

June 13, 2000
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News Director

LOUISVILLE—When Melanie Hammer returned from Christian Women's Job Corps training in 1997, she thought she could have the ministry, designed to mentor low-income women, up and running in Louisville within a year.

Three years later, she's happy to report that the project is about to offer job-hunting skills courses and one volunteer recently started mentoring a client.

"You want things to happen right now, but like all good ministries I think it takes a lot of prayer and planning," Hammer said. "Our delay has come in getting the word out to the community for women who are on

welfare and are seeking to find jobs and find better jobs, ... to find them and introduce ourselves to them."

Her experience is not unique. Slow starts have not been uncommon throughout the Bluegrass State and the nation, according to Woman's Missionary Union leaders.

Launched in 1996 by the national WMU organization, Christian Women's Job Corps is designed to link Christian mentors with low-income women. In addition to weekly Bible studies, mentors help women enter the work place. Services can range from offering child care to structured, weekly seminars on everything from resume writing and goal setting to computer literacy.

In general, WMU officials say they are excited with the program. In four

years, Christian Women's Job Corps has grown from five pilot sites to 130 sites in 34 states. Officials say more than 1,350 women have taken steps to move from homelessness, hopelessness and joblessness to lives that include jobs, financial security and self-sufficiency.

Plans are being developed to take the concept both internationally and into prisons for women ready to be released.

But despite the program's successes, officials admit its progress has been slower than some anticipated.

In Kentucky, more than 40 women have been trained to be local ministry coordinators.

"There's great interest in Christian Women's Job Corps," said Tonya Williams, an associate director for Kentucky WMU who is responsible for the ministry statewide.

Thus far, however, only the Little River Baptist Center in Cadiz has offered job-training courses for clients. Hammer in Louisville is joined by leaders in Northern Kentucky, Georgetown and a handful of other cities who hope to kick off the full ministry in the near future, Williams added.

"It takes a lot of training and it takes a lot of time, so a lot of people come up against walls," she said. "The training is real extensive. A lot of people go through that and get overwhelmed."

The scope of the program is one reason Job Corps has been slow to take off in many areas, said Trudy Johnson, national coordinator for the ministry at WMU in Birmingham, Ala.

Some other ministries, such as a Bible study at a nursing home, can be
□ See WMU jobs program ..., page 6**Missionaries help Kenyan people group discover God**By Sue Sprengle
SBC International Mission Board

MARALAL, Kenya (BP)—Slowly the crank goes around and around, generating electricity to start the machine. The people sitting around it stare in amazement when the box "speaks."

At first, they laugh nervously. Then a silence falls on the group as they listen to the box tell of a God they do not know.

Don Dolifka, a Southern Baptist missionary in Kenya, offers the hand-cranked tape recorder to a man sitting in the circle. He drops his club and spear to continue cranking. Soon, the group of 10 sits motionless, soaking in every word.

"They'll sit like that, listening to the tapes, until midnight," said Dolifka. "Tomorrow, they'll do the same thing—only next time even more will show up to hear the box that speaks Samburu."

Dolifka and his wife, Mary Alice, say this church-planting method has resulted in more than 150 "contact points" among the Samburu people of northern Kenya. A year ago there were only 10 contact points—places, usually under a tree, where people gather to hear a lesson from the Bible.

The Samburu have not always been this responsive to the gospel. Things have come a long way since the Dolifkas began work with these nomadic cousins of the Maasai people in 1990.

The average Samburu prays
□ See Tape players help ..., page 11**'I had a cellmate'****Documentary shows faith of Vietnam POWs**By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—After surviving ejection from a fighter jet at 550 mph, Roger Invalson prayed more than 30 years ago in a dried-out rice paddy for Christ to "take over" his life.

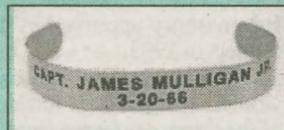
Today he credits his relationship with God with carrying him and many of his fellow prisoners of war in North Vietnam through the torture and isolation that were to follow.

"I had the wonderful psychological feeling that I was really pulling one over on the Vietnamese," Invalson said, describing an extended period of solitary confinement. "They thought I was in there and really suffering by being alone. (But) I had a cellmate ... the entire time I was there. And that was the Lord Jesus Christ."

Invalson's story is one of 10 portrayed in "Prisoners of Hope," a new television documentary produced by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's broadcast communications group that will air on NBC stations beginning June 21. Each soldier shares a similar tale, from the graphic horrors of torture and mistreatment to the strength that each found through faith in Jesus Christ.

Bernie Hargis, producer of the documentary, said the concept grew out of another military-themed television special on Medal of Honor recipients last year titled "Valor." One of the recipients, Col. Leo Thorsness, also had been a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

"When I did his interview and started to tell about that, I saw right

**PRISONERS OF WAR** The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has produced a new television documentary in which former prisoners of war tell how God sustained them during years of torture and isolation. ■ Above: Returning POWs are greeted by family and media when they arrive at Clark Air Force based in the Philippines Feb. 12, 1973. Among them were many of the pilots featured in the documentary. ■ Inset: During the Vietnam War, many Americans wore bracelets with the names of prisoners of war and the dates of their capture as a way of remembering their plight. Like many of those later released, Capt. James Mulligan now has a collection of the bracelets bearing his name sent to him from across the country.

away we needed to do an hour on prisoners of war," Hargis said.

The special is one of two produced each year by NAMB for broadcast by network affiliates of ABC and NBC, which determine when to air them. Each special has sought to reach people with the gospel through personal testimonies of respected individuals.

Hargis found 10 prisoners of war—including several high-ranking officers who since have become widely known political figures—who welcomed the opportunity to openly share Christ's role amid their ordeal.

"One of the things they told me is, 'We've told this story thousands of times, and yet every time it's on television they cut out the part where we tell about God's role in it,'" Hargis

said. Former POWs "were interested in doing the interviews because that's the direction our show was taking."

Hargis said the documentary is something of a departure from previous specials in that it consists of simply the men telling their stories—from an opening montage of the accounts of their captures to the details of their releases years later.

"It's a little graphic," Hargis admitted. "They talk about the gruesome and unpleasant things that they went through. But over and over they bring it back to the way the Lord sustained them and brought them through. And every man told how (he is) a better man, a better Christian or a better husband and father because of what (he) went through."

□ See Documentary tells ..., page 10

Resignations impact Southern's school of church music

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

Texas leader seeks change to SBC report

DALLAS (ABP)—Texas Baptist Executive Director Charles Wade announced he will seek to amend the Baptist Faith and Message when a new version of the statement is proposed this week to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I believe any Baptist statement of faith should clearly affirm soul competency, the priesthood of the believer and local church autonomy, and it should make clear that Christ is our guide for interpreting the Bible," Wade said.

"I will be at the SBC to offer an amendment, which I hope will be a unifying word for Southern Baptists."

LOUISVILLE—Two longtime leaders of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's school of church music and worship have announced their resignations.

Lloyd Mims, dean of the music school, has accepted a position effective July 1 as dean of the school of music and fine arts at Palm Beach Atlantic College, a Baptist school in West Palm Beach, Fla. John Dickson, the music school's associate dean for doctoral studies, will become director of choral activities Aug. 1 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

Mims' wife, Marilyn, has taught since 1994 as the music school's vocal artist in residence. She has accepted a similar post at Palm Beach Atlantic.

Tom Bolton, associate dean for professional studies, has been named interim dean of the music school. Music professor Ronald Turner will serve as associate dean for doctoral studies. Additionally, Chip Stam has been named associate professor of church music and worship. He currently is pastor of music and worship at Chapel Hill Bible Church in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The recent resignations come amid decreasing enrollment at Southern's school of church music and worship. Although seminary officials declined to cite specific enrollment figures, semi-

nary president Al Mohler attributed much of the decline to shrinking enrollments in undergraduate music programs that traditionally have fed into graduate-level programs.

"The whole context of musical education is in a time of transition," Mohler said. "Enrollment in undergraduate programs has been seriously declining. At this point, it seems unlikely any graduate program in music can expect to operate with the number of students seen back in the heyday of undergraduate programs producing music majors."

Also noting "shifts in the local church toward different styles of music and musicianship," Mohler said he is "not sure what the right size" of Southern's music school will be in the future.

"We are not primarily concerned at this point about being large or small, but the issue of quality and maintaining leadership," he added.

Mims, who has served on the seminary faculty since 1983, said, "Numbers wise, we're about where everyone else is across the country—and that is down. There's a downward spiral in the number of people majoring in music."

Despite internal challenges faced by the music school, Mims said his decision to leave "has nothing to do with external issues at the seminary or political influences at all."

Citing the potential for rapid growth of the music program at Palm Beach Atlantic, Mims added, "This is a good

point in my life to make a transition."

Although "in one sense, I'm sorry to be leaving the work I'm doing here," Mims said, "I feel the strongest sense it is God's urging for us to move on at this point."

Mohler said Mims "has given superb leadership to the school of church music and worship as dean and has been a wonderful faculty member since his first day."

Mims and his wife "will be missed," Mohler said. "They have added so much to the life and work of Southern Seminary."

Mohler said Dickson also "will be greatly missed," noting that he "is a consummate musician, a man of great gifts."

Dickson, who has served since 1985 as Southern's coordinator of conducting studies, also served the past 14 years as minister of music and worship at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville. He said the music school's enrollment decline played a direct role in his decision to leave.

Although hesitant to express concerns about the music program, Dickson wrote in a recent church newsletter article to Highland members that after 15 years at Southern, "we returned from England this past year to discover a music school severely depleted of singers and with little hope of a rewarding future for a choral conductor."

"As much as I have worked to resist

the politics," he wrote, "the inevitable has finally arrived and we knew we had no choice but to leave."

"It's an issue of numbers," Dickson told the Western Recorder. "That's the gist of the reason I began looking for another position. If there were enough challenges here, I would have stayed."

"At this point in this school there are not sufficient opportunities for me to reinvest myself here for the second half of my ministry career," he explained. "I've looked elsewhere and found a very rewarding opportunity that I believe God has called me to."

Affirming that "the quality of students and the great strength of teaching here at Southern have not diminished," Dickson voiced confidence that current and future music school faculty "will re-energize this school."

Mohler said he has "no doubt we will be able to find the quality of faculty to recruit the quality and quantity of students we will hope to come."

Earlier this year, seminary officials announced plans to restructure the music school to focus more on praise and worship leadership.

"Clearly it is a time of transition," Mohler said. "We are determined that Southern Seminary's school of church music and worship will represent the very best in terms of maintaining a program of quality musical education and reaching out to the churches to develop new models of partnership."

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Lottie Moon gifts set record.** Southern Baptists have set another record by giving more than \$105 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The total for the 1999 offering, which closed May 31, was \$105,443,786, an increase of more than \$3.7 million over the previous year. It was the seventh consecutive year of record receipts and an increase of 31.48 percent over the past decade. The goal for the 2000 offering is \$115 million, an increase of 9 percent over the '99 receipts.

■ **Arsonist torches Georgia church.** A \$10,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest of an arsonist who burned down a Southern Baptist church building in the north Georgia town of Gainesville. Investigators said someone broke into Montgomery Memorial Baptist Church in the early morning hours of June 4 and torched the sanctuary. Firefighters were able to save an adjoining education building, but the sanctuary was a total loss, according to Pastor Fulton Boswell. Officials placed damage estimates at about \$700,000.

■ **Chicago blitz attracts small workforce.** A year after calling for 100,000 volunteers to spread Christianity in Chicago, Southern Baptist officials admit they set their sights too high. About 1,200 out-of-town volunteers have committed to go to Chicago for a July 8 blitz that was expected to climax the major evangelism effort. A similar number have promised to work in the city's suburbs, according to a June 7 article in the Chicago Tribune. A Southern Baptist North American Mission Board official said the agency probably was too bold in taking on a major city for its first effort. NAMB vice president Phil Roberts said the agency already is moving on toward the 2001 "Strategic Focus" cities of Boston and Las Vegas.

■ **Iowa Baptist leader announces retirement.** Wyndell Jones, executive director of the Baptist Convention for Iowa for 15 years, has announced plans to retire at the end of next March. The Iowa convention, with 101 churches, formerly was called the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship. It organized as a state Baptist convention in 1995.

