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 Vol. 174, No. 33

FOR THE RECORD

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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, August 23

Professor: Give kids positive, healthy & godly experiences

By Ken Camp
 Baptist General Convention of Texas

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Childhood experiences do not predetermine adult behavior, but they have a strong impact—either for good or ill—on what adults will become, according to a Baptist university professor.

"Positive childhood experiences lead to solid character formation, psychological well-being and healthy relationships," said Gaynor Yancey, assistant professor in Baylor University's School of Social Work.

"A dysfunctional beginning can unleash an abundance of personal demons that haunt an individual for a lifetime," Yancey continued in remarks at a recent training conference sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union of Texas. "For better or worse, the child lives on in the adult."

Yancey said parents can help create positive childhood experiences by modeling and teaching conflict resolution and by fostering open communication.

Conflict management involves recognizing the source of a problem, getting the facts, defining the conflict, gathering ideas and discussing options that will lead to solutions, and then preparing a plan for implementation, Yancey explained.

Effective communication depends on a willingness to recognize the uniqueness of each family member, lower defenses, take the time to genuinely listen and take responsibility for individual thoughts, feelings and behaviors, she said.

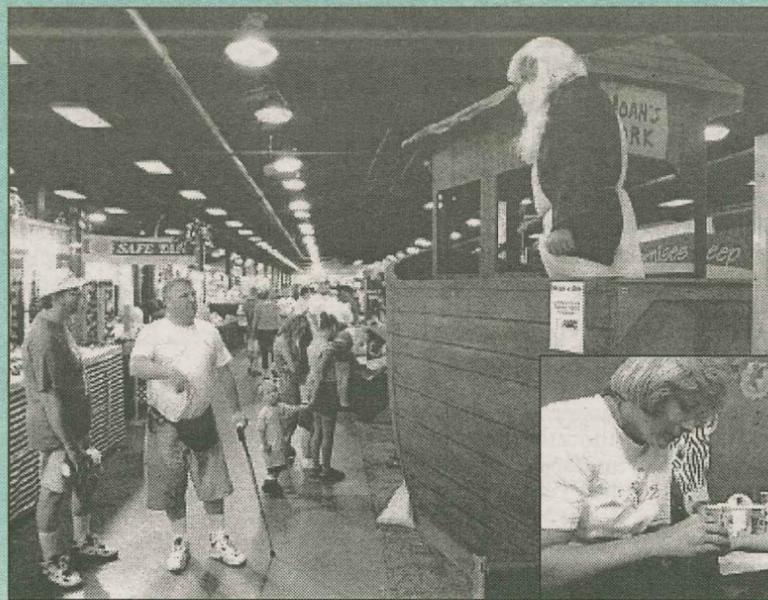
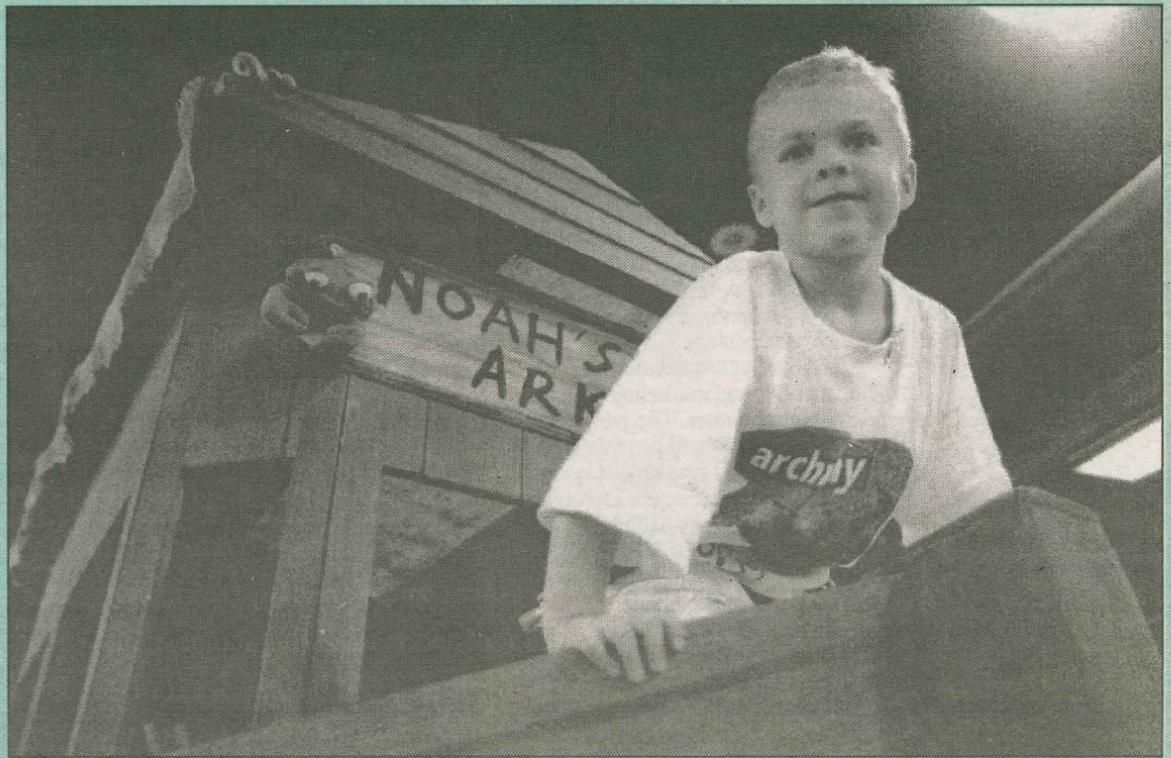
As children learn to communicate with other family members, she continued, parents also should teach them the importance of communicating with God.

