lexington couple ..., page 3

Helping hands



Baptists near Leitchfield recently took training for disaster relief work. Little did they know how soon they would need it. At least 20 Kentucky Baptists worked last week and this week after a tornado left 75 homes with severe damage. The May 22 storm affected at least 185 houses, destroying 15 of them. Baptists traveled from Burlington, Louisville, Ashland and elsewhere to work. Volunteers were expected to be working at least through Tuesday, removing trees and other debris from yards. George Tichenor, pastor of nearby Falls of Rough Baptist Church, said he took Kentucky Brotherhood training because he became interested in relief work after the tornadoes hit Owensboro earlier this year. "We had no idea one was going to hit so close when we did it."

■ Above: David Lewis, left, a member of First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, and Harold Smith, a member of Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff, remove a limb from a yard. ■ Left: Lew Cook, a member of Central Baptist Church in Maysville, saws a limb. (Photos by David Winfrey)

Hispanic ministries continue to grow throughout Kentucky

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

HOPKINSVILLE—Stanley Smith attributes his work in Hispanic ministry to "an act of God."

It's not that he reluctantly got involved, it's just that he sees God's handiwork in the process leading up to his ministry work.

Eight years ago, long after retiring from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Smith said he felt led to move from Tennessee to Christian County. He and his wife had lived there briefly in 1968.

After joining Bainbridge Grove Baptist Church, he heard a missionary from Mexico speak and he talked with her afterward in Spanish.

Overhearing their conversation, Pas-

tor Hank Casey asked if Smith could teach a Sunday school class in Spanish.

"I found there were a lot of Hispanic men here and nobody could speak Spanish," Smith said. "It took a while to find out where they were and to get them to come. Now they feel readily accepted."

In addition to Sunday school, the church helps provide clothing, meals, groceries and English classes. The classes are part of a Sunday afternoon session during the peak harvest season starting in August. The classes include a meal and Bible lessons.

The church counts 187 professions

of faith since 1995, although only six Hispanics have been baptized there.

"The greatest thing I've seen is these men accepting Christ in the numbers they have," Smith said. "We've seen moms and dads and children all accept Christ. I've had men tell me their life has changed from coming up here."

"So many have asked, 'Why do you people do this?'" he said. "We try to explain it's because we love Christ."

An increasing number of Kentucky Baptists are spreading that love to migrants and residents from south of the

United States border.

Grundy Janes, ethnic language consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said 54 Baptist groups are ministering to Hispanics. He expects more to spring up this year.

"We've had a 50 percent increase over the last few years," he said, estimating another seven to nine ministry groups could form by the end of the year.

There are six full-time Hispanic missionaries serving in the state and two full-time pastors serving congregations that have become churches—New Jerusalem Baptist in Louisville and Oak Grove Baptist near Hopkinsville.

Two other missions are on the verge of moving into their first permanent quarters in Shelbyville and Ballardsville □ See State's Hispanic ..., page 8



Proposed faith statement changes draw praise, criticism

Transportation services planned for Orlando SBC

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—Transportation services are in place for messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention's June 13-14 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Additionally, an emergency telephone number for the message center at the SBC annual meeting will be operational effective Sunday, June 11. The number is (407) 685-5000.

Airport shuttles will be available through Mears Motor Shuttle for a discount price of \$19 roundtrip. The discount coupon can be printed from the SBC Internet site, www.sbc.net.

Limited hotel shuttles to the Orange County Convention Center will run Sunday afternoon and evening to transport messengers to the SBC registration center. Shuttle tickets for the duration of the convention will be available for \$10.

Messengers driving to the convention will be able to park in the main parking area directly behind the convention center. Parking rates are \$7 daily for cars and \$10 for larger vehicles.

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Southern Baptists and others continue to evaluate proposed revisions to the denomination's Baptist Faith and Message statement released May 18 by a 15-member study committee.

Initial media reports emphasized the revised statement's pronouncement that the Bible prohibits women from being pastors of local churches.

Committee member Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, told the New York Times the statement is "not culturally driven" but "a matter of biblical conviction."

Alice Marshall, wife of former Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Marshall, said she disagrees with Mohler's assessment.

"I believe the position on women is 'culturally driven' with a desire for power, authority and control," she said.

Noting that "women were last at the cross and Jesus appeared first to a woman," she added, "Jesus always treated women with equality."

"God spoke to Balaam through a donkey. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. An almighty, omnipotent God can also speak through a woman," Marshall said, citing such examples as Lottie Moon and Anne Graham Lotz.

USA Today quoted James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga., who this year is running unopposed as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, as saying that while some churches have ordained women

in the past, the practice is "unbiblical."

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, SBC President Paige Patterson said, "This is a statement from Southern Baptists that our positions and our perspectives are not going to be dictated by the culture. They're going to be dictated by Scripture."

"If we stand alone, we'll stand alone," said Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

The statement is consistent with previous SBC stances including a 1984 resolution against women pastors and an 1998 amendment to the Baptist Faith and Message calling for wifely submission.

"In a world where there is an encroachment on the family by an out-of-control feminism, you have to expect that if we have a view that is distinct, we have to state that," Patterson said.

Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, voiced concern that the new document "pulls up a drawbridge into the 21st century and padlocks Southern Baptists into a 19th century cultural castle."

Daniel Vestal, coordinator of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Atlanta, told the New York Times the proposed revision "is based on a bad interpretation of Scripture, an insensitivity to the Holy Spirit and an unwillingness to see what God is doing in the world today."

By contrast, study committee mem-

ber Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, told the Orlando Sentinel that the change is "what the vast majority" of Southern Baptists believe.

Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, however, told the Florida newspaper, "It would come as a surprise to Jesus that the office of pastor should be limited to men."

While the prohibition of female pastors drew most of the initial attention, some Baptist leaders criticized another article that softens language from "refraining from worldly amusement" on Sunday to making Sabbath activities subject to individual conscience.

The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States opposes any "weakening ... of the importance of the Lord's Day as a day of rest and worship," said Timothy Norton, the group's director.

"It would be our hope that all people of the Christian faith would be encouraged by their respective denominations to set aside the Lord's Day as a day of worship of God, spiritual renewal, physical rest and family enrichment," Norton said.

Others pointed out that the new statement omits reference to "priesthood of the believer," which has been described as Southern Baptists' key tenet.

The proposed new statement "makes the theological tent much smaller," Parham said.

Supporters of the revisions cite the overall impact of the document.

"Instead of pointing to any single part of the document, I would say its greatest importance is as a whole statement," said Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee. "It is a snapshot, in contemporary language, of the views of our generation of Southern Baptists against the backdrop of contemporary challenges to biblical faith."

"The Baptist Faith and Message statements of 1925 and 1963 were responsive to the challenges facing those times," Chapman said, "and this revision is responsive to ours."

Mohler agreed that "the most important issue is the general thrust of the report to clarify issues we felt were in need of clarification from the Scriptures as each generation confronts new issues." He cited doctrines related to Scripture, God, salvation, man and the church as key priorities.

According to committee chairman Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., "Baptists cherish our doctrinal inheritance. We are a people of the Book, who recognize no other authority for faith and practice but God's Word."

"Our hope," he added, "is that a rising generation of Baptists will recognize the significance of our biblical doctrines, embrace our Baptist heritage and own this confession of faith for themselves."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson and Baptist Press

Homosexual activists plan SBC protest in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—Homosexual activists angered by the Southern Baptist Convention's belief that the Bible teaches homosexuality is a sin are planning to protest the SBC's annual meeting scheduled for June 13-14 at the Orange County Convention Center.

Soulforce, a national network of homosexual activists, has announced its intention to converge a national protest against the SBC during the Orlando convention. The group's Internet Web site encourages homosexuals to make preparations to be arrested during a planned civil disobedience June 14.

Mel White, one of the founders of Soulforce, was a former associate of Jerry Falwell's organization until he announced he was a homosexual. White told Baptist Press he hoped the demonstrations will be peaceful. "We will be there to win minds and hearts, not to cause anger and fear," he said. "However, so many people are angry at the Southern Baptists and sometimes our training doesn't help control that anger."

SBC President Paige Patterson said the protestors will not be met with harsh words from Southern Baptists.

"It is my profound belief that if these

homosexual and lesbian people come to the convention, they will be treated with the greatest kindness and the most profound love that they've experienced," Patterson said. "Southern Baptists have long since proved that they are able to love the sinner even while they hate the sin."

White said he expects hundreds of homosexuals from across the country to converge on Orlando for the protest. He said homosexuals "are being condemned unfairly by the Southern Baptists and we are very serious about this concern."

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Texas board escrows funds.** The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board has responded to a move by Houston Baptist University to alter ties with the state convention by withholding funds earmarked for the school until the dispute is resolved. Texas Baptist leaders voted May 23 to hold the funds in escrow and to establish a committee to study "the unilateral action" of HBU trustees to create a self-perpetuating board. Trustees voted May 16 to amend university bylaws to allow the BGCT to elect only 25 percent of its trustees rather than the full board. University President E.D. Hodo said the action was taken to preserve "institutional autonomy."

■ **New BP leader proposed.** Wilburn "Will" Hall, 40, will be recommended as vice president for convention news of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive

Committee effective June 15, according to Executive Committee President Morris Chapman. Hall, a retired lieutenant commander with the U.S. Navy, will succeed Herb Hollinger, who retires June 30. Chapman described Hall as "a man of deep faith, conservative values and contagious enthusiasm." A 1982 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Hall holds master's degrees from Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

■ **Communications changes announced.** Tim Ellsworth has resigned as director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Ellsworth, who worked at Southern nine months, has joined the staff of the Southern Illinoisan newspaper in Carbondale, Ill. In another staffing change, Lee Weeks has been named

interagency communications specialist for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Weeks, a 2000 graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., has worked the past four years as a writer and editor in the seminary's news and information office.

■ **Florida school changes name.** The name of Florida Baptist Theological College will change to the Baptist College of Florida effective June 1. The Florida Baptist Convention board of missions approved the name change May 19 at the request of the college's board of trustees. The change does not mean the college is moving away from its heritage or original purpose, said President Thomas Kinchen. "Many people assume that the term 'theological' means that they have to be a preacher" to attend the school, Kinchen explained.

Charles Stanley, former president of SBC, divorces

ATLANTA (BP)—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley and his wife, Anna, have divorced. Stanley reportedly will remain as senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, according to a church spokesman.

Stanley, 67, told the congregation about the divorce in a service May 21.

According to the May 23 issue of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Anna Stanley filed for divorce in February, charging their marriage of 44 years was "irretrievably broken."

An Atlanta judge signed the final decree May 11 following the execution of a property agreement by the Stanleys April 5.

The Stanleys troubled marriage was made public in the 1990s and caused some struggles in the church because of an unwritten policy that First Baptist would not allow divorced men to serve as ministers or deacons.

Stanley told the congregation in 1995, "If my wife divorces me, I would resign immediately."

"We hate it that things like this happen, but our church is moving right along," said Jerry Beal vice chairman of the church's deacons. "He is our pastor, and he will remain our pastor."

Writer Freeman: Are you Aunt Bee or Martha Stewart?

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Becky Freeman's mental image of a godly woman used to resemble super hostess Martha Stewart, but now looks a little more like the pleasant, down-home Aunt Bee from Mayberry.

Freeman, author of "Real Magnolias" and other collections of funny stories, said a godly woman makes people feel comfortable enough to kick off their shoes, pull up a seat in her kitchen and share a laugh.

Freeman, the featured speaker at Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences last week, offered the audience many opportunities to share a laugh throughout her description of a godly woman, which was peppered with anecdotes from her own life.

She outlined four characteristics of a godly woman:

■ Godly women have a merry heart. Freeman said her sense of humor is rooted in her family's tradition of sharing funny, embarrassing stories about themselves at family reunions.

Growing up, when she found herself in situations throughout the year that would have mortified the average teenager, Freeman instead would think "there's some good material for the family reunion."

Finding humor in difficult situations helped Freeman gain a sense of perspective and humility.

■ Godly women "bloom where they are planted." Freeman shared that she used to feel self-conscious about inviting guests to her home, which was renovated over a period of several years.

The Freemans ran out of money to renovate and enlarge their tiny 860-square-foot cabin after constructing the shell of a large, two-story house around the outside of the cabin. For three years, they lived inside the cabin, now located inside the shell, until they had enough money to resume renovations.



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Becky Freeman talks with a woman who attended the Kentucky Baptist Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences last week. Approximately 600 women attended the conferences, which were held in Cold Spring, Louisville and Owensboro. (Photo by Brenda Smith)

In the midst of the chaos, Freeman's home frequently was filled with friends of her teenage children. One of the teenage visitors said, "I love coming to your house because there's nothing we can do to mess it up."

Freeman says she learned from the young guest that what matters most in a home is not perfect order, but love and laughter.

■ Godly women don't always have the answers to life's difficult questions. Freeman recalled that when her son Zeke was injured in a football game, she had to decide whether to scale a chain-link fence and get to him and risk embarrassing him or stay put on her side of the fence and ignore her deepest motherly instincts.

Faced with a difficult question, Freeman didn't "sit on the fence" for long seeking an answer. She scaled the fence to be with her son. Unfortunately, when it was time to go back over the fence, her knees were so shaky that the cheerleaders had to form a pyramid and help

her back over. She landed so hard on the other side of the fence that she hurt her knees and followed her son to the hospital in a second ambulance.

The fact that she launched herself over the fence just five feet from a gate she could have walked through made her earlier decisive answer a little less appealing. In retrospect, she said, remaining undecided on her side of the fence might have been a better answer.

■ Godly women desire to know God. "Every woman wants a passionate love. Some think it will come from a man, and some have discovered that it won't," Freeman explained. A godly woman realizes the depth of God's love; she appreciates the depths to which He will pursue her and reciprocate by seeking His will for her life.

Approximately 600 women attended the conferences, which were presented in three locations on May 22-23. First Baptist Church of Cold Spring; St. Stephen Baptist Church of Louisville and Bellevue Baptist Church of Owens-

boro hosted the conferences.

In addition to Freeman, conference leaders included Dottie Williamson, a multi-housing ministry consultant for the South Carolina Baptist Convention and worship leader Alicia.

The conference was sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary of the General Association of Baptists and the Central District of the General Association of Baptists.

Williamson encouraged the women to evangelize their communities. Growing up in church, Williamson thought missions took place only in far-off, exotic locations such as Africa or China. It was not until she became a teacher in the mountains of North Carolina that she discovered missions needed to take place in her homeland as well.

Williamson said she was shocked to discover that despite the fact that the mountains were dotted with churches, many of her students were unfamiliar with even the most basic Bible stories. That discovery jolted her into action to become a Southern Baptist missionary.

"There are 230 million lost people in America," said Williamson. "Jesus told you to start in Jerusalem."

Alicia encouraged participants to worship God passionately. Passionate worship is a way to witness to other women, she added.

"I'll tell you why I worship God the way I do. It's because His word has changed my life," she said. "Worship is evangelism."

The speakers' words were just what conference participant Kay Lewis said she needed to hear. "We need to get out and spread the word," said Lewis, a member of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Louisville.