NAMB publication examines Freemasonry

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—A motion referred from last year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting has resulted in a new publication by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board examining Freemasonry's compatibility with Christianity.

The pamphlet, titled "A Closer Look at Freemasonry," is part of an ongoing series by NAMB's interfaith evangelism team examining various belief systems.

While acknowledging the "many charitable endeavors" of Freemasonry, the pamphlet also expands on eight "tenets and teachings" of Freemasonry that were found to be "incompatible with Christianity" in a controversial report on Freemasonry approved by SBC messengers in 1993.

"We decided to write this piece that would expand a little further on some of the things that were stated in the report on Freemasonry," said William Gordon, an interfaith evangelism associate and principle researcher for the pamphlet.

"We tried to be honest in our evaluations," added Rudy Gonzalez, director of the interfaith evangelism team. "The document is not condemning in any way, but simply seeks to put information out so that individuals can arrive at informed conclusions."

The "Closer Look" provides documentation and explanation for the eight concerns of the original 1993 report on Freemasonry, which it summarized with the following statements:

■ "Freemasonry uses offensive, non-biblical and blasphemous terms relating to God."

■ "Freemasonry insists on the use of 'bloody oaths' or obligation, which are strictly forbidden by the Bible" (Matthew 5:34-37).

■ "Freemasonry urges that occultic and/or pagan readings be used, and that their teachings be appropriated in interpreting such concepts as the Trinity."

■ "Freemasonry includes the Bible as part of the 'furniture of the lodge,' but only as an equal with non-Christian symbols and writings."

■ "Freemasonry misuses the term 'light' to refer to moral 'reformation' as a means to salvation."

■ "Freemasonry teaches that salvation may be attained by 'good works' and not through faith in Christ alone."

■ "Freemasonry advocates in many of its writings the non-biblical teachings of universalism."

■ "In some of its lodges, Freemasonry discriminates against non-whites."

Also included is a fold-out "comparison chart" detailing positions of Freemasonry, Christianity and the Bible on the issues of "God," "Oaths," "Jesus Christ," "Salvation by Works" and "Inclusivism."

The pamphlet concludes by noting that while many Christians and leaders have been and are Masons, "several points of the lodge's teachings are non-biblical and non-Christian." It also states that "while Freemasonry encourages and supports charitable activities, it contains both multireligious and inclusivist teachings that are not Christian in its religious instruction."

"Taking the above into consideration, and being consistent with our denomination's historic deep convictions regarding both the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, we recommend that each indi-

vidual Baptist, as well as each congregation, carefully review the issues of the teachings and practices of Freemasonry," the pamphlet states. "Since, in the final analysis, the Bible alone is the only guide for faith and practice, issues related to Freemasonry and any other fraternal organizations, especially secret societies, must be evaluated only in light of the plumb line of Scripture."

The pamphlet notes key "foundational and non-negotiable" Christian doctrines such as the divinity and Lordship of Christ, the substitutionary atonement of Christ and salvation by grace through faith.

"The teachings of any organization or society in contradiction to such biblical tenets must be evaluated accordingly," the pamphlet states. "It is therefore, the duty of every Christian to resist and avoid false teachings, to speak the truth in love and embrace only those doctrines which are revealed in the inerrant Scripture, the Bible."

The original report approved in 1993—which was criticized both for being too soft and too hard on Freemasonry—noted both the incompatibilities and compatibilities of Freemasonry, Christianity and Southern Baptist doctrine. "We therefore recommend that consistent with our denomination's deep convictions regarding the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church, membership in a Masonic Order be a matter of personal conscience," the 1993 report stated.

"A Closer Look at Freemasonry" and the original 1993 report on Freemasonry are available electronically at www.namb.net/interfaith and through LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention at (800) 448-8032.

Evans, Franklin to lead crusade effort promoting reconciliation

LOUISVILLE—Grammy Award-winning recording artist Kirk Franklin will kick off the Greater Louisville Tony Evans Crusade June 19 with a free performance at Freedom Hall in Louisville.

The crusade, an effort by more than 130 area churches to set a tone of reconciliation in the metro Louisville area, will be held June 19-21 from 7-9 p.m. at Freedom Hall. Tony Evans, an author, preacher and national speaker, will preach each night.

Evans also will lead special reconciliation seminars June 20-21 for area pastors and church leaders. The free seminars will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon each day at the Executive Inn West poolside room.

The crusade's opening night will feature Franklin before, during and after the main crusade service. Franklin will provide pre-service music at 6:30 p.m. and will close out the evening with a 45-minute performance following the crusade.

"This is going to be a great night of music no matter what your taste," said Doug Crawley, minister of music at Walnut Street Baptist Church and music committee co-chairman for the crusade.

Hundreds of choir members representing several denominations and ethnic groups will perform in the crusade's combined choir under the direction of Crawley and co-chairman Kevin James of St. Stephen Baptist Church. The Christian music ensemble Truth also will lead a time of praise and worship.

Evans is co-founder and senior pastor of the 4,000-member Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He also is the founder and president of the Urban Alternative, a national spiritual renewal ministry.

The reconciliation seminars will be similar to a pastors' prayer breakfast led by Evans during his March visit to Louisville.

"It was an extremely valuable time because it helped us be reminded of the fact that we (pastors and church leaders of different denominations) are partners," said crusade chairman Lincoln Bingham. "Our strategies are different but our goals are the same."

Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, said the first step to achieving true reconciliation is to allow God to lead. "We must take orders from Him, trust Him and obey Him," he said. "Then we must work on a horizontal level with all people—white, black, Methodist and Baptist" as well as other denominations and ethnic backgrounds.

For more information about the crusade, contact the crusade staff at (502) 635-1004. The crusade Web site is www.tecrusade.org.

Impromptu revival enters second month

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—A month-long revival producing more than 340 spiritual conversions continues this week at Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield, with no immediate end in sight.

Springing up after an impromptu praise and worship service the first week of May, the event has drawn visitors from at least five other states. Organizers are proceeding on a week-by-week basis, but don't want to curtail the spontaneous spiritual fervor.

"When God's moving like He has been, I have a hard time shutting something down," said Chad Lamb, pastor of Enon Baptist Church. "Fifteen to 30 people a night are getting saved. I think people are sick of church politics and religion and are seeking a relationship with God."

"This is just a sovereign move of God," said Tim Allred, pastor of Sedalia Baptist Church. "I think there's a hunger in this area."

Crowds ranging from 600 to 1,200 people have been attending services four nights a week. The services, which began at Enon Baptist, moved to Trace Creek's 2,000-seat multi-purpose facility.

Started with no organizational structure, the Graves County event is known as the "Let's Have Church" crusade. In addition to Enon, Sedalia and Trace Creek, other area Baptist congregations helping sponsor the meetings are New Hope, Pleasant Grove, Sharon, Hardmoney and Liberty.

The churches also cooperated to stage "Godstock" on Memorial Day. The free picnic and worship service on Trace Creek's parking lot attracted

about 1,500 people. Forty-three people accepted Christ as Savior that night.

West Tennessee evangelist Brady Weldon has canceled most of his scheduled appearances to preach at the services seven miles north of town.

"I've been in evangelism 10 years and I've never seen anything like this," Weldon said. "The hunger the people have for God in Graves County is amazing. God just keeps pouring out His Spirit."

The response has taken everyone by surprise, Weldon noted. Thus far, visitors have come from Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and Florida. Groups from Michigan and Mississippi are expected to visit soon.

"The last few nights church buses (from other areas) started coming up," Weldon said. "We just figured people were coming from around the county."

The revival originated with praise and worship services led by Gerald and Cindy Simmons, music evangelists from Gulfport, Miss.

"It's been incredible, as far as the crowds and the way people are coming to worship the Lord," Simmons said. "It's been God. He's been doing some things around the country and I'm excited. I want to be in the middle of it."

After a joint Sunday evening service lasted more than three hours, Allred suggested holding a second service at Enon the next night.

Seven people accepted Jesus as Savior and more than 20 people rededicated their lives to Christ during those services, he said. It was apparent God was working in people's hearts because so many came to the altar, Allred noted.

"God broke loose," he said. "You could tell it was a visitation from the

Lord. People were confessing sin and drawing closer to God. They were saying, 'I want to sense You in my life.'"

On May 9, Allred, Lamb and Charles Bunton, pastor of New Hope, met to discuss keeping the services going. Enlisting the help of other pastors and the use of Trace Creek's facility, they invited the Simmonses to lead music.

They also called Weldon to preach, who had just learned that a scheduled tent revival he was to speak at was being postponed. After the first week, the informal leadership team decided to continue the effort.

Weldon, who senses God wants him to continue the crusade indefinitely, has been impressed with the prayer meeting involving pastors and laypeople each night before services.

"I see men ... on their faces, crying out for revival and when they get up, there are pools of tears on the floor," he said. "God has honored that. The power of God that has come in has been amazing."

Ronnie Stinson, pastor of Trace Creek for 28 years, said he has seen an impact at his church, baptizing 18 people on June 4. About two-thirds of them accepted Christ at the crusade.

"It's not some shallow thing," he said. "The preaching has been superb and the worship has been wonderful."

Bunton believes prayer played a key role in sparking the crusade's success. For the past five years area pastors have been meeting in small groups each week to pray for revival and form relationships, he said.

Those relationships helped the crusade come together initially, he said, while prayer helped prepare people to respond to the Holy Spirit.

'Splash living water,' Burroughs urges women

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—Writer and speaker Esther Burroughs is a compulsive list maker, she said during the DaySpring women's conference June 4.

"If I do something that's not on my list, I write it on and then cross it off," she told more than 300 women at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

"Jesus was a list maker too," she added. "But His list was the cross, to be obedient to His Father."

Interruptions, such as the woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years and touched Jesus' cloak, were not something He shunned. And since Jesus welcomed interruptions, Christians should too, she said.

Burroughs cited Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well to encourage conference participants to "splash living water" on people they come in contact with, even those who might be interrupting something like a quick trip to a grocery store.

She described incidents of standing in long check-out lines at the store behind harried moms and children. She has played peek-a-boo with children to keep them amused while their moms

checked out. Then Burroughs said she promises to pray for the mother that "God's love would be in her heart so she'll be the best mom she can be."

Splashing living water produces obvious results as women leave such encounters less downtrodden, she said. Burroughs said she continues to pray for families in need, that God will put Christians in their path to witness to them.

When she goes out to eat, Burroughs said, she often asks the server if she can pray for him or her as she and her companions pray before their meal. Many have shared concerns about a sick relative or spiritual problem, she added.

"Jesus crossed barriers," she said. "But sometimes we're so busy serving Jesus that we don't do that." She told of a time early in her marriage to composer Bob Burroughs, when he mused that no one had come to say goodbye when they moved out of a house they had lived in for four months. After a sleepless night, she was convicted that she hadn't gotten to know her neighbors. Just going to church on Sundays and Wednesdays was not enough to draw them to Christ, she said.

"Splash living water on everyone else around you in the places God has placed you," she urged.

Burroughs, whose books include

"Splash the Living Water" and "A Garden Path to Mentoring," served with the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, promoting evangelism strategies for women. This is the ninth year for the Elizabethtown church to host the DaySpring event for area women.

Participants also attended workshops with topics ranging from home decorating and healthy eating to keeping romance alive in marriage.

"This was very uplifting," said Betty Coats, a member of Berean Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. "Even though we know we should be touching lives around us, we need to be more conscious of it."

Brenda Priddy, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, said Burroughs' most impressive words came when she said Christians are ineffective unless the Holy Spirit works through them. "What gifts we have, we're to use with joy, relying on the Spirit," Priddy noted.

Burroughs said many pastors tend not to preach much about the Holy Spirit. "But He's the one who empowers us to reach out to others," she said. "We shouldn't be praying for the Lord to let the Spirit fall on us, but to let Him loose because He indwells us."

"We should know the Holy Spirit as intimately as the disciples knew Jesus," she declared. "If we only trust the work of God and Jesus, we only have two-thirds of the power."

All-State Choir and Orchestra plan June tour

The Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra is inviting Kentucky Baptists to join them on the road—and on the Web—as they travel across the state on their June 18-25 concert tour.