"Part of godly leadership is how you help your family start the day," Yancey said. "A spiritual quiet time is important, because God desires fellowship with me, Jesus deserves my attention, and it's necessary for a vital and growing relationship with Christ."

Healthy families learn both to pray together and serve together, Yancey said. A healthy Christian family is missions-minded and not just inwardly focused.

"A healthy family moves outside and outward to share the gospel," she said.

State fair fun



With all the cattle, sheep, goats and other animals at the Kentucky State Fair, the "Noah's Ark" theme chosen for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's booth seems quite appropriate. The booth, using the slogan "God's Promises Keep Us Afloat," is located in the East Wing of Freedom Hall in Louisville. More than 80 Kentucky Baptists have volunteered to staff the booth throughout the fair Aug. 17-27. Kentucky Baptists anticipate greeting as many as 600,000 visitors to the fair this year.

■ Above: Austin Schooler, 6, of Harrodsburg, plays on the ark. ■ Left: Randy Foster of the KBC Brotherhood department poses as Noah. ■ Inset: Danita Hayes paints the hand of Karly Schleg, 4, of Bullit County.

Tom Lehman: Significance comes from God

By Trennis Henderson
 Editor

LOUISVILLE—Tom Lehman's motivation is clear. He takes time from his demanding schedule as a professional golfer to publicly share his personal Christian testimony "out of love for Jesus and appreciation for what He has done for me."

Lehman joined other Christian golfers Aug. 15 for an "Up Close and Personal" ministry banquet held in conjunction with the 2000 PGA Championship in Louisville. Lehman, Steve Jones and Loren Roberts took part in a panel discussion moderated by CBS golf commentator Bobby Clampett.

