

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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People in six Kentucky cities are taking part in a national day of ministry June 10. *Page 14.*

## Parish nursing interest growing, advocates say

By David Winfrey  
News Director

SOMERSET—Many churches talk about taking Christian ministry outside their four walls, but parish nurses say a lot of congregations are overlooking a ministry resource in their own pews.

From medical clinics to individual health advice, parish nurses can provide a variety of services, both in their congregations and in outreach to their communities, several nurses said.

"Every Southern Baptist church could (have a parish nurse) because even if you do not have a nurse in your congregation you usually have someone who is interested in health," said Diane Kiser, a nurse in Somerset.

Started nationally in the 1980s, parish nursing is taking off in Kentucky. Not only are Kentucky Baptist nurses becoming certified to serve in their churches, but some are helping train others in their region.

Within a congregation, a parish nurse can be the trusted friend who takes members' blood pressure, discusses a newly prescribed medicine or better explains a relative's medical condition.

Outside the congregation, a parish nurse can accompany a fellow church member to advise a neighbor uncertain whether to place a family member in a nursing home. Parish nurses also can organize church-based support groups for cancer survivors or a weekend medical fair for the community.

"It's an age-old ministry," said Sheila Koster, a parish nurse at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah and a trainer of other parish nurses.

Kiser said many parish nurses are reconnecting the church and health care through a personal sense of calling to link their professional skills with their faith.

"The neat thing about parish nursing is that nurses almost always feel

□ See Parish nursing ..., page 7



**PARISH NURSE** Sheila Koster checks Martha Levesque's blood pressure at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah. Koster is among a growing group of proponents of linking nurses with churches. (Photo by Keith Todd)

## 'An overwhelming task'



## Two years after Hurricane Mitch, Kentuckians still providing relief

By Chris Turner  
SBC International Mission Board

LA CEIBA, Honduras—The thought of becoming a disaster relief and community development expert never crossed Ken Cummins' mind when he signed on eight years ago as a Southern Baptist missionary.

Sure, he'd weathered tornadoes growing up in Princeton, Ky. One even partially destroyed a house his family lived in. And Tropical Storm Gert greeted Cummins and his wife, Tammy, during their first year on the mission field, causing some flooding in their home in La Ceiba.

But nothing Cummins experienced before Oct. 31, 1998, could have completely prepared him for the role he would play in helping the people of Honduras recover from the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch.

"At times it has been an overwhelming task," he said. "There was so much need and you want to help everybody, but that's just impossible."

Although thousands of Hondurans were destitute after Mitch, many received help from Southern Baptists. Initially, help came in food, water and blankets. Once floodwaters receded,



**DISASTER RELIEF** Kentucky natives Ken and Tammy Cummins serve as Southern Baptist missionaries in Honduras. The past two years they have coordinated relief work after Hurricane Mitch caused substantial damage. Kentucky Baptist churches have aided their work. ■ Top: Cummins talks with children of a village being rebuilt near La Ceiba. ■ Above: A bridge sits in ruins on the road to Masacales, a city that was relocated with help from several Kentucky Baptist churches. (Photos by Michael Keza)

help came in relocating communities and building houses for those who lost everything. With La Ceiba spared a direct hit, Cummins said God's providence put him in the most strategic city from which to funnel aid.

"We'd worked in and with a lot of the local churches over the years, so we knew a lot of people and they knew us," Cummins said. "I did learn from Gert that you respond immediately and organize to help by getting as many people involved as possible. So when the time came for us to act, we called on the local churches to survey their areas and find out who needed help the most. We wanted to target those people who were not receiving aid from anybody else."

While churches identified areas of greatest need, Cummins directed the receipt of tons of goods arriving by air and sea. Dealing with customs officials and avoiding a hostile takeover by locals of his storage warehouse were just two of the many diplomatic obstacles Cummins faced.

"It was stressful at times, dealing with paperwork and making sure trucks were loaded and sent out," he said. "There were a lot of times I would have rather been the guy delivering the food and being out with the people. I just wanted the people to know that we cared for their communities."

That message of love was clearly

□ See Bluegrass churches ..., page 8

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, June 7

# BAPTISTS

## SBC's faith statement remains hot topic

**"For the sake of generations to come, we should state our convictions boldly."**

*SBC Baptist Faith and Message study committee*

ORLANDO, Fla.—As Southern Baptists prepare to gather next week in Orlando, Fla., the hot topic remains proposed revisions to the denomination's Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The proposal was released May 18 by a 15-member study committee appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson. Major changes include deleting a reference to the historic Southern Baptist principle of the priesthood of the believer and limiting the office of pastor to men.

The committee's recommendations will be presented for consideration June 14 during the SBC annual meeting. Responding to questions raised about the report, the committee released a statement through Baptist Press defending the proposed changes.

"Some have asked why we did not include more of the 1963 preamble," the committee noted. "Our task was to compose a preamble specifically designed to introduce the Baptist Faith and Message to a new generation."

One section of the '63 statement being eliminated states that "Baptists emphasize the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion and the priesthood of the believer."

Mike Clingenpeel, editor of the Religious Herald in Virginia, voiced concern that "the absence of emphasis on soul competency almost guarantees that this new statement of doctrines will be less open to individual interpretation and more rigidly applied to exact conformity from its members."

The committee insists, however, that "we believe that the concepts of soul competency and the priesthood of all

believers are cherished Baptist principles. We also believe that these are included in and defined by the sixth article of our report, 'The Church,' where we state that 'each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord.'"

Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said he hopes the committee proposal will be amended next week to specifically include references to soul competency, priesthood and freedom in religion.

"If this document is adopted," Wade added, "even though it is not binding on individual Baptists or churches, it will be used by SBC-appointed trustees to test the doctrinal positions of seminary professors and missionaries."

The committee noted that some people have questioned proposed changes in Article I on the Scriptures.

"Events in recent years have demonstrated that we needed to clarify that the Bible is not merely the record of God's revelation, but is itself God's revealed Word in written form," the committee wrote.

Calling the closing sentence of the 1963 statement on the Scriptures "a cause of controversy," the committee added, "Some have used the language defining Jesus Christ as 'the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted,' to drive a wedge between the incarnate Word and the written Word, and to deny the truthfulness of certain passages. We use stronger and more historic language in affirming the fact that 'all Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.'"

Wade said he regrets the committee's decision to drop the 1963 statement on that issue. Every method of

interpreting the Bible needs a guiding principle, Wade said, emphasizing that Southern Baptists should make it clear that guiding principle is Jesus Christ.

"The Christological principle of hermeneutics is vitally important," Wade noted, "and the committee took that out."

The committee statement also addresses proposed language concerning women in ministry.

"Why did our committee decide to deal with the issue of women in the pastorate?" the statement asked. "Simply because we were driven by biblical authority, a sense of urgency, and the near unanimous verdict of our churches."

Carolyn Blevins, associate professor of religion at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., said the committee's wording concerning women is incongruent with a separate affirmation that each individual is responsible and accountable to Christ.

"If each person is accountable to God, how can Southern Baptists state a limitation?" on who can be a pastor, Blevins asked. "We Baptists tout the doctrine of freedom, while we stifle the voices of women."

Declaring that "there is no biblical precedent for a woman in the pastorate," the committee stated that "the Bible teaches that women should not teach in authority over men."

The committee said the issue "demands attention in our time, when other denominations are abandoning biblical teaching and calling women to serve as pastors. ... For the sake of generations to come, we should state our convictions boldly."

*Based on reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press*

## Baptists to greet protesters with cups of water

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—Homosexual activists planning acts of civil disobedience during the Southern Baptist Convention's June 13-14 annual meeting will receive gifts of water compliments of the SBC North American Mission Board.

Shortly thereafter, the homosexual protesters will be placed under arrest and taken to jail for protesting without a permit, a spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff's Department told the Orlando Sentinel June 1.

"We intend to give them time to make a brief statement, inform them the assembly is unlawful and effect the arrest," Capt. David Black said.

Martin King, a spokesman for NAMB, told Baptist Press the protesters will be given bottled water by NAMB staff members working with the Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

"These trained volunteers are called a 'kindness force' and they will share a bottle of cold water and the love of Christ with any pickets or demonstrators they encounter during the convention," King said.

Soulforce, a national network of homosexual activists, announced May 25 its intention to stage a national protest against the SBC during the Orlando convention. The group's Internet site encourages homosexuals to make preparations to be arrested during a planned civil disobedience at the Orange County Convention Center June 14.

Chris Alexander-Manley, a homosexual activist based in Orlando, said homosexuals want to respond to a proposed revision in the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement that the Bible teaches homosexuality is a sin.

"Orlando is ready for something like this, the gay community as well as the

straight," Alexander-Manley said. "We are part of the central Florida community."

Activists and local law enforcement officials met May 31 to discuss the planned civil disobedience. Black said demonstrators would be transported to jail where they are expected to plead guilty or no contest and post a cash bond.

Mel White, a founder of Soulforce, said the organization will not attempt to enter the convention hall. "We have not come to swarm the platform or interrupt or disrupt, or cause anger or fear or consternation," White said. "We're here to win minds and hearts. It's so easy to want to give up on the Southern Baptists."

Meanwhile, a group of former homosexuals announced plans June 1 to stage a counterdemonstration to the Soulforce action.

Tim Wilkins, director of Cross Ministry, said his organization will be in Orlando to peacefully demonstrate.

Cross Ministry, based in Raleigh, N.C., is a member of Exodus International North America. The ministry's mission is to equip churches to evangelize and disciple homosexuals.

Wilkins said the counterdemonstration will show support for the SBC's position on homosexuality. "We want to encourage the Southern Baptist Convention regarding their stand on homosexuality ... especially because of the heat that it has generated."

## Retton to head list of celebrity guests at SBC

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—Guest appearances by former Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton, Grammy-winning Christian music artist Larnelle Harris and syndicated variety show host Dennis Swanberg will be featured during next week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Retton will take part in the SBC North American Mission Board's presentation June 14. The 1984 Olympic champion—a member of Second Baptist Church of Houston—has appeared in a popular television spot referring to Jesus Christ as "the perfect '10.'" She also is the star of a new program on NAMB's FamilyNet network, "Mary Lou's Flip-Flop Shop."

Retton's TV show involves preschool children in creative movement and exercise while reinforcing positive biblical values. While the program is also being syndicated, the version aired on FamilyNet will include an explicitly biblical emphasis.

The NAMB presentation will be part of the convention's closing session exploring "God's Harvest in America," presented in cooperation with the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Harris and Swanberg are scheduled to appear June 13 in the convention hall and will meet messengers at the SBC Executive Committee booth in the exhibit hall during the morning hours, said John Kyle, director of Cooperative Program development.

The CP presentation during the SBC also will unveil a new CP Missions video series, highlighting celebrities on mission and missionary heroes.

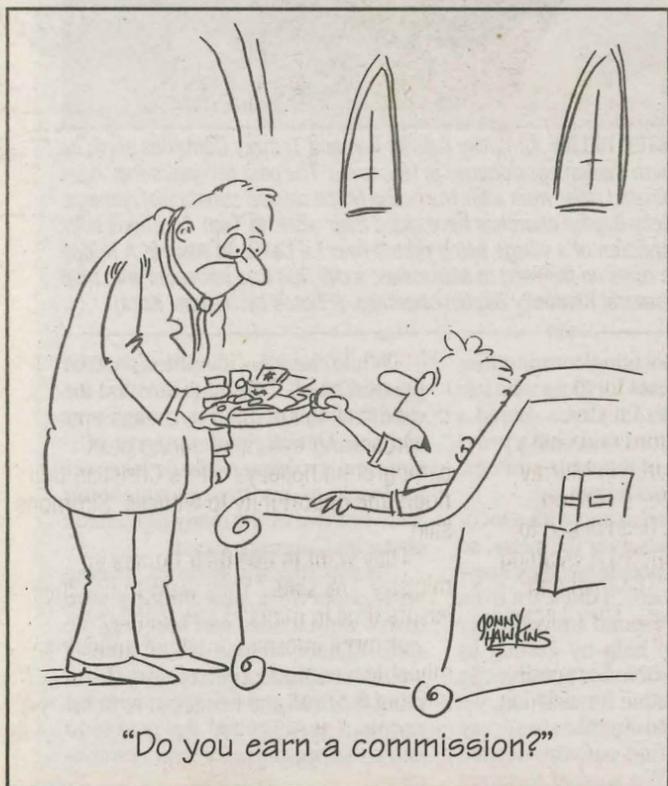
Harris, a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, recorded his first solo album in 1975. He has earned five Grammy Awards and 11 Dove Awards.

Swanberg is the host of "Swan's Place," a weekly cable variety show. The show is produced by the ACTS/FamilyNet network and televised nationally on the Odyssey Channel.

Southern Baptists also will air a number of television ads in central Florida in conjunction with next week's annual meeting. The media campaign is designed to coincide with the SBC meeting, the evangelistic Crossover Orlando emphasis and "Through Every Door," an effort by Orlando Baptists to take the gospel to every home in the area.

One 30-second spot features Retton; the other spot highlights the message of Jesus offering thirsty people living water.

Ty Wood, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's media service department, said the central Florida campaign is the beginning phase of a three-year statewide media outreach strategy.



# KENTUCKY



**WEEKEND RIDERS** More than 5,000 horse enthusiasts were at West Kentucky's Wrangler Campground during the Memorial Day weekend. Each summer weekend, visitors from several states come to the campground which is one of the largest of its kind in the nation. This is the seventh year Kentucky Baptists have organized a program to provide chaplains, Sunday morning worship and ministries at the facility.

## A mission field with horses

### West Kentucky Baptists sponsor summer ministry for campground visitors

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES**—More than a dozen Kentucky Baptists saddled up for a weekend of ministry to horse enthusiasts at Wrangler Campground during the recent Memorial Day holiday.

The West Kentucky campground is one of the largest of its kind. More than 5,000 people camped and rode horses in the area, which is managed by the U.S. Forestry Service.

This is the seventh year that Kentucky Baptists have organized a summer outreach ministry for visitors to the horse campground. From April through October, volunteers serve as chaplains while staying

at the facility, visiting campers, organizing ministries and being available for crisis care needs.

During the holiday periods around Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day, Baptists organize trail rides and other outreach opportunities, said Charlie Simmons, a Mission Service Corps volunteer who serves as a chaplain at Wrangler Campground. Simmons also is president of the Kentucky Brotherhood Equestrian Ministries.

Simmons said the camp now has a family atmosphere that welcomes the chaplains, but in 1994 the area had a wilder reputation.

"It was just kind of a wild place where people came and partied and took drugs," he said.

That was when Simmons approached the site's director and asked if he could hold a worship service for the campers. The director wouldn't let Simmons perform the ministry solo, so Simmons became affiliated with Land Between the Lakes Ministries, a group of area pastors who lead worship services and other ministries at other nearby campgrounds.

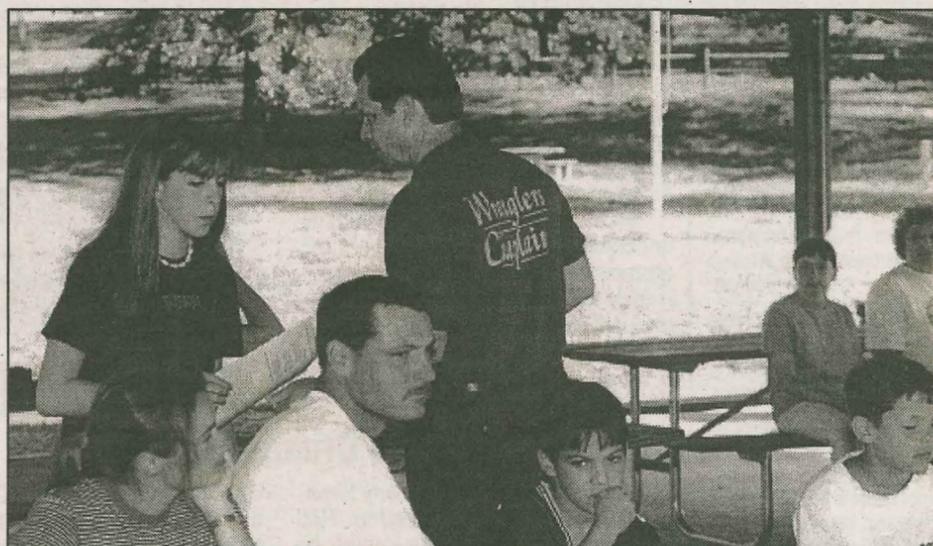
"When we began to do the chaplaincy program, it seemed like the Lord wanted that to be a turning point for the camp," Simmons said.

Staff cracked down on some of the wilder activities in the park, and interest in the worship services grew among the campers.

Interest also grew among Baptists who wanted to serve a week at the campground, Simmons added.

"We have a different chaplain every week," he said. "We've not had any trouble filling up the whole summer with chaplains."

Ministries are as varied as the chaplains,



**GOOD MORNING** 8:30 a.m. might sound early for a Sunday worship service, but most campers at Wrangler Campground will be on horseback by 11 a.m. Bob Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Baptist Association, greets visitors at a recent service.

he said. Some recruit kids from area churches for weekend puppet shows and face painting. Others organize nighttime gospel singings or give away Christian literature and homemade ice cream.

Probably the most unusual thing campers ever saw from the ministry, Simmons said, was the Saturday evening when Memorial Baptist Church in Murray brought its handbell choir for a concert.

And, yes, Simmons has been asked to perform weddings. "I conducted a wedding from horseback," he said. "The man and woman were from Tennessee. They became real close friends of ours."

During the holiday weekend, Simmons, with the support of Little Bethel Association Director of Missions Bob Morrison, organized a trail ride. Approximately 20

riders joined the three-hour trail ride.

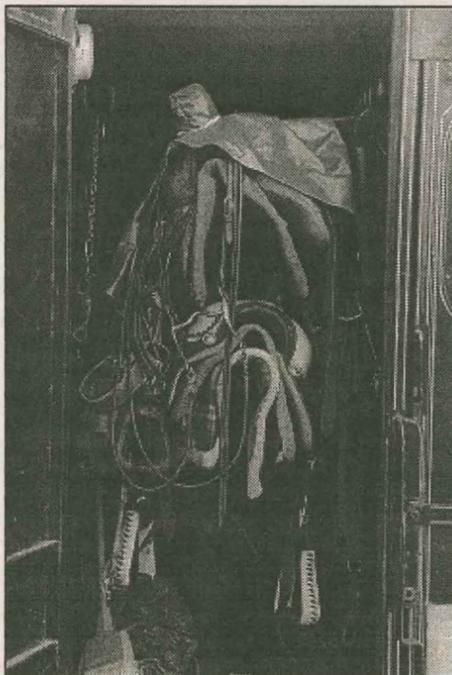
More than 50 campers attended the worship service at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Horse themes are not unusual for the sermons, he added. "Horses are mentioned in the Bible a lot, so you don't have any trouble finding anything to preach about."

Organizing trail rides during peak campground holidays offers Christian trail riders the opportunity to witness, Simmons said.

"They want to use their horses in ministry," he said. "They want to use their leisure time in ministry and witness."

For more information about equestrian ministries, contact Charlie Simmons at (270) 247-5668 or call the KBC Brotherhood department at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5720.



## 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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## Examine revisions

Proposed revisions to the Baptist Faith and Message cry out for review and discussion rather than immediate approval by convention messengers. While many fix their gaze only on the statement narrowing the call to the pastorate (which I personally find troubling), there are several other proposed changes that should concern all Baptists. I mention just two of them.