The group's itinerary is posted on its Web pages at www.kybaptist.org/allstate2000.htm.

"Many touring youth choirs have started to use the Internet to keep parents and friends updated on the progress of the tour and share testimonies of the performers about their experiences while on tour," said Greg Brewton, youth music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We thought it was time for the All-State to go online."

The auditioned 80-voice choir and 35-member orchestra will kick off its concert dates June 21 with a 6:30 p.m. performance at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Other dates and sites include:

■ June 22, Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m.

■ June 22, First Baptist Church of Hodgenville, 6:30 p.m.

■ June 24, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, 7:30 p.m.

■ June 24, First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, 7:00 p.m.

■ June 25, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, 10:45 a.m. worship service.

■ June 25, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary chapel in Louisville, 2:30 p.m.

John Dickson, music professor at Southern Seminary, will conduct the choir and David McCullough, music professor at Campbellsville University, will conduct the orchestra.



Burroughs

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TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

*Earnestly contend for the
faith which was once for
all delivered to the
saints.—Jude 3*

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Promote equality

When I learned of the Southern Baptist Convention's proposed revision of the Baptist Faith and Message limiting the office of pastor exclusively to men, I promised myself as a female Southern Baptist that I would not become angry or feel undervalued, would not voice my opinion or write a letter. But then I read a quote by SBC President Paige Patterson in the May 30 Western Recorder, and I knew I had to state my view.

Patterson said, "In a world where there is an encroachment on the family by an out-of-control feminism, you have to expect that if we have a view that is distinct, we have to state that." Patterson has the right to state his opinion, but he and the SBC are not just affirming their views; they are proposing a change in policy. Even though Southern Baptist churches are autonomous, when changes are made to the Baptist Faith and Message it influences all churches and is greatly suggestive.

Why is the SBC focusing so much energy on this issue when there are so many people lost to our Lord, lonely and hurting? Clearly this is an issue of control and power.

Since I consider myself a feminist, I intensely resent being branded "out of control" and accused of "encroaching on the family."

Clearly, it is the SBC that is "out of control," and will continue in this manner as long as we sit on the sidelines (or the pews) and allow it to happen.

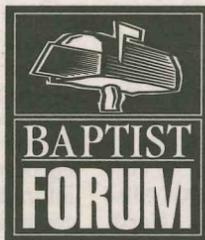
What will be mandated next? Will there be future revisions stating women may not teach in church, may not voice their opinion or vote in church business meetings? Where will it all end?

I urge everyone to become a "common sense Baptist" and work toward equality for all humankind, whether it is racially, ethnic or gender.

Connie Pruitt
Louisville

New litmus test?

Am I for women or for the Bible? That is the choice presented to Southern Baptists as a result of proposed changes in Article VI, The Church, in the Baptist Faith and Message statement, if ratified by this year's convention. The proposed change reads, "The office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."



Now, I assume that the entirety of the Baptist Faith and Message proposal is based upon Scripture. This begs the question, "Why 'qualify' this particular phrase concerning women?" Could it be because convention leaders intend to use this phrase as a litmus test when scrutinizing candidates for denominational service?

My dilemma is this: If I believe that women may serve as pastors, then according to this proposed article VI, I am opposed to Scripture. The statement clearly says that women cannot serve as pastors "as qualified by Scripture." Therefore, I am forced by the statement to either believe women can be pastors or to believe the Bible; but of course I may not believe both.

But what if I desire to serve in a denominational post and I also believe that women can serve as pastors? Then I must either lie about my beliefs concerning the statement in order to affirm Scripture or I must admit my difference with the statement and deny belief in the Scripture.

I would like to believe that this new statement would not be interpreted so strictly, but considering the recent actions of denominational leadership, I doubt it.

Mike Rodgers
Glendale

Can't be both ways

I have just a couple of comments about the lawsuit filed against Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. It is obvious that readers such as Janet Stayton

(in her May 9 letter, "Free exercise ignored?") do not understand the issue of state support of religious institutions.

Under the United States Constitution, no government entity may support religious concepts, nor may they put down legitimate religious institutions or ideas. It is perfectly fine, in my opinion, for the KBHC to fire someone for being gay if Baptists believe that is a sin or an unhealthy influence on children. Anyone placing children in the care of the KBHC must understand that. It is also the duty of the state to remove any of its wards from such institutions that promote said religious ideas.

According to all sources I have seen, including Slayton's letter, those who support the KBHC are basing their support on biblical tenets. Under these circumstances the state is well within its rights and well within its constitutional duties to remove said wards from the undue influences of such ideas that may not be supported by all citizens. These citizens, therefore, should not be forced to use their tax monies to support religious concepts.

It seems to me that the KBHC must stand its ground and make up the lost money in other ways. If more people were like those at Yellow Creek Baptist Church (May 9 letter, "Solid support for KBHC"), this would not be such an issue.

You can't have it both ways. Either take your stand and make do or do what is required by the U.S. Constitution and cooperate with the duties of a duly elected government—a government elected and sworn to serve Christians and others.

Charles McAdams
Louisville

What are you thinking?

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PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

In honor of ministry assistants

Secretaries have performed an invaluable but often unrecognized ministry in Christian work. Recently I attended the secretaries' conference during the State Associational Leadership Training conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

The session was led by Pat Howard, administrative assistant to Jerry Oakley, director of missions for Warren Baptist Association. Pat, the daughter of a minister and director of missions, has been a godly model in ministry. She shared that the job title of "secretary" has been evolving to "ministry assistant" or "administrative assistant" which more closely reflect the service that is performed.

Many of these people have a call from God to their work and exceed job descriptions in service rendered. They are driven by a passion to serve and not by the often less than adequate salaries. All of us in Christian ministry have benefited from the gracious and faithful ser-

vice of wonderful servants of our Lord.

On a recent Sunday I had the privilege of participating in a special event to honor a church secretary on her 40th anniversary. Loraine Collins began her work in 1960 shortly after Charles Carter became pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. She has served there with five other pastors, including me; David Marrow, now retired in Concord, N.C.; Joe Brown, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.; Tom Stokes, Oakland Baptist Church; and the current pastor, Tony Brown. Each pastor paid tribute to her ministry in person or by videotape or letter.

I know that during my tenure the church office was a hub of many activities. The summers brought youth groups to work in three mission vacation Bible schools and mission tent revivals. There was a fleet of eight vans and buses to keep on the road. There also were volunteers to help construct

three mission church buildings.

Loraine kept financial and membership records in addition to performing her church secretary duties. She made sure that new members and the baptistery were ready for baptism. She also prepared for the Lord's Supper. Joe Brown and I completed doctor of ministry degrees while we were there. She often typed while I wrote.

Loraine has demonstrated incredible patience with church members and committees. She knew the church and community and how to assist the pastor by making suggestions about timely and appropriate ministry.

A malignancy has returned in recent years, but Loraine has been faithful during radical treatments. She continues to keep the financial records as an effective ministry assistant.

Consider ways you can express appreciation and love for ministry assistants who serve you and your congregations. Pray for them in their ministries even as you pray for your pastor and other ministerial staff.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Bargain sale with a twist achieves goals

By Laurie Valentine

Many people have a desire to make a significant gift to one or more Baptist causes, but also want to ensure that their children will receive the bulk of the value of their estate when they die.

Here's an example of how you can accomplish both of these objectives:

John and Mabel Smith sell a large tract of land to their Baptist college alma mater for a price that is one-fourth of the property's current market value. This "bargain sale" to the college will entitle the Smiths to a charitable income tax deduction equal to the difference between the current market value of the property and the sale price (the gift part of the transaction).

The Smiths use part of the sale proceeds to make a gift to an irrevocable life insurance trust that uses the cash to pay the first of four annual premiums on a second-to-die life insurance policy on the Smiths' lives. The ILIT provides that at the death of the last to die of John and Mabel, their children will receive the life insurance proceeds from the ILIT, thereby "replacing" the value of the real estate transferred to the college.

The Smiths use the rest of the sale proceeds to fund a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust which is set up to pay them a fixed amount each year for the next three years. The Smiths intend to use the payments from the CRAT to make gifts to the ILIT that will be used to pay the other three annual premium payments.

The Smiths receive charitable income tax deductions for the bargain sale and the gift to the CRAT. They have removed an appreciating asset from their estates and avoided most of the capital gains. (A donor must report the portion of the gain attributable to the sale part of the bargain sale transaction). Instead of real estate, their children will receive an inheritance of cash that is free of income tax and estate tax. The college receives a large real estate gift with a small cash outlay, as well as the remainder of the CRAT.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Fathers encouraged to focus attention on daughters' world

Q: How do I get my husband to take more interest in our two daughters? They are 13 and 16 years old. He spends all of his free time with our 14-year-old son and sports. The girls feel unimportant to their father. I know he loves them, but he just seems disinterested in their lives.

Parents who show favoritism among their offspring create problems for the family, generate resentment among the siblings and potentially damage the well being of the teenagers. You are correct in wanting him to be more involved. Youth have a need and a God-given right to a father and a mother.

He must first see the need and feel the freedom to relate to his daughters. Try inviting him to specific events with the girls. Request that he drive them to activities. Plan full family events. Suggest that he teach them some of his activities like golf or fishing. Ephesians 6:1-4 addresses the role of fathers.

Encourage them to tell him how they feel. Will he set some time aside to just listen to what is going on in their world? Does he know the world of young females? Did he have a sister? Educate him.

He sounds like an overgrown boy himself. He may not be comfortable with his warm, caring and nurturing side. Does he tease them and poke fun? If so, he may be masking his true feelings. If not, he may have some unresolved issues with women. Have a private talk to explore his reactions to their concerns. If all else fails, invite him to go to family counseling to explore these feelings. Be sure that the girls know it is not something wrong with them. This will not change overnight; be patient.—Wade Rowatt

Q: When it comes to parenting, who do I listen to?

You don't have to look far or listen long to find someone offering information, insight and advice to parents. The book of Proverbs reminds us that some things that seem right are, in fact, dead wrong (Proverbs 16:25). Who do you trust?

When it comes to parenting, some approaches are simply better than others. Some are more sound; some are more biblical; some make more sense. These tips can help you make it through the maze.

- Talk to friends whose parenting style you respect, whose homes seem happy and whose children seem to be fairly well adjusted and behaved. Find out how they have approached parenting.

- Experience counts, so check credentials. However, don't rely strictly on academia. Experience comes from a variety of sources and settings.

- Look for authors and teachers who show awareness of developmental issues.

- Look closely at statistics and sampling when evaluating research, reports and surveys. Both can be misleading and manipulative.

- Look for a Christian perspective on parenting. At the same time, realize helpful truths sometimes can be learned from those who don't share your faith stance.

- Parenting requires hard work and sacrificial commitments of time and energy. Beware of "parenting without the hard parts" philosophies.

- Use common sense. God has given you the privilege and responsibility of parenting, and He has not left you helpless. Ask God's Spirit to inform your instincts with wisdom and understanding as you evaluate parenting resources.

(Besides my wife, my favorite parenting experts include David Elkind, James Dobson and Ross Campbell.)—David Garrard

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



Give your father the best gifts of all

Editor's Note: As I prepared to travel to Orlando, Fla., for this week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, I invited my 13-year-old daughter, Emily, to write this week's editorial about Father's Day. Emily, who will be a freshman this fall at South Oldham High School, is an award-winning writer and musician. If that sounds a little like fatherly pride, that's because it is. Thanks, Emily, for sharing this special Father's Day gift.

What can I say about Father's Day? It is more than just a holiday on the third Sunday in June or an occasion to buy your dad a new pair of socks or another tie. It is a day to express your gratitude and appreciation to him for who he is and what he has done for you.

People haven't always had the privilege of celebrating Father's Day. As Sonora Louise Dodd was listening to a Mother's Day sermon in 1909, she thought that if mothers were given a day in their honor, fathers deserved to have a special day too. Her mom had died when Dodd was very young, leaving her father alone to raise the family's six children.

She began circulating a petition to encourage leaders to adopt a national Father's Day. The Spokane Ministerial Association and the local YMCA supported it. Through their efforts, the city of Spokane, Wash., celebrated the first Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Many resolutions to make the day a national holiday were introduced over the years. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Father's Day into law.