The evangelistic event, co-sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and other religious organizations and businesses, attracted more than 1,000 area golf fans. The program also

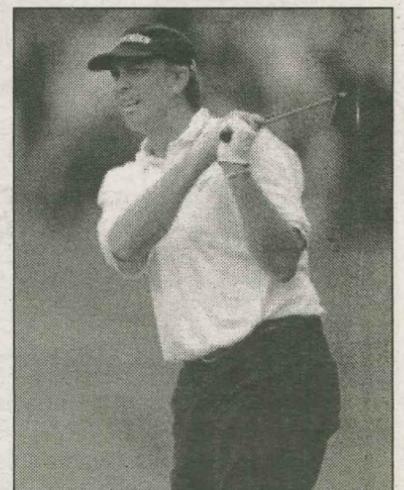
featured special music by Grammy Award-winning Christian artist Larnelle Harris.

Lehman, the Professional Golfers' Association's 1996 Player of the Year, became a Christian at age 15 through involvement in a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Bible study.

Recalling that he felt insignificant as a third-string quarterback on his high school's state championship football team, Lehman said he also "had an incredible feeling of insignificance" when he realized "I wasn't part of God's team."

"That's how I was drawn to God," Lehman told the banquet crowd. He said the discovery that God loved him unconditionally "gave me an incredible feeling of worth and significance."

Evaluating his golf career, Lehman said even after being the world's top-



TOM LEHMAN The 1996 British Open champion was in Kentucky for the PGA Championship and spoke at an evangelistic event. (Photo by Keiichi Sato)

□ See Evangelistic event ..., page 3

No new accommodations have been constructed at either Southern Baptist center in 27 years.

Glorieta, Ridgecrest face major changes

By Charles Willis
LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—A centralized organization with top leadership based in Nashville has been announced as the first major step in total revitalization of Southern Baptists' two national conference centers.

Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.), the two LifeWay conference centers, will be operated as one organization with facilities at two locations, according to Michael Arrington, vice president of the corporate affairs division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The directors' positions at Glorieta and Ridgecrest will be eliminated and replaced by a Nashville-based director of conference centers.

Additionally, the national staff will include a sales and marketing manager and an event planner. The people filling these positions will provide strategic leadership and implement coordinated actions at both centers. During the transition period while national leaders are selected, on-site leadership at Glorieta and Ridgecrest will be provided by interim operations managers at each center—John Horton, at Glorieta, and Bill Bowman, at Ridgecrest. Both currently serve as associate directors. Regional sales and marketing managers will be located at each center.

Larry Haslam, director of Glorieta since 1973, and G.W. Lankford, direc-

tor of Ridgecrest since 1992, will retire effective Sept. 30.

Haslam, 60, is a 32-year employee of LifeWay. Prior to assuming leadership at Glorieta, he was program and promotion specialist at Ridgecrest. Earlier, he was a church recreation consultant at LifeWay.

Lankford, 56, is a 15-year employee of LifeWay. He was manager of engineering, maintenance and construction for LifeWay's Nashville complex before becoming director at Ridgecrest. Earlier, he was supervisor of building maintenance at Ridgecrest.

Arrington said research conducted on the ministry of the centers "shows that while the ministries of Glorieta and Ridgecrest continue to be appreciated, revitalization of facilities, programming, marketing and service is needed to enable guests in increasing numbers to experience spiritual renewal through the centers."

In their semiannual meeting, LifeWay's trustees received a report citing the condition of facilities, and projections for the future based on independent market research. At that time, trustees approved the direction and concepts outlined in a 15-year revitalization plan for the two centers.

James Draper, president of LifeWay, said he believes "we have a window of opportunity through this major revitalization to reach more persons and increase the effectiveness of our ministry

to Southern Baptists and others who are seeking spiritual transformation through a closer walk with Jesus Christ."

No new accommodations have been constructed at either conference center in 27 years, the report noted, and deferred maintenance has left deteriorated facilities and less-than-suitable environments.

The strategic plan calls for incremental site development with review of results prior to subsequent steps of development. Requests for funding will be presented to trustees for review and budget approval prior to each step.

Arrington said a 10-year fund-raising plan projected by LifeWay's capital resource development department would provide \$73 million toward the estimated \$84.7 million cost through the 15th year.