First, the proposed introductory statement does not include "the soul's competency before God" and "priesthood of the believer." These values are central to what it means to be a Baptist. Leaving out this explicit language runs smack into the warning that Herschel Hobbs, chairman of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message committee, offered: "In all likelihood the only thing that would divide Southern Baptists with regard to their faith would be for one group—to the right or left of center or even in the center—to attempt to force upon others a creedal faith. So long as they hold to the competency of the soul in religion they will remain as one body in the faith."

Even more perilous is the proposal to remove the statement that identifies Jesus Christ as "the criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted." Scripture itself testifies that Christ is the touchstone for biblical interpretation. It records that He not only felt free to interpret Scripture for those who heard and followed Him, but that the purpose of Scripture is to point beyond itself to Christ (2 Timothy 3:15).

In such an important statement as the Baptist Faith and Message, it seems prudent to move deliberately and thoughtfully in revising what Baptists before us have cherished and valued.

Baptists have long worked with the understanding that a committee's recommendations are subject to the revision or rejection of those who empowered it. For the reasons I've mentioned,

messengers should do much more than merely "rubber stamp" these revisions.

Lynn Traylor  
Westport

## Don't worship Bible

Regarding the proposed changes to the Baptist Faith and Message, the first recommended change precisely connotes the fundamentalist position with respect to Christ and the Bible. By deletion of the current words

"the record of," the definition of Scriptures becomes: "The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man." The problem: Jesus said in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one." In John 14:9, Jesus said, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father." In John 1:18, the writer said Jesus has made God known.

Nothing could be made plainer by both Jesus and John that the revelation of God is Jesus and certainly not the Holy Bible, no matter how divinely inspired. The extant statement "All Scripture is a testimony to Christ" is inaccurate. Only a fraction of the Bible has to do with Christ. Its vast preponderance has to do with everything from history to God's dealing with people to supernatural happenings, some of them harsh beyond comprehension.

The extant statement that Jesus "is Himself the focus of divine revelation" is totally inaccurate. The focus of divine revelation is mankind. Why else would there be a Bible? Perhaps the strangest statement is about God's perfect knowledge of the "future decisions of His free

creatures," who actually cannot be free since God already knows (has ordained) what they will do. Reasonable people are offended (or maybe just amused) by such oxymoronic statements.

Having equated the Bible with God, leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention and its seminaries are therefore worshipers of the Bible. This has always been obvious, but now is set in concrete by the leaders themselves. The Baptist Faith and Message actually is the gospel according to Calvin, and it should be junked.

James L. Clark  
Lexington

## Leadership questioned

How profoundly disappointing it was to read the response of Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, to criticism of Southern Baptist Convention leaders by Keith Parks, distinguished former president of what is now the International Mission Board. While accusing Dr. Parks of having a reputation of being unpleasant in his dealing with people with whom he disagrees, Mr. Chapman proceeds to be extremely unpleasant in his criticism of Dr. Parks.

In his written statement Mr. Chapman uses terms such as unpleasant, intemperate, disgruntlement, bitterness, spoiled spirit, jaded judgment and warped integrity to describe Dr. Parks and his views. Mr. Chapman's feeble attempt to shoot the messenger simply brings into question his worthiness to hold such a high position in the Southern Baptist Convention.

L.C. Patterson  
Corbin

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Greater Louisville Crusade approaches

The Greater Louisville Tony Evans Crusade June 19-21 at Freedom Hall has the potential for being one of the most significant Christian events in the history of Louisville.

I believe the timing to be God-inspired as numerous recent events in the Louisville community have spoken to the need of people for reconciliation with God and with each other. This theme of reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ was selected for the crusade well before any of these events occurred. I also believe this crusade is significant because of the involvement of so many Christian groups. More than 140 churches are committed to sponsor the crusade and many others will attend. This may be the first time for all major groups to participate in a greater Louisville effort.

In addition, the crusade is significant due to its origin in the African-American community. Dr. Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist

Church as well as the KBC's cooperative ministries consultant, has been the visionary, inspirational leader for the crusade.

I think it also is significant that the Christian life and witness classes offered for crusade counselors are using Billy Graham Evangelistic Association materials. The goal is to have 1,000 counselors trained. I recently participated in the classes at Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church. Another special Christian life and witness class will be offered June 10 at Southeast Christian Church for anyone who is interested but missed earlier training opportunities.

The crusade also is special due to the outstanding worship leaders. Tony Evans has a gift from God to make the gospel come alive through beautiful word pictures and stories from the Bible. Kirk Franklin, an incredible popular Christian musician, will provide pre-worship music on Monday, share his testimony during the service and

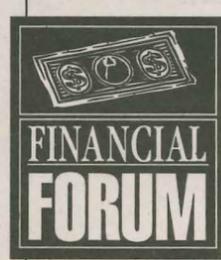
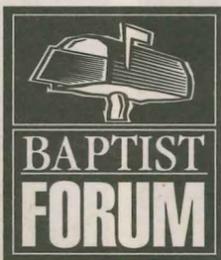
perform a mini-concert after the service. His music will have great appeal to youth.

The music group, Truth, will provide music each night along with a mass choir and orchestra led by Doug Crawley of Walnut Street Baptist Church and Kevin James of St. Stephen Baptist Church.

Tony Evans also will lead two special seminars on leadership for reconciliation June 20-21, 10 a.m. to noon, at Executive West Hotel. This will be a time for Christian leaders to discover how God wants the Christian community to continue to make a difference in Louisville.

My wife, Kay, and I are praying daily for this crusade and plan to attend all services to pray, worship, invite friends and serve as counselors. I hope that all Kentucky Baptists in the greater Louisville area will experience the worship, celebration, fellowship, urban vision and transformation by Jesus Christ this crusade offers.

For more information, contact the crusade office at (502) 635-1004 or visit the Web site at [www.tecrusade.org](http://www.tecrusade.org). Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



## FAMILY

### Evaluate debt, income to begin budget process

By Jeremy White

Most people who seek financial counseling have little idea how much they spend each month or where it goes. They only know there is "more month than money."

Before you set your budget, you need to determine where you are financially by writing down who you owe, how much you spend every month and where you are spending your money. How can you stop the bleeding if you don't know where the bleeding is? Key steps include:

■ **List all your debts and total them.** Although this is a simple step, many have never summarized what they owe. The list and total may be discouraging, but use them as motivation to action.

■ **Brainstorm with your spouse to include all debts.** Watch out for hidden debts. A common error in budgeting is to overlook non-monthly debts such as family loans, medical bills or bank notes.

■ **Write down every expense for 30 days.** Both the husband and wife should list cash expenditures, checks and credit card charges. If you spend \$1.50 at the vending machine at work, write it down. If you go out to eat and charge the meal, write it down.

■ **Organize each expense into meaningful categories.** Don't simply repeat your checkbook register. To analyze your spending, it is helpful to know how much you spent on each category, such as groceries, insurance or entertainment.

Your method of recording is not important, just do it. You may use a spiral notebook or a personal finance software program.

■ **Total each category at the end of a month and review the totals.** It is important for both the husband and wife to be involved in a relaxed atmosphere. Pray that God will help you discern your current situation. Remember that accusing each other will not solve problems.

Tracking your expenses may expose some unpleasant trends. That's OK. Becoming aware of these trends can lead to planning your spending—limiting some categories and saving for others. At that moment, you have begun budgeting.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.

## Husband, wife should respect differences, seek compromise

**Q: My wife rarely shares anything with me about her work. She says she's too tired to go over everything again at the end of the day. Our marriage is good. I just wish I could know more about her life at work. Any suggestions?**

Some people want, even need, to share information about the details of daily life to feel they really know each other and are sharing their lives. For these people, knowing their spouses includes knowing what they do when they go to work, how they feel about it, what kind of things make for a bad or good day, etc. It sounds like this might be the way you are. When your wife doesn't share, you might feel shut out of a significant part of her life.

Other people simply don't feel the need to share what they consider trivialities; they also don't want to have to "rehash" everything, particularly if their day has been stressful. For these people, having spouses who want to talk about work might feel like an added stressor when they need to get away and recharge themselves for another day. It's possible that this is what your wife is feeling.

You might want to talk to your wife to see if this is what is going on between the two of you. Remember that this difference in style is just that—a difference. It doesn't have to be a problem as long as you respect each other and are willing to work within those differences toward a solution.

Talk openly with your wife about what it means to you when she doesn't talk to you about her work, and what it would mean for you if she did. Also if you can let her know that you understand and respect your differences it might help her to do the same. Compromise might also help. For instance, if 10 minutes of work talk would be sufficient for you to feel a part of her day, let her know that. She might not mind talking for a brief period of time if she knew it wouldn't turn into an evening of "shop talk."

Since you said your marriage is good, be careful not to make this into more than it is. Sometimes spouses just have differences that need to be respected, and making it into an issue can do more harm than good.—*Susan Howell*

**Q: When my grandfather watches television, he gets very upset by terms used to describe older adults. Can you help me understand why he would become so emotional over these names?**

In a society that generally does not respect older people or find value in the aging process, some people are very sensitive to ways older people are referred to in the media.

For example, geezer, hag, oldster, elderly gentleman, old-timer, old man or woman are terms many older people consider negative. Other labels the media use in reference to aging include golden ager, grandma, grandfather, aged, elderly, geriatric, mature, retired or senior.

Using euphemisms when speaking of socially sensitive aspects of life is common in today's culture. We tend to use a number of negative references for all sorts of descriptions. The term old may be factually correct, but most such terms have too many negative implications to be respectful. Churches and other religious organizations can help people understand the use of terms that often demonstrate a lack of respect for individuals.

With the growing number of baby boomers who will reach old age in the next 10 to 20 years, the issue might become even more critical. How will the church and its leadership respond to this concern? Hopefully we will demonstrate a sense of appreciation for older adults and advocacy for the respect of all people.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



## Want to impact the future? Start now

Twenty-plus years ago, during my school days, the two major educational milestones in life were graduation from high school and college. While that remains true today, numerous other graduation ceremonies have been added to the list in recent years—everything from preschool and kindergarten graduation to middle school and junior high celebrations.

One thing each of the ceremonies has in common is a focus on the future. Whether moving up to "big school," heading off to college or joining the workforce, graduation is a significant time of transition for students and their families. That fact was driven home for our family last week as both our daughters celebrated class of 2000 commencement services.

Audrey, our 10-year-old, graduated from elementary school. As she stepped through a colorful balloon archway to receive her diploma, it signaled the rapid approach of her middle school career. No more recess. No more security of one caring teacher looking out for her each day. It's on to hallway lockers and class changes and other trappings of growing up.

Emily, our 13-year-old, completed her middle school years last week. As we gathered with hundreds of other parents in a crowded, sweltering high school gym, it was hard to imagine that Emily and her classmates officially will be high school students in a few short months. It seems like hardly any time has passed since her first day of kindergarten. In no time at all, she'll be thinking about college and moving into the really big transitions of life.

Audrey and Emily are among thousands of students experiencing similar transitions in communities and cities throughout the state and nation. While there are even more significant milestones to come, each graduation ceremony is a reminder of the importance of planning and preparing for the future.

Each year, as anxious graduates gather for commencement, they are challenged to be true to them-

selves, dream big dreams and become responsible members of society. Those are worthy goals that Emily, Audrey and their peers hopefully will take to heart in the years to come.

In the meantime, parents have a tremendous responsibility to provide an environment that will help our children succeed. What shape will our society be in when they step into their roles as leaders of the 21st century? What about our churches?

Based on our culture's general moral decline in recent years, the future looks pretty bleak. But just as students are encouraged to dream big and make a difference in life, parents and other leaders also must be willing to take risks and strive to leave a positive, productive legacy.

How? Proverbs 22:6 counsels parents to "train up a child in the way he should go," noting that "even when he is old he will not depart from it." While the practical result of

that verse has been interpreted in a number of ways, the instruction to parents is simple and straightforward: "Train up a child in the way he should go."

That is the starting point to secure a fruitful future for our children. Training up a child is not merely a matter of rules and lectures; it primarily involves personal example.

Are we willing to be consistent Christian examples in our work settings, in church business meetings, in the privacy of our homes—and even as we gather next week to conduct Southern Baptist business?

Parents and other adults must be careful to demand no more of the next generation than we are willing to do ourselves. As students step boldly into the future, supportive adults must be available to offer words of encouragement, wise counsel and worthy examples.

The key to impacting society begins one person, one home, one church at a time. Setting that example for our children in every area of life is our God-given responsibility—and privilege.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Dynamic ministry to children essential

By David Garrard

*Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).*

"If a person does not accept Jesus Christ as Savior before the age of 14, the likelihood of their ever doing so is slim." So reports George Barna, summarizing a series of nationwide surveys his research organization conducted in 1999. The results underscore the importance and impact of ministry to children.

Ministry to children takes various forms. Some churches are able to provide a full-time staff member to work with boys and girls. Others rely on part-time help or parents. Either way, it will continue to be vital for churches to consider and meet the needs of children as the new millennium unfolds.

Children need to belong. They need to be loved. They need good models—someone to show them, as well as tell them, what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Regardless of size or resources, churches can provide all of these things.

Work hard to provide a solid Sunday school experience for boys and girls. Enlist your best, most energetic people to help. Look to parents for leadership. Partner with your association or state convention to provide training. Budget money for curriculum and teaching resources. Allocate good space for children's classes. Keep that space clean and fresh-looking.

Work to make worship child-friendly. Sing songs that children know and enjoy. Include children's sermons and other special features for children as a regular part of worship. Remember to acknowledge children at significant times, such as when they start school. Invite older children to read Scripture, pray, hand out bulletins or help take up the offering. Churches that do these things send a strong message that children belong and are an important part of the faith family.

Plan activities and special events for children and their families. Make church a fun place to be. Go places, do things, make memories—good memories of good times together—at church. Activities and special events build relationships and provide opportunities to

teach about the love of God.

Don't forget to pray. In Colossians 4:12, Paul describes how Epaphras prayed for believers: "He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in the will of God." Churches should pray for their children in the same way—lifting them up to God, asking God to help them grow to know, love and serve Him.

In smaller churches, ministry to children may fall on the shoulders of the pastor. As such, pastors should work hard to connect with children. Build relationships with them outside the pulpit. Try to be aware of their world (toys, movies, music, books, games, etc.). Take advantage of every opportunity to become friends with children.

From a practical standpoint, a dynamic ministry to children can fuel church growth. Many people choose a church based on how well it provides for children. That may be why Wayne Oates always encouraged churches to consider the needs of the youngest first, whether the issue was buildings, budgets, programs or leadership.

Daniel Aleshire says children learn the Christian story best when they are taken seriously, told simply and treated kindly. Churches who do these things well will influence and impact their children for God in the new millennium.

*David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville*



## SBC Historical Society to study name change

SAVANNAH, Ga. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Historical Society, independent of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1995, authorized a committee May 26 to study whether the 62-year-old organization should remove "Southern Baptist" from its name.

The society for church historians formerly was an auxiliary to the SBC Historical Commission, dissolved in a major denominational restructuring.

Formed in 1938, the society predates the now-defunct commission by 13 years. It was the SBC's official history agency until the Historical Commission was chartered in 1951. After the commission folded, responsibility for recording denominational history was transferred to a council of seminary presidents.

The Historical Society, however, opted to continue as an organization independent of the SBC. It has since hired a staff and sought to broaden support in local churches, associations and state

conventions, as well as other Baptist organizations and institutions, like seminaries and divinity schools.

In light of those and other changes, society member Alan Lefever made the motion at the group's annual meeting May 25-27 in Savannah, Ga., calling for a five-member committee to consider if the organization should continue to be called the "Southern Baptist" Historical Society.

Citing recent controversial stances of the denomination, Lefever, director of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection at the Baptist General Convention of Texas, wondered if retaining the name "is in our best interest in the larger constituency we serve."

That constituency, he said, "certainly includes the Southern Baptist Convention but is broader than that as well."

Society president Merrill Hawkins, assistant professor of religion at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., said changing the name has been

discussed often in informal settings.

Some want to keep the old name because the term "Southern Baptist" implies a constituency larger than the national body, including also state conventions, associations and local churches, he said. Others disavow the conservative shift in SBC leadership and claim the convention's current leaders no longer support the society's mission.

In an address to the society, Hawkins neither endorsed nor opposed a name change but said whatever the outcome, the organization should embrace the broad constituency of Baptists.

He called for "avoiding entanglements with the current SBC leadership without excluding Southern Baptist leadership," while also opening up conversations with groups like the Baptist World Alliance and American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Hawkins said he would like the society to become "the heritage-promoting agency of Baptists in the South."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Ramseys visit FamilyNet.** John and Patsy Ramsey, whose 6-year-old daughter, JonBenet, was murdered in their Colorado home Dec. 25, 1996, were guests this week on the "At Home-Live!" television show. The program is a live one-hour family show produced by FamilyNet, the television network of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Host Chuck Borsellino said, "We felt it important to discuss the unsaid aspects of their tragedy, trial, family life and personal faith."

■ **HomeLife editor named.** Sam House, an 18-year employee of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, was named editor-in-chief of HomeLife magazine, effective June 1. House will become HomeLife's sixth editor since the family magazine was founded in 1945. He succeeds Jon Walker who resigned in March. For the past seven years, House served as leadership specialist in LifeWay's discipleship and family group.

■ **ERLC hires consultant.** Longtime Focus on the Family executive producer Bobbie Valentine will join the staff of "For Faith & Family," a broadcast ministry of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, according to ERLC President Richard Land. Valentine, most recently executive producer of Focus on the Family, a daily radio program hosted by James Dobson, will serve as "For Faith & Family's" interim executive producer. After 17 years with the Focus on the Family organization, Valentine retired to launch a consulting practice for media-related ministries; the ERLC program is Valentine's first project.

## Graves: Spiritual experience 'biggest loser' in SBC shift

SAVANNAH, Ga. (ABP)—Individual spiritual experience is "at the very heart of what it means to be a Baptist," said Thomas Graves, president of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, lamenting that the issue "has been neglected and even worse maligned."

Speaking to the Southern Baptist Historical Society meeting at the 200-year-old First Baptist Church in Savannah, Ga., Graves reflected on Baptist identity in the last century by exploring demographic changes and identifying three doctrinal issues he considers part of a "clear transformation in the public perception" of Baptists.

"There was a time when the South was viewed as the cultural backwater of the nation," Graves said, adding that the "poverty of the South in the first half of the 20th century had a profound impact on the perception of Southern Baptists." The region's status, however,

changed dramatically in the second half of the century, he noted.

Three key issues reflect major changes in how Southern Baptists are now perceived, said Graves, describing the first as a shift from emphasizing the historic Baptist position on religious freedom. "Regardless of its social background, the call for religious liberty was a key to the public perception of Baptists," he said.

Southern Baptists' change of perspective on this issue has been "rapid and thorough," Graves said. He said the Southern Baptist Convention has moved from being "leading advocates of the disestablishment of religion to being the foremost exponents of cultural religion."

Graves said Southern Baptists also made a "radical transformation" from long-held positions on the priesthood of the believer and soul competency. Once holding that "individuals have been

empowered by God to decide freely on the issues of faith," he said, the SBC shifted to an emphasis on "authoritarian leadership" during the late 20th century.