Doris King agreed. "I came because of the spiritual motivation," said King, who also attends Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. "Sometimes you get a little lag. This is encouragement for another day, another hour."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** will hold three listening sessions in June. The sessions will be June 1 at Somerset First Baptist Church; June 20 at Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Catlettsburg; and June 27 at Lewis Lane Baptist church in Owensboro. All meetings start at 7 p.m. For more information, call (800) 456-1386.

■ **School teachers** interested in addressing religion in public schools can attend a conference June 30-July 2 at Georgetown College. The event will address such topics as the Ten Commandments and prayer during class. The meeting is organized through Georgetown's Marshall Center for Christian Ministry. For more information, call (502) 863-8045.

Lexington couple leaving it all behind to serve in Poland missions

Continued from page 1
says."

"God will take care of us," his wife agreed.

The Strimples' spiritual pilgrimage began in earnest about 20 years ago when they both became Christians.

"Within three months after I got saved, I was teaching a Sunday school class," Strimple said. "It's been a rocket ride in my Christian life since then."

A few years after making their Christian commitment, the couple attended a foreign missions commissioning service at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

"Both of us felt led at that point in time to commit to missions," he recalled. They eventually quit their jobs and both went back to school. While he earned his seminary degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, she completed a teaching degree at the University of Kentucky.

"We both went back to school on faith," he said. "We dropped everything and said, 'God expects more from us.'"

After Strimple became a pastor, their next major stepping stone was a part-

nership missions trip to Russia in 1998. That was followed by a missions trip to Poland last summer.

"The Russia trip was incredible," Strimple said. "It was so intense. You'd get up in the morning and be ready to witness."

Noting that dozens of children and their parents responded one day to a simple gospel presentation, he added, "I was floored. I'd never had anything happen like that in the States."

Mrs. Strimple said their trip to Poland "was an entirely different experience. We worked with children in an orphanage and took them to camp."

Strimple said the evangelism strategy in Poland is significantly different from their experience in Russia. "It takes a lot more patience because of the culture and religion," he explained. "The young people and the children are where the growth is and where the revival is going to take place."

As they return to Poland midway through the current three-year partnership, Strimple said he and his wife "really have a heart for the young people, especially the orphans."

Strimple spent his early childhood in an orphanage before being adopted at age 4. As a result, he said their work with orphans on their previous trip to Poland "really touched me."

The Strimples look forward to helping Kentucky Baptists get personally involved in volunteer mission trips to Poland.

"I would hope Kentucky Baptists, especially the pastors, will help nurture the young pastors in Poland," Strimple said. "They don't have anyone older to ask or call. The Kentucky pastors can really help these young guys even for two weeks by adopting a pastor to teach and mentor."

Calvin Wilkins, director of the Kentucky Baptist partnership missions department, said he is excited about the Strimples' availability to serve in Poland.

"The Lord worked this thing out in His own way to speak to their hearts about going," Wilkins said. He affirmed their "vision and commitment to missions and the energy they display."

Describing partnership missions as "a life-changing experience," Strimple

said, "It's enriching. Volunteers come back with a new worldview."

"It's so wonderful when Kentucky Baptists reach out," he added. "This is an opportunity to 'go therefore.' It brings the Great Commission alive."



POLAND BOUND John and Jan Strimple look through materials in preparation for their two-year missions assignment in Poland. They will serve as on-site coordinators for the partnership between Kentucky and Polish Baptists.

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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Here we go again

After a brief respite of peace, the good old boys who dominate the Southern Baptist Convention are at it again. I have been a Southern Baptist for over 60 years. Sometimes, however, I have been organized the antics of that organization. This is one of those times.

The proposed new version of the Baptist Faith and Message statement has some high points, but what is tragic is what is left out, for instance, the preamble to the old one, which includes the doctrine of the priesthood of the believer. Contrary to what some believe, this was not an invention of E.Y. Mullins. Firmly supported by the Bible, it has been the very root of Baptist faith for 400 years, so why drop it?

The other that is unforgivable is the deletion of the statement from the 1963 version that says, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ." And the explanation for this, as given by committee chairman Adrian Rogers, carefully strains out the gnat while gulping down a camel, and makes it even worse.

The Bible itself proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Word (John 1:1, 14 and Revelation 19:13, for instance). Now either the committee doesn't believe the Bible, believes only the parts that support their agenda, or they believe Christ is no greater than just any biblical writer. In either case they are way out in left field.

Most Baptists are like other Christians—they simply want to serve Christ to the best of their ability and not get bogged down with "winds of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14).

Why, oh why, can't the SBC quit playing mind games with people's souls?

Everett Adams
Alexandria

Baptist circle narrows

I believe the proposed changes to the Baptist Faith and Message statement of the Southern Baptist Convention represent a blatant attempt to complete the fundamentalist takeover of the minds of Baptists.

First, the committee has dropped the statement in the preamble affirming the key historic Baptist principles of "the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion and the priesthood of the believer." Dr. Al Mohler and the committee don't want that statement in the document. It suggests Baptists have the right before God to think for themselves. By this change alone, the document ceases to be Baptist in any meaningful sense.

Second, changes in the article on the Bible elevate it virtually to the status of a fourth person in the Trinity, taking away any room for human participation in its writing and interpretation. By deleting the sentence, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ," they elevate stories of ancient Hebrew massacres to the level of John 3:16. From carefully crafted theology they turn the article into nonsense.

Third, by inserting the word "substitutionary" into the paragraph on the death of Christ, they subscribe to a hardline fundamentalist view of the cross. In fact, that is only one of many theories describing the atonement and Baptists historically have had the freedom to develop their own understanding.

Fourth, their change to the description of God constitute a thinly veiled move toward Calvinist predestination. By saying God knows everything, including "the future decisions of His free creatures," they mean in effect that God creates some people knowing they are going to hell. Baptist history and practice always have

been in the direction of God's redemptive purpose for all humankind. We have believed everybody has access to salvation.

These changes constitute a systematic narrowing of the Southern Baptist circle. Clearly the committee wants to get rid of all of us who think for ourselves.

Ron Sisk
Louisville

Parables of grace

For whatever reason, God chose the period in time that He did to live a life as one of us and save the world in the process. Yahweh's humanity occurred 2,000 years ago, but sometimes I wonder what if that miracle had happened during our time.

Certainly the name Jesus would not be plastered everywhere, because we would not yet know who He was. Would the Messiah still travel around mostly by foot in Israel? Is it possible that Jesus and His disciples would board an airplane and come to America for a few weeks? Perhaps in the fields of Kentucky, Jesus would take a child's McFish sandwich and feed 15,000 people.

Wishful thinking aside, the majority of people could not follow Christ around all day. Life would go on while God lived among us.

The historical Jesus told parables in an attempt to get the people to understand grace. Many times, Christ's storytelling pulled from circumstances in His day.

Sometimes Jesus would put a twist in the story and it would offend many of His listeners. For that reason, I do not think it inconceivable that a "modern" Jesus would compose the parable of the good lesbian. Such a story today would cause outrage among many in the religious community, much like the idea of a godly Samaritan—a people held in contempt by ancient Jews.

Jamie McDaniel
Lexington

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

A spirit of cooperation

As Kentucky Baptists, we are partners with God and one another in a mission greater than anything we could imagine. It is a mission from God, by God and for God.

Jesus invites us to join the mission in Matthew 9:35-38. We are "partners in the harvest" when the compassion of Jesus fills us and loves people through us. Trusting Jesus to love through us enables us to avoid compassion fatigue. We are partners when we begin to see what Jesus saw, feel what Jesus felt and pray for laborers. We are partners when we are in the harvest fields.

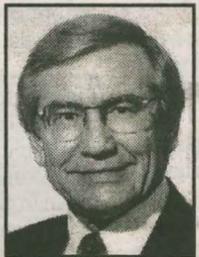
This year Kentucky Baptists are partnering in the harvest through 32 association and metro crusades and simultaneous revival efforts across the commonwealth. Reports of baptisms have been up for the past two years, and we anticipate an outstanding year due to the outreach of the

Celebrate Jesus 2000 emphasis.

Kentucky Baptists also are cooperating as partners in state and world missions support through the Cooperative Program. Lowell Ashby, leader of our Kentucky Baptist Convention business services team, reported at the May 8-9 KBC Executive Board meeting that at the end of April, Cooperative Program giving had exceeded budget by \$1,000,074. We are grateful to God for every gift. However, this does not

mean there is a surplus. Funds are sent to the SBC Executive Board office for distribution to mission causes after the books are closed each month.

I am grateful for the spirit of cooperation that is growing among Kentucky Baptists. I believe it is the Spirit of the Lord at work among us. It is a spirit of family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's continue to relate to one another in Christian love.



Bill Mackey

CHURCH

'Seize the Day' offers hands-on fund-raising plan

By Doug Strader

A few months ago Pastor Chris White of First Baptist Church of Carrollton inquired about the avail-

ability of a one-day fund-raising program to assist the church in paying for a much-needed addition.

I shared with him that

we have such a program called "Seize the Day." He invited me to come to the church and present the program to the membership. I accepted his invitation and shared the basics of the program with the people. They liked the concept and bought into the program and followed the guidelines as presented. Since this program is conducted by the church members themselves without an outside consultant, they were able to conduct the program after a few weeks of planning.

White reported that the \$125,000 addition will be this generation's first effort to "plant the trees that give shade to others." The church had discussed the need of such an addition for decades, but had never gotten serious about building. This time they used the occasion of their 150th anniversary as a catapult to reach their vision of a needed addition.

As a part of the program, the church gave commitment cards to every member and many friends of the church and highlighted various ways people could participate in the project. Much to their surprise, the people gave \$90,000 last year for the project. That is one half of their yearly budget, and White noted that only 3 percent of the commitments were not paid.

White also said, "It was a day to experience God through giving. We will also remember that season as the time we discovered the real possibilities for our church. Evidence now abounds that God can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine."

This program also can be used in larger churches. Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown recently used the same program and in one day received commitments from their people for nearly \$700,000. That is about one-third of their annual undesignated receipts. Pastor Billy Compton was pleased with the success of "Seize the Day" in their church.

If you have a project that will necessitate some type of fund-raiser, why not check out "Seize the Day" materials to determine if they can help your church accomplish your objectives for capital funds?

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department



Troubled grandchild might be seeking boundaries, direction

Q: I inherited a very troubled 12-year-old grandchild. She came to live with me four months ago and we are not getting along. Her parents are not available to help. What do you suggest?

Grandparents who are charged with raising their grandchildren have enough on their minds without adding to the mix the problems of adolescent acting out. Feeling abandoned and cast aside before they reach their grandparent's door, their defense systems are solidly in place. Your granddaughter is likely taking out on you her hurt feelings and sense of being out of control.

Parents who have not been around to listen or who have made it unsafe for their children often have children who openly vent their bottled-up feelings on the nearest target. These children basically are angry at the whole world. Handling their anger is not easy, but it can be done with effective and consistent communication skills. Even when she is disrespectful and hostile, look for the message behind the words and respond to the pain and fear. The key to helping her is to try not to take the anger personally.

The most effective responses are ones that acknowledge her feelings, inform her that her way of expressing herself hurts your feelings, and offer her a means of getting her point across in a way that is easier for you to hear. Try not to be defensive. It takes patience and self-control to resist responding to anger with anger.

It's natural for her to test your limits. She is checking to see if you'll send her away. She probably is seeing how much you are willing to tolerate. She needs your direction and boundaries in order to feel secure and safe.

By responding with love and reassurance, you can provide a sense of security and perhaps for the first time in her life someone who cares. She is testing to see if you can be trusted with her life. Troubled children are not always bad children in search of discipline, but rather lost children in search of direction. The way you respond to her will determine if your role will be that of warden or that of teacher and friend.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: My 15-year-old son has begun to use unacceptable words in our presence. These are not just darn and "dung," if you know what I mean. My parents would have washed my mouth out with soap. I have told him to stop, but he just calls me "old-fashioned" and a "prude." What can a mother do to stop this?

Cut off as much of the source of his being around foul language as possible. Restrict his freedom to have movies, TV and music that contain profanity. He probably will hear some inappropriate language at school and other activities, but you can stop it in your home.

Next, reward him when he is not using such language. Offer praise, gratitude and attention when he speaks without such slang. Give him something special and say, "This is because you have gone a week without using bad language in front of us." Value self-control and reverence.

Help him substitute acceptable words that express his reactions. He could say "fudge," "darn the barn" or "golly."

It should go without saying, but do not use dirty words yourself. Teach him how you express anger, disgust and frustration without offensive speech. Expand his vocabulary of feeling words.—*Wade Rowatt*

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



Don't lose sight of the true priorities of life

There are few words in Scripture any more comforting than "the Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." The poetic beauty of the 23rd Psalm offers incredible reassurance to anyone who trusts their life to the Great Shepherd—even in the midst of "the valley of the shadow of death."

While we as Christians know that's true, it's often easy to take God's protection for granted as we get bogged down in the daily grind of life.

Unfortunately, it sometimes takes startling tragedy to remind us of our constant need for God's guidance and protection. A deadly shooting rampage at a fast-food restaurant in New York, wildfire burning out of control in New Mexico, a devastating tornado in Leitchfield—we don't have to look far to be bombarded with reminders of the frailty of life.

Occasionally, such reminders hit incredibly close to home. That definitely was the case for Leitchfield residents last week. It also was the case at the Western Recorder office.

I received an early morning phone call last Wednesday that Western Recorder administrative assistant Shirley Wooton was being taken to the hospital after apparently suffering a series of small strokes.

When I arrived later that morning at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville, Shirley was still in the emergency room. Tests later revealed she had endured as many as nine strokes that morning. Thankfully, she was able to get prompt medical attention and her recovery looks promising.

In addition to that experience, three Western Recorder staff members—including Shirley—have family members scheduled for various types of surgery in the next several days.

While your prayers across the state for our staff certainly are valued, I don't share such information to suggest our staff members are facing any greater challenges than other Kentucky Baptist families. The fact

is that our experiences are fairly similar to situations being faced by people in your families, congregations, neighborhoods and work settings throughout the state.

The question is: What do we do when unexpected challenges and tragedies come our way? Do we respond as people with no hope or do we place our confidence in God and trust Him for the outcome?

Amid the day-to-day challenges of life, we sometimes take our eyes off the most important priorities: God, family, personal ministry opportunities and other endeavors with eternal impact.

Even as a denomination, it's easy to get sidetracked. As significant as the unfolding debate about proposed changes to the Baptist Faith and Message statement is, the way we live our Christian lives on a personal level is far more important than the theological terms we offer the world.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith," the Apostle Paul testified in 2 Timothy 4:7. That should be the daily goal of every Christian

as we strive to keep our eyes on Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

Let's not wait for another natural disaster or shooting spree or denominational division to get our eyes on Jesus. There are people all around us in every community in Kentucky who need to hear a word of hope and encouragement from concerned Christians. There are family members, friends and co-workers waiting to experience the sense of peace that comes only through the word of Christ shared by someone who cares.

Look around this week and rediscover the true priorities of life. Take time to remind someone in need of the Psalmist's timeless affirmation that "surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."