Ridgecrest, begun in 1907, and Glorieta, started in 1952, served more than 107,000 people in LifeWay's 1998-99 fiscal year. Thousands of spiritual decisions have been reported at each location throughout the years.

A master site plan, a budget for the first-phase building project at Ridgecrest and a marketing and communications plan for the centers will be presented to trustees at their Sept. 11-13 meeting in Nashville. The master site plan will identify needed new facilities, existing facilities to be refurbished, structures to be removed and a combination of new and remodeled conference space.

SBC's YouthLink reaches 46,000, costs \$9 million

NASHVILLE (BP)—YouthLink 2000, a Southern Baptist-sponsored youth at the end of December 1999, resulted in more than 15,000 public decisions for Christian service and reached 46,081 young people at a total investment of \$9.3 million, final figures show.

Financial accounting on the seven-city event was completed in early August, indicating participant registrations accounted for \$2.7 million of that amount, with the balance of \$6.6 million paid by denominational sponsors. The Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Christian Resources, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union sponsored YouthLink.

The Dec. 29-31, 1999, event involved young people meeting in arenas and conference centers in Anaheim, Calif.; Atlanta; Denver; Houston; Philadelphia; St. Louis; and Tampa, Fla.

A total of 9,131 students made decisions saying they were willing to be a missionary if God called them, and 4,985 said that they felt God was calling them into full-time Christian ministry. More than 4,000 promised they would spend a summer, semester or year doing God's work full-time before they graduate from college.

While organizers had hoped for nearly 200,000 youth, budgeting for the event was based on 132,000 participants. The lower turnout was attributed to fears of Y2K-related problems.

James Draper, president of LifeWay, said he believes "the investment by our denomination of \$143 for each of these young people for a three-day conference represented a commitment to the future of the Southern Baptist Convention. I regret that so many others missed this opportunity out of Y2K fears that proved unjustified."

CBF prepares to launch ministers' benefits board

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a 10-year-old moderate organization that offers alternative missions, education and other church programs, is about to launch into a new area—ministerial retirement.

The Atlanta-based Fellowship voted two years ago to develop plans for a benefits board to provide retirement and other employee services to related churches and organizations. As part of the budget approved at this summer's General Assembly, CBF allocated \$175,000 from reserve funds for administrative start-up costs of the new venture.

The Church Benefits Board is scheduled to incorporate in September and

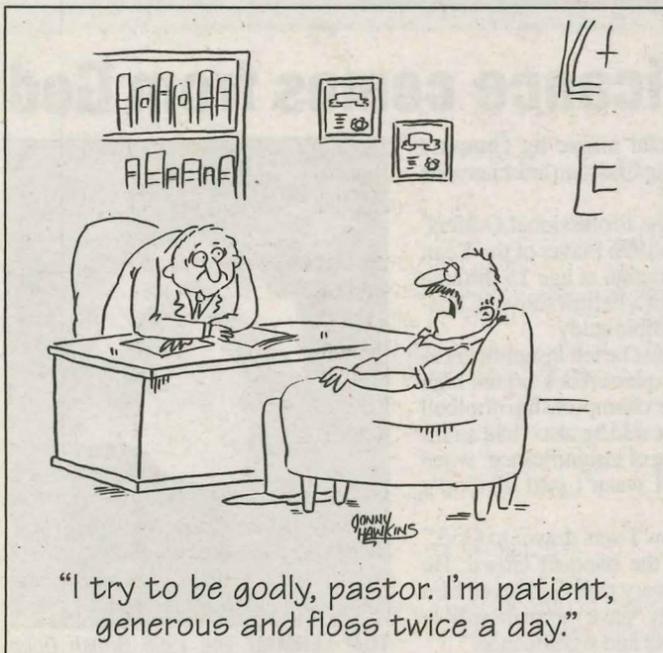
begin receiving retirement contributions Oct. 1. It will be "a separate organization with a self-perpetuating board," said Gary Skeen, CBF coordinator of finance and administration since 1994. Skeen has laid the groundwork for the board, which will operate in partnership with the Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board of the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

"By partnering with ABC we can bring to the table a fully mature benefits program that (otherwise) would have taken many years to develop," said Skeen, who is expected to be named president of the new organization's governing board.