The third shift was a move from "anti-creedalism to creedalism," Graves said. As a result of these three moves "the perception of Baptists in the 20th century was dramatically altered."

Graves said the "one key issue largely neglected in the midst of our current denominational confusion" is the role of individual religious experience, which he described as perhaps "the biggest loser" in recent Baptist battles.

"The importance of subjective spiritual encounter rightly belongs in the forefront of any discussion of Baptist life," said Graves. "One hopes that future doctrinal debates among Baptists would not neglect, and surely not degrade, the centrality of spiritual experience."

## 'Super Dude & the CP Squad' gives missions education superhero twist

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's newest teenage superhero will make his debut at the SBC annual meeting June 13-14 in Orlando, Fla. He's Super Dude—"defender of the faith, defeater of evil and dressed in dapper duds."

"Super Dude and the CP Squad" is a new resource to teach boys and girls about missions and evangelism, said David Hankins, vice president for the Cooperative Program with the SBC Executive Committee.

The Super Dude and the CP Squad materials include activity books, a comic book-style witnessing tract, skit books, Super Dude toys and a four-week Bible study guide featuring the Super Dude characters.

"Our state conventions have been asking for some new, creative ways to communicate the CP missions message to children," said John Kyle, director of Cooperative Program development. "We feel Super Dude provides a fun, imaginative way for three groups to learn about CP

missions simultaneously—youth, adults and children.

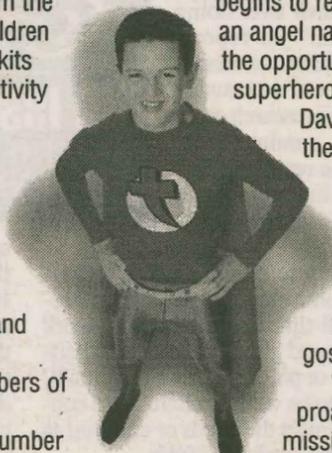
"Adults learn as they help prepare the Super Dude Bible studies," Kyle said. "The youth prepare as they perform the Super Dude skits and the children learn through watching the skits and working through their activity books."

"Kids love heroes and Super Dude is a missions hero who will make learning about missions and missionaries fun," Kyle added. Youngsters who complete the activity books and Bible studies will have the opportunity to become members of Super Dude's CP squad.

Super Dude is among a number of projects initiated in connection with this year's "Partners in the Harvest" celebration of the Cooperative Program's 75th anniversary.

The Super Dude story line is that David

Hicks, an ordinary Southern Baptist teenager, wins a Bible drill competition. His prize is a Bible that hasn't been opened in 700 years. When he opens the Bible and begins to read, he receives a visit from an angel named Fred who gives David the opportunity to become a Christian superhero.



David joins forces with Andy the Faithful Sidekick, Katie, Tater the computer guy and Fred. Together, they are Super Dude and the CP Squad. Their mission is to show kids how they can take the gospel of Christ to the world. "Super Dude takes a proactive approach to missions education," Kyle said. "Most heroes wait until

something bad happens and then move into action. Super Dude and the CP Squad take the initiative and encourage our children to be on mission at their schools,

churches and with their friends.

"As our kids become missionaries where they are, they can also better understand and support national and international missions with their prayers and their gifts to their church," Kyle added.

"One of the best things about Super Dude is that he really is one of them," said Daniel Brown, CP production manager and illustrator of the project. "He is a young person interested in missions and is involved in spreading the good news of God's love through CP Missions. It shows them they can be a hero to someone as they pray for and support missions."

Super Dude and the CP Squad was created by Todd Starnes, assistant editor of Baptist Press. The characters were adapted from a collection of plays written by Starnes called "The Great Adventures of Super Dude."

Super Dude and the CP Squad will be featured at the Cooperative Program exhibit during next week's SBC annual meeting in Orlando.

## Parish nurses: Health ministries can be wide ranging



**CPR TRAINING** Monica Hutchinson (center), a parish nurse at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, teaches child CPR. Health education is one of seven specific roles a parish nurse can fulfill.

ELIZABETHTOWN—The work of parish nurses isn't directed solely to the ill or old, according to Susan Byers.

"Parish nursing and health ministries begin the day someone is born and ends when they die," said Byers, a parish nurse at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Health care ministries can take many forms, nurses said. Some check blood pressure between Sunday school and worship. Others offer baby care classes for new mothers or teach CPR.

Training, which can vary from an intensive weekend program to weekly night classes for two months, covers the history of parish nursing, theology of nursing, history and functions of a parish nurse.

Some people mistakenly assume a parish nurse will provide insulin shots or offer continuing care for a seriously ill person, Byers said.

"We don't administer medications and we don't compete with existing health care or resources that exist in the community," she said.

What they will do is serve as a referral agent or liaison, matching needs with community resources.

"With our nursing knowledge and skills, combined with our spiritual side, we help people find resources that they need in our community and in our church," she said.

In addition to being that liaison, the

International Parish Nurse Resource Center has outlined six other roles that parish nurses can fulfill. They are:

■ **Integrate faith and health.** Helping people understand the relationship between faith and health.

■ **Educate people about health.** Offering classes, articles or other information to educate people about relationships between lifestyle, faith and health.

■ **Offer personal health counseling.** Discussing health issues and problems with individuals; making visits to homes, hospitals and nursing homes.

■ **Facilitate volunteers.** Recruiting and coordinating volunteers within a congregation to serve in a variety of ways. This might be organizing transportation for elderly adults or coordinating help so a homebound person can stay out of an assisted living setting as long as is feasible.

■ **Develop and coordinate support groups.** Byers said LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has a variety of Bible studies for support groups ranging from overcoming depression or grief to losing weight and stopping smoking.

"It can be an evangelistic tool as well," she added.

■ **Serve as a health advocate.** "We are advocates for patients in trying to get through the maze in the healthcare system today. It is quite mindboggling," she said. "Sometimes they don't feel that they have a voice and so parish nurses try to go in and be that voice."

### Interested?

More information about parish nursing is available from the following nurses:

■ Diane Kiser in Somerset, (606) 678-3245.

■ Pat Camp in Barlow, (270) 334-3356.

■ Sheila Koster in Paducah, (270) 210-8280.

■ Susan Byers in Elizabethtown, (270) 765-7822.

## Parish nursing growing, Kentucky advocates say

Continued from page 1

called into their career," she said. Many, however, have never been given permission in their secular jobs to focus on the spiritual side of clients' needs, she added.

"With parish nursing, your church people not only allow that, but expect it and look forward to that time when you can pray together and build that rapport," she said. "A lot of nurses will say, 'This is what I've been looking for.'"

Koster said she felt that way when she became involved. She worked for 17 years at Western Baptist Hospital before she said she felt God leading her in another direction.

About the same time that she took parish nursing training, Lourdes Hospital and Western Baptist in Paducah joined forces to start a community outreach effort.

The two institutions hired Koster as a consultant to train parish nurses. "They saw my interest and I had already been to the symposium," she said. "This is sort of how the Lord prepares the way before you."

Thus far, Koster has trained 34 nurses representing 21 churches of various denominations in West Kentucky.

The concept of parish nursing is based on achieving total wellness of the person, said Susan Byers, a parish nurse at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. "You focus on the health of body, mind and spirit."

"Because the health needs of our aging population are so great, most of our work is done with the elderly, but it is by no means limited to that," she said.

Several nurses said potential changes in America's health care and insur-



**PARISH NURSE** Sheila Koster talks with Roscoe Alexander at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah. (Photo by Keith Todd)

ance industries could make the work of parish nurses more crucial in the coming years.

America's fluid society, with people often moving from their traditional base of family support, also highlights the need for this service, Kiser said.

"And also it's going to be good not only for the person but for the health care industry too," she said.

People are more likely to get the care they need if they have someone they trust to turn to, she said. That will prevent delays that are potentially more dangerous for the patient and require more costly care, she said.

"It's comforting to them to know that their church family is looking after them," she said.

"This used to be the way it was in the early church," she added. "Now it's time for us to come back to where we're

supposed to be."

Parish nursing also is a good outreach tool into the community, Kiser added. People outside the church see parish nursing as "Christ's hands in action."

"When a person sees a warm, loving church where the people are taking care of their own and reaching out to people in need, they want to be a part of that," she said.

By best estimates, there are 6,000 parish nurses throughout the United States. The idea is traced to Chicago in the 1980s when Granger Westberg received a grant for six churches to conduct health clinics that combined the work of a doctor, pastor and nurse to address clients' body, mind and spirit.

Westberg "saw that the person who understood it and held it together was the nurse," Kiser said. "His quote was, 'The nurse had one foot in the humanities and one foot in the sciences and was the glue that held the concept together.'"

But his idea hasn't always been accepted among medical professionals.

In fact, parish nurse Pat Camp said she had trouble in 1986 finding professors willing to work with her on her doctorate because she wanted to study the link between faith and health.

"There was a period of 15 years or so when there was nothing in nursing literature related to spiritual issues," said Camp, whose husband, Tom, is pastor of First Baptist Church of Barlow.

"I think people were just uncomfortable with that concept," she said. "People have to feel comfortable with their own spirituality before they can discuss it with someone else."

## Lutheran clergyman Westberg launches parish nursing concept

PARK RIDGE, Ill.—Granger Westberg was a pioneer who broke new ground in the areas of religion, medicine and whole-person health.

Before his death last year at age 85, Westberg was a Lutheran clergyman who had been a parish pastor, hospital chaplain, professor of practical theology and teacher of medical students. His work was based on the belief that medicine transcends the physical because true healing involves the body, soul and mind.

Early in his ministry, he served as a hospital chaplain, influencing his view of the ministry work to be done relating spiritual health and physical health.

The University of Chicago took note of his unique approach to chaplaincy work. In 1952, he became the first clergyman to hold a joint appointment at that university's divinity and medical schools. Later, he taught at Baylor University Medical School in Houston and at Wittenberg University's Hamma Seminary.

Westberg instituted the parish nurse movement. As he originally viewed it, parish nursing was to be a partnership between a health care system and congregations, linking resources of the health care system to the faith community.

Originally developed in 1984, advocates say that connecting a nurse with a congregation provides a unique forum for health promotion and disease prevention. Members of a church, knowing that a nurse is available on an informal basis, can discuss a health concern with the nurse before it becomes a chronic or serious condition.

The International Parish Nurse Resource Center was established at Advocate Health Care System in Park Ridge, Ill. The center sponsors an annual Granger Westberg Parish Nurse Symposium for continuing education and spiritual growth for parish pastors and nurses.

# MISSIONS

## Kentucky native feels at home serving in Honduras

**"I figured more people ought to be telling people of other countries about Jesus."**

*Missionary Ken Cummins*

By Chris Turner  
SBC International Mission Board

LA CEIBA, Honduras—Ken Cummins recently leaned against a stack of gray cinder blocks to talk to a group of Southern Baptist volunteers from Mississippi. He intentionally wore his University of Kentucky Wildcats shirt.

Honduras might be a long way from Kentucky, but Kentucky is never far from Cummins' heart. Who he is as a Christian was shaped by growing up in the Bluegrass State. It's where he became a Christian, where he graduated from seminary, where he first was a pastor and from where he followed God's leading to be a Southern Baptist missionary.

Cummins said he was 20 years old and serving as a counselor at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly during a Royal Ambassadors' camp when he realized the need for missionaries.

"That was the first time I'd heard that 95 percent of the seminary graduates minister to 5 percent of the world's population," he recalled. "I just didn't think that was right. I figured more people ought to be telling people of other countries about Jesus."

Cummins, a broadcast communications major from Murray State University, said he believed God wanted him to take Spanish classes while in college, so he took several. After beginning sem-



**NEW CHURCH** Missionary Ken Cummins leads a prayer for residents outside a new church in Baranco Chele, Honduras. He credits growing up as a Kentucky Baptist with contributing to his call to missions. "We love what we are doing," he said. (Photo by Michael Keza)



inary in Texas, Cummins returned to Kentucky and completed his degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

His first pastorate was at Sulphur Springs Baptist Church in Mexico, Ky., then at Elk Lick Baptist Church in Lewisburg. He left the pastorate to manage a Christian radio station, but a telephone call placed a priority on missions.

"Jeweldyne Johnson, a friend of ours and member of the church, called one day and said that there was a spot open

for another preacher to go to Honduras with them on a volunteer missions trip," Cummins said. "She said she needed to know within 15 minutes if I could go. I didn't have a passport or the money. She said if God wanted me on that trip that would all take care of itself. It did and I went."

Cummins said God also was moving in the life of his wife, Tammy. She called him in Honduras and said, "I should have gone with you." After other volunteer mission trips to Honduras, the Cumminses committed their lives to

career missionary service. The Cumminses were willing to go anywhere, but the perfect job description opened up for them in Honduras. They have lived in La Ceiba eight years.

"We love what we are doing," Cummins said. "We love the people here and we love sharing the gospel with them. In many ways this has become home to us."

For information about volunteer missions opportunities through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, call (800) 888-VOLS.

### A closer look: Honduras

**Population:** Nearly 6 million.

**Size:** 43,278 square miles, a little bigger than Kentucky.

**Capital:** Tegucigalpa.

**Climate:** Subtropical in lowlands, temperate in mountains.

**Terrain:** Mostly mountains in the interior; narrow coastal plains.

**Natural resources:** Timber, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron ore, antimony, coal, fish.

**Life expectancy:** 64 years.

**Languages:** Spanish, Amerindian dialects.

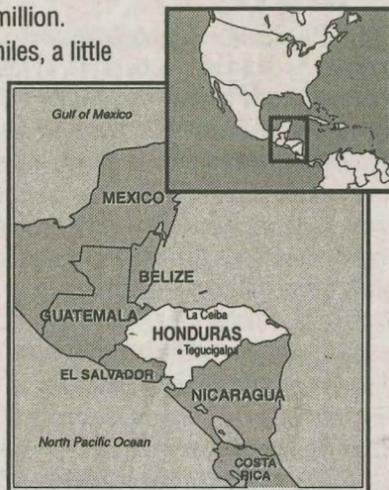
**Religions:** Roman Catholic 97%, Protestant minority.

**Literacy rate:** 72.7%

**Population below poverty line:** 50%

**Overview:** Prior to Hurricane Mitch in the fall of 1998, Honduras had been pursuing a moderate economic reform program and had posted strong annual growth numbers. The storm has dramatically changed economic forecasts for Honduras, one of the poorest countries in Central America and the hardest hit by Mitch. Honduras sustained approximately \$3 billion in damages. Hardest hit was the all-important agricultural sector, which is responsible for the majority of exports. As a result, the trade deficit is likely to balloon in 1999 to \$445 million. However, significant aid has helped to stabilize the country.

Source: The 1999 World Factbook



## Bluegrass churches help hurricane victims rebuild

Continued from page 1

received, he said. Hondurans saw its thread woven through every act of kindness Baptists did while asking nothing in return. Food and medical care provided in Jesus' name was the salve that thousands of people needed. People showed their gratitude by listening to the message of Christ. Many people believed. To date, 78 new Baptist churches have been started, filled with thousands of new believers.

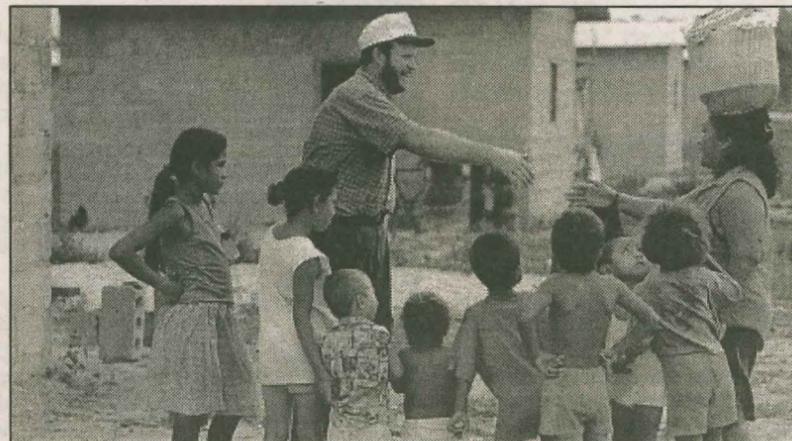
"Hurricane Mitch created an awareness for the things of God that was not present before," Cummins said. "We were seeing some growth, but Mitch created an urgency in people's lives. Now, nearly two years later, people are still very receptive to the gospel."

One reason the receptivity continues is because of the continued expressions of love showered on the people by volunteers from the United States. The growing number of believers in the community of Nuevo Masicales is an example.

Masicales was a community of more than 100 families living on the banks of the Aguán River. Rising waters swept nearly every home downstream toward the Caribbean Ocean.

The people of Masicales were identified as some of the most needy, according to one of the local churches with which Cummins worked. Initially, food was directed their way, but that was just a beginning. The community wanted to relocate together, and God provided an answer through Kentucky Baptists.

Kentucky churches have been involved in Cummins' ministry since he arrived in Honduras, but never to the



**NUOVO MASICALES** Ken Cummins greets a village resident and several children in Nuevo Masicales, Honduras, an entire town relocated with help from some Kentucky Baptist churches. New homes can be seen in the background. (Photo by Michael Keza)

extent they became involved after Mitch. Ballardville Baptist Church gave more than \$50,000 for relief projects, out of which nearly 40 acres of land was purchased to relocate Masicales, now Nuevo Masicales. Some of the money also provided housing materials, and the church sent teams of construction volunteers. In all, the church is responsible for 54 new homes.

But several churches across Kentucky including Woodburn Baptist Church and Elk Lick Baptist Church in Lewisburg—both former pastorates of Cummins—and Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and Buckner Baptist Church also have helped restore residents' lives.

"The volunteer response has been vital," Cummins said. "Volunteers have been a testimony to the people of what

the love of Christ is. They've done more than just build houses. They've come and built relationships with these people and have had a direct impact on many of these people coming to know Christ personally."

The Cumminses' role in Hurricane Mitch relief officially ends in June 2001. Cummins said he's not sure what God's next assignment for his family is. But he said he is sure God has prepared them for it.

"I look back at what's happened with Mitch, and although I'd never been through anything like that before, I can see at different places in my life where God was preparing me through different circumstances to handle what was thrown at us," he said. "I know He will use what we learned for the next thing He has for us to do."

# MISSIONS

## Tammy Cummins: 'God is sovereign and He can be trusted'

By Chris Turner  
SBC International Mission Board

LA CEIBA, Honduras—Radio reports were not encouraging. The best guess was that the category five hurricane was cutting a path across the southern Caribbean Sea heading directly for Honduras.

Meteorologists predicted the eye would run aground at the coastal city of La Ceiba. Kentucky natives Tammy and Ken Cummins had some quick decisions to make.

"We were awake all night," Mrs. Cummins recalled. "Finally at 4 a.m. we turned on the lights and woke up the kids. We were gone by six."

The family, serving as Southern Baptist missionaries with the International Mission Board, sought refuge farther inland. Little refuge was to be found. Hurricane Mitch dumped 12 inches of rain every six hours during those early November days in 1998, causing catastrophic flooding that washed out hundreds of bridges and created a country of islands. The only way the family could return home was by plane three days after the storm passed.

"We had no idea what we'd find when we got home," Mrs. Cummins said. "We were so thankful because we had only a little water damage, but nothing major."

Although La Ceiba was spared a direct hit, the countryside around La Ceiba was flooded. Thousands of families were destitute; their homes washed down river toward the ocean. Mrs. Cummins realized her role as a missionary was rapidly expanding.