Life is far too precious—and far too fragile—to do otherwise.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Drama can entertain, teach & evangelize

By Tom Smoot

"I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22).

I was teaching a drama class at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary a few years ago and asked my 29 students one Tuesday morning: "What was your sermon about this past Sunday?"

After many groans, moans and some giggles, about one-third of the class couldn't remember, one-third could come up with the theme or Scripture and the other third could give me a "rough" summary—all except for one Korean student who had seen a drama that Sunday morning. The drama was followed by a solo that related to the script, and the sermon related directly to the drama and solo. He said the drama set the tone of worship for the whole service. It was why he remembered the sermon.

Drama started thousands of years ago. Through the ages, drama has been influenced by diverse views, religions, rules and other factors.

From the Restoration Period to the

20th century, drama in the church was for the most part non-existent. Gradually, it is becoming more a part of the worship and educational experience in many denominations. Ev Robertson in his book, "Introduction to Church Drama," wrote, "The future of church drama as an art form and as a unique form of dramatic expression will depend on its evolving from the church, not to the church."

What is drama? From the Greek word "dromon," "to do," it may have as simple a definition as "a real-life situation acted out in front of an audience using actors." It usually reflects a contrast or conflict of characters in real-life situations.

The religious drama we have today has derived at least in part from actor-priests who long ago believed the best way to inculcate religion was through the development of a drama. There were many Old Testament expressions of drama through festivals, ritual sacrifices and especially the Passover of the Lord. Jesus' parables also are prime examples of the dramatic.

Drama has long been an ingredient of Christian worship. Today, drama can take on many forms in a basic worship

service. There is the growing, ever-popular Christmas or Easter pageant. Some churches spend thousands of dollars to present the drama surrounding the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ.

But contrary to popular belief, there are plays written for worship other than for Christmas or Easter. Robert Hughes of the Southern Seminary staff has written a book of plays titled "Plays That'll Preach." Each play is approximately 20 to 30 minutes long.

Many plays or shorter sketches are used in worship services not only to stand alone as the "sermon," but to introduce the sermon or theme for worship. Dialogue sermons, monologues, choral dramas and readers theater are other forms of the dramatic used today. Drama can entertain, teach, inform and evangelize.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries Festival, held each year on the first weekend of March, is a helpful resource. The 2001 festival will be at Southern Seminary. It will offer about 50 different workshops and seminars about drama in the church.

With vision, planning and resources, you can introduce your church to the many facets of an effective drama ministry.

Tom Smoot is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention youth department and coordinator of the KBC's annual Creative Ministries Festival

Should Southern Baptists support faith statement revisions?

Yes: Committee's proposed changes reflect timely, truthful affirmations

By Russell Howard

The 1963 Baptist Faith and Message, especially as strengthened by the 1998 addition of article XVIII on the family, is a venerable confession. It has stood as a unifying statement for the people, churches and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. Therefore, I am gratified that the proposed new edition of the BF&M perpetuates intact the vast majority of the '63 edition.

In fact, six articles—Baptism and the Lord's Supper, The Kingdom (except for capitalization changes), Last Things, Stewardship, Cooperation and Religious Liberty—are absolutely unchanged.

One additional article—God's Purpose of Grace—is changed only to the extent that one word is added. "Justification" is added to the existing regeneration, sanctification and glorification as an activity carried out within the electing purpose of God's grace.

Four other articles bear only minor revision, and in all cases are somewhat improved by the changes. The changes include replacing archaic language about "worldly amusements" and "secular employments" with encouragement for each Christian to honor conscience and the Lordship of Christ regarding activities undertaken on Sunday as well as adding the affirmation that "Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace."

Thus, 11 of 18 articles bear either no change at all or only minor, but beneficial, sharpening. The other seven articles contain new affirmations that are of value in expressing the heartbeat of Southern Baptists. Those affirmations can be summarized as:

■ Southern Baptists believe the Jesus we know is the Jesus who Scripture reveals. And we believe the Bible is "totally true and trustworthy." That's the heart of the changes to Article I. The old wording in Article I, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ," led some people to conclude that we believe an individual's own personally held (or personally manufactured) ideas about Christ, whether or not those ideas are consistent with Scripture, are the most important guide to understanding Scripture. We do not believe that. We believe the only means to an accurate and edifying conception of Christ is to know Him based upon what He has revealed about Himself in the Word of God.

■ Southern Baptists believe God is omniscient. Some people recently have contended that God cannot know the future until we create it by our actions. We do not believe that. We believe God knows everything that has ever been, all that is and all that will ever be. That is the substance of changes to Article II.

■ Southern Baptists believe gender is fundamental to the Creator's design for humanity, and that love for people should be expressed across race and gender lines. The 1963 edition states that "every man" is the worthy, dignified and respectable recipient of Christian love. The 2000 edition of Article III substitutes the much stronger "every person of every race."

■ Southern Baptists believe that people who do not know Jesus are lost. Except for updating the word "perfection" with the more contemporary "maturity" in the paragraph addressing sanctification, Article IV: Salvation is unchanged except for the addition of one sentence. That sentence may be deeply offensive to those who are outside of Christ, but no Christian, and surely no Southern Baptist, should be displeased when we clearly state, "There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord."

■ Southern Baptists believe that autonomous, local congregations operate "under the Lordship of Christ," that church members ought to follow Jesus and that the role of pastor ought to be filled by a man of God. Most Southern Baptists affirm that God, in the beauty of His created order, designed the genders for distinct roles. In the church, women are to be seen as gifted, capable, Spirit-led and honorable. However, the Bible clearly establishes that the role of senior teacher and under-shepherd of the church is to be filled by a scripturally qualified man. Those who oppose this addition to Article VI will accuse those who embrace it of either misogyny or ignorance. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those who affirm that a pastor ought to be a man of God are simply affirming the Bible's testimony and authority.

■ Southern Baptists believe in the Great Commission. In response to those who would accuse us of being unloving or bigoted in our approach to people of other faiths or cultures, the proposed edition reminds us that, "The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations." When we share our faith, we are obeying our Lord. That's the substance of changes to Article XI: Evangelism and Missions.

■ Southern Baptists oppose racism, sexual immorality, abortion and euthanasia. The proposed edition of Article XV: The Christian and Social Order includes opposition to "racism ... and all forms of sexual immorality including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography." The new edition also will allow Southern Baptists to once again affirm that "we should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death."

These seven affirmations are the heart and soul of the revisions proposed by the Baptist Faith and Message study committee. They are thoughtful, scriptural and reflective of Southern Baptist convictions. I urge all Kentucky Baptists to join in affirming the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

Russell Howard is pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington



No: Calculated additions, deletions turn statement into divisive creed

By Bill Shoulta

Upon initial observation of the proposed revision of the Baptist Faith and Message statement, I breathed a sigh of relief at what appeared to be little change or addition. I tried to convince myself not to stare a gift horse in the mouth. Predictable political rhetoric concerning inerrancy, sexuality, abortion and women in ministry were splattered about the document more sparingly than I had anticipated. The members

of the revision committee said they have added very little to the 1963 statement.

After a closer comparison of the proposed revision to the original document, however, I realized I was actually staring a Trojan horse in the mouth. What appears to be a peace offering is full of surprises because significant changes are not only from the additions, but also the deletions.

Noticeably missing is the preamble to the 1963 statement, which included the sentence, "Baptists emphasize the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion, and the priesthood of the believer." In my conservative Western Kentucky upbringing, these were fightin' words. I was taught in Sunday school that Baptists believe each soul is directly accountable before God; that no individual, creed or government could tell us what to believe; and that we go straight to Jesus for our salvation. If the convention messengers accept the revision next month, they will invalidate the history of our denomination. The very principles for which our ancestors died apparently are no longer considered significant enough for documentation.

Another hidden surprise is the deletion of the last sentence from the article on Scripture stating, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ." Some have explained the reason for this omission is that individuals misused this statement to support particular interpretations of certain verses. What the committee has left unexplained is who will replace Jesus as our criterion for interpretation. Will it be the revisionists of the Baptist Faith and Message, seminary presidents or even a moderate Baptist? As for me and my house, we will continue to interpret Scripture through Christ. The Pharisees had a problem with the fact that Jesus "came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, not to abolish them." Why have the authors of the revised statement abolished the importance of Christ for scriptural interpretation? Maybe it is because in Christ "there is no Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female."

This brings up another reason to reject the proposed statement. The article entitled "The Church" states that "the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture." A minority of my Baptist family would agree with me that this is an inaccurate interpretation of isolated Scriptures stating that women should not

"teach or have authority over men" and that pastors should be "the husband of one wife." The committee has failed to include the rest of the passages about women not wearing "braided hair or gold or pearls." Similarly, these same verses mean single men, new Christians or fathers of disobedient children should not be pastors. The danger of picking and choosing Scripture rather than interpreting the entire Bible through Christ becomes frightfully evident.

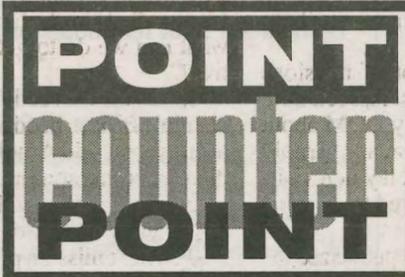
If an individual or a congregation believes that a woman should not be a pastor, I respect their right to that view. In fact, I would fight for that Baptist right called "the autonomy of the local church" or "individual accountability." Ironically, the proposed statement against women pastors appears in the same article that affirms local church autonomy, congregational democracy and individual member responsibility and accountability. If you don't believe your church should call a female pastor, then vote against her. If your vote fails and you cannot support the majority's decision, then join another church that does not have a woman pastor. That is one of the many reasons we have so many Baptist churches. At the same time, it means that no other church, pastor or denominational leader should direct you or your church how to vote. Contradictions in this article alone are reason enough to reject the proposed statement.

Another contradiction related to the document should be noted. Denominational leaders have stated that the ordination of women is "culturally driven" and "perspectives are not going to be dictated by culture." It appears, however, that culture has impacted strongly the softening of the stance on the article concerning the Lord's Day. Gone are the words of the 1963 version that we should refrain from "worldly amusements" or work that is not "of necessity and mercy." Cultural influence on the committee has led them to water down our activities on the Sabbath to "commensurate with the Christian's conscience."

The 1963 Baptist Faith and Message study committee was composed of the presidents elected by each of the 23 state conventions. As a result, SBC President Herschel Hobbs could not select the committee members based on their political leanings. The current proposed revision comes from a committee of 15 politically aligned individuals carefully handpicked by current SBC President Paige Patterson. While the recommended changes probably will be overwhelmingly approved at the annual meeting, it will be far from a consensus of the Southern Baptist family.

Don't be fooled into believing the proposed changes are about theological correction or the family or the truthfulness of the Bible. What was once a harmonious statement of faith in a diverse denomination will now become a two-edged creed further dividing our convention.

Bill Shoulta is pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville



Kentucky pastors evaluate proposed wording changes

Southern Baptist Convention messengers will be asked to approve revisions to the convention's Baptist Faith and Message statement during next month's SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Since the release of the study committee's report May 18, Southern Baptists and others throughout the nation are evaluating the impact of the proposed changes.

Several months before the committee's report was released, Bill Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, offered a proposal encouraging Kentucky Baptists to reaffirm the unamended 1963 version of the Baptist Faith and Message.

Russell Howard, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, spoke against Shoulta's motion during last fall's Kentucky Baptist annual meeting. Shoulta's proposal was defeated by a vote of 408-374.

The accompanying "Point-Counterpoint" articles offer the views of both men concerning the proposed changes to the Southern Baptist faith statement.

House addition project helps revitalize area Brotherhood

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

NEW CASTLE—While a family in Eminence has a much larger house today, the construction help they received from 27 Kentucky Baptists also helped revitalize Henry County's Brotherhood program.

Working on two Saturdays in March, members from nine churches helped put a 25-by-31-foot addition under roof for a homeowner who had run out of money. The concrete block structure has been turned into two bedrooms, two bathrooms and one other small room.

In addition, the volunteer crews gave Ricky and Tammy Wells and their three sons hope.

"In the world we live in these days, it was hard to believe that men and women like you all were out there," said Wells, who spoke at the association's spring meeting May 7. "But we were wrong. You proved that to us."

"It's given (the association) a fresh new look," said Bill Arnold, director of missions for the 15-church association. One member noted at the spring meeting how people used to have time to get to know each other and express love to each other.

"This project has rekindled that love," he said.

A former dialysis patient who had a kidney transplant in 1994, Wells had purchased a home in need of renovations two years ago. Unable to work steadily, he was getting help from his father-in-law, who then suffered a stroke.

Although they had completed some structural work, Wells' inability to continue prolonged the family's plight of all sleeping in one room. The cramped quarters created some tense situations.

At one point, according to Arnold, the oldest son told his mother, "I've prayed but I can't understand why God doesn't send someone to help us."

Rick Lucas, director of missions for Sulphur Fork Baptist Association, called the Henry County DOM about the family's plight in January. Arnold and several pastors and laymen visited the family and pledged to do what they could to help.

The missions director publicized the need in his newsletter, sparking a fund drive to help purchase lumber and supplies. Churches and the association contributed \$2,350 in materials.

When Wells priced lumber in Lou-

isville and the missions director told him, "You're underwritten; go ahead and buy it," he broke into tears.

The men who helped brought their own hammers, levels, table saws and other tools, Lucas said, and demonstrated a spirit of cooperation. Several women from Franklinton Baptist pitched in, providing coffee and doughnuts.

"Our goal was to say, 'Let's get this guy out of the ditch and get the roof over his head,'" Arnold said. "We wanted to get the roof rafters finished and felt paper and boards on. We were able to get that done."

Arnold said it is evident God was at work in helping the project come together. For example, a week before Lucas called him, he had prayed, "Lord, what can we do to get these men active?"

It was the first activity for the association's Brotherhood in about two and a half years, said Arnold, who became director of missions in January 1999.

Nor will it stop with the home improvements, he added.

The next mission project planned is repainting the building of Hopewell Baptist Church, a small country congregation about eight miles north of New Castle.

A group of teenagers at a missions



camp at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly will do the painting in early August. The association will help by sending a crew of men the week before to scrape parts of the building that are too high to be easily reached.

Lucas said he also looks forward to the day when he can lead mission groups to other parts of the nation and the world.

"I feel God was in every bit of it," he said. "This was a blissful experience."

HOME IMPROVEMENT
Volunteers from Henry County Baptist Association's Brotherhood group work on an addition for the house of an area resident in need. It was the first activity for the association's Brotherhood in about two and a half years, according to Bill Arnold, director of missions.

I Can't Stand You People!

RACISM & BIGOTRY, HATE,
MISUNDERSTANDING AND DISTRUST.

RECONCILIATION

IT STARTS WITH GOD.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS
RECONCILIATION IN YOUR LIFE.