As a result of a ruling from the In-

ternal Revenue Service, received by American Baptists in July, what is popularly called the "M&M Board" is now able to partner with other Baptist groups to provide employee services. According to a press release, the Alliance of Baptists was first to endorse the partnership, followed by CBF and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

The basic plan to be offered by the CBF-related Church Benefits Board will be based on contributions of 10 percent of an employee's annual compensation. Seven percent will go into retirement, 1 percent will cover administrative fees and the remaining 2 percent will provide for disability and group term-life insurance, Skeen said.



BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Churches cut SBC ties.** First Baptist of High Point, N.C., and First Baptist Church of Columbia, Mo., are among the latest churches to leave the Southern Baptist Convention over doctrinal differences. Bill Slater, pastor at High Point, said a key issue was recent changes to the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement that church members viewed as encroaching on local church autonomy. The Columbia congregation will maintain ties to the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists.

■ **Southwestern adds degree.** Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has gained approval from the Na-

tional Association of Schools of Music to offer a PhD in church music. William Colson, assistant dean of Southwestern's school of church music, said the program was separated from the doctor of musical arts degree to give students a degree option that emphasizes academics more and musical performance less. As of the spring 2000 semester, five students were enrolled in the new program.

■ **New Orleans names new dean.** Kenneth Keathley has been named dean of students at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Keathley is a former assistant professor of theology and philosophy and director of the doctor of ministry program at Midwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. A graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., he has been pastor of churches in Missouri and North Carolina.

■ **Retired California editor dies.** Elmer Gray, retired editor of the California Southern Baptist and a longtime pastor, educator and author died Aug. 12 in Vancouver, Wash., at age 82. Gray also was a professor and faculty dean at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and manager of the Sunday school department at the former Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. He wrote "Heirs of Promise," a history of California Southern Baptists.

KBC blood drive exceeding expectations

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Before the first drop of blood has even been collected, Kentucky Baptist organizers for a statewide blood drive say the event is charted to exceed expectations.

Organizers initially hoped the blood drive, dubbed "Operation Cooperation," would cover 25 sites throughout Kentucky.

So far, local volunteers have organized more than 60 sites, working with blood service professionals in the state's 10 blood service regions.

Many of the sites also will hold fun runs and other community events.

Operation Cooperation is slated for Sept. 10-23 although a few drives will be held outside that time frame to accommodate the limited number of blood collection crews and equipment available.

More than 4,000 units of blood already have been pledged. Kentucky Baptists hope Operation Cooperation will establish a record for statewide blood donations.

Organizers say they hope Operation Cooperation will have a major impact on the commonwealth's blood supplies during a time of year when that supply typically is low.

"It's going to give us the boost we've needed all summer," says Vicki Boling, education coordinator for the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center. Donations were down during the 1999-2000 school year, and the center has struggled to catch up ever since.

"The need for blood is always so great following the Labor Day weekend, and this will be a wonderful opportunity for us as Baptists to share something very significant with our communities," said Robert Reeves, KBC communications director who is helping to coordinate the project.

Operation Cooperation is part of Kentucky Baptists' celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, the funding mechanism through which Kentucky Baptists support colleges, children's homes, missionaries and a variety of other ministries.

While Operation Cooperation is part of Baptists' celebration, both the blood drives and related activities will be open to the public.

"This is something that will take a tremendous amount of cooperation to do so we encourage anyone who would like to participate to join us in this effort," Reeves said.