"The phone didn't stop ringing," she said. "People were calling asking for help. Others were calling to find out how they could help. It sometimes went on all night. We knew there were people who needed help immediately and just trying to get it all coordinated was very stressful."

The Cummins proved to be an effective team. Many times, Mrs. Cummins helped coordinate the often-challenging process of receiving relief shipments and making sure they were delivered to a storage site where they'd be available for immediate distribution.

As an endless stream of Southern Baptist volunteers poured into the country, Mrs. Cummins coordinated much

of their in-country logistics.

And with her husband gone from home so often directing relief distribution—sometimes for days—Mrs. Cummins also played both the mother and father role to their three children, Zack (17), Hannah (14) and Andrew (12).

"When it would get stressful, I kept telling myself we are helping people and that God put us here for a reason," she said. "I may not realize what God has done and is doing, but I trust that good will come out of it because that's what He promised."

Her attitude of obedience developed long before tropical ocean winds swirled into one of the most devastating natural disasters ever to hit Central America. Her desire to serve God began as a teenager in Morganfield.

"I remember I always loved God and wanted to know more about Him," she said. "When I was 16, friends asked me to go to a Bible study. I had great Bible teaching and saw the witness of so many people. I accepted Christ when I was 17."

Mrs. Cummins said that through God's providence she felt led to take Spanish classes in high school and at Murray State University.

"I don't really recall when I felt led toward missions," she said. "It wasn't a real dramatic event. I just had an aware-



**MORGANFIELD NATIVE**  
Tammy Cummins (left), works with her daughter, Hannah, on a Bible study project. Mrs. Cummins has spent the past two years coordinating relief after Hurricane Mitch. "When it would get stressful, I kept telling myself we are helping people and that God put us here for a reason." (Photo by Michael Keza)



## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS BETWEEN PEOPLE?

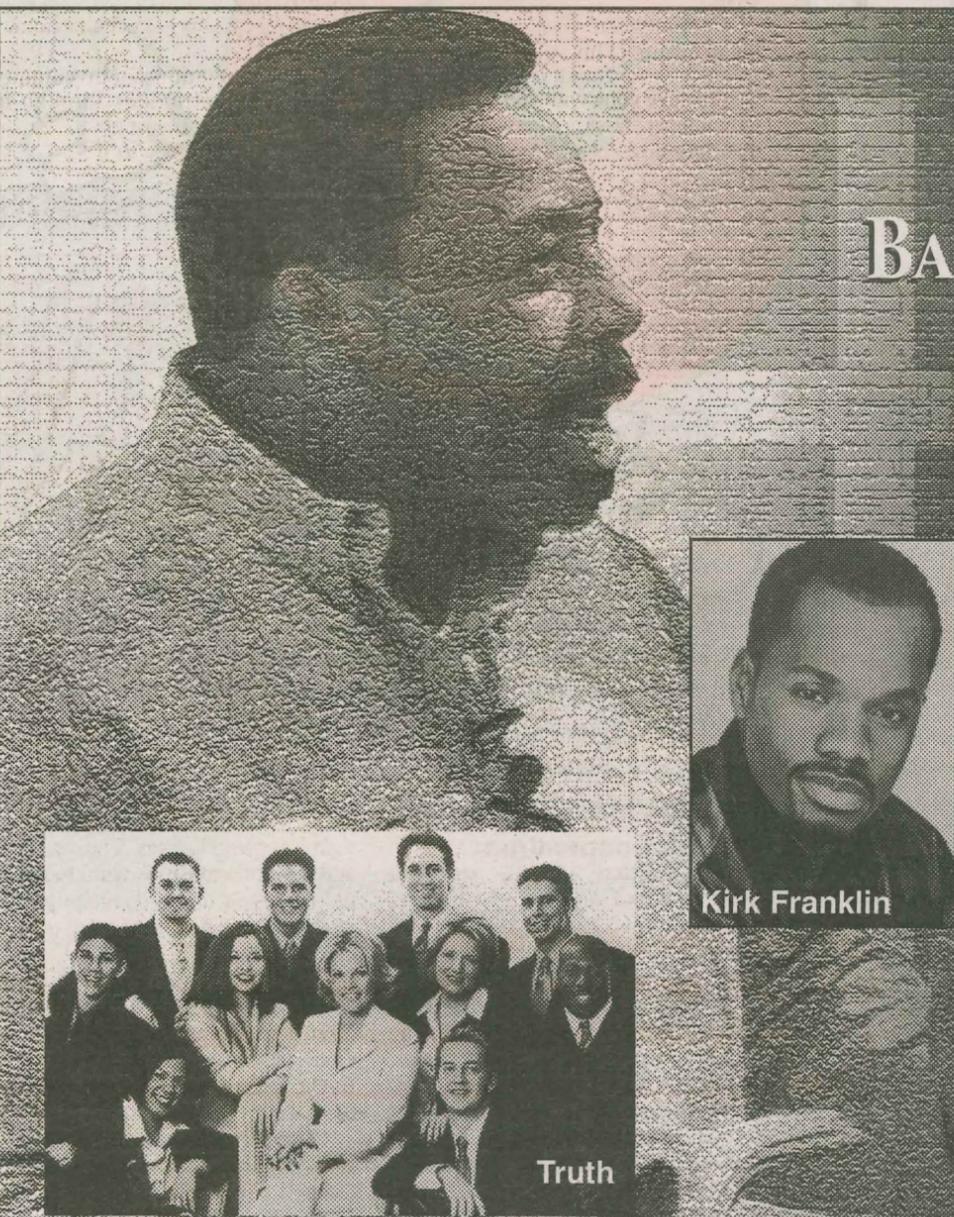
COME HEAR CHRIST'S MESSAGE OF HOPE AND RECONCILIATION

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APPEARING MONDAY, JUNE 19 **KIRK FRANKLIN**

APPEARING JUNE 19 - 21 **TRUTH SPECIAL RECONCILIATION SEMINAR**  
JUNE 20 - 21, 10:00 A.M. - NOON, LED BY TONY EVANS

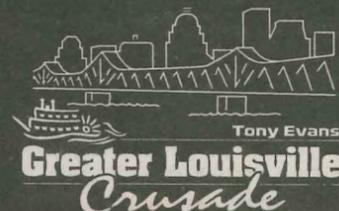
ALL PASTORS, CHRISTIAN CHURCH LEADERS AND CHURCH SUPPORTERS ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL SEMINAR ON PROVIDING LEADERSHIP FOR RECONCILIATION AT THE EXECUTIVE INN WEST. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT COST.



Kirk Franklin

Truth

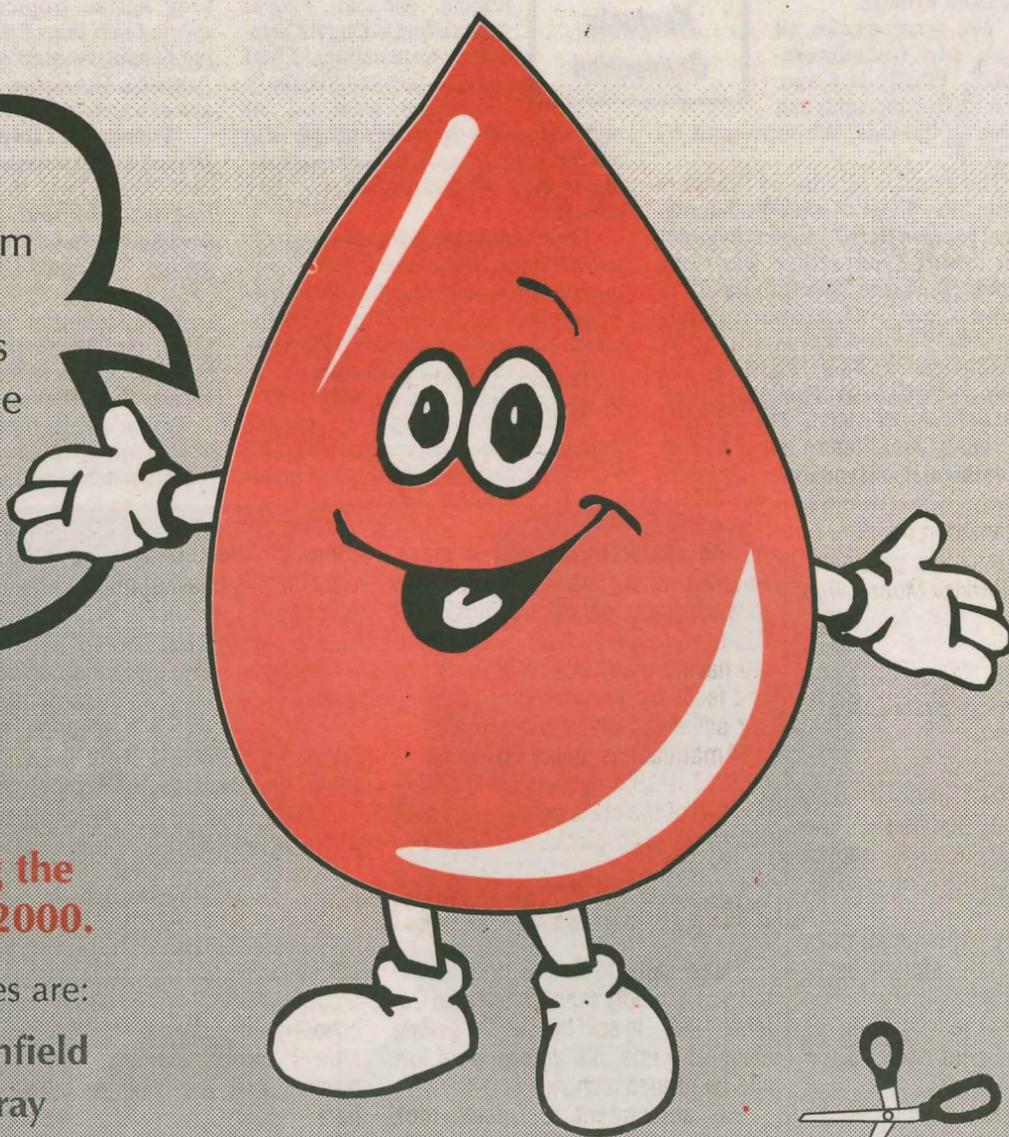
This is a FREE event 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. each night. Parking \$3.  
For more information call 502-635-1004 or check out the website at: [www.tecrusade.org](http://www.tecrusade.org)



# OPERATION:

# COOPERATION

**Operation Cooperation** is an exciting way for Kentucky Baptists to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program through simultaneous blood drives and promotional fun runs in over thirty cities statewide. The Cooperative Program is the lifeblood of Kentucky Baptist missions and ministry, so giving blood is a concrete, hands-on way to be involved in missions and send a positive message that Baptists care.



**Operation Cooperation will take place during the two-week period between September 10-23, 2000.**

Cities that have already committed to host blood drives are:

Ashland	Henderson	Morganfield
Bowling Green	Highland Heights	Murray
Campbellsville	Hopkinsville	Owensboro
Elizabethtown	Lexington	Paducah
Erlanger	London	Paintsville
Frankfort	Louisville	Pikeville
Fountain Run	Madisonville	Prestonburg
Glasgow	Mayfield	Richmond
Hardinsburg	Middlesboro	Somerset
Hazard	Morehead	Williamsburg



*The exact date and site of the blood drives and fun runs will be determined by coordinators in each city where the events are being held.*

For more information about Operation Cooperation, phone **502/254-4731** or toll free **888/254-5713**

To volunteer or register over the internet, log on to **[www.kybaptist.org/operationcooperation.htm](http://www.kybaptist.org/operationcooperation.htm)**

Even if you can't give blood, you can be involved. Please indicate below your areas of interest, then clip and mail this coupon to:

**Kentucky Baptist Convention  
Communications/Media Department  
Attn: Operation Cooperation  
P.O. Box 43433 • Louisville, KY 40253-0433**

- I want to be a blood donor.  
 I would like to serve on a local committee.  
 I want to participate in a fun run in my area.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Education for Time and Eternity

# Oneida Baptist Institute

## 2000 Barkley Moore Offering

### WHAT IS ONEIDA?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns. We have been ministering to young people for 100 years.

At Oneida, we teach respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards and responsible behavior.

### ANNUAL OFFERING

This is the sixth year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. The offering is named in memory of our longtime president, Dr. Barkley Moore, who died in 1994.

### FUNDING

Approximately 9 percent of Oneida's funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

35 percent comes from student fees.

The remaining 56 percent comes from churches and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people. These gifts are the financial backbone of our ministry.

### FOR TIME AND ETERNITY

Every school deals with the mind of man, but few, like Oneida, minister to the soul as well.

Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year, many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance.

### Meet some of the class of 2000

## Amanda: She experienced Oneida's uniqueness

Amanda was born in Oneida and spent most of her childhood as an Oneida Baptist Institute "faculty kid." She noted proudly, "I am the first one to go from K-12. ... I was here for preschool, too."

Growing up in a small community "hasn't been that weird, (but) I probably want to live somewhere closer than half an hour from the nearest fast food restaurant," Amanda said with a smile.

She said her family was "always on the go," visiting relatives in northern Kentucky and Ohio. "I don't think I'm any less prepared to go out in the 'real' world," she explained.

Looking back, Amanda observes that Oneida is a unique place to grow up. "Almost everything about Oneida is just different, she said. Two primary differences, Amanda explained, are having international students as classmates and having friends who live in a dormitory.

Most about what she will miss her friends.

The valedictorian of her class, Amanda noted, "As far as my ability to work and understand things, I feel I've been prepared here." She admitted having many late nights of study and feeling pressure to keep up with her advanced placement courses.

Amanda has been voted OBI's Most Outstanding and Most Studious girl of the class nearly every year since the sixth grade. She was also



**VERSATILE STUDENT** Amanda, the class valedictorian, excelled in cross country and other sports.

among the top 600-700 Kentucky juniors selected for Governor's Scholar Camp last summer. Amanda was first runner up in the Yearbook Queen pageant last fall.

She has also won numerous athletic awards including state ribbons, all-conference team selections and letters. She has excelled in swimming, cross-country and track.

Cross-country and track coach Michelle Mau said, "It is a blessing

to work with such an incredibly hard-working athlete and individual. She is highly motivated and goes above and beyond in her pursuit of excellence."

Amanda is planning to attend Auburn University in Alabama and become a veterinarian. She said she has known her entire life that she would work with animals.

"The second word I said in my life was 'pig,' Amanda said with a grin.

## Henry: He excelled in agriculture

Henry came to Oneida from Bardstown as a middle school student in October 1993. He said he was not getting along at home, his grades were low and he needed a change.

His adjustment to Oneida took some time, but he said that eventually "everything started working out."

He made friends, stayed out of trouble and improved his grades. He even made the honor roll. He gives credit to

his teachers for his academic turnaround. "All my teachers from middle school on up ... always taught well. I've always learned," he said. "They love teaching and care about the students here."

In middle school, Henry worked on and then supervised a cleaning crew. He joined the farm crew as a freshman. He enjoyed learning about swine management, and he also liked being out-

side and working with his hands.

"It made me want to stay here at school. It was something new," he said.

Through high school, Henry tapped into every resource available to him in OBI's extensive agriculture program. He became a dependable asset to OBI's farm management personnel, a top scholar in agriculture classes and president of the FFA.

He learned to use many types of equipment, and he gained numerous vocational skills. "I got a broad range (of experience). I pretty much did everything (on the farm) at least once," he noted. Farm manager Ken Martin said one of Henry's most valuable traits is dependability. "I put him in jobs where I needed someone I could trust and count on..." said Martin.

Henry was recognized each year with many awards for both work and academics. He also was named Most Outstanding Sophomore Boy.

After graduation, Henry plans to attend Elizabethtown Community College for two years. He then wants to complete a degree in agricultural mechanization and business from the University of Kentucky. He would like to work for a large farm machinery company.



**FARM FAN** Henry, a devoted worker on Oneida's farm, plans to study agricultural mechanization in college and pursue a career with a farm machinery company.

## James: He loved sports

James and his younger sister, Chrisie, came to OBI from Louisville. James said he did not like the school he was attending and needed a new start.

He had been having problems at home and at school since the fourth grade. He came to OBI the summer before he entered the seventh grade.

"I wanted to come here, and when I got here I really liked it so I stayed," he said. He noted that OBI offered a safe school environment, and he liked the variety of sports. He enjoyed living in the dorm with his friends and learning responsibility required of dorm residents.

"You learn how to take care of yourself: personal hygiene, washing your clothes, being on time—the basics," James said.

Gary and Suzy Garrett, OBI deans, have known James since he was a little boy. "We've seen him grow a lot ... physically as well as emotionally," Mrs. Garrett said.

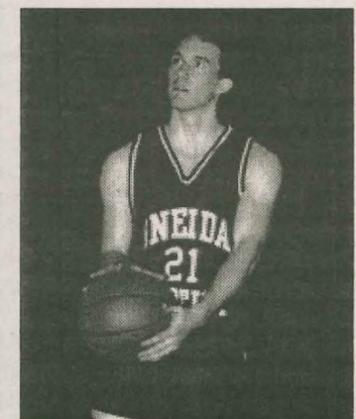
"He lives for sports, and he's definitely found a niche here. He's excelled at sports—at home he might have been overlooked."

James participated in cross country, golf, basketball, driving and track. Over the years, he received letters as well as awards such as Most Consistent, Most Valuable and Most Improved. He also made all-conference teams in cross country, basketball and track.

James grew up attending church every Sunday and became a Christian at age 9. He remembers his Easter baptism. "That was the first time I saw my dad go to church—for my baptism," he said. A short time later, his father died.

James attended Baptist Student Union at Oneida. "You can have fun while you're worshipping," he said.

He plans to attend Morehead State University and may pursue a high school coaching career.



**FITTING IN** James found his niche in Oneida's sports program.

# Oneida Baptist Institute

## Rachel: Her F's turned to A's at Oneida

### A FEW MORE FACTS

- ◆ Our average enrollment is 425.
- ◆ We have approximately 150 full-time faculty and staff.
- ◆ Our classrooms have an average 1:12 teacher/student ratio.
- ◆ Oneida has a 200-acre farm and a full agriculture program.
- ◆ Our student body consists of young people from the local community, across the state of Kentucky, the United States and around the world.
- ◆ We accept students throughout the year.
- ◆ OBI provides Christian education at an affordable rate.

### WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE CHOOSE ONEIDA?

- ◆ Some are struggling with academic setbacks.
- ◆ Others have been hurt by family conflicts and situations.
- ◆ Many need a change in peer group.
- ◆ Others are seeking a distinctly Christian education.
- ◆ Often parents and grandparents are looking for a loving and structured environment for their teens.
- ◆ Young people enjoy the independence boarding school gives in preparation for college.

Rachel, a native of St. Charles, Mo., was having trouble at home and not going to school. "I failed pretty much," she said.

She enrolled at OBI in October 1996 as a freshman. By her second semester, Rachel had made many friends and joined several activities. She enjoyed the sense of independence and felt more responsible.

"If you just do what you're supposed to do—which is what you're going to have to do in the real world anyway—they're very lenient about a lot of things," Rachel said, commenting on her life in the dormitory.

Rachel noted that while her relationship with her mother has always been good, "We've grown closer now that I've been here. ... I've grown, matured."