God instructed us to honor our fathers long before the president made it an official law. The Bible has many instances where we are told to obey, honor and respect our parents.

In Exodus 20, God gave Moses 10 rules for His people to follow. "Honor your father and your moth-

er, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you" is one of those instructions. Honoring our parents must be really important. There are many ways we can honor our fathers. Respect and obedience are two basic principles that make a big difference.

Jesus showed us an example of obedience when He was only 12 years old. After attending the Feast of the Passover, his parents started for home, assuming He was with friends. After a day of traveling they realized no one had seen Jesus, so they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. Three days later they found Him in the temple listening to and questioning the teachers. They told Jesus they had been searching for Him, and asked Him to come back with them. "Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. ... And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:51-52).

The Bible does not give us very much information about Jesus' growing-up years, but it does point out His obedience. God was pleased with Him because He obeyed both His earthly father and His Heavenly Father.

We can follow this example by listening to our fathers and doing what we are instructed. This does not mean obeying just when we feel like it. My dad and I attended a father-daughter banquet together several years ago where we learned that true obedience is immediate, complete and from the heart. I have tried to remember this over the years, even when obedience does not seem like the most enjoyable answer.

As Proverbs 4:1 says, "Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding." This year, instead of just a greeting card or one more tie, give your father the best gifts of all—honor, obedience and respect.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DAUGHTER



Emily Henderson

Marriage enrichment strengthens relationships

By Penny Hudson

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24).

Several months ago while listening to a Christian radio station, I heard:

"Christians are more likely to divorce than non-Christians." I thought, "That can't be right." So I typed in "Christian marriage and divorce statistics" on my computer and there it was—a study by the Barna Research Group, confirming what I'd heard. Not only are Christians more likely to divorce, but within the denominations surveyed, Baptists recorded the highest divorce rate with 29 percent.

God intended that the richest and most satisfying expression of two becoming one flesh would be found in the marital covenant. But that's far from what is happening. Why?

Is it because Christians no longer accept the Bible as God's non-negotiable truth as Janet Parshall, spokesperson for the Family Research Council, believes? Or has the church become a "blessing machine" with no more impact than a justice of the peace? Michael McManus, author of

"Marriage Savers" says, "Most churches only help couples prepare for elaborate weddings, not for lasting marriages."

If we are to be the light of the world, the stakes are too high for churches not to put more emphasis on marriage.

Couples are looking for something society doesn't offer. Our culture doesn't foster lifelong commitment or a covenant relationship. It doesn't even nurture a mutual loving relationship between spouses.

My husband, David, and I know this from personal experience. Twenty years ago God used a Christian marriage enrichment event to save our marriage and save our lives. Because of this program, I came to know Christ and David rededicated his life to the Lord. As we began to seek God and apply Christ-like principles to our relationship, our marriage began to heal. God performed a miracle in our lives; He can do it for others if we will allow Him. You see, according to another study conducted by Harvard, the divorce rate for couples who regularly read the Bible together, pray together and attend church together is one in 1,287.

There are many approaches churches can use to encourage couples to make Christ real in their marriage. LifeWay

Christian Resources and other Christian organizations offer excellent resources. Our church has a "Couplettime" ministry. Several couples meet monthly to work on their relationships based on biblical principles. Other avenues include preaching about Christian marriage; marriage enrichment/couple prayer retreats; encouraging attendance at MarriageFest, an event offered each fall by the Kentucky Baptist Convention; or it might be as simple as showing Christian videos on marriage and family issues.

Good marriages do take a lot of work and attention. Most people want their relationships to work, but for the most part, they lack the skill to form happier, healthier marital relationships.

God's church can fill that void. Three-fourths of all American marriages are blessed by clergy. Consequently, the church's access to most American marriages is a source of great hope.

When more churches become intentional in preparing couples for lifelong marriage through in-depth premarital testing and counseling, helping strengthen existing marriages and reaching out to troubled ones, I believe we'll see a major transformation. Let's lower the divorce statistics and show people we have something that makes a difference in our lives and in our marriages.

Penny Hudson and her husband, David, are marriage enrichment specialists. They are members of Crestwood Baptist Church.

MINISTRY

WMU jobs program meeting needs despite frustrations

Continued from page 1

organized and operated by one person. But Job Corps generally requires a comprehensive, coordinated effort involving mentors, organizers and other volunteers.

"This is not a ministry anybody can do in a vacuum," Johnson said. "There are probably a few non-metro areas where one person can work with one woman in need and see some success, but it really is a team effort."

Sue Rich, director of the Job Corps ministry of Little River Baptist Association in Cadiz, agreed.

"It just takes a lot of work and a lot of volunteers to keep it going so we don't burn out those we have who are really involved in it," she said.

Rich, a part-time volunteer coordinator, said her workload could keep a full-time person busy.

"I cannot spend the time that really is required to keep it going," said Rich, a member of Cadiz Baptist Church. "I think it would be well if the association could hire somebody to do it and spend full time doing it. It's just more than I can do."

Hammer, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church, said the Louisville ministry has taken time to gain the trust of area social service agencies and of the women to whom Job Corps is reaching

out. "I've got more mentors than I've got participants," she said.

"We're excited about (the ministry), but that enthusiasm isn't always met with the same excitement by state agencies," she added. "I think we can gain their trust."

Hammer, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's former social work school, was attracted to Christian Women's Job Corps when her mother returned from a WMU retreat talking about the program. "It sounded like something I've been praying about for some time, so I was very excited to get involved."

In Louisville, the ministry is operated downtown, with space provided by Walnut Street Baptist Church.

Ten women have been interviewed to take classes and pair with a mentor, but only three have been able to arrange their schedules to attend the classes.

Twelve weeks of classes every Tuesday evening are expected to start this month.

In Cadiz, Rich said that thus far the ministry has worked with 11 clients. "It's going a little bit slow right now, but it's going."

Frustrations have included some clients who haven't pursued testing for their high school graduation equivalency diplomas, she added.

"We've decided that's a part of it," Rich said. "It just takes a lot of patience and a lot of love because the women that we are working with are not used to taking responsibility. ... If something else comes along that gets them sidetracked, they seem to go that way."

Despite the frustrations, Rich is quick to state that the volunteers' efforts are worthwhile.

"We did have a client who made a decision (to become a Christian) during one of our Bible studies," she said. "We felt that was worth it all."

The local advisory group is hoping to offer another round of classes before year's end, she said.

"It takes a lot of commitment and there's a lot of disappointments, but also it seems like when we get to the point where we're disappointed or discouraged, God sends a new client to keep us going."

Eighteen months ago, national leaders evaluated the program and decided to beef up training for local volunteers, WMU's Johnson said.

"We were not adequately preparing our mentors," she recalled. The result was that WMU's publishing arm produced the book, "Woman to Woman; Preparing Yourself to Mentor."

Organizers also developed supplemental training for local ministry coord-

inators, especially new coordinators at an already existing ministry.

Johnson said she encourages coordinators to be patient and sensitive to God's timing. "For people who want to do hands-on ministry, there is something for everybody in Christian Women's Job Corps."

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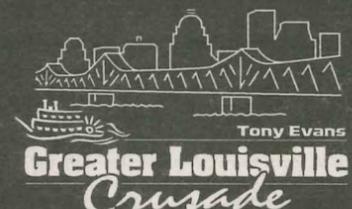
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MINISTRY

Spiritual focus sets Christian Women's Job Corps apart

By Sammie Jo Barstow
Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Social agencies and service agencies are widely available, so what makes Christian Women's Job Corps special?

Site coordinators are fast to answer that question. Diane Garcia in San Antonio, Texas, notes that, unlike other agencies, a CWJC program "includes the spiritual component to help women deal with self-esteem issues."

When God changes the women's lives, Garcia added, they become motivated to do their best.

Women becoming Christians,

mended marriages and children being guided by parents with renewed commitment to Christ and to their families are some of the outcomes observed by volunteers at Job Corps sites.

Julie Busby, of Tupelo, Miss., tells about Greta, who was working seven days a week to support three children by herself. After graduating from the Job Corps program, she got a job with benefits and is able to support herself and her children without any government assistance.

Busby said the first woman to come to Christ through the Tupelo site was Christina, an 18-year-old who was living in the battered women's shelter. She had a 3-year-old daughter and was preg-

nant as the result of a rape.

During a Bible study at their center, Christina heard about God's love through Jesus Christ, but it was after a class in money management that she approached the teacher of that segment and expressed interest in becoming a Christian. The teacher led her to accept Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. Since then, Christina's younger sister also has become a Christian.

Garcia relates the story of Herlinda, who "had her world changed when she asked Christ to be her Savior and Lord," while participating in Job Corps. She was raising a grandson while living with her son and his family. After graduating from Job Corps, she got a job at the

local Wal-Mart, lost 30 pounds and was able to buy a house for herself and her grandson.

Herlinda was named "Cashier of the Year" for Wal-Mart for 1999. Herlinda now serves on the governing board for the San Antonio Christian Women's Job Corps and, Garcia notes, "She is the first to admit that without God in her life she still would be living a miserable life with no hope."

Instilling hope in a woman's life is a common goal at all Job Corps sites, but it is not hope built on self-centeredness. Instead, mentors and other volunteers say they are committed to pointing women to Christ as the only true hope for changed lives.

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Planning vital to job corps' success

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Assessing the need for area resources and tallying their availability are the starting points for launching a local Christian Women's Job Corps ministry. National Woman's Missionary Union officials outlined five steps to remember in establishing the ministry. They are:

■ **Assess the need.** Could Christian Women's Job Corps contribute something to the lives of women that other service agencies in your community do not provide? At a CWJC center, women are mentored in life skills and job readiness training, but they also are taught the Bible.

■ **Count the cost.** Is there a woman willing to take on the task of site coordinator on a volunteer basis? Are there women willing to commit to mentor clients? Will Southern Baptist churches in the area (other denominations may be willing to join in as well) make a monetary commitment to the ministry? Is there a place available to use as a center?

■ **Attend training.** Certification training for the site coordinator is required. Contact Trudy Johnson, national coordinator for CWJC, at (205) 991-4972 for information.

■ **Form an advisory council.** People throughout the community will each bring a valuable perspective to the new ministry. Social workers, pastors, directors of WMU-related Women on Mission and women's ministries in churches, professional counselors, educators, lawyers and business leaders will add diversity and depth to a site's plans.

■ **Locate teachers, facilitators and volunteers.** This might require networking with community agencies. It will mean lining up volunteers to provide mentoring, teaching, Bible studies, guidance counseling or transportation.

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Family groups affirm high court ruling upholding parental rights

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Organizations known for their support of traditional family values are hailing the U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding parental rights.

In a 6-3 decision, the high court said June 5 that a Washington state law violated the right of parents to raise their families free from governmental interference by aiding grandparents and others in winning visitation rights.

Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing the majority opinion, noted that as long as "a parent adequately cares for his or her children ... there will normally be no reason for the state to inject itself" into parenting decisions.

"This case represented the constitutionally protected rights of parents who must be able to rear their children without state interference," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice. "And, while third parties often do have a profound impact on a child's life, it is clear that the building block of the family is still the parents."

Focus on the Family, a Colorado-based evangelical organization, also welcomed the decision.

"We are pleased that the court has

chosen to affirm the constitutionally protected right of parents to raise their children," said Tom Minnery, vice president for public policy at Focus on the Family. "This decision clarifies and reestablishes parents as the authority in their child's life with a God-given duty and right to oversee their care and custody."

Jordan Lorraine, an attorney who works with Alliance Defense Fund, a group that partners with Focus on the Family, also affirmed the ruling.

"Parents now have greater rights and protection from intrusion by government and the courts, and that is good news for families," he said.

The case stemmed from a suit by Jennifer and Gary Troxel of Mount Vernon, Wash., who wanted to continue to see two of their grandchildren after their son committed suicide. The children's mother limited their visits.

"I just want to see them period," said Gary Troxel.

Tommie Granville, the mother of the two granddaughters, never married the Troxels' son, Brad, and later married Gary Wynn, who adopted the children.

She told the New York Times: "I'm relieved we finally won. It's a victory for every parent in the country."

Clinton again designates June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

WASHINGTON (BP)—President Clinton again has proclaimed June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.