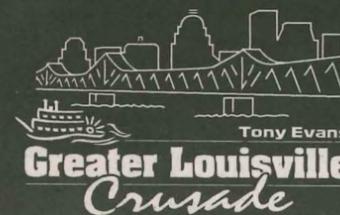
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CELEBRATE JESUS IN 2000 WITH

HIS MESSAGE OF
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State's Hispanic ministries motivated by love for Christ

ENGLISH CLASS A group of Hispanic men take an English-as-a-second-language course at Bainbridge Grove Baptist Church. English courses are one of several ministries that give churches opportunities to build relationships with Hispanics coming to Kentucky. (Photo by Stan Smith)



Continued from page 1 (see related article).

While some ministries focus on the six-month harvest season that begins in May, others sponsor year-round outreach and worship services. Together, they averaged weekly attendance of nearly 2,300 in the 1998-99 church year. There were 267 conversions recorded and 23 baptisms.

The needs go beyond a personal relationship with Christ, said Janes. They include:

■ Housing. Unless they are part of a

federal visa program that requires adequate living quarters, many migrants live in cramped conditions, Janes said.

■ Language barriers. English classes are a staple of many ministries.

■ Health care. Government services often aren't available to many Hispanics. Either they are not legal residents or face long delays with immigration applications, according to Bill Hartung, director of missions for Shelby County Baptist Association.

■ Food and clothing.

■ Bibles and other English materials.

Amid a slump in tobacco processing that cost some migrant jobs, especially in West Kentucky, Janes said many migrants are finding work outside of agriculture. Some examples include manufacturing or processing plants and construction.

Such jobs are helping fuel the influx of Hispanics. Janes estimated 75,000 to 80,000 Hispanics live in Kentucky. Another 35,000 migrants visiting last year pushed the number well over

100,000.

Carla Cook, coordinator of the Hispanic ministry at First Baptist Church of Frankfort, expects this field to widen.

"Within 20 years Hispanics could outnumber African-Americans in the country," she said. "The sooner we reach them the better. And the younger we reach the children with the good news of Jesus Christ the better."

But Janes pointed out that ministry growth isn't keeping pace with the numbers. There is a great need for Spanish-speaking leadership, he said, with numerous openings for Bible

study teachers.

"We have a hard time getting prepared, mature workers," he said. "We have a mature and we need a multitude."

Churches working with Hispanics must be dedicated to a mission that might take time to develop. Three years after starting its ministry in Frankfort, First Baptist has reported just three con-

versions and two baptisms.

Its Saturday night services average 15 to 20 people, rising to 30 during harvest time.

"It hasn't grown yet as we thought I might," Cook said. "But it's in place and we're ready for it to grow."

More churches in Franklin Baptist Association are catching the vision, she said, with 11 churches currently helping serve a pre-service meal.

The mission also has new leaders, Alison and Jorge Cuentas. The daughter of Wallace Kent, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort, Mrs. Cuentas met her husband while serving as a missionary to Peru.

Besides his Central American origins, Cuentas had to cross a lot of hurdles to obtain immigration papers, which makes him sensitive to the plight of many worshipers, Cook said. Lately he has tailored sermons to explain biblical basics to those who have limited knowledge of the Bible.

"Jorge has a heart for ministry and Alison definitely has a calling with her language skills to work with Hispanics," she said. "We have definitely felt God (leading us) to the ministry leaders we have. We feel they are making significant progress."



Shelbyville Hispanic mission gets permanent home

SHELBYVILLE—Shelby County Baptist Association recently purchased property and facilities from a Church of God congregation for a county-wide Hispanic mission.

The association acquired nine-tenths of an acre with a church building, a two-story house that will become a parsonage, and a four-room house that will become the association's new headquarters.

In addition to paying \$150,000 for the property, associational leaders plans to spend another \$29,000 for renovations, such as new insulation, dry wall and removing an old chimney from the parsonage.

With 21 of 25 churches in the association participating in the effort, more than \$161,000 had been raised by late April, said Director of Missions Bill Hartung.

Two of three Bible studies that had been meeting in various locations will move to the church, whose new name will be Alpha and Omega Baptist Mission.

Luis Salazar, coordinator of the five-county Central Region Hispanic Ministry, also plans to train Bible study leaders at the site.

During the past five years, mission members have met in several churches and never felt like they had a place they could call home, he said.

"It really means a lot for the ministry," Salazar said. "This is a big step. The ministry is going to grow. We can develop tithing and a better understanding of being a member of a church. We're very excited about it."

Hartung said this progress is a credit to the pioneers in the central region Hispanic ministry. They include Jesus Pachecho, who now is pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Louisville, and Mission Service Corps volunteers Gus and Gloria Reyes. Reyes retired to Texas last year after suffering a pair of heart attacks.

The agreement with the Church of God allows the ministry four months of free use of the

building, with rent charged after that. Its Sunday morning services won't conflict with the Baptist Hispanic mission, since most migrants work and will utilize the church facilities later in the day.

The new location is significant amid a growing Hispanic presence in the area, Hartung said. He said a city official conservatively estimated that 4,000 Hispanics live in Shelby County.

"A lot of them have brought their family in and plan on living here," Hartung said. "They can work here for six months and make more money than they can back home in six years."

Shelby County isn't the only central region ministry moving ahead. In Oldham County, Ballardville Baptist Church has given the use of its old church building to the area's Hispanic congregation.

Still, many challenges lie ahead. Shelby County Association's director of missions said many Hispanics face hurdles in obtaining legal immigration papers from immigration officials. That affects their access to various services, leaving many struggling to get adequate health care, he said.

Overcoming such obstacles calls for a multi-church effort that sees outreach as the responsibility of more than one congregation. The key to Shelby County Association's missions growth has been a lay-led, associational-wide effort, Hartung said.

"The best example is a 16-year-old girl sent us \$10 and said, 'This is for our Hispanic ministry,'" he said. "It's not Burks Branch's ministry, it's 'our' ministry."

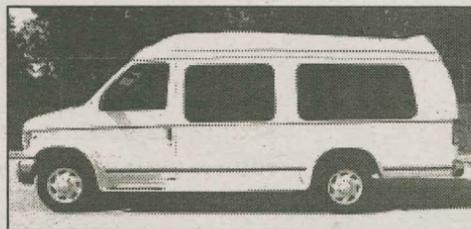
The association has a \$50,000 loan from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, but Hartung said he expects to draw only a small portion of those funds.

He said people are responding to a fund-raising drive launched in January. "Every day we get \$10, \$25 and \$50 (checks)," he noted. "Many are paying in weekly or monthly installments."

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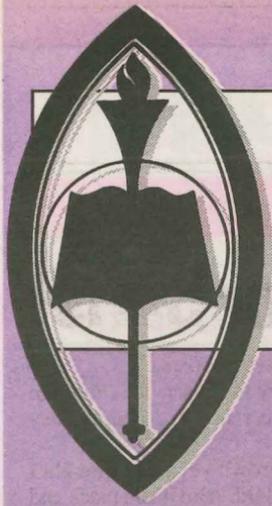


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KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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www.kybaptist.org/kywmu • E-mail: kywmu@kybaptist.org
Supplement to Western Recorder

Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions

1999-2000 Goal:
\$750,000

Challenge Goal:
\$800,000

Amount received
through April 23:
\$747,035

With only \$2,965 to go to meet the base goal, indications are that we will reach into the challenge goal! Continue to give toward this goal through August.

Summer 2000

A Personal Word

Our Kentucky WMU annual meeting in Bowling Green was a great time of fellowship and inspiration. My thanks to First Baptist Church and all the volunteers who hosted us. Thanks to each program guest who shared his or her experience in missions. And a special thanks to the Kentucky WMU staff who worked tirelessly to print materials, prepare displays and handle a myriad of details.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

I wish to say a special thank you to Peggy Hicks for her service as our president for 41/2 years. Peggy helped to guide Kentucky WMU during a time of transition and her wisdom has been appreciated time and time again. She gave many hours of faithful service to Kentucky Baptists and WMU. She will continue to be a mentor and friend to us. Thank you, Peggy, for your servant heart and willing spirit.

We welcome Sara Billups to the office of president. Sara is no stranger to Kentucky WMU. She has served as a member of the Executive Board, as vice-president, personnel committee chairwoman and a member of the executive director search committee. She is a nurse educator and gifted Acteens leader. Her experience in all aspects of WMU work will benefit all of us as she gives leadership to our state work.

Thanks to each one who completed an evaluation form about our Kentucky WMU annual meeting. Thank you for your positive comments and good suggestions. Several folks noted that our 2001 meeting is scheduled for March, rather than April as required by our by-laws.

The Executive Board gave approval to hold the 2001 meeting in March because of conflicts with other KBC meetings and in order to avoid the Easter holidays. We are working with KBC staff to schedule events and avoid conflicts of major meetings whenever possible. It may mean that we need to take a look at revising this item in our by-laws.

A serendipity of holding our 2001 meeting in March is that we will be able to meet in Lexington. April dates in Lexington are difficult because of the increase in hotel rates during racing season. We will get in just ahead of this significant time for the city.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our World Missions Unlimited events in July. A brochure outlining all the conferences to be offered was mailed in April. If you need a copy, please contact the state WMU office. We will have an array of training conferences as well as spiritual development and ministry conferences. We are also offering RA training (children and youth) as well as WMU conferences in Spanish at the event at Georgetown College.

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2000

- WHAT?** ♦ Training ♦ Motivation
♦ Inspiration ♦ Fellowship
- WHO?** Church and associational missions leaders
- WHY?** To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education
To become the leader God wants you to be
- WHEN?** July 14-15 Campbellsville University
AND WHERE? July 21-22 Georgetown College
- COST?** Option One: \$45 per person if registered by June 15
\$50 after June 15
Includes: registration fee, lodging (two people per dorm room), three meals, conference materials
- Option Two: \$20 per person if registered by June 15
\$25 after June 15
Includes: registration fee, conference materials
- How?** Request registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, complete and return with registration fee.
- QUESTIONS?** Call (502) 244-6485 or toll-free (888) 254-5726
OR e-mail: Brenda_Price@kybaptist.org.

Introducing Sara Billups Kentucky WMU President

Sara Billups of Catlettsburg was elected the 35th president of Kentucky WMU on April 15 in Bowling Green.

Sara is employed by Cabell Huntington Hospital as RN Clinical Coordinator, NICU. She and her husband, John, are the parents of three adult children —Amy, Jamie, and John—and one granddaughter, Katie.

Sara is a member of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Greenup Baptist Association. Her WMU experience includes church and associational positions in GAs and Acteens and as WMU director. She served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board as a regional representative for five years and as vice-president for four years. Sara also was very involved with helping Kentucky WMU host the National Acteens



Sara Billups
Kentucky WMU
President

Conference in Louisville in 1998. She serves on our state Resource Team in the area of Acteens.

We welcome Sara to this new leadership role with Kentucky WMU.



Season of Prayer for State Missions

September 10-17, 2000

Theme: "Among Us"

Scripture: Ephesians 4:6

Focus areas include:
Friendship International
Race Track Ministry
Migrant Ministry
International Students



Information for WMU Directors

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy." So goes a popular old song. Perhaps our summers may be a little more relaxed with longer days and vacations, but we do not want to relax our missions emphasis and commitment. Plan new ways to involve your entire church in missions. Plan a project or a trip and involve people who are not regular participants in WMU organizations.

Before the end of June, you will receive a sample packet of promotional materials for the State Missions Week of Prayer and the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. You will receive an Eliza Broadus monologue and ideas for church-wide promotion. Be sure your leadership team sets a challenging goal for this offering. Place your order for materials early. Your bonus this year: When you place your order for Eliza Broadus offering materials and week of prayer promotional materials, you will receive a FREE 25-minute video. The video will help your church see ways that God is at work AMONG US with the many internationals who have come to Kentucky to work, study or visit. Thank you for all you will do to promote this emphasis.

Hopefully, your leaders for the coming year have been selected. If not, this is a priority. Encourage every leader to participate in one of the **World Missions Unlimited** training conferences either at Campbellsville University on July 14-15 or Georgetown College on July 21-22. Many churches took advantage of these training sessions last year, and we expect many more to do so this year.

Remember that your state WMU staff and trained Resource Team members are ready to assist your church if you need help from any of us.

This next year will be **Beyond Belief!** Be ready for it. Don't be left behind, wondering which way to go.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Women on Mission

The **Fall Retreats** are right around the corner; so now is the time to choose the weekend you will attend and mail your registration forms! The theme for each retreat is "With New Eyes." Come experience WMU in a way that you never have before. Come with an open mind and spirit and prepare to see something new.

Remember, a training opportunity will be available for anyone interested in missions education. **World Missions Unlimited** will offer conferences on Women on Mission, Adults on Mission, how to reach a new generation of women, how to combine women's ministries and WMU and much, much more! (See page 1.) Plan to attend and learn some creative ideas for a new year.

Fall Retreat and World Missions Unlimited brochures were mailed in April. Please contact the state WMU office if you need a copy of either brochure.



Adults on Mission

Don't forget to check the WMU, SBC web-site for meeting ideas. The site has a ton of information to help you plan your Adults on Mission groups. The address is www.wmu.org. Click on WMU organizations and language and then click on Adults on Mission. Also, check out the special section of Missions Mosaic that features additional information for AOM groups.

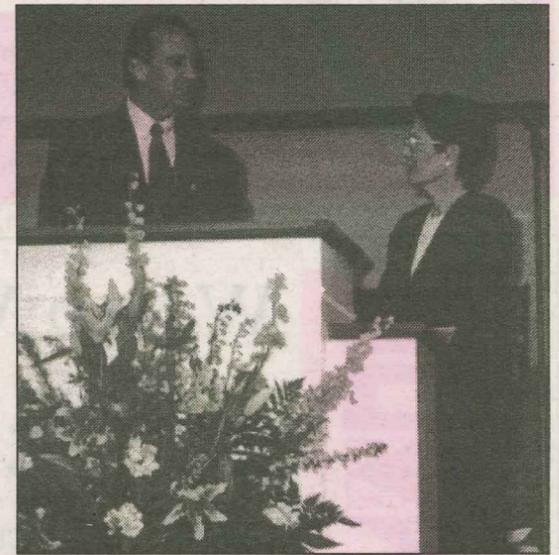


Tonya's Tips

Summer is a great time to focus on an unreached people group in one of your meetings. Choose a group and pray that the message of Jesus Christ will become real to the people in their everyday lives. Check these SBC web-sites for information about people groups: www.imb.org/missionaries/pplinkr.htm and www.pray2001.org. Get your whole church involved by preparing bulletin boards or by placing tidbits of information on a people group in church bulletins and newsletters. It's a great way to inform your congregation about what is going on in the world!

—Tonya Williams

Key to the City



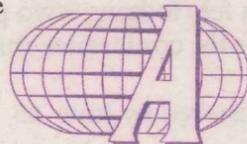
CITY KEY Bowling Green Mayor Eldon Renaud presents Joy Bolton with the key to the city at the WMU annual meeting April 14.

Youth

More than 400 young women had the opportunity to discover why they were created "For Such a Time as This" at the State Acteens Conference at Cumberland College on April 7-8. Participants were challenged by the example of the biblical Esther to be willing to take risks in following God.

Martha Lytle and Beth Ann Williams, who grew up in Williamsburg, were the featured missionary speakers. Belinda Riley, a missionary in Eastern Kentucky, also spoke. Michael and Terri Higdon with the Hope Community Church praise band of Lawrenceburg led the worship times.