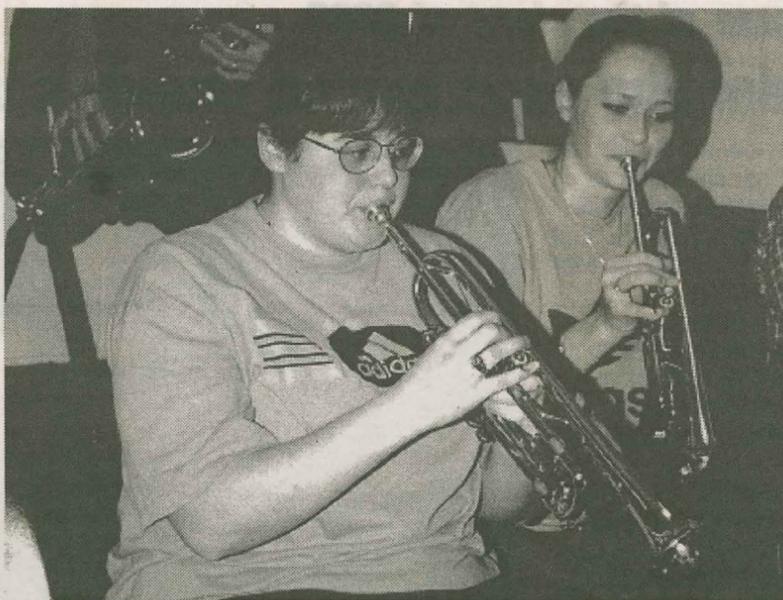
The disciplined lifestyle she learned at Oneida helped Rachel again realize her potential of maintaining an A average.

It also helped that she liked her teachers. "They're all nice, and I'm friends with a lot of them," she said. Rachel earned Outstanding Scholar awards in several classes. She plans to study history at Berea College.

Rachel grew up in a Christian home and became a Christian at age 9.

"I've gotten closer to God (at Oneida), she said. "I looked at myself and found for myself what I needed. The main thing was God, so that was the first thing I worked on."

She said finding a new group of friends and attending daily chapel were both positive influences on her



**DETERMINED STUDENT** After experiencing trouble at home and at school, Rachel (left) proved her commitment to excellence in band and other areas.

spiritual life. "Chapel is one of the best things. ... When you go to chapel every day, something's going to hit you one of these days," she explained.

BSU was another important factor. She enjoyed singing and "being with people who have the same beliefs as you do." She became a small group leader her senior year.

Rachel stayed busy at Oneida with activities and jobs. She worked in the kitchen and craft house and in the dormitory as a hall monitor and late night study hall monitor. She also participat-

ed in band, choir, student council, Beta Club and tennis. She was a manager of the boys' varsity basketball team her senior year. She earned the Director's Award in band and the Coach's Award in tennis her sophomore year. Band director Tim Cochran said, "Rachel was reliable and definitely willing to work. I could always count on her to play whatever part I asked her to play. She did everything she was supposed to do all the time."

Her advice to a new student: "Get involved in stuff. (Time) goes a lot quicker and you make friends."

## Angel: She discovered she had talents

When Angel's pastor in Logan County told her about Oneida, she immediately knew the school was the place for her.

Angel needed a change for a variety of reasons. She was having a difficult time getting along with her parents, and many of the neighborhood kids were bad influences. She enrolled at OBI as a freshman.

Though she saw immediate improvement in her grades, Angel still struggled in other areas. During her first two years, Angel was "really emotional" and "shy," she recalled.

She said other girls and OBI staff provided support during tough times. Involvement in co-curricular activities helped her gain confidence in social settings as well as discover her talents. Angel traveled with the choir, attended Baptist Student Union and became a small group leader. She also regularly appeared in skits with Creative Ministries. As a senior, she directed dramatic interpretations set to Christian music.

Angel liked her jobs in the kitchen, dish room and dining hall. She earned Outstanding Worker awards each year.

The summer before her junior year, she began working on the farm. "I

wanted to do something different and work outside," she explained. Though the first few days were hard, she said her peers and the staff made the work fun. She was a charter member and officer of OBI's FFA chapter. "Being here, I've seen how many gifts and talents I have that I didn't even know I had before," Angel said.

The faculty voted Angel Most Improved Junior Girl. Just before her senior year, Angel taught vacation Bible school.

That experience helped her decide she wanted a career in child care. She

signed up for OBI's Field Placement program and worked two periods a day in the daycare that serves staff/faculty children. She also made daycare her after-school job.

Daycare director Linda Crawford said, "She's a natural with kids. She knows how to make them laugh. She's enthusiastic."

Crawford added that Angel was willing to perform any task the staff asked her to do.

Angel plans to attend Mid-Continent Bible College, where she will study toward a degree in childcare.



**DISCOVERING TALENTS** At Oneida, Angel found she loves child care and plans to attend college to prepare for a career in that field.

## Michael: He got back on track

Michael entered OBI in 1997 as a freshman. His older brother and twin brother were already enrolled.

"I got kicked out of a couple of schools," Michael said. "I was into a lot of trouble. I just wasn't going to school." He felt a more structured environment would help him get his life back on track.

By the end of his first year, Michael was on the B honor roll. He said one-on-one attention from his teachers was a big factor. Getting back on a schedule also contributed to his improvement. At the end of the year, Michael earned an Outstanding Worker award and was named Most Improved Freshman Boy.

Michael enjoyed a second chance to make friends and explore his co-curricular interests. He joined the track team and placed fourth in discus at a state track meet. He enrolled in choir, piano and art and received the Freshman Artist of the Year award.

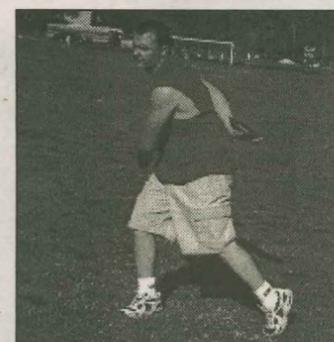
He made up enough credits his second year to start the 1999-2000 school year as a senior.

Initially, Harold Underwood, OBI's dean of boys, did not believe OBI was the place for Michael because Michael had lived on his own. He thought he would have difficulty following rules, but Michael insisted that his education was very important to him. Underwood said, "Michael has far exceeded my expectations. ... His life before Oneida, and his life now are just two different worlds."

Michael was determined to turn his life around. "I just needed to straighten my life up because I was going totally the wrong direction."

His second year at OBI, Michael became a Christian. "I had never set foot in a church before I came here," he said. He enjoyed Baptist Student Union. "That helped me a lot ... always having someone to talk to."

Michael wants to study computer graphics in college.



**SKILLED ATHLETE** Michael earned state recognition as a discus thrower.

# Oneida Baptist Institute

## Stacie: She has to be on stage

Stacie came to Oneida in March 1996 from Hopkinsville. She was an eighth grader, and her parents had joined the OBI staff as deans.

Despite her fears about moving to a new place, Stacie said the many opportunities at Oneida gave her a sense of excitement.

"I heard there was a really good drama department here, and I'd always been interested in performing on stage."

Stacie and her younger brother Preston had been home schooled for nearly three years before coming to Oneida.

"I always wanted to know what it would be like to be in high school. I think that was God's plan all along, be-

cause He knew we'd be here," Stacie noted.

Her first few weeks at OBI were difficult. "I was very scared, because I didn't know anybody. ... I've never been on my own like that," she recalled.

When she entered high school the next fall, she began to make friends and life at Oneida became much easier, she said. "It just took time to get used to it. ... It's not hard to make friends here, because there's so many different kinds of people," she explained.

Raised in a Christian home, Stacie enjoyed chapel and found it to be a source of spiritual growth. "I thought chapel was a good way for students to get to know God," she said.

She became a dedicated member of ministry groups on campus such as Baptist Student Union and the community outreach group, Salt and Light. She also performed in many chapel skits with Creative Ministries.

In addition to yearbook staff, newspaper staff, student council and Beta Club, Stacie acted in seven school plays during high school. She was the Most Outstanding and Most Studious Sophomore Girl, Pianist of the Year, and Best Actress. Drama director Debbie Winters said, "Stacie has been one of the most talented students I have had in our drama program. She is a beautiful young lady inside and out."

Stacie plans to study theater at Berea College.



**POLISHED PERFORMER** Stacie enjoyed success in the classroom and on stage.

## Lolita: She became her own person

As a sixth grader, Lolita wanted to attend OBI to be near her older brother Yohance.

"I thought it was like camp every day," said Lolita, who came to Oneida from Hopkinsville. When her brother graduated in 1995, Lolita decided, "I wanted to see if I could make it without my brother."

One of seven children, Lolita spent five years in Germany, where her parents were stationed with the Army. Lolita's father was a pastor in Germany, serving a church located off the Army base. After he retired from the military, he became a pastor in Tompkinsville.

At Oneida, Lolita, who became a Christian early in life, had to focus on making correct choices while living among some non-Christian girls in the dormitory.

"That was the big thing I had to learn: You have to be your own person."

Living in the dorm, she added, "has

been a big learning experience. ... I've had to face my weaknesses (in order to) show (others) I'm growing."

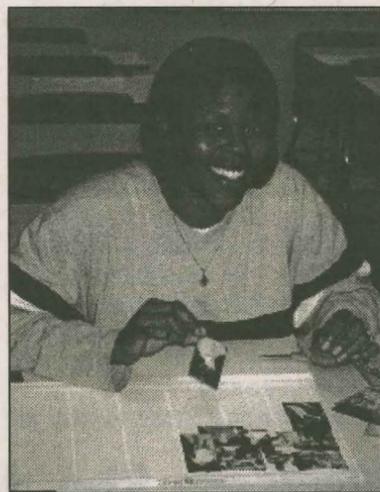
Lolita was a hall monitor in the dorm for several years. She was also a leader in co-curricular activities beginning with academic team, cheerleading, track and soccer in middle school. Throughout high school, she was in Beta Club, cheerleading and yearbook.

By her senior year, she was yearbook editor and cheerleading captain. Lolita was also in soccer, track, cross country, softball and volleyball. Lolita said her many activities gave her a sense of accomplishment and helped her not to get homesick.

Cheerleading coach Nancy Martin commented, "Lolita was the backbone of our team. I always told her she'd be a great mother someday, because she can give constructive criticism in a firm but loving way."

Lolita will attend a community college this fall. Her possible career goals

include Christian counseling or a military career. She also has expressed interest in following her mother's footsteps and becoming a pastor's wife.



**BUILDING CHARACTER** OBI helped Lolita make the right choices.

## Kristopher: A top scholar from Brazil

Kristopher is the youngest of four children, and his siblings all graduated from OBI. All were born and raised in Brazil, though their mother is originally from Kentucky. She was a missionary in Brazil when she met her husband, a surgeon. All their children wanted to attend an American high school, and OBI was a natural choice for them. Their maternal grandparents are former OBI staff members who now live in Louisville.

Kris started as a freshman at OBI in 1997 and was promoted to sophomore status halfway through the year.

As the youngest of the family, Kris knew it would be hard for his parents to see him leave home, but he said they agreed it would be good for him to finish his secondary education here and ease the transition into a U.S. college.

When he arrived at Oneida, he shared a dorm room with his older brother Jeff and that made the adjustment to Oneida easier, he said. He also said friends, teachers and administrators helped him make the transition.

"Even though it was far away from home, I felt kind of at home," he said.

Kris is hard-working and active. He worked as the supervisor of a dorm crew, earning a Most Outstanding Worker award. He also participated in soccer, track, wrestling, student council and Beta Club. During his senior year, he attended Kentucky Youth Assembly with Beta Club members from across Kentucky. He debated a bill, which he had co-authored, before the mock congress.

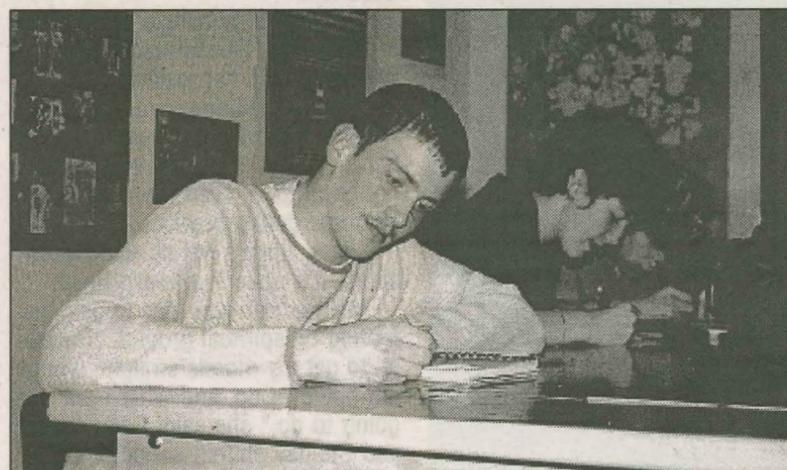
His bill passed the House and Senate and was approved by the KYA governor. Kris was one of only 10 students to receive an Outstanding Speaker award at this event.

An A student, Kris earned Outstanding Scholar awards each year. As a junior, he represented OBI at a math competition and placed third in the pre-calculus division. The year was topped off when he was chosen as the Most Outstanding and Most Studious junior boy.

Senior English teacher Dan Stock-

ton described Kris as having "an outstanding, mature, Christian character. ... He is not self-centered, but rather tries to focus on how to help his peers. No matter what you ask him to do, he does it humbly and with a willing heart."

Kris plans to attend Western Kentucky University. He intends to study psychology or electrical engineering.



**FAMILY TRADITION** Kristopher is the youngest of four siblings to journey from Brazil to Oneida for high school studies.

### Ways you can support the offering

- ◆ Make sure your church has received our box of offering materials.
- ◆ Offer to take charge of displaying posters and distributing brochures in your church.
- ◆ Tell others about the Oneida ministry.
- ◆ Pray for a successful offering.

### A day at Oneida

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Morning:     | Students get up, clean their rooms and must be in class on time.  |
| At school:   | Young people may take a variety of classes. High school students can choose a college or vocational track of study. |
| Chapel time: | Each school day, our entire student body and faculty join for a time of worship.                                    |
| Afternoon:   | As the school day ends, an afternoon of jobs, sports and other activities begins.                                   |
| Evening:     | "Free time" is a chance to visit with friends in our recreational facilities.                                       |
| Study hall:  | All students not on the honor roll attend nightly study hall.   |
| Night-time:  | Students do evening chores and get ready for another day.   |

# Oneida Baptist Institute

## Barkley Moore: He looked for the best in students

We are honored that Kentucky Baptists support us with this annual offering, and we are grateful for the ongoing tribute to Barkley Moore. He was president of OBI from 1972 until his death in 1994.



**Barkley Moore**  
OBI president,  
1972-1994

Moore graduated as valedictorian of Oneida's class of 1958. After completing a bachelor's degree and one year of law school at the University of Kentucky, he returned to Oneida in 1963 as assistant to the president.

Two years later, Moore joined the Peace Corps and went to Iran.

During his six-year stay there, he started one primary library and 31 smaller ones among the people of Gonbad-eKavus. He also started a kindergarten that grew into eight schools. When Moore returned to the United States, he held the distinction of the longest term of service of any Peace Corps volunteer.

As president of OBI, Moore always looked for the best in every child. Moore once noted that when students came to OBI, "They have failed time after time, and they see themselves as failures." He saw Oneida's unique environment as a means of changing the lives of young people: "This is one of the key things we can do through Christian education. We not only tell these young people that we care, but, more importantly, we show them that we care."

All of us who served alongside this wonderful man have been forever changed. We not only were taught by his spoken word, we also saw daily in his life "the living Bible." As he lived his faith, Dr. Moore demonstrated the importance of forgiveness and the value of a second chance.—*Dr. W.F. Underwood, President, Oneida Baptist Institute.*

As our ministry continues, Moore's love lives on ... "For Time and Eternity."

## Ministering to the whole person

Oneida prepares young people for life by equipping them in mind, body and spirit.

At OBI, students can find a sense of purpose that may be the key to excelling academically, socially and spiritually.

◆ Our small classes. Tutoring lab and nightly study hall give many young people a needed educational boost.

◆ We teach boys and girls the dignity of labor and satisfaction in a job well done. Oneida's unique student work program and many co-curricular activities offer opportunities for success with new-found talents and abilities.

◆ Through Bible classes, daily chapel and Campus Ministry, we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and nurture our students' growing faith.

## Elijah: He took advantage of his 'last chance'

Elijah came to Oneida after failing the ninth grade in his hometown of Memphis, Tenn. At OBI, he experienced a remarkable academic turnaround.

When Elijah was 13, his father died and Elijah's grades began to drop. He came to Oneida on the recommendation of an uncle.

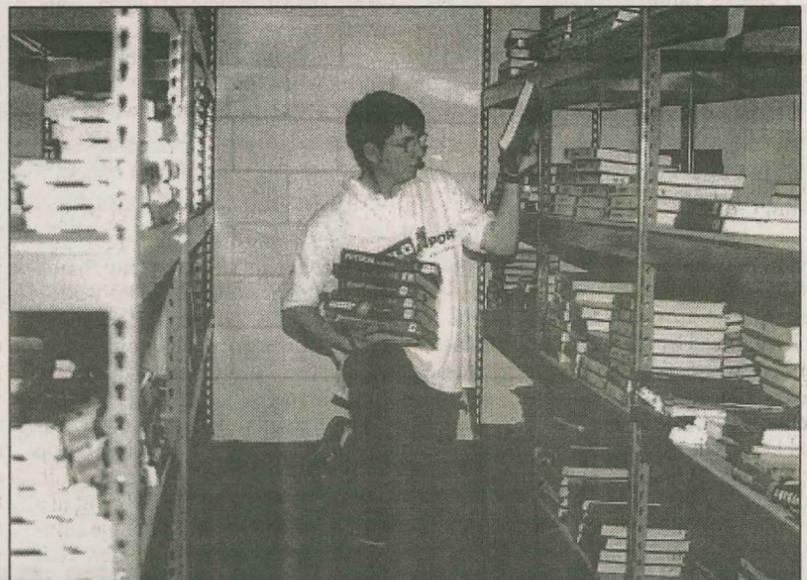
After just one quarter at Oneida, he noticed a difference. Elijah said, "My grades were so much better. ... I'd never really had that."

C's, D's and F's had been the grades he was used to seeing. By his first midterm report, he had made a B average and was listed on the honor roll. At the end of the year, he received top scholar awards in three classes.

Elijah spent every spare moment working on homework. Though he felt it took him longer than others, he spent the time necessary for him to earn the best grades he could. He said, "I like going slow with things because I can get better grades. Why turn something in (after) 15 minutes and get a C, when you can spend an hour and get an A?"

Elijah's desire to stay at OBI and succeed motivated him. He also realized, "This is some people's last chance. If you fail out of here, not many schools are going to want you back home." He recognized it was somewhat easier at Oneida to focus. "You don't have as much here as you do back home, like TV, movies and going out," he said.

Elijah said he chose to stay at



**REMARKABLE IMPROVEMENT** After struggling academically at his previous school, Elijah worked hard to attain honor roll status at Oneida.

Oneida because of his academic success and simply because he liked it. He liked meeting nice people and enjoyed his activities, which included soccer, tennis and golf. He was also a manager for the girls' basketball team.

Elijah received Good Worker awards for jobs like dorm hall monitor, supervisor of a cleaning crew and dorm office cleaner.

A Baptist Student Union small group leader for two years, Elijah said living in a dorm with both Christians and non-Christians was beneficial to his walk with God.