The proclamation came one year after Clinton became the first president to make such a designation. His 1999 proclamation elicited a sharp rebuke from Southern Baptist messengers meeting last year in Atlanta.

As he did last year, Clinton said in the proclamation he is proud of his administration's achievements on behalf of homosexual rights. He said those include the appointment of more open homosexuals to senior posts than in any other administration and a 1998 executive order prohibiting discrimination in the federal civilian workforce based on "sexual orientation."

Clinton's June 2 proclamation also repeated his call for Americans to observe the month "with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that celebrate our diversity" and to recall the homosexual Americans whose "contributions have enriched our national life."

After Clinton, a member of a Southern Baptist church in Arkansas,

issued his proclamation last year, Southern Baptist messengers adopted a resolution calling upon him to rescind the proclamation.

Citing "our love for our president and our love for people enslaved in sins of all types, including homosexual sins," the resolution declared that "our love for our president compels us to rebuke him and publicly to deplore his most public endorsement of that which is contrary to the Word of God." The resolution also noted that forgiveness through Christ includes "forgiveness of and freedom from homosexuality."

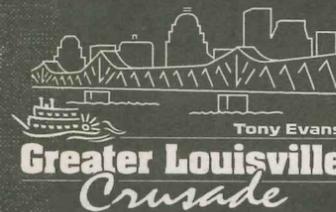
As Southern Baptists gather this week in Orlando, homosexuality will again be a major topic. The Baptist Faith and Message study committee will recommend adding opposition to "all forms of sexual immorality, including homosexuality."

SoulForce, a national network of homosexual activists, has announced plans to stage a protest June 14 outside the Orange County Convention Center. The Cross Ministry, an organization seeking to equip churches to evangelize and disciple homosexuals, will hold a counterdemonstration.

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Gospel music stars help Graham's Nashville crusade

By Todd Starnes
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—An estimated 227,000 people attended the four-day Billy Graham crusade, June 1-4 in Nashville, with more than 8,000 people making personal decisions of faith.

The event drew some of gospel music's most popular entertainers to participate in the event.

Each artist praised Graham's integrity and faithfulness to God as reasons for their involvement in the Nashville crusade.

The crusade featured a variety of musical performers, from country to urban gospel as well as the ever-present George Beverly Shea. The 91-year-old Shea, a stalwart of Graham's crusades over the years, delighted the stadium crowd with traditional renditions of "How Great Thou Art" and "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

Other musicians appearing with Graham were Steven Curtis Chapman, Michael W. Smith, Bill Gaither and the Gaither Vocal Band, CeCe Winans, Kirk Franklin, Charlie Daniels, Ricky Skaggs, Point of Grace, Jars of Clay and dc Talk.

Chapman said he was touched by the compassion and concern Graham has expressed for the country's teenagers. "He intentionally tries to step into the young culture," Chapman said. "It's evidence that Billy Graham's heart beats for young people."

Since 1994 Graham has devoted one night of each crusade to a youth emphasis. In Nashville, the event featured a heavy dose of energetic musical guests including Franklin, Jars of Clay, and dc Talk.

Youth nights have set stadium records in all but two cities, according to Graham spokesman Larry Ross.

Nashville was no different, with a record-setting 71,800 people in attendance.

"I think that says something about the integrity of Billy Graham that when he gets up to speak every teenager is quiet and respectful," Ross said.

Chapman said he remembered a previous youth night when Graham walked on stage wearing a Harley Davidson motorcycle jacket. "Billy Graham is doing what it takes to bridge the gap," Chapman said.

The trio of men who make up dc Talk agreed. "Kids need some real fathers and real grandfathers, and Billy Graham is real," said Michael Tait.

Toby McKeehan recalled when they first received an invitation to play at a Billy Graham crusade there were more than a few raised eyebrows. "Lots of folks said, 'I don't know about this music,' but he wanted to reach the teenagers and he stuck by his decision," McKeehan said.

Since then, dc Talk has performed in 14 crusades. McKeehan said the reason teenagers are drawn to Billy Graham can be summed up in one word. "Integrity," he said. "Our generation is lacking in integrity and Billy Graham is a man of integrity and faith."

Gospel music artist CeCe Winans praised Graham for his efforts in bridging racial gaps at the crusades. "We're finally catching on to what heaven is going to be like," Winans said, referring to the multicultural and ethnic makeup of the Nashville crusade. "There are going to be many different races and many different styles of music."

"God is a God of unity," Winans said. "And it was great to see so many faces of different colors and backgrounds in the stadium."

Search for hypocrites ends by discovering real thing

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—Sherman Smith once caught a fellow Seattle Seahawk in a compromising position.

Later, tapping him on the shoulder, Smith took aim at the player—the "hypocrite"—who had called himself a Christian.

"That Jesus stuff really works, doesn't it?" he said.

Smith, now a running backs coach for the Tennessee Titans, recounted his disdain for hypocrites during the recent Billy Graham crusade in Nashville's Adelphia Coliseum.

"I'm a visual learner," Smith said. One of his pet phrases was, "What you do speaks so loud I can't hear a word you're saying."

Although he had an interest as a teenager and young adult in knowing Jesus Christ, Smith said he devoted more attention to how athletes and others who called themselves Christians acted rather than what they said.

And he wasn't impressed. Not during his college career as a quarterback at Miami (Ohio) University. And not as a second-round draft pick of the NFL's Seahawks.

Not until Ken Hutcherson showed up for training camp.

A hard-hitting middle linebacker and unabashed Christian, Hutcherson caught Smith's attention, and Smith watched Hutcherson closely for six weeks, looking for him to stumble, to be a hypocrite like so many others.



Smith

Then, unexpectedly, came the test. A gut-wrenching test.

Hutcherson was cut down from behind in a play during the last preseason game of 1976, left on the ground crying out in agony with a knee injury. Somber teammates watched as he was carted off the field. Later came the news that

Hutcherson had suffered a career-ending blow to his knee.

Teammates came by to console Hutcherson after the game, the last of whom was Smith, who still had Hutcherson's faith under a microscope.

"Sherm," Hutcherson said, somehow upbeat and smiling with ice packs on his knee. "I'm excited to see what God has planned for my life."

"You see, Sherm, I'm a Christian and nothing happens in my life unless it's filtered through God's hands first."

Smith responded to Hutcherson in a way he never had to a Christian before: "Tell me more."

There in the locker room, Hutcherson explained Christianity, telling Smith of God's love, God's yearning to impart forgiveness and a new life through faith and trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, as Smith's Lord and Savior.

Smith listened but didn't take that step of faith—until a few weeks later, when he also was facing a knee injury.

Sitting in his car, Smith finally took hold of what Hutcherson had said. "Lord, I need You to take control," Smith prayed, inviting Christ into his life, and sensing something new.

Supplanting his preoccupation with hypocrites, he said, it was "a peace and a confidence I had never known before."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Musician's settlement aids students.** Gospel music artist Kirk Franklin has established a \$300,000 fund to help minority medical students in Tennessee following a settlement from a 1996 accident. Franklin fell 10 feet from a darkened stage during a concert at Cook Convention Center in Memphis and was unconscious for several hours at the Regional Medical Center at Memphis. Though there were fears he had serious brain or spinal injuries, Franklin was released with minor injuries after a six-week recovery.

■ **Muslims denounce anti-terrorism plan.** Muslim watchdog groups expressed reservations about recommendations by the National Commission on Terrorism, which they say would curb civil rights and target Muslim and Arab Americans. The commission's report, released last week, said the government should keep tabs on foreign students studying in the United States and allow the military to respond to domestic terrorism. "The fight against terrorism is one that should be undertaken," said Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. "But that struggle should not be based on stereotypes, false assumptions or the political agendas of foreign governments."

■ **Christian Scientists plan \$50 million library.** The Christian Science Church announced plans June 5 for a 75,000-square-foot, \$50 million library dedicated to its founder, Mary Baker Eddy. The church said the library, scheduled to open in 2002, will be built on the campus of its Boston headquarters. Eddy founded the church in 1879 on the belief that illness could be cured through prayer and biblical study.

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Choir Concert
Highland Baptist Church, Louisville
Saturday, June 24 - 7:30 p.m.

Orchestra Concert
First Baptist Church, Shelbyville
Saturday, June 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Choir & Orchestra in Morning Worship
Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville
Sunday, June 25 - 10:45 a.m.

Choir & Orchestra Final Concert
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Documentary lets POWs tell how faith helped them survive

Continued from page 1

Often, even small symbols of faith were enough to sustain the men. Porter Halyburton told how one small ray of sunshine made its way through a crack in the wall of his cell, shining on the opposite wall for about 10 minutes each day. He fashioned a small cross out of toilet paper and glued it to the wall with glue made from rice.

"Every day I would wait in great anticipation for this event where the sun would come through and shine on that cross," he said. "That's when I had ... my major devotional period of the day."

Although they often were not allowed to talk, communication in the prison also became a detailed system of codes, whether by tapping on the walls or by various coughs and cleared throats, according to the documentary.

Worship and prayer also were conducted covertly. Sam Johnson told how prisoners signaled to each other the start of Sunday morning worship by someone stomping on the floor.

"We'd all kneel down together—even though we were by ourselves—and pray," he said. "And the strength of prayer with a group, as you know, is much stronger than just by yourselves."

Robinson Risner, who retired as a brigadier general, echoed the statements of many of the men in describing how the experience had affected him.

"For seven and a half years I never wondered one moment what I was doing there," he said. "The Lord was getting my attention. ... Changed my life completely, and I won't ever, ever disappoint Him again—not within the realms of my ability. I belong to Him."

Information about broadcast dates in Kentucky is available from local NBC stations.

Will trial help end mystery of missing atheist O'Hair?

AUSTIN, Texas (RNS)—A former associate of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair was convicted June 2 of extorting money from the group O'Hair founded.

A jury in Austin, Texas, convicted Gary Paul Karr, 52, of extortion and three other charges. He was acquitted of kidnapping conspiracy charges. He faces life in prison due to previous convictions and is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 4.

O'Hair, son Jon Garth Murray and granddaughter Robin Murray O'Hair disappeared in September 1995.

Prosecutors suggested the O'Hair trio was kidnapped, robbed of \$600,000, killed and their bodies dismembered. To date, no bodies have been found.

The president of American Atheists said the jury decision is a "major step forward" toward closure in the case of the family.

"Despite the tragic circumstances, we feel that the trial and conviction is a major step forward in (bringing) resolution and justice in this case," said Ellen Johnson, president of American Atheists. "We look forward to indictments of any other individuals who are linked to the disappearance and possible murder of the Murray O'Hair family."

Johnson said trial testimony also exonerated the O'Hairs on a number of charges, including allegations that the family had run away with more than

\$500,000 in gold or was leaving the country for financial or personal reasons.

Federal agents presented documentation of hundreds of telephone calls, car rentals, airplane trips and other financial transactions they said implicated Karr and showed he extorted money from the O'Hairs, according to Associated Press.

The trial included testimony from a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board staff member, Bill Gordon Jr., that he might have seen O'Hair alive in 1997 in Romania.

Gordon, an associate with NAMB's interfaith evangelism team who did his doctoral work on atheism, testified that he believed he saw O'Hair in a restaurant in Romania in November 1997. "I believe that it was her, but as I testified in court I can't say with 100 percent certainty it was her," Gordon said.

Gordon, who had been lecturing at a Baptist school in Romania, said he was dining with his translator when they noticed a woman who looked like O'Hair sitting alone at a table 10 feet away. Gordon, who described the woman as looking "sickly," said they were the only people eating in the restaurant at the time.

Gordon said the findings presented during the federal trial have not swayed his opinion. "Until they can find a body I'm going to believe that the woman I saw was Madalyn Murray O'Hair."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Poll says no to gay weddings, OK to partner benefits

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A slim majority of Americans supports the rights of gays and lesbians to receive domestic partner benefits, as long as those rights are not granted within the context of "marriage," according to a new poll released last week.

In the survey conducted for Associated Press, 53 percent of Americans said gay couples should have health insurance benefits. Fifty percent believe gay couples should have Social Security benefits and 56 percent said they should have inheritance rights.

But when asked whether gay couples should have the right to "marry," 51 percent said no and 34 percent said yes.