On Saturday, 18 seminars were held with topics ranging from dating to witnessing training. Almost half of those who attended SAC also served in ministry projects in the community. An offering of \$435 was collected for the Appalachian Ministry of Cumberland College.



LUAU FUN Acteens from First Baptist Church in Murray enjoy the Friday night luau during the State Acteens Conference, April 7-8.

A new name for the State Acteens Conference was announced during the opening session: **Exalt 2001** will be held April 20-21 at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Make plans to attend **Acteens camp** at Cedar Crest now. You are "Never the Same" after a week of camp. (See camp news on page 4.)

If you can't make it for a full week of camp, no problem. Come to **Acteens Splash** at Jonathan Creek June 16-17. "Rose Benson" will be the featured missionary and the Kentucky Baptist Student Union praise band, Son Praise, will lead worship.

A date and place have been set for **Youth on Mission Night**: Sept. 15-16 at Georgetown College. Youth on Mission leaders will receive more information in the mail soon.

—LaRaine Dail



Preschool/Children

Do you think the boys and girls in Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action are worth it? Are they worth you being the best teacher or leader you can be? The answer to both questions is of course, "YES!" To be an effective teacher or leader and have a strong missions education program for preschoolers and children, attend **World Missions Unlimited** this summer. There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new teacher or leader or an experienced one. (See page 1 for details.)

In September, preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the Week of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. It would be a great way to start the new church year. The study and prayer material will focus on Kentucky racetrack ministries. Teaching guides are available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Mission Friends

Have a **Sensational Summer Celebration** with Mission Friends this summer. Invite parents, prospective preschoolers and new teachers for the next year to come and meet each

other and learn more about Mission Friends. Use ideas on page 8 in the summer issue of *Start*.

Celebrate **Christmas in August** with the preschoolers in your church! Involve them in helping North American missionaries minister to people throughout the United States. A list of missionaries and their specific needs can be found on pages 84 and 85 of the summer issue of *Start*.



Girls in Action

Summer is an excellent time to involve GAs in **World Ventures**. Encourage GAs to work on activities by having special summer workdays. Plan a World Ventures Recognition Service to recognize the girls who have completed their activities. For ideas use the new book, *World Ventures Recognition Events*, available from WMU, SBC for \$6.99.

Will there be "life after GA" for the sixth graders in your organization? Help your sixth grade girls know about the opportunities that

await them in Acteens. Invite Acteens and Acteens advisors to talk with the sixth graders about the Acteens organization. As a GA leader, you can be instrumental in encouraging your WMU director to enlist leaders now for Acteens.

Children in Action

Boys and girls in Children in Action have a wonderful opportunity to increase their missions awareness this summer as they learn about missions in Liberia, ministry with Native Americans and sports evangelism. Invite prospective "agents" to participate in the summer activities.

Something new is available for Children in Action members. It is the CiA cap! The cap, available from WMU, SBC for \$11.99, is a great identity item for the children to wear.

—Brenda Price





President's Perspective

As I accepted the gavel from President Peggy Hicks at annual meeting, I immediately felt an overwhelming awe of the responsibility I had just assumed. As I turned to face



Sara Billups
Kentucky
WMU
president

those of you in the audience, I remembered that we are "laborers together with God." I saw many familiar faces and those whom I will come to know as friends; and I was calmed. So, we begin this journey as co-laborers. Thank you for the privilege to serve you as president.

As we move forward in this changing world, we pause briefly to reflect on the past. Hearing past president Sally Deen speak at the Heritage Fund dinner was one of the highlights of the annual meeting. As I listened to stories of faith at the former presidents and executive directors dinner, I realized these were ordinary women who took the gifts God gave them, went to work and achieved extraordinary things for His kingdom. We can and will accomplish much in the future if we allow ourselves to be equipped and used by God.

Kentucky WMU exists to help equip you and enable you to live out your missions call. Plan now to attend **World Missions Unlimited** at Cumberland College or Georgetown College in July. Church and associational leaders will find conferences to meet their needs. It is not too soon to think about **Fall Retreats**. Choose the weekend you prefer at Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore and mark your calendars now. I look forward to meeting many of you at these events.

The future is exciting as we plan to go forward! I hope each of you will commit anew to accept the challenge given to us by our Executive Director Treasurer Joy Bolton to "honor our heritage by building on it and transforming missions and missions education for the new millennium." As Susan Peugh, director of World Changers said, "Jesus took three nails and changed the world." May we continue to change the world in His name.

Serving with you,
Sara Billups

Heritage Fund 1999-2000

The Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund was established in 1989 to provide funds to sustain the work of Kentucky WMU. This fund is a permanent endowment, and only the earnings from the fund are used for the work of Kentucky WMU. The fund reached the \$50,000 mark in 1996 and yearly grants have been given from the earnings to fund a variety of WMU ministries.

In 1999 grants were given to provide materials for a Campus Women on Mission Group, start-up funds for a new Christian Women's Job Corps site and assist Christian Ministry Corps sponsored by Partnership 2000. The 2000 grants will be used to provide scholarships to Campus Women on Mission members to attend a state Fall Retreat, assist Shelby County WMU in their Hispanic Ministry and assist a KY Acteens Activators Team going to Alaska.

The development committee has determined that in the future Heritage Fund earnings will be especially focused on sustaining the work of Kentucky WMU. The development committee will look at the total work of Kentucky WMU and make recommendations for the use of these funds. Your continued support of the Heritage Fund will provide support for the work of Kentucky WMU for years to come.

From May 1, 1999 - April 30, 2000, 106 gifts were made to the Heritage Fund. A total of \$7,180.00 was given during this year. This is an increase over the previous year. As of March 31, 2000, the Heritage Fund had a market value of \$119,491.54. Thank you for your faithful support of Kentucky WMU through the Heritage Fund.

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Beaver Dam Baptist WMU	Mattie Young
Josephine G. Case	Phyllis Parks
Bonnie Pendergrass Cecil	Sarah Williams
Christian Co. Baptist Assoc.	Betty Aldridge
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Everley Hayes Circle	Pat Schmidt
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of FBC, Paintsville	
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Grayson Co. Association	Pat Schmidt
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Camping news

The 2000 WMU summer camping season is upon us. Please pray for:

- God's guidance, strength and compassion for campers and their families.
- Camp staff to find ways to show God's love in each task they perform.
- The value and importance of the mission of sharing Jesus Christ to be evident.
- All those involved with camp to be "Never the Same" after their camp experience.

Attention all girls in grades 1-12! There is a place for you at camp!

- GA camp is for girls completing 4th -6th grades.
- Acteens camp is for girls completing 7th-12th grades.
- GA and Acteens week-long camp is \$110 per camper.
- Mother/Daughter Overnights are for girls completing 1st-3rd grades and their mothers.
- Mother/Daughter Overnight camp is \$27 per person.
- Acteens Splash (overnight) at Jonathan Creek is \$27 per camper.

Call Kentucky WMU at (502) 244-6485 or (888) 254-5726 for registration materials. Contact Cedarmore at (502) 747-8911 or Jonathan Creek at (270) 354-8355 for space availability.

Cedar Crest Camp Staff:

Director/Camp Specialist: Evie Cash
Worship Leader/Camp Specialist:
Beth Dunn
Lifeguard: Meredith Carter
(Jefferson Community College)

Unit Leaders:

Emily Hutchins
(Northern Kentucky University)
Heather Deal
(Campbellsville University)

Cabin Leaders:

Kandace Belcher (University of Kentucky)
Kristin Belcher
(University of Kentucky)
Carol Bolton (Anderson College)
Brittany Hargrove (Eastern Kentucky University)
Kristy Hogan (Eastern Kentucky University)
Melissa Mahurin (Georgetown College)

Assistant Cabin Leaders:

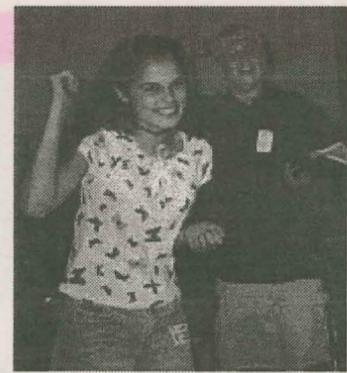
Amanda Borders (Bowling Green)
T. J. Harrison (Ashland)
Angela Morris (Chaplin)
Nicole Oak (Pleasureville)
Christy Parr (Morehead)
Jenny Risinger (Louisville)
Angela Sidener (Owensboro)
Ashley Moody (Acteens Intern, Cadiz)

Jonathan Creek Overnight Camp Staff:

Mother/Daughter Overnight Director:
Brenda Price

Acteens Splash Director:
LaRaine Dail

—Evie Cash



Come to the second annual Youth on Mission Night

Sept. 15-16
Georgetown College

- Missionary Speakers
- Praise Band
- Interesting Seminars

Watch your mailbox
for more
information.

Project HELP: Literacy

The 2000-2002 Project HELP emphasis is literacy. The purpose of this emphasis is to give every person the opportunity to learn to read, write or speak English, and to learn the meaning of God's Word. The theme for the project is "Teach them the meaning of the word."

Individuals and churches can be-

come involved with **Project HELP: Literacy** by participating in a literacy missions study, hosting a training event or by taking part in one of the national or international mission projects sponsored by WMU.

Training in Project HELP: Literacy will be offered at **World Missions Unlimited** in July.

Calendar

June

3 KBC SALT, Porter Memorial BC, Lexington
11-12 ... WMU Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.
16-17 ... Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek
16-17 ... Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek
19-23 ... GA Camp, Cedar Crest
23-24 ... Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
26-30 ... GA & Acteens Camp, Cedar Crest

July

6-7 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
7-8 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
10-14 ... GA & Acteens Camp, Cedar Crest
14-15 ... Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
14-15 ... World Missions Unlimited, Campbellsville
17-21 ... GA Camp, Cedar Crest
21-22 ... World Missions Unlimited, Georgetown

August

12 *Super Saturday, Unity BC, Ashland
12 *Super Saturday, First BC, Madisonville
13 Language Missions Day, Day of Prayer for Students
15 Conference on Cults, Erlanger BC, Erlanger
15 Acteens Advisory Panel applications due to KY WMU
19 *Super Saturday, Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown
26 *Super Saturday, Immanuel BC, Lexington

September

9 *Super Saturday, FBC, Somerset
9 *Super Saturday, Lone Oak BC, Paducah
15-16 ... Youth on Mission Night, Georgetown
10-17 ... Week of Prayer for State Missions
22-23 ... Literacy Missions Conference, Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown
29-30 ... Women/ Adults on Mission Retreat, Cedarmore

*Super Saturday conferences are for all church program leaders and include a general WMU conference with the WMU director as the primary focus.

2000 Fall Retreats

Cedarmore:

Sept. 29-30
Speaker: Rhonda Kelley

Oct. 6-7
Speaker: Dawn Phillips

Jonathan Creek:

Oct. 13-14
Speaker: Sarah Groves

Oct. 20-21
Speaker: Sarah Groves

Other Features:

Missionary Testimonies
Workshops:

Christian Women's Job Corp
Reaching a New Generation
Creative Women on Mission
Partners in Ministry: Women
on Mission and
Women's Enrichment
Ministry

Contemporary Music
Fun and Fellowship

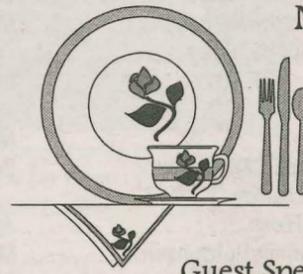
For a retreat brochure, contact
Tonya Williams at
Tonya_Williams@kybaptist.org
or (888) 254-5726.

Kentucky Baptist

Nursing Fellowship

Summer Dinner Meeting

Saturday June 10
Smithfield Baptist Church
Smithfield, KY
5 p.m.



Guest Speakers: Paul and Betty Smith,
parents of Dr. Susan Smith,
missionary to Tanzania

Cost: \$8 for members
\$10 for non-members

Kentucky BNF Summer Dinner Meeting Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Church/Assoc. _____

Send form to : KY WMU
BNF Summer Meeting
P.O. Box 436569
Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

KENTUCKY

Language no barrier for Horse Cave church's outreach

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

HORSE CAVE—One church member's concern for Mexicans working in the tobacco fields of South Central Kentucky led Horse Cave Baptist Church into a fruitful Hispanic ministry.

Working in conjunction with sev-

eral other congregations in Lynn and Liberty Baptist associations, the church sponsors a Saturday evening meal and worship service during peak harvest season. That led to 119 professions of faith in Christ the past two years.

The church is gearing up for its next seasonal ministry, from August through November. Ironically, none of its members speak Spanish.

"Despite what we consider our limitations, the Lord always provides what you need to get the word across," said Pastor Kevin Denton. "We met for four months (last year) and He always provided a speaker."

Horse Cave Baptist started the ministry after member Ray Wilcoxson expressed interest in reaching out to Hispanics he saw at the tobacco warehouse where he works.

With the help of Hispanic missionary Ken Roberts, the church organized three monthly gatherings in 1998. When many of the workers returned to Mexico for the winter,

they carried Bibles and copies of the "Jesus" video they received from the church and the Horse Cave Gideon organization.

Many of the migrants are receptive to hearing the gospel, Denton said. He recalled delivering a message through an interpreter at a farm house. All four listeners accepted Christ as Savior.

"You could see it in their eyes and face," he said. "A light came on. When we explained salvation, they understood and accepted it."

Last year the church accelerated its efforts. Those helping

provide meals or speakers included:

- The Hispanic mission at Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow.

- South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville.

- Park City Baptist Church and nearby Little Bethel Baptist Church.

- Mike Padgett, pastor of Glasgow Bible Church, did most of the preaching.

First Baptist Church of Boerne,

Tex., also sent two Hispanic missionaries to work with the group for two weeks. That church is planning a mission trip to Ruiz Nayarit, Mexico, where most of the farm workers live.

Horse Cave Baptist helped the migrants in other ways, such as providing clothing. When many of the workers came for harvest, the church youth group distributed more than 100 "welcome packs." The plastic bags were filled with toiletries and personal care items.

The church also took dozens of migrants to an eye doctor for check-ups and donated glasses. Most needed them because of cataracts or eye infections caused by the brighter Mexican sun and harsh working conditions, Denton said. A local pharmacist also donated eye drops and other medications.

With an average Sunday worship attendance of 200, Horse Cave isn't a large church. Denton joked that God "dropped the ministry in our lap" and now there are eight members on the migrant ministry team.

"Somebody has to have a heart for it," he said. "If someone has a heart for it, God will provide the means to accomplish it."

"Despite what we consider our limitations, the Lord always provides what you need to get the word across."

Kevin Denton, pastor of Horse Cave Baptist Church

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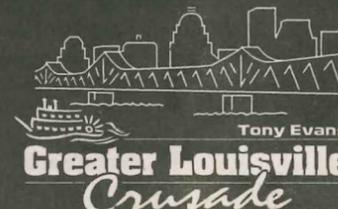
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OneDay's Giglio: Christian students 'hungry for more'

Editor's note: Because of their ability to connect with a large number and wide range of students, Passion conferences have drawn the increasing attention of college ministries. The music CDs resulting from Passion meetings are influencing the sounds of contemporary praise and worship.