"There are a lot of people up here

that have a good Christian influence on me. Some don't, but that's when I have to show my Christian influence to them," he explained.

Campus minister Michael Spencer pointed out Elijah's faithfulness in leading dorm devotions. "Elijah came to OBI as a strong Christian and has remained a strong Christian. He has grown in his ministry to others. ... Elijah is an interesting mix of confident and humble at the same time."

Elijah has considered a variety of long-term goals, including teacher or youth minister. He plans to work in Memphis this summer and attend a small college in the fall.

## Melissa: She discovered hope

Melissa started OBI during her freshman year. She was born in California, but her family recently had moved to Lexington.

Melissa said she had been using illegal drugs and had not been attending school regularly. She learned about Oneida when the OBI choir visited her church. "I felt God saying to me, 'You need to go there.'"

Her mother had the same experience. "Less than a month later, I was here," Melissa said. "I was so nervous, but I was kind of looking forward to it."

OBI proved beneficial to Melissa in many ways. She formed a close relationship with her teachers.

"You can tell they care," she said. OBI's sheltered environment helped her to get out of her old lifestyle and not return to it, even when she visited home during breaks.

"Here, there's not so many pressures. It's easier," she explained.

Melissa also was able to gain her footing on spiritual ground. "I needed to get my morals straight; what I am going to do, and what I am not going to do," she said. Daily chapel and Sunday church services helped

her in this area. "It's good for your soul" she said. ... "It makes you check yourself."

At Oneida, Melissa explored many campus jobs and activities. She helped with makeup for a play and painted sets in stagecraft class. She was in art class for three years and earned an Artist of the Year award.

During her junior year, she en-

tered a black and white photograph of a landscape scene titled "Perfection" in the regional art show. Her entry won first place and advanced to state competition, where it won a blue ribbon.

"I've never won anything in my life, and it was something that came out of me. ... I did it," she said.

Melissa's art teacher Cheryl Walton said, "Anything Melissa does, she will succeed. She has a drive. She's reliable (and) always interested to learn."

Melissa's after-school jobs included kitchen, landscaping crew, swim team and campus grill. She worked on the farm her senior year because she likes animals and being outside. Yet her office skills proved most valuable to the farm, and she spent much time indoors working as an office manager.

Melissa is glad she came to OBI. "I just thank God every day that I'm here," she said. "Before, I had no future. Now, I feel like I have hope."

Melissa will attend Lexington Community College and then transfer to Cumberland College. She is considering a career as either a veterinarian or an art teacher.



**ARTISTIC ENDEAVOR** Award-winning photography helped give Melissa self confidence.

## Group seeks to get clergy sexual misconduct out of closet

By Laurie Lattimore  
Baptists Today

NASHVILLE (ABP)—A group of Baptist educators is seeking to move sexual misconduct by clergy out of the gossip mills and into the open so churches and seminaries can deal with it more honestly.

Initiating the dialogue last fall in Nashville, nine church leaders discussed proper responses to the all-too-common occurrence.

Organized by the Christian Educators Network, the initial session was led by Marie Fortune, director of the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Seattle and Bill Sapp of Cornerstone Counseling Center in Louisville.

Cherie Smith, associate pastor of Christian education at Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis, said the idea for the session grew from the resignation of a seminary professor because of sexual misconduct. The situation was unsettling to several members of the group who regarded the professor as a mentor and a friend.

"We heard rumors, but no one was talking about it, and we kept hearing ourselves saying, 'Why aren't we talking about it?'" Smith said. "We were not vigilantes, we just wanted to talk."

Because of their profession, ministers face both higher expectations of their conduct and more severe consequences when they fall. But the common response of keeping wrong behavior a secret only exacerbates the problem and postpones, if not prevents, healing, experts say.

"It is very hush-hush, yet everybody knows and is wondering if anyone is going to say anything," said Frank Granger, minister of education at First Baptist Church of Athens, Ga. "We fool ourselves into thinking silence protects the victim. Ultimately it hurts them."

Whether or not the minister initiates the intimate relationship, Sapp said, the minister is always at fault. Speaking from the pulpit or being in a counseling relationship puts the minister in an environment of power. That power is abused, Sapp said, when it is used to meet the emotional needs of either party.

"People come to ministers for help by virtue of their office, so there is automatically a power imbalance, so it is always their responsibility," Sapp said.

Sapp said ministers sometime feel flattered to think a parishioner finds them attractive, but he insists the affair has nothing to do with physical attraction. Church members come to the pas-

tor for ministry, not for sex. "I tell them not to get too puffed up on themselves, because that had nothing to do with it," he said. "It was their position, not their handsomeness or whatever."

Because of that unbalanced environment, pastors should follow certain precautions, Sapp says. Likewise, churches should recognize when they have a potentially dangerous situation and have prevention and intervention policies in place.

David Matthews, pastor of Christ Community Church in Orlando, Fla., resigned First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., 14 years ago after the church discovered he was having an affair with a member. The four-year relationship started with both people seeking needs that were not being met in their own marriages. Matthews said at the time that he didn't think he could be vulnerable sexually, but he was in complete denial about how he could be vulnerable emotionally.

"It was basically a failure to be honest with myself about needs," Matthews said, adding that the pressure among ministers to keep up a wholesome image often prevents them from admitting problems in marriage or in other areas. One step toward prevention, he says, is for clergy to have a mentor outside the church who can keep them accountable. "Every minister needs to have one or two people to whom they cannot lie and can talk about the deepest issues of their lives."

The fact that sexual misconduct by ministers is an issue of power and not just morality is part of the reason it is so damaging to churches. Smith says she thought opening up the topic of misconduct for discussion in Baptist circles would reveal a lot of men in midlife crises who become attracted to young, energetic women working in the church.

Instead, she discovered a syndrome that involves predators and victims.

"I didn't want to learn that, because it changed how we could handle it," Smith said. She assumed writing a curriculum for seminaries and educating pastors and church members would be enough to remedy the problem. What she discovered is that the solution would have to be much more involved. "I realized we can't just be educators, but we have to be shepherds watching out for our flock to spot the wolves."

Sapp said helping churches develop policies on clergy sexual misconduct in advance would go a long way in helping damaged congregations to heal after the fact. "First it's important to inform everybody so they have the correct information to process it and deal with it," Sapp said. "But churches must also seek to do justice by survivors. It is easy for survivors to feel re-victimized."

Having a process in place for investigating an allegation, approaching the minister, terminating a minister and helping the victims and perpetrators get counseling helps ensure a healthy rebuilding in the church and provides justice and retribution to the survivors. "Forgiveness comes at the far end of the process and on the survivors' timetable," Sapp said. "Healing takes a long time."

Granger noted that just getting rid of the perpetrator is not enough. Since so many are affected—the victim, spouses and families of both people, the church, etc.—there are many areas in which healing must take place. And while forgiveness is an eventual goal, Granger said there should be policies in place that state the church believes certain behavior is wrong and will result in consequences. "It's not that forgiveness and restitution are not possible, but there are consequences."

Experts said churches need a process in place for:

■ Investigating an allegation.

■ Approaching the minister.

■ Terminating a minister.

■ Helping the victims and perpetrators get counseling.

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## Former Louisville pastor resigns amid FBI investigation

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The FBI has subpoenaed financial records of a Florida church whose pastor has admitted to channeling funds to a secret Swiss bank account.

In a related development, Altus Newell resigned as pastor of Deermeadows Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., May 31.

The Florida-Times Union reported June 1 that the FBI is investigating claims by Newell, pastor of the Southern Baptist congregation for 10 years, that checks he sent overseas totaling about \$184,000 in the church's name were intended for missionaries.

Questions arose after Newell, former pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, confessed to Deermeadows church leaders that receipts he produced to document the gifts were faked.

An FBI spokesman confirmed to the Jacksonville newspaper that the agency is involved. "We're conducting an investigation to determine if there is a federal violation within the jurisdiction of the FBI," said public-affairs agent Bill Cheek. He declined further comment.

About 300 church members at a three-hour business meeting May 31 voted to accept Newell's resignation and to pay premiums on his health, life and disability insurance for up to six

months. Church members voted down a motion from the floor to grant additional severance pay.

Newell, 56, has not preached at the church since early April but has continued to draw his \$153,000-a-year salary.

Newell offered to resign the 2,100-member church in April when confronted about checks purportedly for evangelism in Eastern Europe sponsored through the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic.

He later withdrew his resignation, however, claiming he is disabled because he suffers from severe depression.

Newell, a former Southern Baptist missionary who served as president of the seminary in Prague in the mid-1980s, when it was located in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, said he and another donor made the series of contributions through the school to help churches in areas where Baptists are persecuted.

Current leaders at IBTS, however, said there is no such program related to the seminary and that documents acknowledging receipt of funds by school officials were false.

Newell maintains the funds went to missionaries, and that he misled the church about them in order to protect Christians who might suffer if their identities were revealed.

## Graham promises to hold crusades until health fails

By Todd Starnes & Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—America's most prominent evangelist vowed before his most recent event to continue preaching until health concerns force him to stop.

On the eve of his middle Tennessee crusade, Billy Graham, 81, addressed a report in The Tennessean newspaper that indicated he soon would end his crusades.

"When The Tennessean quoted me last week as saying this could possibly be my last year holding crusades, that was the medical patient in me speaking," Graham said. "But I went on to say that I would never stop preaching, which was the evangelist in me talking."

Graham, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, said he also has a hydrocephalus-like condition of too much fluid on his brain, causing some forgetfulness when fluid presses on certain parts of his brain.

At times appearing deliberate, Graham quickened his responses when asked about spiritual matters relating to the middle Tennessee crusade. "At times there are things that I forget, but I can still quote most of the Scriptures" he has quoted over the years, Graham said. "The future belongs to the Lord, and I intend to keep on preaching until the end."

The middle Tennessee crusade marks Graham's third crusade appearance in Nashville. The evangelist said that while the city has changed somewhat, his message is the same.

"I'm going to deliver the same message I gave the last two times I was here," Graham said. "God

is a God of love and He loves everyone. ... (Jesus) is alive and He's coming back again," and each person needs to "repent of your sins and receive Him as Lord and Savior by faith."

"I'm preaching the same message because the gospel is still the same, man's heart is the same and people are doing the same old things," he added.

Graham also commented about the Southern Baptist Convention. "Southern Baptists are a tremendous power for God in this country," he said in response to a question about a proposed revision of the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message confessional statement.

On the nation's moral health, Graham referenced the Ten Commandments and other religious influences that have been removed from schools and other public settings, saying, "When we took religion out we put sex in, and things began to deteriorate." Church-state questions are "very difficult" in contemporary America, he said, noting that people in today's multi-religious society must have "a certain amount of tolerance toward each other."

Concerning the Internet and other facets of modern technology, Graham said they offer many opportunities to advance faith, but also are "an opportunity for the devil." Some Internet content, he lamented, is "so beyond what our Christian teaching is."

After the middle Tennessee crusade, Graham will host an international conference in Amsterdam for evangelists from all over the world, July 29-Aug. 6. The conference will include more than 10,000 invited evangelists and church leaders from 190 countries and territories.

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## Group defends evangelism amid pluralism

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—Dozens of evangelical leaders, including Southern Baptists, have voiced their support for a new statement declaring the right to evangelize in a pluralistic society.

"The Chicago Declaration on Religious Freedom," issued June 2, states: "Misguided or false notions of pluralism must not be allowed to jeopardize anyone's constitutional right to evangelize or promote one's faith."

The 21 signers and 63 initial endorsers of the two-page statement described evangelism as a "basic liberty."

"Yet confusion has arisen over the efforts of some Christian believers, ministries and denominations to make Christ known to members of other faith communities," they wrote. "Some contend that these efforts undermine a peaceful, pluralistic society and may lead to intolerance, bigotry and even violence."

Several signers said the statement was sparked in part by a letter written last November by an interfaith group of Chicago religious leaders who asked the Southern Baptist Convention to modify plans for an evangelis-

tic campaign in their city this summer. Those leaders stated concerns that Southern Baptists might seek Muslims and Jews as their "primary targets" and the campaign "could contribute to a climate conducive to hate crimes."

That language was "the straw that broke the camel's back," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The statement, though initiated by agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, became a broader declaration by an interdenominational and interracial group of evangelical leaders from across the country, Land said.

Evangelical leaders met during the last several months at a Chicago airport hotel to tweak the wording of the document.

Although the declaration focuses on the right to evangelize, it also makes some clear statements about the supporters' beliefs about appropriate ways to evangelize.

"As followers of Jesus, we pledge to respect the value, dignity and human rights of all with whom we speak," the statement reads. "We reject the use of coercive techniques, dishonest appeals or any form of deception in our evangelistic outreach.

We acknowledge with shame that some Christian churches have failed to exercise proper respect for the rights and dignity of others."

Paul Rutgers, executive director of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago, said his organization never intended to suggest Southern Baptists and others should not evangelize. "The council's concern was really quite limited to the issue of targeting of specific religious groups in evangelistic campaigns."

In fact, now that the Baptists have assured them no targeting is planned during their July 8 "SearchLight" event and other evangelistic efforts this summer, the Baptists' plans are no longer a major agenda item of the council.

"The gates of the city are open and we expect this campaign to happen with grace and peace," Rutgers said.

In general, Rutgers said he personally could affirm the statement. He added that he wished it had specifically addressed discrimination against Jews in its list of shameful activities. "If Christians are going to confess their own faults, historic faults together with exploitation of the poor and slavery, I think anti-Semitism... is one that ought to be included."

## Poll finds more upscale Christians

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—A recent survey has found a significant shift in the growth of born-again Christians among U.S. citizens with higher incomes.

In 1991, 13 percent of born-again adults in America lived in households earning \$60,000 or more. Now, 25 percent of born-again adults are from upscale households, according to a study conducted by Barna Research Group.

The marketing research company attributes that change to the increased likelihood that people of upper-income levels will accept Jesus as their Savior and the increase in the number of affluent households.

George Barna, president of the research group, commented on the finding, noting that accepting Jesus does not always lead to selflessness or sacrifice.

"For many of these individuals, faith in Jesus is simply a good deal," he said in a statement. "Faith in Christ represents an eternal insurance policy for them rather than a significant change of heart about the ultimate meaning of life, or how to honor Christ through their decisions, behavior and resources."

The nationwide random poll, taken of 1,002 adults in February, also found that the percentage of Asian-Americans who can be considered born-again Christians has increased significantly in the last decade.

In 1991, 5 percent of Asian-Americans had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and believed they would have eternal life because they accepted Him as their Savior. The figure increased to 27 percent in a recent poll, higher than the 23 percent figure for Hispanic-Americans.

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## Jesus Day 2000 goals transcend one day of ministry

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service



### Interested?

Organizers say it's not too late to participate in an activity at one of the six Kentucky cities hosting Jesus Day 2000 events.

For more information, visit the organization's Web site, [www.jesuseday.org](http://www.jesuseday.org), or call the contacts below:

■ Campbellsville, Carol Freeman (270) 465-8042.

■ Elizabethtown, Pam Thorson (270) 765-7171.

■ Greenville, Roscoe Linton (270) 338-3397.

■ Lawrenceburg, Tammy Dial (502) 839-3622.

■ Louisville, John Jones (502) 451-8803.

■ Owensboro, Carol Adkins (270) 281-9399.

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In Richmond, Va., they'll be grilling hot dogs, visiting nursing homes and "blessing" folks with free car washes. In Hayward, Calif., they'll be passing out vouchers for clothing and giving away Bibles.

From Pittsburgh to Denver, there are plans for major collections and distributions of food to hungry and homeless people.

Across the country and the world, churches are gearing up to take part in Jesus Day 2000 on June 10. The day is an extension of previous observances of the March for Jesus, in which mostly evangelical Christians have marched, prayed and sung in city streets.

But this year, organizers decided to take their efforts a giant step forward.

More than singing, the day is a focus on service.

"It's a call to the church, first of all, to become more like Jesus," said Tom Pelton, organizer of Jesus Day 2000. "It's a call for us to do what Jesus did and to approach people the way Jesus approached people with humility and with servanthood and with care and with compassion."

The March for Jesus has traditionally been particularly popular with charismatic Christians, but Jesus Day's focus on the needy has prompted a broader involvement of Christians. Organiz-

ers nationwide say the event will be interracial and interdenominational, including Pentecostals, other evangelicals, mainline Protestants and Catholics.

Jim Wallis, organizer of Call to Renewal, an alliance of religious organizations working to overcome poverty and racism, said he and Pelton's umbrella groups are pooling their resources on that day—and he hopes far beyond it.



Pelton

Wallis said he hopes the cooperation on June 10 will lead to greater achievements concerning public policy to reduce the number of the nation's poor.

"The fact that we've got almost now every group involved, we're getting closer to that day when the churches are going to speak with a unified voice on this question," he said.

Pelton said Jesus Day events are planned in about 500 U.S. cities and more than 100 other countries.

He hopes it will bring together Christians who have focused primarily on either social action or evangelism rather than both.

"I think the bottom line is that we all need each other and that we can help one another really communicate the whole gospel," he said.

George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group, said the plans for the day fit into a pattern of expressions of concern by church groups about the poor and disadvantaged. But while most Americans consider poverty to be a

major issue, only one in five adults surveyed gave time or money to help the poor in the previous 12 months.

"I think the real question will be: 'Beyond a one-day event, will Christians actually take the ball and run with it for a prolonged period of time?'" Barna said.

Pelton said the recent focus by some evangelicals on racial reconciliation and prayer for their cities has helped propel Jesus Day 2000 participants to do more work outside their church walls. "There's just a whole new climate."

MaryRose Ramos, organizer for the events in Hayward, Calif., said the unity that began with groups marching and singing together in the streets once a year has served as a foundation for them to work together now in other ways.

"It's kind of along with that 'What Would Jesus Do?' kind of thing," she said. "When He was here, He didn't sit only in the temple. He was out among the people. There's a need to do that. Our churches have abundance and we need to share that."

Local organizers also said the infusion of a service-oriented aspect of the day has boosted church involvement in Jesus Day.

"I think people really have been touched with the vision of having a joint day of service and celebration," said

Jeanine Guidry, Jesus Day 2000 organizer for Richmond, Va. "A lot of times in the Christian world we see either/or... The vision behind Jesus Day is that they're both part of the same picture."

Phil Eberhart, an Episcopal priest and the citywide director for Jesus Day 2000 in Denver, said there are more mainline Protestants and a wider array of denominations involved this year than in the past March for Jesus events.

"The needs are so great in our culture that I think everyone can rally around that and work together," he said.

Ramos said churches in the San Francisco Bay area are "adopting" blocks for the day—from a trailer park to areas known for gang activity to a block where middle-class, working people live.

"Feeding the hungry can also mean the spiritually hungry," she said. "We didn't want to go just to disadvantaged areas. We wanted to do things that were appropriate for all the people that are here."

Pelton said he wants the goal for Jesus Day 2000—that no child will be hungry, that those who are suffering will not be alone—to become everyday goals for Christians across the globe.

"This day represents what we're hoping will become a lifestyle for the church and the nation."

### Memorials and scholarships

Memorial Day is always an emotional day for me because it is a day of remembrance and honor of those who were killed in wartime. I feel a sense of indebtedness to those who gave their lives that I might sleep each night under the blanket of freedom their lives purchased for me.