Among other findings in the poll of 1,012 people:

■ More women than men favor the right to marry for gay couples. Forty percent of women approved, compared with 25 percent of men.

■ Older Americans continue to resist the idea of gay marriage, with only 14 percent of people over the age of 65 accepting the idea, compared to 54 percent of people between the ages of 18 and 34.

■ Fifty-nine percent of people who believe homosexuality is a natural condition support the right to marry; 69 percent who view it as a choice oppose it.

Blessings at Jonathan Creek

I am in the middle of one of the most remarkable weeks of my life. About 10 days or so ago, my wife and I arrived at Jonathan Creek to prepare for a busy season of camp ministry. This is our third year to "summer" at either Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek. It's hard work, but it keeps us young as college students and younger youth are everywhere.

Our summer staff began arriving a couple of weeks ago at Jonathan Creek, planning, training, working, just getting ready for our first year of Crossings, our new youth camp.

Last Monday morning we began two weeks of intensive training with a prayer walk around the camp and conference center. We worshipped. We prayed. We prayed over people. We prayed over buildings. We prayed over pools. We prayed over docks. Wow! Did these college students ever pray! At one particular moment, as we gathered around the pool, I just listened to the prayers being lifted and thought about how it must sound to our heavenly Father. It was a moving moment as I thought about all the work, planning and effort that had gone into the last two years preparing for this sum-

mer. I thought how fitting it was that we spent much of that first day in prayer.

I am blessed. I ran into a friend the other day who talked about the "cushy" job I have. "Cushy" is not a word I would use to describe camp and conference ministry. Nor would those who have come before me, most recently Deward Hurst at Jonathan Creek and Harold Barnes at Cedarmore. Nor would our present staff at either place.

But as challenging as it is, as hard as it is, we wouldn't trade places with anybody in the world. That God has enabled my wife and me to be right in the middle of college staff and high school campers is one of His greatest blessings to us, and we are thankful. I know it is going to be a great summer as He works and changes lives.

By the way, Jonathan Clark says "Hi" to Kentucky Baptists. It's great to have young men like Jonathan serving at Crossings. He's one of many godly young men and women God is using this summer at Crossings.

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

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Jerry Vines



Danny Akin

Tape players help Kenyans hear about God in own language

Continued from page 1

to a god every morning but does not have a concept of a personal relationship with God or knowledge of Jesus Christ as Savior. The Samburu believe in an omnipotent and omnipresent god called Nkai.

"The danger we found is their beliefs are so close (to Christianity) that sometimes they don't see the difference," Dolifka said. "We had to find a way to let them see and experience the difference Jesus Christ makes."

Doors began to open with a project aimed at the most important thing in a Samburu's life—cows. In Samburu culture, the number of cattle a man owns determines his wealth and status in the community.

An animal care project took shape after Dolifka noticed that 80

percent of animals' sicknesses could be treated by someone other than a veterinarian. Three Samburu church leaders learned how to treat the ailments.

The main emphasis of the animal care project is God's healing power. Workers carefully pray for each animal treated and thank God when one is healed.

"The prayer has made a big difference," said George Lenguro, a church leader who is trained to treat the animals. "People know it is not our medicine but God's power. They saw that God was accepting our prayers, and they began wanting us to treat their animals."

While the animal care project opened doors for sharing the gospel, the Dolifkas said they knew more had to be done.

For the Samburu to be reached, they needed the gospel in their own language. But neither of the Dolifkas spoke Samburu.

The solution came three months later when Lenguro approached the missionaries and said he felt God wanted him to translate the Bible. Lenguro, an elder in the tribe, began translating the Gospel of Luke in his mud-packed home.

It was about this time that the Dolifkas began "storying" the Bible by using hand-cranked tape players. The cassettes explain the Bible chronologically.

"The people would rather listen to the tapes than me," Dolifka says. "That's because this box speaks their language."

The Samburu play these Bible lessons before most community meetings. Young men listen to them while watching the herds of cattle. Women and children listen at the water source. Elders listen while sitting in the afternoon shade.

"The people see this is pure Samburu. It is God's Word, and He is speaking to us in our language," Lenguro said. "Because God is speaking to us in Samburu, the people feel this must be an important message, and they must listen and learn."

"This rapid growth is not something we did," Mrs. Dolifka said. "It is the direct result of God working in the lives of the Samburu."

"They have taken the gospel message seriously and spread it ev-

erywhere they go," she said. "They feel that everyone needs this message, and it is their duty to share it."

How far are the Samburu willing to go to share God's Word? Two Samburu men walked 12 hours down the rough terrain of East Africa's Rift Valley. Neither knew if he would come back alive.

One was a local chief and elder, the other a "morani," a warrior appointed to protect the villages. They had heard a neighboring tribe, the Pokots, was having problems with their cattle and went to offer help.

Historically, the Pokot and Samburu groups are enemies and work hard at staying that way. But these two Samburu Christians wanted to share the good news of Jesus—even with their enemies.

The young morani, Dickson Lesiamito, took a tape recorder and tapes with Bible stories in the Pokot language. The two men treated the Pokot's cattle, then walked back home.

Days later, Lesiamito was surprised by a visit from a Pokot man who had walked an entire day to find him. The man was sent by his village to bring back the same message that had changed the lives of their neighbors.

"The Samburu have a saying, 'Nkiiikwae ninye ng'oki,'" Lesiamito said. "It means that if someone gives you a message and you deny to share it, it is a sin. So we must go wherever we can to tell the gospel message."

Two Samburu men walked 12 hours down the rough terrain of East Africa's Rift Valley to share the gospel. Neither knew if he would come back alive.

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Superior staff member

By Robert Dunston

Each year a committee of Cumberland College staff members asks fellow staff, faculty and students to nominate a staff member who consistently has gone beyond the call of duty in making Cumberland College a caring, Christian educational institution.

The committee studies the nominations carefully, interviews several candidates and then presents the Service Award to the outstanding staff member at our annual faculty/staff banquet.

Sue Weedman, associate dean at Cumberland College, received this year's award. Weedman came to Cumberland

College in 1968 and began to work in the admissions office. Later she managed the campus post office.

In January 1981 Weedman assisted Joe Early, the new academic dean, in setting up the dean's office. In a week and a half the two created the class schedule for the 1981 spring semester, designed all the forms for registration and prepared to register students.

Since that time, Weedman has continued to organize, administer and document the tasks of the office while helping faculty secure grants and doing many other tasks.

Weedman is a 1980 Cumberland College graduate with a major in psychology and a minor in art. She completed her degree with honors while working full-time and caring for her husband and three children.

Weedman has helped new faculty members find housing and adjust to the college, consoled faculty members who experienced loss and

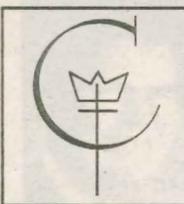
helped students who found themselves in academic trouble get back on track.

She puts her Christian faith and compassion in action in her neighborhood as well. She helps take care of the yard of a neighbor who can no longer do so and maintains the play equipment in her yard for neighborhood children to use.

God has blessed Cumberland College with a wonderful staff. Without their faithful work and ministry, Cumberland's mission could not be accomplished. We congratulate and thank Weedman for her service and example to all of us.

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

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Hezbollah seizes Christian TV facility as Israel withdraws

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher
Religion News Service

"I think the really dangerous time for them is still to come."

Wes Hylton, general manager of Middle East Television, referring to employees in danger from Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas have seized the Christian Broadcasting Network's Middle East Television Network facility based in the predominantly Christian south Lebanese town of Marjayoun, according to CBN officials.

The seizure of METV's two-story, 6,000-square-foot studio and a nearby 250-foot broadcast tower came May 30 as Israel and its proxy South Lebanese Army militia withdrew from their self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

But officials said the superstation, which is viewed by an estimated 10 million people in 17 Middle Eastern nations, has continued to broadcast via satellite from the nearby Mediterranean island of Cyprus.

Approximately \$5 million worth of equipment also was stolen by vandals in the chaos after the withdrawal, Wes Hylton, general manager of Middle East Television, said in an interview from his new base in Cyprus.

For 18 years METV has beamed an American-style diet of NFL sports, family sitcoms and Christian talk shows to viewers in a region dominated by tightly controlled Arab government channels.

But the Christian station was closely associated with Israel's rule in the former SLA enclave.

Hylton said the organization had

begun preparing an alternative facility in Cyprus several months ago, and most essential equipment already had been removed from the site before the unexpectedly early Israeli retreat.

"We knew the Israeli pullout was imminent as was the collapse of the local militias," said Hylton. "Then last Monday, my news manager in Lebanon called me at the office in Cyprus and said that they were pulling out the news equipment and personnel because things were falling apart. I flew to Israel, and by the time I got to the border it was chaos. The roads were completely blocked by thousands and thousands of Lebanese vehicles."

The last planned METV truckload of equipment and videotapes was stalled at the border and ultimately confiscated by the Hezbollah, Hylton said. Meanwhile, five Lebanese families affiliated with the METV operation fled to Israel during the withdrawal, while another 55 employees chose to remain behind in their homes even though Hezbollah arrest warrants had been issued for the entire staff.

Lebanese television subsequently showed scenes of the guerrillas breaking into the METV studios.

"They broke through the metal gates and broke down the door to the employees' kitchen and shot up the place a little bit," Hylton said.

Despite widespread looting and chaos, none of the METV employees who remained in Lebanon has

been harmed by the Hezbollah. However, Hylton said he is concerned about their ultimate fate in the coming weeks and months.

"Right now, the media eye has been on the Hezbollah. I think the really dangerous time for them is still to come," he said.

Employees of METV who did leave Lebanon were able to escape to Israel with only the clothes on their backs, he added, noting CBN has established an emergency fund to help those employees obtain entry visas to the United States.

"If there is any crime they committed, it was to preach the gospel," he said. "We have all been techni-

cians and operators, just people who push buttons and play 'The 700 Club' and other Christian programs to the people of the Middle East."

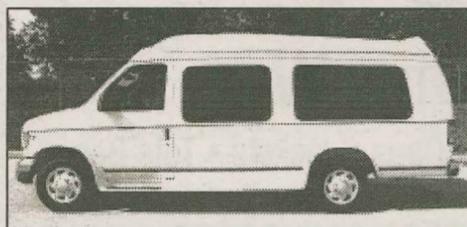
Hylton said it isn't clear if the Hezbollah will try to use METV's facilities for its own broadcast activities. But he said METV had made arrangements to bequeath the broadcast tower and studio to a Christian television station in Beirut. It is now up to the Lebanese government to see that the property is actually turned over to the new owners.

METV is owned and operated by the Christian Broadcasting Network, which was founded in 1960 by Pat Robertson.

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It's not too late

This Sunday is the designated day for Kentucky Baptists to support our ministry in a special way: the Barkley Moore Offering. This offering originated in 1993, when Kentucky Baptists looked at the funds available to the five schools through the Cooperative Program.

Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Oneida Baptist Institute share the Christian education funds in the KBC annual budget.

This annual offering was sanctioned by the KBC in an effort to provide additional funds to OBI because we receive the smallest percentage of those funds. The offering was established with the idea that Kentucky Baptists could decide if they felt our ministry was deserving of additional funding. If so, they could give to the offering on Father's Day.

We are very grateful for the financial support we receive through the Cooperative Program. Normally, about 9 percent of our annual budget comes from the Cooperative Program of Kentucky Baptists. One disadvantage our students face

is not being able to secure federal student loans or grants like students at the four other schools. When low-income students come to Oneida, we depend on our friends and supporters to make it financially possible to care for them. The room and board we charge our students is about one-fourth the actual cost of caring for them.

We do everything possible to keep our costs to an absolute minimum. This spring we finally replaced the six vans we use to transport our students to many school activities. The vans we replaced were about 14 years old and averaged nearly 200,000 miles each. One was on its third motor. These vans

were replaced with four small school buses with funds made available by two wonderful friends of our school. Most of the vehicles we use every day have been donated. We greatly appreciate these gifts. The average donated vehicle given to us is about 12 years old and has around 125,000 miles on it. We typically drive those vehicles another 50,000 to 75,000 miles before officially retiring them. This is not to say we never have to purchase vehicles, but we try to use donated vehicles as long as they meet our needs.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Students help raise all of our pork and beef, and many of our vegetables. They clean nearly every building on campus and mow the grass. The average salary of our faculty/staff is just over \$6,000 per year. They are given modest housing, paid utilities, health insurance and meals. Some have taken as much as a \$50,000 per year reduction in salary to be part of the Oneida ministry.