Louie Giglio of Atlanta is the leader behind the five-year movement leading up to OneDay 2000. He also leads a weekly Bible study that attracts 3,200 people. Last week he talked with the Western Recorder to discuss the impact of OneDay and what he's hearing from Christian college students and young adults.

What was OneDay 2000?

It was the culmination of a vision we've been chasing for about five years now, and that vision was just to see college students, primarily, come together across ministry lines, denominational lines, geographic lines and to pray and seek God for spiritual awakening for this generation. ... We've done three national Passion conferences leading up to OneDay, but OneDay was the culmination of that vision.

How will you gauge whether OneDay was a success?

I think it's going to take some time before we know the answer to that question. Attendance is not necessarily the right gauge. The feeling that we had, although it was so powerful and so riveting, I don't think necessarily is the right gauge. The fact that students came from every state and about two dozen foreign nations I don't think is necessarily the right gauge—although that's a good sign. I think the gauge for us is going to be obedience. Worship in its authentic forms always leads us to obedience. ... There were maybe 4,000 students who stood saying God was stirring their hearts for foreign missions. If five years from now a significant number of those students are in a foreign country or on the way, then I think we know it was authentic and OneDay was real. If tens of thousands of college students have come to know Christ in the next two or three years because of what happened on that field, then we know it was for real. Otherwise, it was an awesome day, but that's about all it was.

Why does a OneDay conference last three days?

We finally came to the realization on a spiritual level that most people might not come ready at 10 o'clock Saturday for this kind of solemn assembly. OneDay was a one shot deal, and this solemn assembly, the whole Joel 2 nature of it just required that we prepare our hearts. So we put in place our Friday night gatherings just to allow people to do that ... preparing ourselves for the holy nature of what we'd come to do. We added Sunday on because we knew Saturday would be significant and we wanted people have a chance to sleep on it, to let it really truly soak in before they get back in a car.

That's the spiritual side. On the human side a lot of these students drove 20-30 hours to come to Shelby farms or father. Dave came from Sri Lanka. It cost him a year's wages to come. It was good for them to be able to come and settle in, catch their breath a little bit before OneDay and then have a chance to be there and let that settle a little bit before they had to jump back in the car for 30 more hours.

How did you get the word out to attract students from 50 states and 24 nations?

It's been three things. First, word of mouth. We have a tremendous amount of confidence in the grass-roots network of students. They have connections with friends and students they went to high school with who are at other schools all over America. Secondly, the road to OneDay consisted of a 127-date cam-

pus tour ... taking the message to places all over. But the third way and the major way is the CDs that we've produced over the last three years from Passion events, and the Internet. A guy like Dave and a lot of people like him somehow had gotten their hands on a Passion CD, felt God in the music, went to the Web site, saw what was happening with OneDay, felt attracted and drawn to that kind of vision and came.

What was the main message communicated during OneDay?

I think God wanted us to come around the cross of Christ. The cross has two major messages. One of them is we are free, we are clean, we are new. The second one is "die." The cross is a place of death, and die to self, die to your name, die to your reputation, die to your own ambition, die to this world, die to the flesh, die to everything and live only for the glory of God. ... Honestly, if death to self doesn't happen, all the prayers we prayed really never fully will engage. We'll never fully be unified. We'll never fully have a passion for the lost. We'll never have a burden to go to the nations and we'll never live for the church the way God wants us to.

You've traveled around the country talking with Christian students. What are they telling you?

I think they're telling us that they're hungry for more. This is a pretty intense generation, and they want to be challenged and they want to be led. They are not afraid in any way of any depth of commitment.

A lot of people are focusing on the music and worship style preferences, what are they missing?

I think what they're missing is the fact that God is eternal and God is bigger than music and he's far greater than any style preferences. ... Yes we've a tremendous amount of what we've done around music. We value music. It's God's gift to us. But music, and particularly this whole conversation about styles, it simply is an indication that we're dealing on about the second level of a 45-story building and we need to go up the elevator a little higher into what really matters. ... Everything we're fighting for right now in terms of styles is going to change. What doesn't change is the eternal character of God. That's rooted in the eternal Word of God, and that's been carried by the eternal body of Christ, the church.

Where does the OneDay leadership go from here?

We go back to the face of God. We've been committed for five years to something that is easier said than done and that's following God's spirit and being finished when He's finished. We knew from the beginning that Passion did not have a long-term 10-15 year life span. We just felt like we were more a part of a movement and less a part of an institution.

We're open to all options. If God says this is the end, then we all have ministries and connections and other passions and visions that we'll pursue. If there's to be something else, then we'll follow God in that as well.

The Marshall Plan

In 1947 U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall announced a plan of financial assistance that helped to rebuild western European nations devastated by World War II. It became known as the Marshall Plan.

In 1997 Georgetown College launched a Marshall Plan for Kentucky Baptists. It became known as the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry, named for its first co-directors, Dr. William W. and Alice Marshall. Bill and Alice are well known to you, having been Kentucky missionaries to the Middle East, and Bill retired in 1997 as the executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

This 21st century Marshall Plan is committed to helping laity and clergy better understand our mission as Christ's disciples and to translate that understanding into tangible Christian ministry. The Marshall Center's major initiatives relate to missions, ministry and lifelong Christian development. One of its most unique ministries focuses on the spiritual support of Christian public school teachers. The first "Recess" conference for these teachers will be held at the Georgetown College Conference and Training Center June 30-July 2. For more information about "Recess" call (502) 863-8390. This

is one of the many ways the Marshall Center is helping to foster within the lives of individuals a more serious and sustained engagement with Jesus Christ through ministry to the people of our state and world.

I hope you will want to help ensure the future of the Marshall Center. Through a \$500,000 endowment matching gift opportunity with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, every dollar you give will be doubled by a matching gift from a friend committed to the mission of the Marshall Center. Gifts that qualify for a match include cash or check, marketable securities, real estate and life insurance. Should you be interested in a life income gift like a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust, the present

value of the remainder interest will be matched. Also, corporate matching gifts and charitable lead trusts qualify for a matching gift. For information about how you can make a lasting difference through this matching gift opportunity, please call toll-free Laurie Valentine or me. It will be a privilege to assist you.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

The students are coming

In less than a week, a transformation of sorts will begin to take place at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. The camps will change from rather quiet facilities to packed, exciting camps with hundreds of youth filling virtually every available bed. Summer camp will be under way.

This is what we work for, pray for, plan for much of the year. I have written about the huge increases in numbers that we will have this summer, with record numbers of youth attending both Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. But what gives us hope to sustain the work and the effort required to run such camps is the work that God does in the lives of these students while they are at camp.

Oh, numbers are good guidelines for the direction we are headed, to be sure. But this isn't about numbers. It's about changing lives.

The camp programs at both places are designed to bring students to Jesus. Most of the students already have relationships with Christ, and we hope and pray that they grow stronger in Him. Our staff and the program staff at both places pray daily that God

will do a great work in the lives of these students.

Summer staff already is beginning to arrive. It seems as though it was only a few weeks ago that we were wrapping up last summer, but the staff is coming now. They are coming in anticipation of having a great summer, working with the students virtually around the clock, 24/7 as they say.

So turn on the prayer burners. Oh that each of you could just come spend one day and night at Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore and see what God does while these students are here! You read about it here, you hear about it when they return to their churches, but to be here and see God at work is

a very special privilege, a privilege we are thankful for. We are blessed to be part of such an important task as God changes lives one at a time during summer camp.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

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

OneDay draws 50,000 students for prayer & worship

By Jacinthia Jones
Memphis Commercial Appeal

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Some stood quietly in bare feet or soggy shoes with their hands raised above their heads in praise.

Others knelt in the muddy field with their heads bowed deep in the wet, trodden grass.

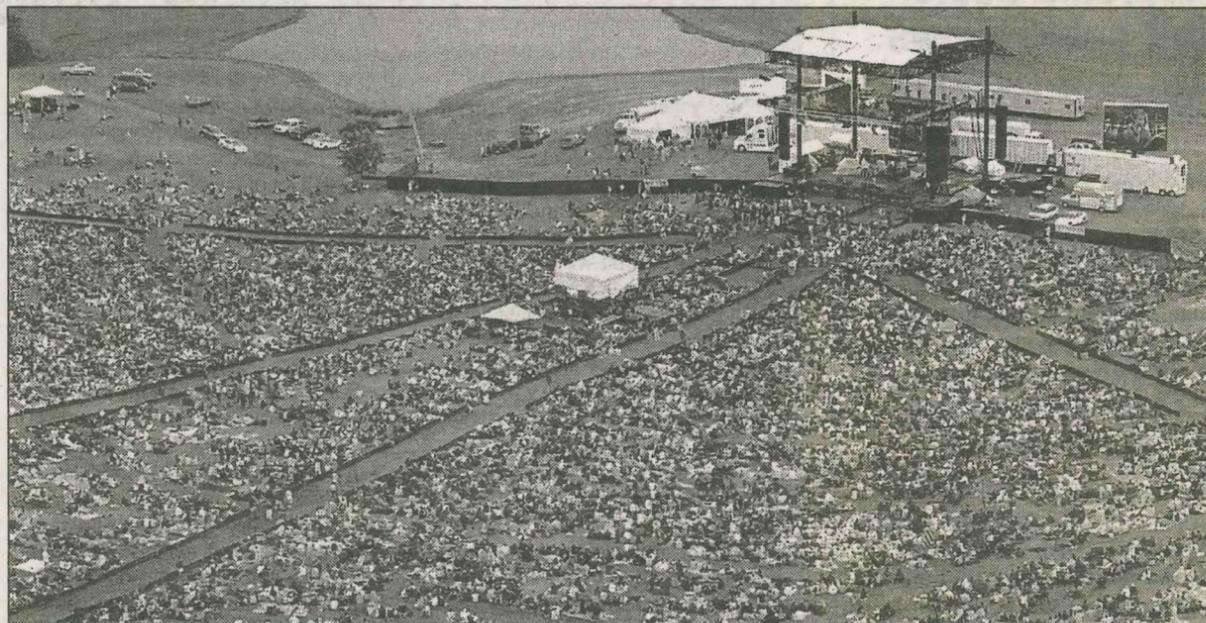
But few seemed to notice the threatening storm clouds overhead or the rain that later fell. All listened intently and expectantly, as Louie Giglio prayed before thousands of college students gathered May 20 to pray and worship at Memphis' Shelby Farms park.

"From north, south, east and west, we come to stand before you to affirm that You are our God," Giglio said. "This day belongs to You. Everything belongs to You."

Giglio, of Atlanta, is the founder of Passion Conferences and its annual day-long worship, music and prayer service, simply called OneDay. The first three OneDay events, held in Texas, attracted about 18,000 people combined.

This year's event, held in Memphis, was the largest ever for the nondenominational Christian gathering, which targets college students and young adult leaders. Organizers said almost 24,000 people had registered in advance and estimated that 50,000 attended Saturday. The event was carried live on the Internet at www.oneday2000.org.

Though May 20 was the main worship gathering, many started arriving Thursday afternoon and pitched hundreds of tents at Shelby Farms.



ONEDAY 2000 Approximately 50,000 college students and young adults attended the three-day event in Memphis. Students attended from all 50 states and about 24 countries. The event lasted throughout the weekend, but was focused on one day, May 20, for prayer and worship. (Memphis Commercial Appeal photo by Thomas Busler)

The event concluded May 21 with a commissioning service, at which students mobilized to spread the message.

"It's awesome to see this many college students praising God," said Abby Barton, a 19-year-old student from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Hay wagon shuttles transported participants around the park.

In between prayers and speeches, people swayed and danced to Christian music as they watched the broadcast on

three giant screens.

"I just wanted to come because there is a desperate need in this nation for everyone to get back on track," said Kara Payne, a 26-year-old from Arlington, Texas. She traveled with about 75 other students from four churches in Arlington and Fort Worth.

"It's an opportunity I couldn't pass up," said Jennifer Logan, 19, of the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. She traveled with a group from Warren Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga.

By early Saturday, officials reported no serious incidents at the park, where drugs and alcohol were banned. One person was treated for cuts after apparently walking into a barbed wire fence while camped out the night before.

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"It's an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

University of Georgia student Jennifer Logan

Willing to help

By Robert Dunston

During spring break, Cumberland College students Kristin Keenan and Roni Beth Minix led a mission team to Atlanta and Tampa, Fla. Cumberland students Kevin Goodman, Michelle Henson, Clarissa Hutcherson, Emily Kress, Brandon Moore, and Aric Shadler composed the remainder of the team.

Team members spent Friday and Saturday in Atlanta working with Loring Heights Baptist Church. Their project involved helping renovate the basement of an old church building so the facility can be used as a coffeehouse.

The team arrived in Tampa on Sunday. The students spent Monday purchasing the supplies they would need for the remainder of the week and getting settled in.

Tuesday through Friday the team members worked in a homeless shelter which also houses a public school for children who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. For two days team members cleaned up the playground. One specific job was removing the old mulch from the playground and putting new mulch in.

Wednesday morning most of the students worked on sorting a pile of

clothes 15 feet tall and 100 feet in length. Other students sorted canned food and furniture. That afternoon they read to the children and played with them.

Team members rose early Friday morning to prepare and serve breakfast to the homeless. Before they began their journey back to Cumberland College they prepared lunch as well.

One of the most touching parts of the trip for Kress was talking with a little girl who lived in the shelter. During the week the little girl talked to each team member, asking if they had a home, what it looked like, how many bedrooms it had and whether the home had a mom and dad. After finding out about a team member's home, she would ask if she could come live with him or her. The little girl's need tugged powerfully at their hearts.

Team members discovered not only great needs but great people. They discovered that in the midst of difficult circumstances, people still maintain faith, hope and concern for others. There was a tiring but inspiring week.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



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KBHC President Bill Smithwick, local staff, alumni and others will update you on the ministry of KBHC and to answer your questions about Kentucky Baptists' ministry to children and families.

To find out more, call
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Watch for dates on other forums in the coming weeks!

NATIONAL NOTES

Playboy wins Supreme Court case about adult cable shows

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A law requiring cable channels either to totally scramble adult-oriented programs or show them late at night goes too far, and infringes free-speech rights, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled May 22.

A provision in Congress' Telecommunications Act of 1996 addressed a problem called "signal bleed," where audio and sometimes-discernible video of subscription-only channels come to the sets of non-subscribers.

The bill required providers of programming with strong sexual content, such as the Playboy Channel, to "fully scramble" the signal, blocking it entirely from the homes of non-subscribers. If that isn't possible, the law restricted hours for such programming to late-night hours, when children are less likely to view them.

But the court struck down that provision, finding that a separate part of the law provides adequate protection without restricting free speech. Justices agreed with a lower court that a separate section of the law requiring cable operators to block signals free of charge at a subscriber's request accomplishes a similar goal in a less-restrictive manner.