Memorial Day 2000 took on special meaning for me because it was during the Memorial Day weekend our older son, Justin, graduated from high school. All of you parents and grandparents know the emotions that are manifested on the occasion of a graduation of a family member. One of the pre-graduation traditions at my son's school is a father-son breakfast followed by an awards

ceremony. The first group of awards was scholarships, all of which had been established in memory of a student or a faculty member who had died. One or more members of the family of the deceased student or faculty member in whose memory it had been established presented each scholarship to the recipient. What a moving experience it was. What a tribute it was to the life of the deceased, to the recipient and to the educational institution. Each scholarship re-

ipient was chosen because the recipient in some ways emulated certain desirable characteristics of the deceased student or faculty member. It was a most meaningful experience. It reminded me of how gifts made in tribute of someone special can live on and enrich the lives of countless others.

Let me encourage you to consider such a tribute in honor or memory of someone special in your life. Scholarships for students to attend our Baptist educational institutions are a wonderful way to bring honor to someone special and to provide meaningful financial assistance to students interested in being educated in the context of a Christian institution. Currently the Foundation awards scholarships to stu-

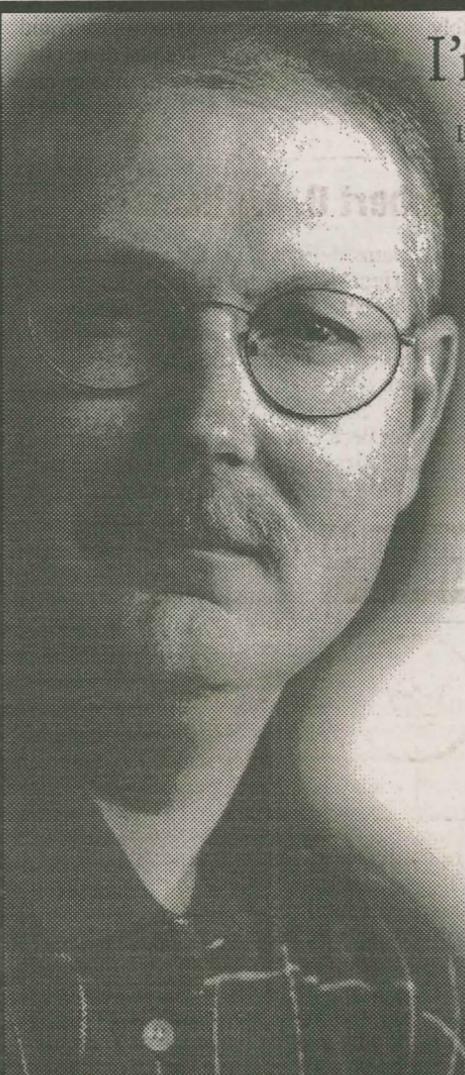
dents who attend Campbellsville, Cumberland, Georgetown, Clear Creek, Mid-Continent, Boyce and Southern Seminary. All of these scholarships are provided by endowment funds established in memory of a loved one. Call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free for information on how you can honor someone you love with a memorial gift.

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

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## Gay issues splitting regional American Baptist group

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

SALT LAKE CITY (RNS)—While Southern Baptist leadership generally is unified in opposition to homosexuality, that doesn't mean the issue is settled among other Baptist denominations.

A regional body of the American Baptist Churches USA has voted to restructure itself, in large part because it is so divided on the issue.

During its recent biennial meeting in Salt Lake City, delegates of the American Baptist Churches of the Northwest voted "with deep regret" to begin a process to determine how it can be reformulated to meet the needs of congregations and individuals who differ over controversial aspects of theology and sexuality.

The move, decided last month, was approved by a wide margin, 184-46.

The decision came on the recommendation of a mediation group that met in March and determined restructuring was necessary.

"The mediation group felt that the region as it is now composed ... cannot exist in that form because the differences on homosexuality cause such tensions that we cannot function as one," said Paul Aita, executive minister of the Kent, Wash.-based regional group.

"Restructuring means very possibly dividing into two or more regions."

The American Baptist Churches of the Northwest currently includes about

200 congregations in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Utah, and one each in Oregon and Nevada.

Aita expects the regional body to be "radically different" after the two-year process and said its final new look could be complicated by financial, legal and denominational implications.

But the divisions over not only homosexuality but the authority of Scripture and the autonomy of churches have brought them to this point, Aita and others in the regional body said.

"We realize that we are in a troubled marriage and if we're going to have a divorce, we'd like to do everything we can to have an amicable divorce," he said.

At the same meeting, a proposal to dismiss member congregations that are members of any group that "affirms the practice of homosexuality as being consistent with Christian teaching" was defeated. The vote was 161 in favor and 92 opposed, falling short of a required two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

Jim Steiner, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Boise, Idaho, was disappointed his proposed amendment to the bylaws did not pass but said the regional group must now move on to the new process.

"As a matter of peace, there is a place where one has to just recognize that we just can't live life together and continue ... with the same mission and message," he said. "We just do not believe that we have the same mission and message as well as a general under-

### Presbyterian decision on homosexuality causes stir

BALTIMORE (RNS)—In a symbolic victory for pro-homosexual Christian groups, the highest court of the Presbyterian Church (USA) ruled May 24 that individual churches and presbyteries have the right to conduct same-sex union ceremonies for gay couples, as long as the church does not equate such ceremonies with Christian marriage, in either a spiritual or a legal sense.

While the decision does not carry the weight of church law and largely maintains the church's informal policy, the ruling dramatically alters the dynamics of the debate as the church prepares for its annual meeting this month.

The church's Permanent Judicial Council met in Baltimore last month to hear three challenges to the church's positions on homosexuality. In one case, the court agreed with a New York group of churches that because the denomination's Book of Order does not explicitly prohibit same-sex unions, churches are free to conduct them.

In a second case, the church agreed to let a gay New Jersey seminarian continue with his studies, saying the church's ban on gay clergy applies to ordained ministers, not clergy candidates.

The court delayed a decision on whether a Vermont church can openly defy churchwide standards for church leaders that call for "fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness." A decision on that case is expected in July.

The ruling comes at a crucial time for the 2.5 million-member church as it prepares for its annual General Assembly meeting in Long Beach, Calif., June 24-July 1. Delegates will be asked to vote on whether the church should issue a blanket prohibition against the blessing of same-sex union ceremonies.

The decision prompted quick reaction from those on both sides of the debate within the church.

standing of (what) scriptural authority means."

Steiner was part of the mediation process that failed to produce any other alternative.

"We were trying to find a better way and we were not able to find a better way other than reorganizing, which is a fancy way of saying, 'We're going to have a split but let's plan it,'" he said.

The decision by the Northwestern group comes six months after the denomination's General Board decided to

amend its previous decision that would have ousted four California churches from the denomination. They had been dismissed by the American Baptist Churches of the West for welcoming gays and lesbians.

In November, the General Board postponed the date of the termination of the denominational status for each church to June 30, 2001, giving them time to affiliate with another regional group and maintain their affiliation with the national body.

### Remembering Rev. Robert O. Williams

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College and Kentucky Baptists lost a great friend and passionate scholar when Robert O. Williams passed away May 24.

Williams served churches in Kentucky, Ohio and Illinois, most recently serving as pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville from 1963 to 1988.

From 1952 to 1954, Williams served as a chaplain in the Air Force. After his discharge, he continued to serve as a chaplain in the Air Force Reserve and Kentucky Air National Guard until 1980. He also supervised many Southern Seminary students in hands-on ministry training.

We at Cumberland College remember him most for the Carl Williams Cross Museum, which he donated to Cumberland in 1992 in memory of his son Carl, a pastor and graduate of Cumberland. His cross collection began with the cross he wore as an Air Force chaplain and now numbers more than 7,000 items as well as an extensive library.

Williams collected crosses of every size and description and made of every material imaginable. Behind many of the crosses are stories of lives transformed by God. Will-

iams delighted in telling those stories. A prison inmate sculpted a metal cross with an unshackled chain at its foot indicating the genuine freedom from sin one can have only through Christ.

Some collectors are content to collect, but Williams used his collection to teach and witness to God's love and plan. He understood

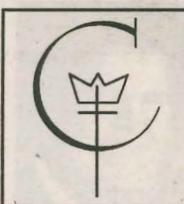
what God had accomplished through Christ's death on the cross and wanted everyone to have the opportunity to hear and accept that good news. Williams was fond of saying, "God gave us the cross; the cross gives us God."

Cumberland College honored Williams in 1997 with an honorary doctorate for his faithful service as a pastor and his creation of the cross museum. We will miss the warmth, wisdom and passion for Christ of this Christian gentleman.

His passion for the cross strengthened our understanding of God's sacrifice and love. We are honored to join his family in continuing his work and witness through the cross museum.

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

#### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



### Summertime prayers

The mercury is rising, and with it comes a new set of activities and challenges for KBHC. Like you, we have yards to take care of; like you, we have camps, outings and projects to plan; like you, we have kids getting ready for college in just a few short months.

I'm asking that you would alter your prayers for KBHC during this season. Our graduating seniors really need your petitions. This is an exciting yet frightening transition. Many of our teenagers have been in the care of the state for years and have little or no family support. Pray that the Lord will guide them to safe, compassionate and wise people to help them embark on this treacherous journey we call "adulthood."

Keeping kids busy is a challenge for any home, so imagine our task of keeping hundreds of active minds and bodies occupied. Pray that God will give our staff an extra boost of creativity and energy to meet this challenge. Summer also offers opportunities for our children to go on home visits. Pray that these vacations will be times of family healing.

Pray that God will be able to use the many spiritual growth opportunities available to our kids. Young-

er children in foster care will be heading to vacation Bible schools. Teenagers will be going on mission trips or to Christian camp. Through your donations and support, KBHC is hosting its fourth year of summer camp and retreats for our children and teens in residential and foster care. These opportunities are what make KBHC unique among child care providers in the commonwealth and the nation. Thank you for making this possible!

Finally, please continue to pray that God will give us wisdom as we prepare to face the American Civil Liberties Union in court. I have been encouraged personally by the words and expressions of support I have received through letters, e-mail and phone calls, and as I've traveled

the state playing in our golf tournaments and speaking at our community forums. Your faithfulness, and the faithfulness of our God, keep me going. Thank you in advance for your prayers.

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

#### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

## Israel might ban women's prayer at wall

**Typically, according to Orthodox custom, only men are permitted to conduct formal services and wear ritual items of dress. Women normally pray silently on the other side of a barrier at Jerusalem's Western Wall.**

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Women who read from the Torah or wear Jewish ritual garments such as a prayer shawl at Jerusalem's Western Wall could face a seven-year jail term if proposed legislation is adopted by Israel's Knesset.

The bill passed a preliminary Knesset reading with a 29-25 majority after being submitted in a surprise move by the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party. The bill must pass two more votes, however, before actually becoming law.

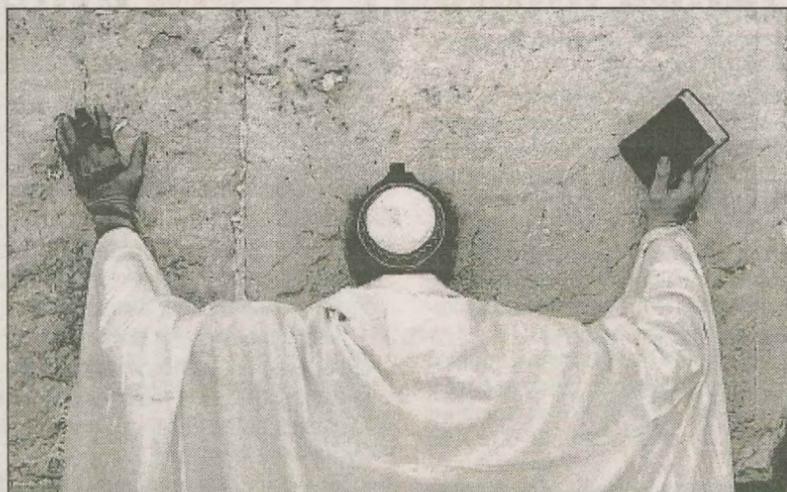
The proposal sent shock waves through Israeli society, sharply divided along religious-secular lines, and fanned the flames of a debate over women's prayer services at the wall—Judaism's most sacred shrine.

Last month the nation's Supreme Court ruled the state must permit women to conduct public prayer services at the wall, reading aloud from the Torah, or Jewish Bibles, and wearing prayer shawls or other ritual garments.

Typically, according to Orthodox custom, only men are permitted to conduct formal services and wear ritual items of dress. Women normally pray silently on the other side of a barrier.

Ultra-Orthodox politicians had publicly vowed last month to circumvent the recent court decision with legislative action.

But the severity of the proposed law generated an immediate outcry among liberal and secular sectors of Israeli society.



**WESTERN WALL** A man praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem uses tefillin—a leather band with two boxes worn on the left arm and forehead during prayer. A bill in Israel's legislature could make it a crime for women to perform similar rituals at Judaism's holiest site. (RNS file photo)

"What have we become—Afghanistan?" said left-wing Meretz Knesset member Naomi Chazan, reacting to the preliminary vote.

Ya'acov Litzman, an ultra-Orthodox Knesset member, countered in defense of the proposed legislation: "There is no greater desecration of a holy place than that of women who come to the Western Wall to create a provocation, including the use of Torah scrolls. That right in Jewish law belongs only to men."

In a related development, Israel's State Attorney Edna Arbel is also preparing to ask the Supreme Court to reconsider its recent ruling, on the

grounds the decision could provoke violence and that other suitable sites for non-Orthodox prayer services are available near the sacred shrine.

A site known as Robinson's Arch, a few hundred meters from the Western Wall pavilion, was recently designated by the government as a site where non-Orthodox prayer services could be conducted, including mixed services of men and women. The Robinson's Arch site is structurally part of the western retaining wall of the biblical Herodian-era temple, but it is somewhat removed from the usual focus of Orthodox prayers.

## Death toll rising for Indonesian violence against Christians

HALMAHERA, Indonesia (RNS)—Exactly one week after 34 Christians died in a Muslim attack on Halmahera island in the Indonesian province of North Maluku, at least 44 Christians died May 29 during a raid on the same island.

North Maluku military chief Lt. Col. Sukarwo said at least 102 people were injured in the latest attack, which the military suspects may have been initiated by Muslim troops—known as Laskar Jihad, or Holy War Troops—from a neighboring island.

More than 2,000 such troops are believed to have entered the Maluku provinces, and the group's leader has promised to launch a holy war against Christians in the region, according to Associated Press.

Sukarwo said he could not confirm reports another 17 people were killed May 30 on the island.

North Maluku and Maluku provinces—known as the Spice Islands during the Dutch colonial era—have been plagued by religious clashes between Christians and Muslims since violence first erupted in the provincial capital of Ambon in January of last year. About 2,500 people have died in the fighting.

## We need your help again

In less than two weeks, we will honor our fathers on Father's Day. This day is also the time for the annual Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

Four weeks ago, we mailed materials about the offering to every church in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In the box was a cover letter to the pastor or church leader. We tried to share some basic information about Oneida and our ministry.

We will be able to meet the needs of our students only with the support of Kentucky Baptists and others. Last year, 34 percent of our students paid \$1.50 per day or less to attend our school. Needless to say, it costs a lot more than \$1.50 per day to care for them. In fact, the cost to care for each student last year was nearly \$900 per month. It seems that Oneida has always had a disproportionate number of students from low-income families. Since the tuition is income-based, you can readily see why we have so many children with special financial needs. From the information I can gather, Oneida has the third-lowest tuition of any boarding school in the United States. The average boarding school in America charges about \$20,000 per year. Yet the average student at Oneida last year paid a little over \$1,800, or about \$168 per month.

But the Father's Day Offering is about more than money; it is also about information. The boxes we mailed to the churches included posters and colorful brochures about Oneida. We want you to be informed about OBI so you will be able to encourage a student who could benefit from our ministry to consider enrolling this summer or fall.

If you have been reading this column the past two months, you have read excerpts from essays

written by seven of our seniors. Those essays were not written as a class assignment, and no grade was given. They wrote simply because I asked them to. During the past several weeks you have read, in their own words, how Oneida has helped these young people. Nearly every student talked about low, sometimes very low, grades before coming to Oneida. In most of the essays, you read about the dramatic improvements they made academically.

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Other students told about family conflicts and a lack of discipline at home or at school. In their own words, they told how Oneida helped them grow and mature into responsible young people.

In nearly every essay, students told about either growing as Christians or becoming Christians while here. Time and again they talked about chapel and what an impact it had on their lives. I can tell you firsthand that there are few things that will touch your soul as much as knowing a student before and after inviting Christ into his or her life.

If your church has not made the Father's Day materials available, would you encourage your pastor to consider displaying the literature? Remember, I came to Oneida as a junior in high school because my Sunday school teacher and a deacon told me about OBI. They also shared with me the benefits of a Christian boarding school environment. It is my prayer that you or someone in your church will be instrumental in a student coming to Oneida.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org)

## God also calls younger people

Fairfield, Ohio, native Anthony Lovett surrendered to preach at age 19 and had preached only once before moving to the Clear Creek campus. He preached 11 times by the end of the semester.

"Three kids were saved at Oneida Baptist Institute," Anthony exclaimed. "At first it felt funny to be a preacher, but God has shown me I don't need to be hesitant."

Anthony has come a long way since he was baptized only because he wanted to play on a church basketball team. "I was around Christian people, but they never told me about how to be saved," Anthony recalled. "Even a Christian girl I dated never really witnessed to me."

Then he met Rick Trent and Larry Cain on a construction job. The two told him about Christ and Anthony went to church with them. "I was saved on Sept. 20, 1998. That morning was a trial sermon for the preacher who became my pastor and took me under his wing," Anthony said. "As a lost person I got into a few fights and had a foul language problem. The Lord delivered me from that and an ungodly situation with my ex-fiancee."

Anthony completed the Experiencing God course at his church. After he testified in worship, deacons would ask, "When are you going to surrender to preach?" He resisted the call at first because he didn't want the decision to be what others thought he should do rather than what God desired.

Evangelist Ronnie Owens, a Clear Creek alumnus, told him about Clear Creek. In need of \$500 to register for classes, Anthony's grandfather's brother asked him about finances and told Anthony, "I'll write you a check." The Lord provided for Anthony's need before he received official notice of admission.

Director of Financial Aid Sam Risner described Anthony as "very resourceful. He comes from a large family and has worked since age 14 and pulled more than his weight to provide support."

Rick Trent notes, "Anthony is exceedingly fervent in witnessing to others around him." Anthony affirms the wisdom of our admitting students under age 21.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Salvation Army takes ministry where others shy away

By Frank Brown  
Religion News Service

GROZNY, Russia (RNS)—To reach the obliterated city of Grozny, humanitarian aid truck convoys run a gauntlet of a half-dozen Russian military checkpoints where surly soldiers check documents, affect menacing looks and sometimes extort minor bribes.

It is a well-choreographed, monotonous routine performed dozens of times a day.

It all fell to pieces, however, when the Salvation Army trucks came along.

At checkpoint after checkpoint on a recent journey into Grozny, soldiers skipped all the formalities and greeted the lead Salvation Army vehicle with a polite request for a Salvation Army button. Just like American kids fixated on Pokemon, Russian recruits stationed in Chechnya are obsessed with getting the dime-sized Salvation Army lapel pins.

At one muddy roadblock surrounded by barbed wire and manned by tanned soldiers with automatic rifles beneath their olive ponchos, an ominous voice boomed over the public address system: "Where are the buttons? They promised us buttons."