This is normally the only time of the year we ever ask for financial support. We do not plead for funds or anything else the rest of the year, though our friends support us throughout the year. We do not

send monthly mailings saying we need items or funds, though we do have many needs and it is tempting to ask more often. We don't ask because we believe our ministry and stewardship speak for themselves.

If your pastor hasn't made the Barkley Moore Offering materials available in your church, please encourage him to do so. Without Kentucky Baptists, there would not be an Oneida Baptist Institute.

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

Saturday classes meet a need

It has been a year since David Muse answered God's call to ministry leadership and he is amazed at what God has given him to do.

"Our youth pastor left and I was asked to be the interim," Muse said. "Four months later the pastor left and the deacons asked me to fill the pulpit. I have a heart for all ages and love to do pastoral work."

Deacon Bob Burns rejoices in the results. "David is a fine Christian man and I see great things in the future for him. He is more mature than his age might indicate. In the five-month interim we have seen seven saved, three baptized and four other additions to the church." Camp Ground Baptist Church in Pulaski County averaged 81

people in attendance in April. Muse, a 1996 graduate of Pulaski County High School, started working at Kroger his senior year. "My Christian supervisor is very flexible with my schedule. I work in customer service, which is all about relationships. I was very backward and there was no way to stand in front of a group. I identified with Moses and his excuses. I realized I'm not the one doing the work, but God working

through me," he acknowledged.

A Kroger colleague noted, "David is the type of person everyone can easily be around and enjoy his company. He also uses every opportunity to plug Jesus into some sort of conversation."

With several general education courses completed at a community college Muse considered moving to campus. "That's the normal route, but it

seemed the Lord wanted me to stay with the church. I clicked on Clear Creek's Web site and found the announcement for Saturday classes. It first seemed a cop-out, but the Lord confirmed it was for me. I really appreciate the opportunity to study. The Baptist doctrine class has helped me. Dr. Ditty

(Old Testament professor) is amazing! I know God has so many more things in store for me. I want to please Him," Muse stated.

Burns said the church wants Muse to continue in school.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

BOOKS

The Four Witnesses: The Rebel, the Rabbi, the Chronicler and the Mystic. Robin Griffith-Jones. Harper San Francisco, 2000. 405 pages. \$25. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

One Gospel. Four writers, all addressing different audiences, writing from different contexts, present "strikingly different" testimonies to the life and death of Jesus Christ.

This is the basic thesis of Robin Griffith-Jones' survey of the four Gospels. In order to fully appreciate Jesus, he contends we must read each of the gospel accounts, not only in their unique context, but also in dialogue with Paul and the author of Revelation. Efforts to synthesize the Gospels into one, homogeneous account also must be resisted, lest we distort the full testimony of the first century church to Jesus.

According to Griffith-Jones, Mark's gospel is "The Rebel's Story," addressed to Roman Christians experiencing persecution for their proclamation that "Jesus is Lord."

Matthew writes out of the synagogue to address the question, "Was Jesus a prophet or fraud?" Matthew contends he is neither, but much more. Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's messianic hopes. Luke writes, not to persecuted Christians, but to those close to power. Luke pictures Jesus as the Savior of the world, in whom history is fulfilled. John takes us in a completely different direction. Less concerned about concrete details, John uses powerful, poetic metaphors to reveal a Jesus who invites us to rebirth and transformation.

Those who have struggled with the apparent discrepancies among the Gospel accounts will find "The Four Witnesses" a stimulating and helpful resource. Those who want a flat Bible, devoid of imagery and imagination, will probably reject Griffith-Jones' ap-

proach. Regardless, the biblical backgrounds he provides will benefit any student of the New Testament. *Jim Holladay*

Listening Carefully to Jesus. R.E.O. White. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000. 108 pages. \$12. ♦♦♦♦

R.E.O. White is a retired Baptist minister and lecturer in New Testament Greek and exegesis. He has written this little book out of his desire that the modern disciple of Jesus hear the words of Jesus on His own terms.

White is concerned that many people bring their own modern day presuppositions to reading the Gospels, and thus miss what Jesus is saying. In order to combat this problem, White lays out some essential aids to understanding Jesus' style of speech and methods of instruction. He then turns to an exploration of the teachings of Jesus.

White writes for a lay audience and goes to great length not to get too scholarly. But the scholarship is there.

Repeatedly White mentions the views of scholars, but he does not elaborate on the way the scholars reached their conclusions. In reality, the lay reader probably will want to know more background than White gives in this volume. That would be okay if White made some attempt to direct the reader to other sources, which he does not. Even scriptural references are kept to a too bare minimum.

I enjoyed reading the book and found little that was objectionable. The book makes sense to me but I come to it with two seminary degrees and experience as a pastor. This volume assumes way too much of the reader in order to recommend it to new Christians.

The volume is much more likely to be helpful as a refresher course for a

more advanced Bible student or as a point of discussion for a group that has the resources to do a much deeper study. The book misses the mark with its intended audience. *Wayne Hager*

Heart of A Shepherd: Meditations for New Pastors. Angie Best-Boss. Judson Press, 2000. 203 pages. \$13. ♦♦♦♦♦

Only those who have been through the transition to being a first-time pastor can appreciate what it means to be in one's first pastorate.

No amount of seminary training can fully prepare one for the variety of emotions and challenges which will come. As a Quaker pastor, Angie Best-Boss has been through the experience and has written an excellent devotional book to help the new pastor cope spiritually with this transition.

These 100 devotions are a candid look at the challenges and the joys of being a new pastor. Along the way she incorporates valid principles for not only surviving but enjoying the initial years of a pastorate. The devotions help the new pastor recognize that many others who have walked this same path have survived. This book is a recognition that survival is a matter of the spirit more than it is the mastering of technique. From dealing with criticism and shattered expectations to time management and setting boundaries, the new pastor will glean much wisdom and practical advice.

This book would make an excellent gift for the graduate who is entering a pastorate for the first time. It is also helpful for experienced pastors who often face much of the same experiences in moving from one pastorate to another. In fact, the devotions would be helpful to any person entering a new church staff position. *Wayne Hager*

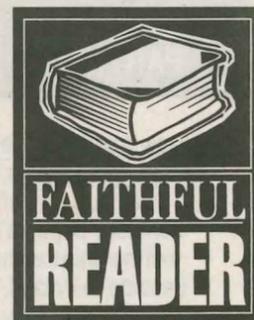
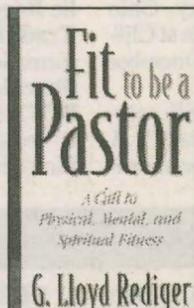
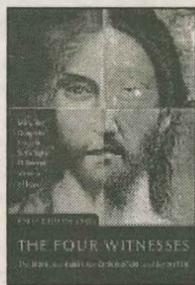
Fit to Be a Pastor: A Call to Physical, Mental and Spiritual Fitness. G. Lloyd Rediger. Westminster/John Knox Press, 2000. 186 pages. \$14.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

Ordination councils examining a person's fitness to serve in pastoral ministry generally inquire about the individual's spiritual, theological and emotional fitness, as well as whether the individual has the basic skill necessary for success. Many will hone in only on spiritual and theological fitness.

Lloyd Rediger argues that, for the sake of the health of the church, pastors and churches need to be concerned with the spiritual, mental and physical health of pastoral leaders. He contends the very health of churches depends on the health of its leaders, and that one aspect of a person's life cannot be separated from another. To be spiritually fit and disciplined, while being physically unfit is an oxymoron. Likewise, to be physically and spiritually fit, while being intellectually sloppy is to impair one's effectiveness.

Rediger looks to the biblical command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength" as a pattern for his understanding of pastoral fitness. He does not argue that every pastor must be a paragon of physical fitness, a spiritual giant or an intellectual heavyweight. Rather, he maintains that in those areas, every pastor must demonstrate a discipline and desire to function in a healthy manner.

Rediger's book is more than an argument for fitness; it points the reader in the direction of practical disciplines to help achieve what he pictures. Readers will find the appendices of this book as helpful as the text, for they contain illustrations of his model, as well as a worksheet for tracking pastoral fitness. *Jim Holladay*



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

Charles Colson best seller becomes Bible study

By Kristin Searfoss
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Everybody's got a worldview, according to Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey. The only question about it, they add, is what influences it most.

Helping Christians develop a healthy worldview is one of several topics for their eight-week Bible study called "How Now Shall We Live?"

The study, based on Colson's book of the same name, is produced by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the study, Colson, former aide to Richard Nixon and founder of the international ministry Prison Fellowship, and Pearcey, a fellow at the Discovery Institute's Center for Renewal for Science and Culture, emphasize that competing worldviews are the bases for today's spiritual battles.

Christians must exercise a Christian worldview in the face of the prevailing secular worldview, Colson said. "They need to get serious about seeing the world the way God sees it."

The Bible study is designed to help Christians use a Christian worldview as a road map for life. It tells readers how and why their faith should be brought into all aspects of their lives. The five

areas of Colson and Pearcey's book—Worldview, Creation, The Fall, Redemption and Restoration—make up most of the study sessions.

During the first session, Colson sets the stage for the challenge he and Pearcey put to readers.

Today's mindset in America is naturalistic, "that there is a natural explanation for everything," Colson said. "Naturalism is people playing God."

That mindset influences many of the issues and debates surrounding Christians today: abortion, evolution, the existence of truth, the sexual revolution, movies, television and music, the place of the family and the role of work.

Colson cites an example from taking his grandson to Epcot Center in Walt Disney World.

"When I took my grandson to Disney World and Epcot Center I wasn't thinking about the battle between naturalism and biblical theism or about the lack of Christian influences at Disney World. We were just there to have a good time."

But the Living Seas exhibit was "a real shocker," he said.

"I saw this incredibly well-done presentation of what, from my perspective, was blatant naturalism and kept looking at my little 8-year-old grandson's innocent face as he was soaking all of

this in with awe and wonder," he recalled.

"The thought that flashed across my mind is that millions of kids come here, and this leaves a more profound impression on them than all of their biology textbooks and geology courses combined," he said. "This simply underscored for me how important it is that we be discerning about the values of the culture in which we live."

Christians don't discern the subtle ways naturalism and secularism influence the culture's thinking because "we don't think 'Christianly,'" Colson said. "In the book I argue that what's missing is the Christian mind—where we look at all of life through the lens of Scripture."

"It means we have to be very skeptical about what is fed to us as a steady diet in popular culture, academia and elsewhere," he added.

The study helps Christians apply specific questions to various philosophies, belief systems and scientific theories that create various worldviews.

"Most of the great Christian martyrs of modern times, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, saw clearly the evils of the society around them and knew how to deal with them frontally," Colson said. "Sadly, today Christians are simply sleeping."

Beatles manager describes his long, winding road to Christianity

BODEGA BAY, Calif. (BP)—When the Beatles performed their final concert in London in 1969, only a handful of people were present.

Ken Mansfield had the best seat in the house—or rather on the roof of the Apple Records building with just a few other listeners—when the Fab Four sang their final notes together.

Mansfield, then U.S. manager of the Beatles' Apple Records label, thought that moment would be the highlight of his life.

He was wrong.

"If I would have continued being successful in the music industry, I don't think I would have ever come to the Lord," said Mansfield, author of "The Beatles, the Bible and Bodega Bay: My Long and Winding Road," released this month.

When the Beatles stopped recording together, Mansfield worked with other big-name artists. But the Grammy Award-winning record producer also experienced frequent setbacks in the extremely volatile industry. It was those difficult days that eventually led to a spiritual awakening for Mansfield.

"I had all this stuff—the big house in the Hollywood hills, the swimming pool, the wife who was a beautiful actress—but I was never happy," Mansfield said.

The book reflects his spiritual search and his conversion to Christianity. It also includes his personal recollections of John, Paul, George and Ringo.

"I really feel God did sponsor this book," Mansfield said. "All that time with the Beatles was for this purpose."

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionaries and Tanzanian nationals who are discipling the 367 people in Dar es Salaam who made professions of faith in Jesus as a result of the efforts of a Kentucky team and Tanzanian Christians in late April.