To comply with the 1996 law, most cable operators adopted the "time channeling" approach and aired sexually explicit material only in the late-night and early morning hours. Playboy Entertainment Group challenged the provision as "unnecessarily content-based legislation" that violates the First Amendment.

The court noted that Congress does have "legitimate reasons" to regulate sexually explicit material that children might inadvertently see it. All parties in the case agreed, however, that Playboy's programming is not "obscene," and therefore is protected under the First Amendment.

"The speech here, all agree, is protected speech," the majority state. "The question is what standard the government must meet in order to restrict it."

■ **Land: Vote means persecution.** The U.S. House of Representatives' vote to extend permanent normal trade relations to China drew the rebuke of a Southern Baptist religious liberty advocate. The 237-197 House vote May 24 will mean China "has a free hand to continue and increase its pattern of persecution of Christians and other people of faith," according to Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

■ **Dr. Laura sponsor drops out.** Christian leaders have criticized Procter & Gamble for dropping sponsorship of an upcoming TV show featuring conservative talk-show host "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger. Jerry Falwell and American Family Association President Don Wildmon called the company's decision an act of betrayal after they worked to dispel the myth that Procter & Gamble had ties to satanism.

■ **Church of Brethren declines.** The small Church of the Brethren lost 1,707 members in 1999, representing a 1.2 percent membership drop for a church that now has only 138,304 people. The church's membership has dropped 5.7 percent since 1993. The Church of the Brethren is a small, theologically conservative church with historic ties to the Anabaptist family of churches, which includes the Mennonites and the Amish.

■ **Religion leads giving boom.** Giving to religion comprised the largest share in what one expert called a U.S. "charity boom." Religion represented 43 percent of charitable donations in 1999, according to the Trust for Philanthropy. Religion showed the largest gain in charitable giving, \$4.29 billion. Total charitable giving grew faster than last year's economy and has increased \$15 billion annually since 1997.

■ **'Secret evidence' ban sought.** The House Judiciary Committee held hearings last week on a bill that would ban the use of "secret evidence" to detain prisoners without formally charging them. The 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act grants government investigators the power to detain suspects without formally charging them or notifying suspects or their lawyers of the charges if the evidence were deemed a threat to national security. Muslim leaders say the law disproportionately targets Arab-Americans and Muslims.

■ **Denominations consider unity.** The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church have flirted with a merger for 100 years. Now, officials in both churches say God has told them it is time to finally get together. Representatives met in Louisville last month. The two groups would have a combined membership of more than 2 million.

■ **Community pact offered.** President Clinton and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., announced a bipartisan agreement last week on "community renewal" legislation. The proposal would help poor communities by encouraging private-sector equity investment in impoverished areas. It also would allow faith-based substance abuse treatment and prevention programs to qualify for federal funds in the same way other nonprofits have since the passage of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. That act includes a "charitable choice" provision that permits faith-based groups to use public funds to provide services such as job training, food and basic medical care.

■ **Seminary leader resigns.** The president of San Francisco Theological Seminary resigned from his post May 1 and four days later was found guilty of two counts of sexual abuse in a church trial. Donald McCullough, president of the Presbyterian Church (USA)-affiliated school for six years, could be rebuked, suspended or lose his clergy credentials. The church defines sexual abuse as sexual contact involving "force, threats, coercion, intimidation or misuse of office or position." According to the church, McCullough was involved with two adult women while he was pastor of a San Diego church from 1980 to 1994 and after he was elected president of the school in 1994.

Class of 2000, part 7

This is the final senior essay for the Oneida Baptist Institute class of 2000. I trust you have enjoyed reading about some of the students whose lives have been changed while attending OBI.

I hope Kentucky Baptists and others will rejoice with us, knowing that you have been major players in all that has been accomplished in the lives of these and many other young people.

"I stand just footsteps away from ... a diploma I thought I would never be capable of receiving. I remember life before Oneida; ... a never-ending battle with drugs and the deterioration of my family life. I was enrolled in public school, but I rarely attended.

"So I arrived at Oneida. ... I had traveled eight hours to the middle of nowhere. ... I didn't even think places like this existed, but ... I was stuck here. ... Time passed, and due to boredom I picked up a new habit, doing homework. This was a totally new concept for me! My grades gradually came up.

"During summer school I began using drugs on a daily basis, and I thought I was never going to get caught, until the day I did. It was the most life-changing experience ever: I had a two-week suspension on the farm. During that time, I found God and accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. Wow! I never thought shoveling cow dung could have that effect on a person. ... I guess if I had never been given a second chance, I would never have made it. But with God, and the support of my family and friends, ... I have risen above my old habits and addictions.

"Before I came to Oneida, I did not attend church. ... I quickly found out that I had to go to chapel every day of the week and twice on Sunday. ... That experience gave me peace and inspi-

ration to do the will of God. Chapel, and especially praise and worship on Fridays, helped me to find the Lord and to appreciate His sacrifice for my sins.

"Since I have been at Oneida ... I have met the most incredible people in the world! People who have changed my life. ... I have focused on my academics, in which I have made an outstanding improvement. ... I have been taught by some of the most intelligent people I will ever meet. ... I have been taught to follow God and to always strive to be the best I can be. ... Without the knowledge given to me ... I would have never had a chance to become the person I am today. ... I have been taught that one person can have a great impact on many people.

"After graduation I plan on ... (majoring) in criminology and criminal psychology. Never in a dream would I have thought that I would go to college and pursue a career.

"In my experience as a student at Oneida Baptist Institute, I have found God and learned to be an independent and caring person. ... I thank God for making it possible for me to experience the love and support given to me here. For this I am blessed."

I hope you have enjoyed reading some of the senior essays the past several weeks. Not all students come to Oneida facing major problems, but most do come spiritually lost and needing to meet the Savior. I am happy to say that the vast majority of these seniors will leave Oneida knowing Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their lives.

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

Clear Creek Day in West Virginia

Nine students and I journeyed to West Virginia for a Clear Creek Day in the Monongahela Association. Ken Lake, a 1993 alumnus, is interim director of missions for the 10-county association and pastor of Rowlesburg church. After a Saturday evening welcome supper, team members separated to their church assignments where each had the opportunity to preach in the Sunday morning service. The Lord provided unique experiences of encouragement.

Dennis Wylie stayed in a home with a 10th grade exchange student from Russia. They bonded, and Dennis gave him his pocketknife as a reminder of their encounter. Twenty-two youth from a drug rehab center attended the service.

David Sizemore enjoyed a service that was "a little bit on the charismatic side," and gained a lesson about patient leadership. In his fourth year with the church, the pastor was ready to quit, but stayed and saw significant growth. The pastor is now in his 15th year.

Anthony Lovett taught a youth Bible study class and encouraged an older man who had surrendered to the ministry to visit Clear Creek.

Forrest Hearin met two orphans whom he wanted to bring home

with him. "The preaching experience brought a reaffirmation of my calling," Forrest said.

David Askins stayed in an "impoverished area" where the average annual salary is \$1,300. The church sponsors a food pantry. David noticed, "More kids came to church than adults, but they did have a good program for the youth."

Talking with his host pastor, Mike Harris learned the pastor's grandson was diagnosed with Frederick's Ataxia. Mike and his brother both had the disease as children. "The Lord healed us! I think the Lord used my presence to encourage the pastor and his family," Mike stated.

Gary Webster had deaf signing for his message because one-third of the congregation was

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

deaf. Shannon Benefiel drove the team in a school van. He also preached at Charity Baptist Church. My assignment at Rowlesburg was one hour from the nearest Walmart. A trip like this is an excellent way to know students better. The travel hours provided many stories of God's work in their lives.

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

High school revival applauded, but did it break the law?

By Bruce Nolan
Religion News Service

CARRIERE, Miss. (RNS)—Football jocks wept in the gym. Teenagers took the microphone, haltingly confessing their personal demons and begging for friends' prayers. Students in corridors wept on one another's shoulders.

In an unusual outbreak of fervor being applauded by conservative Christians nationwide, the regular class schedule at Pearl River Central High School was set aside one day last month as teachers and administrators at first watched, then joined students in expressions of faith, personal testimonies and prayer in a student Bible club meeting that lasted four hours.

Since that day, news of the so-called "Pearl River Revival" or "Pearl River Happening" has been spreading on Christian radio and Web sites, where it is being noted approvingly as a supernatural event—and a welcome example of a public school's hospitality to Christianity.

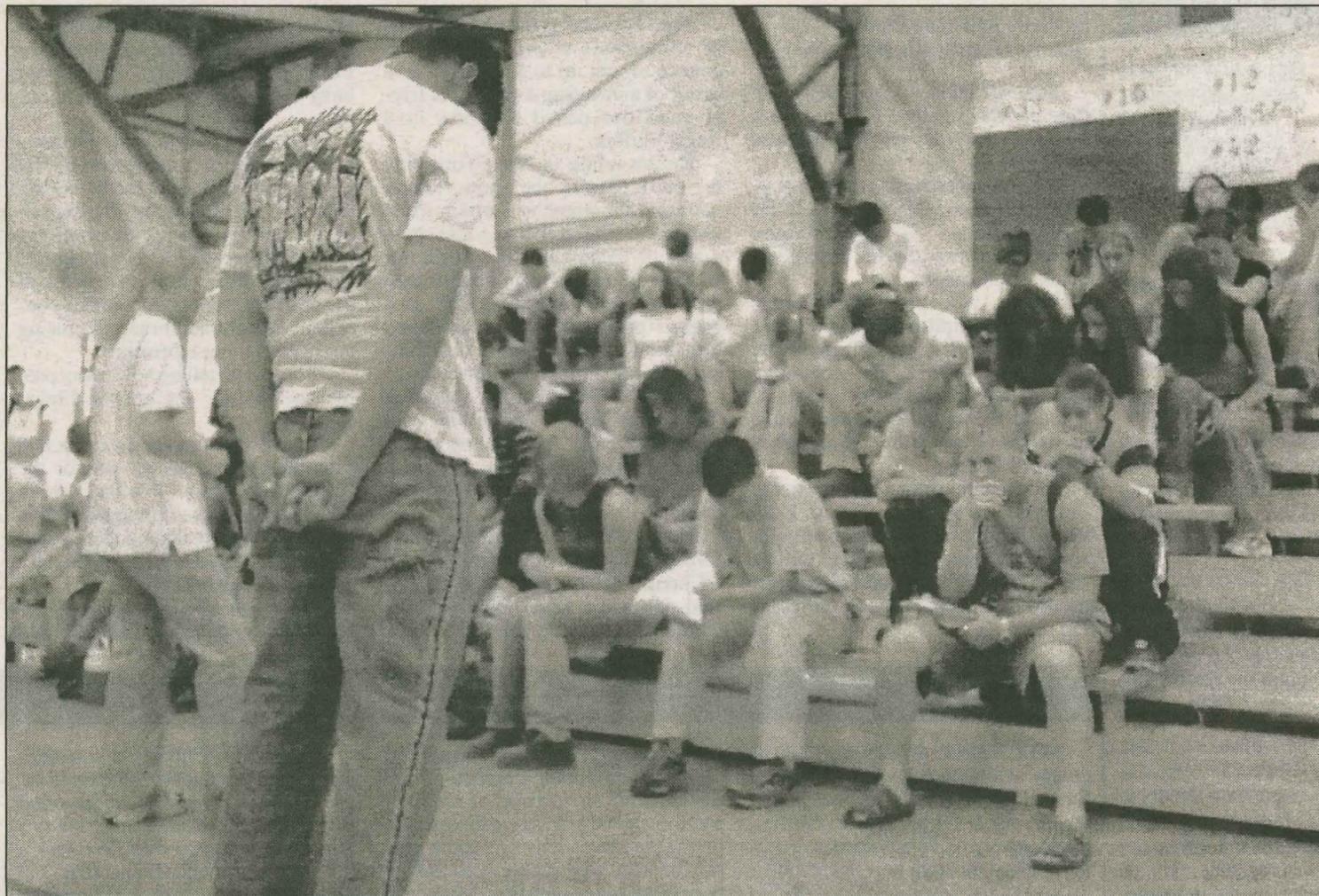
Meanwhile, hundreds of congratulatory e-mails have formed a pile four inches thick on the desk of Principal Lolita Lee, who suspended classes April 12, the day a late-morning program by Pearl River's Christian students mushroomed into a daylong, schoolwide camp meeting.

Some letters, such as one from the conservative American Family Association in St. Louis, include a touch of defiance, promising money or other help if Lee or the county school system comes under fire for her decision.

But there is no criticism yet, largely because the event still is not widely known outside conservative circles, and because students, faculty and families in heavily evangelical Pearl River County overwhelmingly approve of what occurred that day, Lee said.

"In the first couple of weeks I must've had 30 or 40 calls from parents, and they were all just real glad that it had happened," she said.

But the high school's official hospitality to the class-time event, including teachers' own participation, apparently violated the state of Mississippi's duty to act as "a neutral, honest broker" among all faiths, said Charles Haynes, a constitutional scholar at the



Freedom Forum First Amendment Center in Arlington, Va., and a consultant generally regarded as a friend of educators' attempts to integrate faith into school life.

"The First Amendment does not keep religion out of schools," Haynes said. "But it says religion can come in only in a way that protects the rights of all the kids, protects them from the government either denigrating or promoting a particular religion."

The Pearl River phenomenon began when the school let a student group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, sponsor a 90-minute program for other students during the last class before lunch that day, Lee said.

That in itself was not unusual, Lee said. Similar arrangements have been made for blood drives or student fundraisers.

Students who wanted to attend were excused from class. "About 90 percent" of Pearl River's 640 students gathered in the school's gym to watch

a series of skits promoting Christian life, prepared by the fellowship's members.

"We didn't know what the closing would be, so we left that to God, and He totally took over," said Cary-Anne Dell, a senior and one of the event's organizers.

In short order, students began to open up with sometimes intense, emotional confessions in a process that began to feed on itself, Dell and others said.

"I said to myself, 'The Spirit is filling these kids, and I'm going to let it continue. I don't want it to stop,'" Lee said.

The line of students waiting to talk quickly grew to 30 or more, she said. Several administrators and teachers, starting with Lee, took the microphone to offer their own testimonies, several participants said.

Lee announced the arrival of lunch hour, but few people left, said Don Davis, a club supervisor. A little later, Lee called her supervisor, the county school superintendent. "But I wasn't calling to ask permission to let it continue," she said. "I wanted him to come see this."

Students grouped and regrouped to pray among themselves in the gym and nearby corridors, participants said.

"We don't have an official number, but something like 15 or 20 came up on faith," as a sign of personal conversion, Davis said. "I guess hundreds gave testimonies and rededicated their lives to Christ. It just kept ballooning and ballooning."

"The only reason we stopped is because the buses came at 3:15 p.m., and we still had kids waiting to speak," he said.

April 12 was a Wednesday, and many participants took news of the event to midweek services at nearby churches.

Within days, they said, word rocked around the area. The Internet and Christian media attention were only a short leap away.

Amid the applause, there have been one or two reservations, among them an unidentified Pearl River teacher who told Lee she may have broken the law.

If so, Lee said she is unsure how, given that the session was student-led and voluntary. "If the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) wants to come, go ahead, but the most they can make us do is make up a day," she said. "The students have told us if that's what it means, it's fine by them."