The fad on the front line of Russia's battle against Muslim rebel fighters is perhaps an indication of soldiers' boredom or maybe that they view themselves as agents of salvation. If nothing else it is a powerful testimony to the Salvation Army's gutsy presence in a desolate place few other religious aid agencies have dared venture.

"We are the first to get to places in the hills where they are still shooting," said Idris Musayev, 40, coordinator of the Salvation Army's project, as he led the convoy east to Grozny in a small Russian-made Lada car.

Musayev, an ethnic Chechen and a Muslim, is intensely proud of his work with the evangelical Protestant organization that is far more active in the region than the country's Russian Orthodox Church or various



Muslim humanitarian groups.

When the Salvation Army first started distributing baby food to villages and towns in the breakaway republic of Chechnya on March 2, the Russian military was still battling for them.

Now, heavy fighting has given way to isolated hit-and-run guerrilla attacks and the daytime security situation has somewhat stabilized.

Despite the improvements, large humanitarian organizations like United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have chosen to stay out of Chechnya, instead focusing on the estimated 215,000 refugees living in temporary shelters just across the border in Ingushetia. That means the Salvation Army's \$100,000-a-month baby food pro-

gram is vital to those Chechen mothers and infants who remain behind in the ravaged republic.

On a recent weekday morning, the Salvation Army's mud-spattered white trucks pulled into the village of Cheri-Yurt, located about 10 miles from Grozny and home to 22,000 people, 10,000 of them new arrivals fleeing fighting elsewhere in Chechnya.

According to the women standing in line for the Salvation Army food package for children 5 years old and younger, this was the first time any such aid had been distributed in the town since normal food deliveries were disrupted with the onset of fighting last October.

Mali Takhterova, a 40-year-old housewife, explained how she recently gave birth to an underweight son.

"We didn't have enough to eat. The baby was born at just 1.6 kilograms (under 4 pounds)," Takhterova said as she stood in line with other local women. "There won't be many more new children here anytime soon. There's just not enough to feed them with."

Each food package contains enough juice, dry milk, porridge and puree to sustain a child for three weeks, said Salvation Army Capt. Geoff Ryan, a wiry Canadian with a close-cropped beard who launched the Army's program in the region and sometimes rides shotgun with Musayev.

Ryan said he envisioned the children's food packages as a way of filling a niche not covered by other aid groups.

"A lot of the women who are supposed to be lactating are not because of all the trauma," said Ryan, 37,

who estimates there is sufficient funding for the Army's program to operate in Chechnya through October.

Ryan is the only Salvation Army member working in Chechnya, and even he only makes periodic visits. The rest of the staff are Muslims. While the Army's traditional evangelizing activities have been put on hold, that doesn't mean the Salvation Army is shy about its identity, Ryan said.

Rivaling the popularity of the Salvation Army's lapel pins are the Salvation Army pocket calendars on which the organization's Christian principles are clearly stated.

"I bet at this point you'd have a hard time finding a Chechen without one," Ryan said, explaining that his aid workers have given out about 40,000 of the calendars.

"I want to make sure it is clear right up front that we are a Christian organization. I don't want anybody later saying that we hid anything," he added.

Leaders of Russia's dominant Russian Orthodox Church sometimes complain of Western missionaries using deceptive tactics. The Russian Orthodox Church itself has taken little interest in the humanitarian crisis caused by the war, which the church's hierarchy has strongly backed.

This identification in the popular mind linking Russian Orthodoxy and the Russian military makes evangelizing the Chechen people a daunting task for the Salvation Army, Ryan said.

"To most of them, the face of Christianity is a Russian soldier carrying a Kalashnikov (rifle) and wearing a cross around his neck."

### GROZNY OUTREACH

Salvation Army workers distribute baby food in the village of Cheri-Yurt, south of Grozny in Chechnya. The Christian relief organization is one of the few religious groups of any kind with a ministry in the region. (RNS photos)



ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS Salvation Army workers Idris Musayev, foreground, with his assistant Ali, in front of a bombed-out building on the outskirts of Grozny.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Missionary Mack Sacco in Warsaw, Poland, as he shares the gospel with several men he recently met.
- Recent graduates of the Baptist seminary in Poland.
- Someone to serve as strategy coordinator of the ministry in Warsaw, Poland.
- The growing ministry among children in the village of Kiberege, Tanzania.
- The town of Gairo, Tanzania, where missionaries John and Nancy Laramore and two young national pastors are beginning a new church.
- Four church planters needed to begin congregations in Greater Boston.
- The partnership between Calvary Baptist Church in Franklin, Ky., and a new church beginning in Waltham, Mass., this summer.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CORBIN**—Oak Grove Church called **Steven Mayle** as pastor starting June 4. Mayle previously was pastor of Jenkins First Church.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church called **David Metz** and **Ryan Ventura** as co-directors of student ministries. **French Harmon** is pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church called **Michael Sanders** as minister of youth. **Kevin Lee** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Retired minister **Davis King** died May 21. King, 81, served 51 years in the ministry including more than 20 years as county missionary/pastor at Sandy Hook Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Eighteenth Street

Church will host **Betty Jean Robinson** in concert June 24, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 778-3016. **Randy Constant** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will dedicate its new sanctuary June 11, with 10:30 a.m. worship, lunch and 2 p.m. worship. For information, call (502) 454-4681. **William Shoulta** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—South Hampton Church called **Timothy Roberts** as pastor effective June 1.

■ **MYRA**—Michael Combs will be in concert June 9, 7 p.m. at Faith Church. For information call Pastor **Dave Hammond** (606) 855-4645.

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

**FOR SALE:** New 1999 Dodge easy-access vans: 15-passenger, raised-roof, lowered stepwell, center aisle, ducted rear heat and a/c, plus many more options. Retail: \$35,739; net cost after rebates and discounts: \$29,990. Call (800) 582-7118.

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

**SEEKING:** Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, is seeking a director for its weekday education program. Interested applicants should call the children's ministries office at (606) 272-3441.

**SEEKING:** Bloomfield Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of worship. Please send all resumés to: Michael Bayne, minister of youth and education, Bloomfield Baptist Church, PO Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist, Oak Grove, Ky. We are located between Hopkinsville, Ky., and Clarksville, Tenn. Send resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 27, Oak Grove, KY 42262.

**SEEKING:** Stanford Baptist Church invites applications for the position of senior pastor. We're a rural-town church in a fast-growing area of beautiful central Kentucky. We have an outstanding music ministry, youth ministry and Christian Life Center program. Please send inquiries or resumés to: Pulpit Committee, Stanford Baptist Church, 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484, or call (606) 365-2178.

**SEEKING:** Pianist for small Baptist church near Audubon Park area in Louisville. Only ability to play traditional hymns required. Paid position. Contact Charles Smith, (502) 499-6962.

**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.

## Pakistani Christians fear persecution might follow blasphemy law flip-flop

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (RNS)—A decision by Pakistan's military ruler not to amend the nation's blasphemy laws has the nation's Christian minority fearful that they could be tried for blasphemy against Islam.

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in October, said earlier this year that he would amend the nation's laws against blasphemy so that blasphemy charges could be filed only after a thorough investigation.

Minority religious faiths in Pakistan, including Christians, say the blasphemy laws unfairly targeted them. Those convicted of blasphemy against Islam, a capital crime, face death sentences.

Several Christians have been sen-

tenced to death for violating the blasphemy laws in recent years, according to Ecumenical News International, but those sentences were later overturned. Two Christians who had their sentences overturned, however, were later murdered.

Under pressure from hardline Islamic groups, Musharraf announced May 17 that he would not amend the laws.

That decision has upset the nation's Christian minority. Boney Mendis, a Catholic priest and director of the Development Center in Faisalabad, told ENI that the blasphemy laws are "hanging like a sword on the head of Christians." Mendis said he would fight to overturn the laws.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth pastor. Send resumé to: Ridgewood Baptist Church, 7891 Ridge Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281. (330) 334-2534 or e-mail rbc@en.com.

**SEEKING:** South Elkhorn Baptist Church, Lexington, is prayerfully seeking a full-time associate pastor of music and youth. Send resumé to SEBC, 4867 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40510, Attn: Search Committee.

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

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

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

**SEEKING:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** 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:** Growing church in fast-growing community five miles south of Springfield, Mo., is seeking an energetic worship leader with a secondary emphasis in one of the following: education, evangelism, administration or family ministries. Send a letter of interest and resumé by Aug. 1, 2000, to: Hopedale Baptist Church, 5370 N. Highway NN, Ozark, MO 65721, Attn: Personnel Committee, or e-mail in Word document format to: tkendric@hopedale.org. We are praying for you.

**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:** 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:** Gethsemane Baptist Church, 10400 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229 (Okolona), is currently seeking someone to fill the position of minister of music. This is a part-time position. Responsibilities will include leading worship services in traditional and contemporary music, leading the adult choir and working with a youth choir. We are a mission-minded, ministry-minded fellowship of believers seeking someone who is inspirational and led of the Lord to lead in dynamic worship. Resumés should be sent to the church address in care of the Personnel Committee. You may contact the church at (502) 969-3191 if you have any questions.

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

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

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## Super Bowl quarterback promotes victory in Jesus

By Hillary Wicai  
Religion News Service

ST. LOUIS (RNS)—No one could have imagined Kurt Warner's transition from stock boy at an Iowa grocery store to quarterback for the Super Bowl championship winning St. Louis Rams.

But Warner told a crowd of 25,000 at the Trans World Dome in St. Louis that during all those years when he wondered if he'd ever make it, God was holding him out for St. Louis.

Not, the quarterback said, because St. Louis needed help winning the Super Bowl, but because St. Louis needed a champion like him to proclaim the gospel.

"If you give your life to Jesus Christ, He's going to put you in the right place at the right time to touch lives," Warner said. And that, he added, is what he wants to do.

Warner and three other members of the Rams team took turns telling their triumphant tales of overcoming adversities like injuries, poverty and doubt to a diverse crowd at an event Warner helped create called Victory 2000, which took place May 20.

"I had talked briefly with the pastor of my church (about wanting) to go around and speak but it was going to be too difficult to reach every church, every scenario that people wanted me to come talk to," Warner said after the event. "I said I would love to put together some different venues, maybe here, maybe in Iowa, you know where I could touch a lot of people at one time."

Warner's pastor, Jeff Perry of St. Louis Family Church, took it from there.

In just six weeks they raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, organized 1,500 volunteers, rented the Dome,

signed Christian music superstars Kirk Franklin and the Supertones, and built a stage complete with rock concert quality audio system and four large video screens.

"Jesus mandates we go and preach the gospel," Perry said. And this was too good an opportunity to pass up.

Victory 2000 was free and open to the public. Perry estimates the event cost more than \$600,000. St. Louis Family Church has raised more than \$450,000 so far to offset the cost.

Warner even had an emergency appendectomy earlier in the week, but didn't let that get in the way. He joked and thanked the crowd for coming out to his "get well party."

"We put it together in six weeks and it's just a blessing and the number of people that stood up and asked the Lord into their life. That's what it's all about," Warner said.

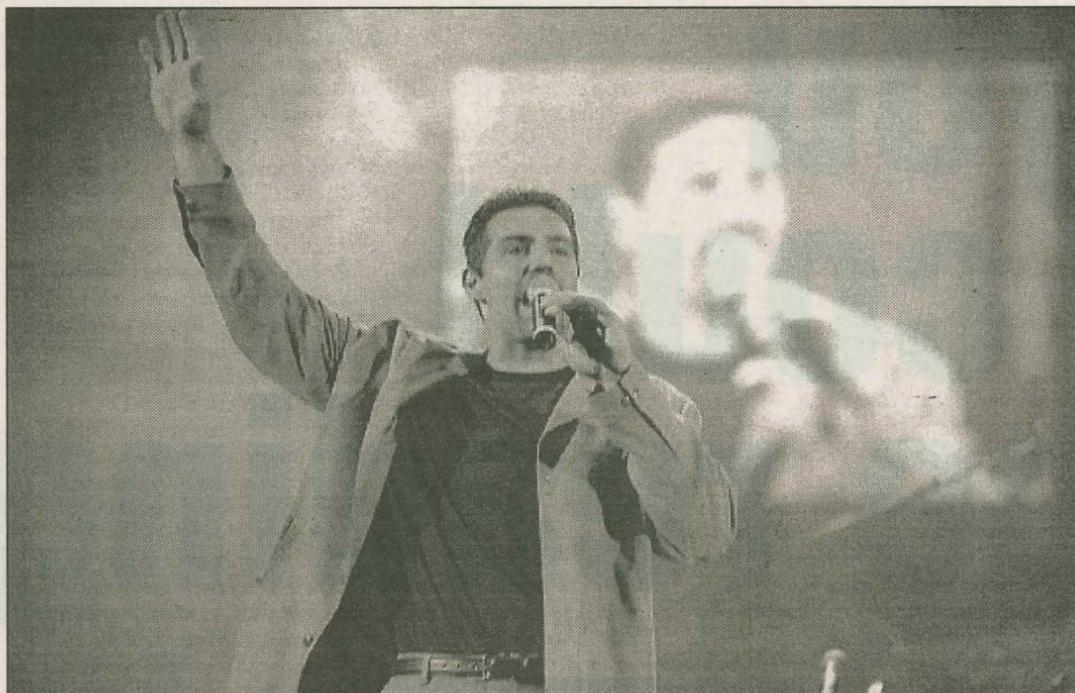
His wife, Brenda, joined Warner on stage. She described her struggles just eight years ago, when she and her kids were on food stamps and Warner stocked groceries. "We had no money," she said. They wanted to take the kids to McDonald's for Happy Meals but couldn't afford it.

Now, she joked, they can afford Happy Meals but have to eat them in the car because so many people mob her husband.

The diverse crowd made up of black and white, city dwellers and suburbanites, young and even some elderly went wild for the triumphant tales.

Fifteen-year-old Melissa Schroeder said she made the journey downtown because she wanted to see the athletes. She said she was particularly moved by tight end Ernie Conwell's testimony.

Conwell told the crowd he played for three losing seasons with the Rams. Then someone fell on his left knee and



tore three of his ligaments. The injury meant he had to sit out most of the 1999 winning season. "It took a lot of strength to get me through," Conwell said. "But I knew God had a plan for my life." Conwell went on to make a big catch in the Super Bowl.

Rams' defensive end Kevin Carter said people always called him an underachiever and in the past two years he's had more injuries than he's ever had in his life, not exactly the ingredients for a championship season.

"God allowed me to tap into the greatness of His power," Carter said. Carter, who leads the National Football League in sacks, played the best football he ever played in the last two injury-filled years.

"What can I do?" Carter wondered.

"I'm just a football player. What impact can I have?" He told the crowd the key is to be yielded to God, to be willing to be used. Teens in the crowd stood and held up homemade signs; with such messages as: "Our God is an awesome God."

Rams' linebacker Mike Jones said he had told his wife he wanted to be a "warrior for Christ." A tackle by Jones helped secure the Rams' Super Bowl victory. "As you can see I'm not the biggest, I'm not the fastest, I'm not the strongest person to play in the NFL. And you can say the same thing about one of my heroes, David. David wasn't the biggest or the strongest, but he had the faith in God to get him through," Jones said as the crowd screamed their approval.

**VICTORY** St. Louis Rams quarterback Kurt Warner exhorts Christians in a crowd of 25,000 people to use the stage God has given them to share their faith.

## Former exotic dancer works to debunk 'Pretty Woman' fantasy

By Kristi Hodge  
Florida Baptist Convention

ORLANDO—The Cinderella plot of the 1990 comedy film "Pretty Woman" epitomizes every prostitute's dream.

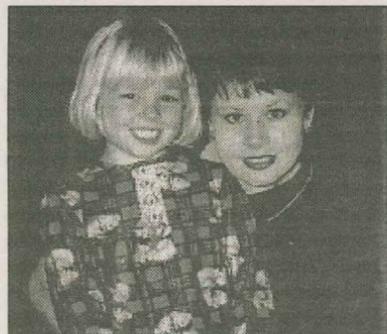
Vivian Ward (played by Julia Roberts) is hired by a millionaire businessman from out of town, Edward Lewis (Richard Gere), as his "date" for a series of business functions. They fall in love and Lewis, a modern-day prince charming, whisks her away to a new life in the lap of luxury.

Tammy Dahl bought into the dream of just such a "happy ending" for a while. She allowed herself to be bought—until the price on her soul became too high.

Dahl, a former exotic dancer in Orlando, used to measure her worth in terms of how much money and how much attention she received from men. Part of the lure of working in the so-called "gentlemen's clubs" was the promise of fast money and a feeling of power.

"Girls are trapped in this industry because of the money," said Dahl, who began dancing as a way to pay her bills.

She now heads Out of Exile, a non-denominational ministry that seeks to help women out of the adult entertain-



**NEW ATTITUDE** Tammy Dahl, pictured with her 5-year-old daughter, is a former exotic dancer in Orlando. She shares her faith with other dancers through Out of Exile ministry.

ment industry and educate churches on how to witness to them.

Dahl spoke at the annual Florida Woman's Missionary Union meeting to share her story and the stories of other women who have escaped drugs, prostitution and other criminal activity through the life-changing power of Christ.

As part of Crossover Orlando, an outreach effort that will precede the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 13-14, prayerwalks are being coordinated to reach out to women on the streets of Orlando—particu-

larly along the city's "Orange Blossom Trail." Crossover activities will take place primarily on Saturday, June 10.

Dahl teaches a seminar to churches, titled "Dispelling the Myths of the Exotic Dancer," using material developed by Lisanne McMurray of LightDancers Ministry.

As an exotic dancer at high-priced gentlemen's clubs, Dahl said she lived in an intoxicating underworld of money, sex and drugs offered to her by wealthy professionals with plenty of money to spend.

Eventually the excitement dimmed. One of Dahl's fellow dancers committed suicide, leaving Dahl considering the same alternative.

Then she found out she was pregnant. She considered abortion, but a co-worker at a bank where Dahl had found work told her that terminating the pregnancy would haunt her for the rest of her life.

Dahl, also encouraged by her mother, decided to have the baby. A friend helped her find a home to stay in. After having her daughter, who is now 5 years old, Dahl found an apartment for exactly the price she could afford and received a raise for the specific amount she needed to pay for child care.

Dahl said those provisions helped her see God's hand turning her away

from her life as an exotic dancer and toward a new life in Him, including helping other women see their value to God.

Dahl still goes to the strip clubs, but now she goes to witness to the dancers. She tells them of God's love and their value to Him. Many are thankful and turn to her now for spiritual advice.

Dahl said her involvement in exotic dancing and prostitution started after a failed attempt to seek guidance from a church when her live-in boyfriend had left her alone and penniless.

"They gave me money for a month but wanted something to show for it. I was still trying to make ends meet. I needed more help and I needed more than just the money," Dahl said. The church declined further help, she said, and didn't offer spiritual counseling.

Hoping to help others avoid such instances, Dahl tells church leaders how to reach out to women in trouble. She cautions that well-intentioned gifts of money to help them on their way will not solve the girls' problems—only an understanding and acceptance of God's love will do that.

"I want to dive into the Bible now," Dahl said. "I just can't get enough of it. It shows me that God cared about me all along, and other girls deserve to know that, too."

**"Girls are trapped in this industry because of the money."**

Former exotic dancer Tammy Dahl

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