■ Mkomba Baptist Church in Tanzania as members look for a pastor.

■ A Kentucky team in Tanzania this month leading a mission conference for pastors, deacons and laypeople at Kipoke Secondary School.

■ The many student mission groups going to Poland this summer.

■ Open doors for the gospel in the business and education communities in Poland.

■ The ministry of Solid Rock Baptist Church, a new church in Uxbridge, Mass.

■ The Baptist Convention of New-England executive director search committee.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—First Church called **David Akers** as minister of activities.

■ **CORBIN**—First Church called **Lynne Huff** as minister of music and children. **Barry Howard** is pastor.

Rodney Hale resigned as pastor of Greenland Church to accept the pastorate of First Church, Ceredo, W.Va.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Valley Creek Church will host vacation Bible school June 26-30, 6 p.m. For information, call (270) 737-9282. **Steven Hill** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Retired pastor **Robert O. Williams**, 73, died May 24 of cancer. Williams served as pastor of five churches in Kentucky, Ohio and Illinois, including 25 years at Clifton Church, where he was a member at his death.

Midlane Park Church will celebrate its 37th anniversary June 25. A potluck lunch will follow the morn-

ing service. For information, call (502) 491-7966. **Johnnie Bailey** is pastor.

■ **OWENTON**—First Church called **Daven Watkins** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Gary Millsaps** resigned as activities minister at First Church to return to lay ministry in Georgia. **Shawn Wasson** has been called as minister to singles and senior adults. Wasson previously served as pastor of Zions Cause Church in Benton. **Kevin McCallon** is pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Pigeon Fork Church will host Homecoming 2000 June 25 to celebrate its 175th anniversary. The 11 a.m. service will be followed by dinner and a 1:30 p.m. service. **Charlie Boggan** will speak and **Southern Tradition** will provide music. For information, call (502) 829-5858. **Tim Shockley** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Janie Carter** resigned as minister of music at First Church.



ONEIDA GRADUATION Sixty-nine students graduated from Oneida Baptist Institute May 20. ■ Above: Graduate **Elisa Hall**, who was vice president of Oneida's Future Farmers of America chapter, talks with **Lynn Cole**, an assistant farm manager, and his wife, **Carol**. ■ Left: **John Blanton** (right) helps **Henry Revel** adjust his cap before graduation exercises. (Oneida photos by Denise Spencer)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 1970 47-passenger coach bus, fair condition, needs work. \$12,000. Leave message: (812) 941-7799 key 806.

FOR SALE: Excellent 1976 GMC model 4108 motor coach; like-new inside and out, Detroit diesel, Allison automatic, 39-passenger and restroom. This beautiful coach is ready to drive anywhere. For photos or more information, call (606) 278-7224.

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: Part-time music director for Bethel Baptist Church, Gilbertsville, Ky. Direct 4-part harmony adult choir; some work with youth and children. Contact church office at (270) 362-8228 or 362-0077.

SEEKING: Church secretary. Full-time position with complete responsibility for operation of church office. Experience with MS Word is preferred. Call (502) 368-5806 or send resumé to: Beechmont Baptist Church, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214. Fax: 368-5807.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of West Jefferson, Ohio, is in search of a full-time youth/education minister. You may send resúmes to the church, Attn: Search Committee, at 686 West Jefferson-Kiousville Road, West Jefferson, OH 43162.

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

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

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 resúmes to: Pulpit Committee, Stanford Baptist Church, 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484, or call (606) 365-2178.

SEEKING: Union Baptist Church (Northern Kentucky) has an opening for a part-time minister of music. The position will require approximately 13 hours per week. Send resumé to: PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091, or call (859) 384-3855 for additional information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SERVICES: Home care for the elderly. Meal preparation, housekeeping, personal hygiene. Bonded, insured, eight years experience. Kinnett Care, (502) 499-7777.

TOUR: 10-Day China tour. Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Great Wall, terra cotta soldiers, Yangtze River. Nov. 7-16, \$2,085. From our area. For info., call Judy Studie, (270) 475-2197.

Stone presents anti-drug views on third walk across America

By Todd Starnes
Baptist Press

DURHAM, N.C. (BP)—Drug problems are “destroying the fabric of our nation,” warns Ted Stone, who once again has taken his message across America. Literally.

Stone recently returned from his third “Walking and Talking Across America” tour, telling people about the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction. The Durham, N.C., crusader has devoted the past 23 years to helping people find answers to drug and alcohol abuse.

His most recent cross-country crusade started Jan. 31 in Laredo, Texas. He then crossed the border for a brief prayer breakfast with several Mexican ministers in Nuevo, Mexico.

Carrying an American flag and a Mexican banner, Stone returned across the international bridge into the United States and began a 1,700-mile journey that would take him to the Canadian border.

His most recent walk including delivering his message to the owners and management of Anheuser-Busch Co., one of the nation’s leading manufacturers of beer.

“I really do believe that we must be extremely careful on the influence we have on other people,” he said. “The beer industry has a great influence on people’s lives. I’m praying for a positive answer to my letter.”

In his letter, Stone challenged the company to be responsible in its advertising campaigns. “I am pleading with your company to carefully reexamine past advertising programs to ascertain whether this type of advertising, particularly those ads associated with such comical creatures as frogs and lizards, does indeed contain a strong appeal for our young people,” Stone wrote. “As you know, far too many of our teenagers are falling prey to the enticement of not only beer products, but also a wide range of other alcoholic beverages.

“I believe that if Anheuser-Busch would delete the advertising bearing specific appeals to our young, then other beer industries would soon follow suit,” he added.

During Stone’s walk, which concluded May 18, he spoke at churches, schools, civic groups, prisons and rehabilitation centers.

Along with his associate, Philip Barber, Stone walked nearly 25 miles each day. Stone has collected almost 500,000 commitment cards from people pledging to live free from drug abuse.

Stone said he will continue to spread his message across the country. “These are drastic times that require drastic actions,” he said.

Canadian culture invigorates missionary

By Matt Sanders
Baptist Press

COCHRANE, Alberta, Canada (BP)—When God started putting together the pieces of Kevin Peacock’s ministry, Peacock didn’t know the picture would include sub-zero temperatures and snow measured by the foot.

But the Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary to Canada doesn’t mind, because he believes he’s exactly where God wants him to be.

Growing up in South Korea where his parents served as missionaries, Peacock always has had missions as a part of his life.

“It became a very natural thing when the Lord called me to be a missionary,” he said.

Since junior high school, he sensed God was calling him to teach. In college, he thought that meant music. While serving as a missionary journeyman in Scotland, he felt the call to vocational ministry.

At Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he earned a doctorate in Old Testament, the pieces started coming together. He knew God wanted him to teach and to preach on the mission field. Later, the call was more defined: Be a seminary professor in a cross-cultural setting.

Canada was a perfect fit. “Everything that I had been going through, every experience that I had, had been preparing me for this place,” he said. “None of it has been wasted.”

Canada is a nation of many cultures—not a melting pot like the United States, but a mosaic with ethnic groups retaining their identities.

“The result is everything we do in Canada is cross-cultural,” Peacock said.

“Canada is such a huge country that no matter where you go, even for a Canadian, you are changing cultures.”

The diversity makes the task of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists that much more challenging. In 1986, the 72-church convention started the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, to better reach Canadians for Christ.

“Our seminary is different, because we’re in a pioneer setting and we’re training people for pioneer ministry,” said Peacock, describing the school where he has served as professor of Old Testament since 1997.

Rather than a Baptist church on every corner, Canada now has 150 Southern Baptist congregations, mostly small, separated by hundreds of miles.

“Many of the churches are struggling, but we’ve got a very bright future ahead of us,” Peacock said, citing the convention’s goal to plant 1,000 churches in the next 20 years.

The new churches will require leaders, which is where the seminary comes in.

“We believe God can do it and wants to do it. Canadian Southern Baptists are one of the few evangelical groups that are growing,” Peacock said.

The growth means Peacock must minister in many different ways. That’s exactly how he likes it.

“If I just did one thing I wouldn’t be able to work here,” he said. “It just fits me like a glove.”

In addition to being the only Old Testament and Hebrew professor on the six-member faculty, Peacock directs the field education program and teaches undergraduate courses at Canadian Baptist College.

Peacock is active in his home church, Bow Valley Baptist, and as part of a church planting team for Alpine

Christian Ministries in Canmore, a rapidly growing resort community of about 10,000 people. Peacock also serves as interim pastor of Arabic Christian Fellowship in Calgary. The Arabic-speaking congregation is the only evangelical church reaching out to an Arabic community of about 25,000 people.

Peacock, who doesn’t speak Arabic, preaches through an interpreter, makes hospital visits and leads Bible studies.

Peacock, whose wife delivered their third child in February, also spends time with his family. The health of their second child is continuing confirmation that the Peacocks are exactly where God wants them. Micah was born with severe health problems, which Peacock knew limited the places they could go on missions. Cochrane is just 20 miles from Calgary with all the medical specialists they need just 30 minutes away.

Peacock’s busy schedule does not leave a lot of time for research, but Peacock understood that when he accepted IMB appointment in 1996.

“I am a missionary,” he said.

Peacock admits to missing scholarly fellowship, especially because he is the only professor in his field. When he does write, he usually is writing training manuals for ministers to use on the field.

The temperature was 40 below zero the day he and his family moved to Cochrane. But living in Fort Worth, Texas, had helped him adjust.

“Winters can be pretty brutal here, but no matter how cold it gets I’ll never say I wish it were 103 degrees,” he remarked.

Peacock believes he is where God wants him to be and is willing to stay.

“We’d be pleased if we could stay here until we retired,” he said. “But God reserves the right to pick us up and move us.”

“Canadian Southern Baptists are one of the few evangelical groups that are growing.”

Southern Baptist missionary Kevin Peacock

Family counselor helps select missionary candidates

By Mary Speidel
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Just before Hebert Palomino went overseas as an international missionary, he received some advice he’ll never forget.

“Remember that people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”

Those oft-spoken words came this time from C.W. Brister, a pastoral care professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where Palomino was a doctoral student. In the 12 years since he heard that comment, Palomino said he has seen for himself the truth of his mentor’s words.

As a missionary trained in family counseling, Palomino has shared Christ’s love with hurting people in South America while helping them cope with some tough traumas of life—terminal illness, death, failed marriage, attempted suicide, sexual abuse and more.

Through the ministry of pastoral care, Palomino has led many non-Christians to a Savior who can heal their brokenness.

“As missionaries, we don’t go overseas to indoctrinate people, to make them believe as

we believe,” said Palomino, a Southern Baptist missionary. “Our first priority is to help them come to know the Lord, to let them see the incarnational presence through our care for them, to let them see that there’s something in us that makes a big difference.”

Palomino, a native of Cali, Colombia, has done exactly that since he and his wife, Karen, were appointed missionaries by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1989.

Palomino currently is a missionary-in-residence at the IMB headquarters in Richmond, Va., where he is using his family counseling background to help the board’s office of mission personnel select new international missionaries.

Palomino implements and interprets psychological testing of missionary candidates and works with candidate consultants—IMB staff members who guide candidates through the missionary appointment process—to help them determine a candidate’s readiness for the rigors of missionary service.

He guides consultants in how to address a variety of psychological issues with their candidates, sometimes advising candidates to seek counseling before moving forward in the appointment process.

Looking at the whole picture, Palomino said he can see God working in the appointment process. “But at the same time, it’s important to understand that there are some issues future missionaries need to address here in the States before they go to the field to do what God has called them to do,” he said. “Because under the tension of language and cultural acquisition, many of those issues—like grief or problems with their family of origin—are going to pop up sooner or later.”

In his new assignment at the IMB, Palomino also is doing research about adult children of alcoholics.

“More and more of our missionary candidates are coming from dysfunctional backgrounds, especially families with alcoholism,” he said.

Palomino is working to determine how best to help those candidates—before they go overseas—address issues they will face on the field.

“Our goal is to prevent the sending of missionaries who have unresolved psychological issues,” Palomino said. “We want to equip our future missionaries in such a way that they can go out there and do what the Lord has called them to do—and to be as effective as they can be for the kingdom.”

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