But the U.S. Constitution requires protection for minority faiths, "and that's a good thing for religion," Haynes said.

Had a high school in Utah, which is predominantly Mormon, sponsored a similar program promoting Mormonism during class time, "you can be sure those good Baptist parents excited about what happened in Mississippi would be first in line at the courthouse with a lawsuit charging the public schools with illegally promoting Mormonism," Haynes said.

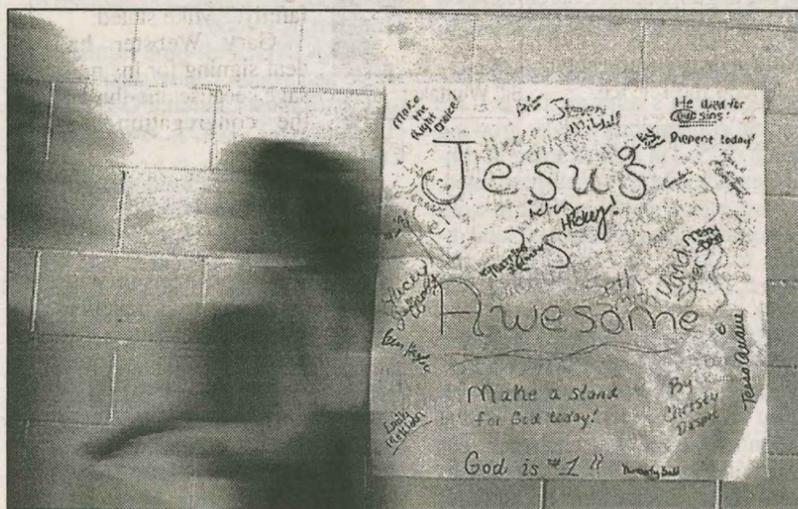
Meanwhile, Pearl River's celebrity is spreading even as its school year ends.

Teachers and students report something of an afterglow at Pearl River.

"People now are much more friendly with each other; they're not so critical," said Jennifer Simoneaux, a 16-year-old sophomore from Pica-yune.

PRAYER SERVICE

Students lead members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in their morning prayer session before the start of classes at Pearl River Central High School in Carriere, Miss. Last month the school experienced revival at a meeting in which approximately 15 students expressed first-time professions of faith in Jesus. Officials said hundreds of other students gave testimonies and rededicated their lives to Christ. (RNS photos)



PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Thirty churches and/or associations to "adopt a neighborhood or people group" in Boston as a part of Greater Boston Baptist Association's strategy for church planting. The effort is being led by Boston church planter David Jackson.

- A church planter in Plymouth, Mass., needed to work with a fledgling group of people currently meeting for Bible study.

- The Kipoke Secondary School and Mwanza Secondary School in Tanzania have been given some Macintosh computers and now need printers for them. For information, contact the KBC partnership missions office.

- A volunteer physician to work in Kogma, Tanzania, for two to four months beginning in September or October.

- Baptist representative Susan Carson and her ministry among university students in Warsaw, Poland. More Bible study leaders are needed. Carson also gives thanks for the work of a Kentucky team last month.

- Stronger relationships to be developed between the missionaries in Czestochowa, Poland, and the nationals.

Pastor didn't become millionaire but did share his treasure

By Stella Anderson Prather
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

SCRANTON, Ark. (BP)—He may not have gained a fortune, but he gave away the greatest treasure of all.

As a recent contestant on the popular game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," Arkansas Baptist pastor Les Frazer did not emerge an instant millionaire.

Frazer, who program officials said was the first-ever senior pastor to appear on the prime-time ABC television program, did not move beyond being one of 10 semifinalists. But Frazer did have the chance to award many others the riches found in Christ.

"Although I didn't make it to the 'hot seat' or win any money, I did have the opportunity to basically share the gospel message with a whole lot of folks," said Frazer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Scranton, Ark.

The "hot seat" is the ultimate goal of contestants where they have a chance to win up to \$1 million as a result of answering a variety of trivia questions posed by show host Regis Philbin.

Before going to New York City for the taping of the show, Frazer had used the game as sermon illustrations. At the studio he got to share a few of these Christian examples and principles with a number of people. Among them were the program's producers who questioned him about his life, family and ministry during a pre-show interview.

Frazer's illustrations included "Heaven or hell: What will be your final answer?" "The Lord is our Lifeline" and "Poll the audience: It is not always best to follow the crowd."

He also had the opportunity to inform producers about his ministry as a Christian clown. His wife, Kathy, said producers were hoping Frazer would make it to the hot seat. "They

already had a bunch of animal balloons that they were going to have Regis present to Les. That could have been a neat witnessing experience."

Back home in Arkansas, Frazer's "million dollar" story caught the eyes of many. Several media outlets interviewed him about his experiences and his sermon illustrations. In recent weeks, a Los Angeles Times reporter, who had heard of the pastor's story from another contestant, telephoned Frazer inquiring about his recent adventure.

"There is no telling how many people have heard" the gospel, Frazer said.

It was his passion for trivia that first prompted Frazer to try out for the "Millionaire" show. "I've always been a trivia buff, and so I thought I'd give it a try," he noted, adding that "I never imagined that I would make it as a contestant on the show."

The trip to New York was an unforgettable experience for Frazer and

his wife. Mrs. Frazer said the trip "opened my eyes to the vast, multicultural world—a world that needs Jesus."

Frazer said his church family supported his opportunity to be on the show. He planned to take a few vacation days to travel to New York, but his congregation decided to "just give me the days off."

"They even let me miss a Wednesday night service, and it was a business meeting," he said jokingly. "I think they were looking forward to getting that 10 percent" of his possible winnings.

Throughout the entire game show process, Mrs. Frazer said that she and her husband sought God's guidance. "We prayed the whole time, not that we would win a lot of money—although that would have been very nice—but that the Lord would make this opportunity what He wanted it to be," she said. "He did just that by allowing Les to minister and share (the gospel message) with so many people."

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Jenkins (Ky.) First Baptist Church. Send resumé to: B.J. Williams, PO Box 262, Jenkins, KY 41537.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children. Rich Pond Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 200 Brad Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

SEEKING: Minister of education. Silverdale Baptist Church is one of the fastest-growing churches in Tennessee. We are accepting resúmes for a full-time minister who understands Sunday school and discipleship, and has a heart for outreach. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, 7236 Bonny Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

SEEKING: New traditional Baptist congregation is seeking an experienced minister for a part-time interim position in the Elizabethtown, Ky., area. If interested, please contact the Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 728, Elizabethtown, KY 42702.

SEEKING: Full-time associate minister with primary responsibilities that include educational and youth ministries, occasional pulpit supply and pastoral care ministry. Berea Baptist Church is a progressive congregation seeking a sensitive, compassionate minister with good communication skills. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Berea Baptist Church, 310 Chestnut St., Berea, KY 40403. E-mail: apike@mis.net.

SEEKING: Associate pastor of worship and youth. Purpose-driven SBC church in suburbs of Chicago seeks energetic, ministry-called person to lead our seeker-sensitive, contemporary/blended worship services as well as oversee youth ministries. Must have a heart for teenagers. Education and experience required. Salary package with full benefits. For more information, e-mail resumé to: churchonthe move_2000@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Half-day kindergarten teacher and two high school teachers—one Spanish and one science (physics and chemistry). Call Highview Baptist School, Louisville, Ky., at (502) 239-2509, or e-mail: kvia@highviewbaptistschool.org.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/music minister for First Baptist Church of Ludlow, Ky. Please send resumé to: Jack McMillen, Personnel Committee chairman, c/o First Baptist Church, 400 Linden St., Ludlow, KY 41016. For more information, call the church at (859) 581-4795 or 581-4790.

SEEKING: Senior minister for First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, N.C. Our church is a mission-minded and community-oriented congregation affiliated with the SBC and CBF. We affirm autonomy of the local church, corporate worship and stewardship. Send resumé to: Senior Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 53476, Fayetteville, NC 28305.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Pioneer Baptist Church, 264 Sparrow Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

SEEKING: Rockford Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor for its church family of 200 (average Sunday morning worship attendance). Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Rockford Lane Baptist Church, 2006 Rockford Lane, Louisville, KY 40216.

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

SEEKING: Children's pastor/director. Bellevue Baptist Church is a fast-growing contemporary congregation averaging 1,000 in attendance in three Sunday morning services. We seek a full-time, experienced, energetic and visionary person with strong leadership, creativity, innovation and the ability to recruit and motivate a growing volunteer team. Contact Dr. Greg Faulls, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 West Byers, Owensboro, KY 42303. Fax: (270) 685-5134. Web page: www.bellnet.org.

SEEKING: East Cadiz Baptist Church of Cadiz is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Send resumé to: M/Y Search Committee, East Cadiz Baptist Church, 407 Third St., Cadiz, KY 42211.

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

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

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

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 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 Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky. If you feel God is calling you to this area to work with children, send 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.

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Warden finds her mission field among prison inmates



WARDEN Twyla Snider talks with an inmate in the "yard" at Cimarron Correctional Facility. Snider often is seen carrying a Bible through the prison, where she has made the spiritual health of inmates a priority. (BP photo by Dana Williamson)

By Dana Williamson
Oklahoma Baptist

CUSHING, Okla. (BP)—When Twyla Snider was a child, she thought it would be cool to be a missionary in a far away foreign land.

Today Snider considers herself on the mission field. The location isn't far away, but working in a prison can be foreign from most U.S. experiences.

She admits, however that a few years ago those who knew her never would have thought of her as a missionary.

"I had a potty mouth, and could throw an inmate to the ground with the best of them," Snider said.

At one point in her career, she said, her job became especially unpleasant. "I had always been well-revered in the department of corrections, but that was being questioned," she recalled.

Snider also was going through a divorce and became so despondent at one point that she pointed a gun at her head and was ready to pull the trigger until she remembered her two sons and knew she couldn't do that to them.

While attending a stress management course, she picked up some Christian literature.

"I also asked Christians to pray for me, including a group of inmates who already were praying for my salvation," she said. "I knew all the right things to do. I grew up in church and had 21 years of perfect attendance in Sunday school, but I was rebellious and never surrendered my life to God."

Snider recounted that she woke up at 2 a.m. one day at age 36 and "knew immediately God was there." At that point she surrendered her life to God.

But the next morning, she began to question what she had done in the middle of the night. She told her secretary, "Every time I cuss, it is like it is being sent over the public address system."

After hearing what happened earlier that morning, the secretary said, "Don't you realize what happened? You made a commitment to God."

When she became warden of the medium-security prison in Cushing, Okla., she committed herself to the spiritual well-being of the inmates. "But there was no chapel here."

Snider leads devotions with inmates every Wednesday morning.

"We have inmates here who pray two to three hours every day," she said. "If I have a need, the inmates are notified."

There is a sense of peace at the Cushing facility and some people suggest it could be because of Snider's faith.

"The effects of a good warden or a bad warden roll down to the yard," said Paul Bettis, coordinator for Oklahoma Baptist criminal justice ministries.

Reports of misconduct at the prison are low, and in one recent month, only five inmates had grievances, which is low for any size prison, Snider said.

Snider says her duties are somewhat like the mayor of a city. She deals with daily operations of the prison, including security, laundry, kitchen, maintenance, grievances, labor laws and personnel, which includes 960 inmates and 230 staff members.

The prison has more than 200 volunteers doing Christian ministry, and there is a church service of some kind every night, Snider said.

Only about a third of the prisoners have visitors, so the staff becomes the only contact with the outside world for two-thirds of them.

"I usually spend at least two hours a day with inmates," Snider said. "I try to influence them and work with them through life situations."

Snider said inmates who knew her at other facilities and before her Christian conversion just look at her and say, "You've changed."

"We have inmates here who pray two to three hours every day."

Prison warden
Twyla Snider

Former professional shortstop finds God's call stronger than baseball's pull

By Sheila Ann Bender
Associated Baptist Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (ABP)—On Craig Smith's desk sits a rock. It is symbolic to the young pastor who once played professional baseball for the Milwaukee Brewers.

"A fan made this for me while I played for the Brewers," he explained. One of his baseball cards is superimposed on it, and delicate hand-painted flowers and other artistic patterns surround it.

"It's one of my most prized possessions," Smith said. "When it was first given to me, it said, 'Craig, you're somebody in this world. You have a golden opportunity for fame, wealth and success. ... You've achieved your lifelong dream.'"

Smith's passion for baseball began at his first tee-ball practice, and continued on through high school. He received a scholarship to play baseball at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces while pursuing an engineering degree.

"I roomed with some guys while I was in college," Smith said. "None of us were Christians at the time, but I did have a Bible.

All I do know is that I was always compelled to read that Bible, and that God used His Word to create a spiritual hunger within me. You see, even though life was good—even though I was 'on top of the world,' I felt this continual emptiness within me. So one night, I finally prayed, 'Invade my life, God.'

"A day or two later, I was on the practice field at NMSU," he continued. "The director of Campus Crusade ministries approached me. He told me to call or come see him if I had any spiritual questions, so I did. We met for lunch the next week, and I prayed to receive Christ during our meal together."

In the summer of 1992, during Smith's junior year of college, he was drafted to play shortstop for the Milwaukee Brewers. He had been a Christian for only a few months.

"I'll always remember how warm the sun felt against my skin on the day I heard the news, and I thanked God right then and there for fulfilling my lifelong fantasy," Smith said.

During baseball's off-season, Smith continued his studies at New Mexico State.

He was disappointed that there were no ministries on campus to target athletes, so he started an athletic ministry in a tiny dorm room. Four months later, 25 athletes were attending regularly. That ministry developed into the university's first Athletes in Action group.

"God used that experience to capture my heart for ministry and to give me a passion to evangelize and discipleship others," he said. Smith continued to play with the Brewers for three seasons. He also completed his engineering degree and married his wife, Lenee.

"Although my baseball career was going well, and even though I had wonderful potential to make great wealth, I just couldn't shake this inward desire to win souls to Christ. I knew that I had to give up my baseball dream and pursue God's call upon my life," Smith said. "I'll always remember Lenee's unforgettable words to me: 'Whatever you give up on Christ's behalf, He'll replace with something better.'"

"When the opportunity to go to Spain for a year (for missions) presented itself to us, we both agreed to go.

"Lenee's earlier words to me certainly rang true for me through the Spain experience. Giving up baseball opened up doors for Lenee and (me) to live in Costa Rica and Spain for a time, and we've learned how to speak a foreign language fluently. We've seen so much of the world now, and have watched so many lives—including our own—be deeply touched by the hand of God."

Smith said the things he learned while serving in Spain prepared and equipped him to minister in a local church.

Since September 1998 Smith has been pastor for growth and discipleship at Calvary Church in Las Cruces, N.M. In addition to his work in cell-group ministry, he still invests ministry time in his alma mater's Athletes in Action group.

Pointing to the gift rock from his fan, Smith said, "This rock doesn't symbolize wealth, fame and the fulfillment of personal dreams to me anymore. Now it reminds me of what God has called me to and all that He's given me since I gave up my own aspirations in order to serve Him."

"I'd take a day in the ministry over a day in baseball anytime."

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