Kentucky Baptists hope Operation Cooperation will inspire other organizations in Kentucky and elsewhere to coordinate large-scale blood drives.

"This is really something that's never been done in quite this way before as far as we can tell," Reeves said. "Most blood drives are strictly local efforts but we're seeking to take it to a whole new level."

Individual blood drives span the state. Walk-ins are welcome but individuals with appointments will receive priority. For more information, visit the convention's Web site at www.ky.baptist.org/operationcooperation.htm. Information also is available by calling (502) 254-4731 or toll-free in Kentucky (888) 254-5713.

Locations, locations, locations

City	Location	Date
Alexandria	Main Street Baptist Church	Sept. 12
Ashland	Unity Baptist Church	Sept. 16
Bardstown	Parkway Baptist Church	Sept. 24
Bedford	Bedford Baptist Church	Sept. 12
Benton	Briensburg Baptist Church	Oct. 7
Burlington	Burlington Baptist Church	Sept. 13
Campbellsville	Campbellsville University	Sept. 21
Catlettsburg	Burnaugh Baptist Church	Sept. 22
Central City	Muhlenberg Co. Association office	Sept. 25
Crestwood	Ballardsville Baptist Church	Sept. 12
Danville	Lexington Avenue Baptist Church	Sept. 10
Elizabethtown	Severns Valley Baptist Church	Sept. 14
Erlanger	Erlanger Baptist Church	Sept. 11
Frankfort	Immanuel Baptist Church	Sept. 17
Franklin	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Glasgow	Glasgow Baptist Church	Sept. 12
Grayson	Senior Citizens Center	Sept. 16
Hardinsburg	Hardinsburg Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Hazard	Petrey Memorial Baptist Church	Sept. 26
Henderson	Immanuel Baptist Temple	Sept. 16
Highland Heights	Northern Kentucky University	Sept. 14
Hodgenville	First Baptist Church	Sept. 13
Hopkinsville	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Sept. 23
Hopkinsville	Hopkinsville Baptist Church	Sept. 16
Irvine	First Baptist Church	Sept. 23
Lexington	Elkhorn Baptist Association office	Sept. 16
Lexington	Immanuel Baptist Church	Sept. 27
Lexington	University of Kentucky	Sept. 15
London	First Baptist Church	Sept. 10
Louisa	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Louisville	Davis Memorial Baptist Church	Sept. 23
Louisville	Greater Salem Baptist Church	Sept. 16
Louisville	Highview Baptist School	Sept. 26
Louisville	Maple Grove Baptist Church	Sept. 20
Louisville	Shively Baptist Church	Sept. 21
Louisville	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	Sept. 20
Louisville	St. Matthews Baptist Church	Sept. 16
Louisville	Valley View Baptist Church	Sept. 23
Madisonville	First Baptist Church	Sept. 9
Mayfield	Mid-Continent College	Sept. 23
McDowell	First Baptist Church	Sept. 20
Middlesboro	Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church	Sept. 13
Morehead	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Morganfield	First Baptist Church	Sept. 10
Mt. Washington	Mt. Washington Baptist Church	Sept. 14
Murray	National Guard Armory	Sept. 24
Owenton	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Paintsville	First Baptist Church	Sept. 20
Pineville	Clear Creek Baptist Bible College	Sept. 21
Pineville	First Baptist Church	Sept. 12
Pineville	West Pineville Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Prestonsburg	First Baptist Church	Sept. 21
Radcliff	Stithon Baptist Church	Sept. 12
Sandy Hook	First Baptist Church	Sept. 13
Shelbyville	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19
Shelbyville	Highland Baptist Church	Sept. 30
Somerset	Central Kentucky Blood Center	Sept. 10-23
Stoney Fork	Mill Creek Baptist Church	Sept. 13
Taylorsville	First Baptist Church	Sept. 28
Williamsburg	Cumberland College	Sept. 14
Williamsburg	Main Street Baptist Church	Oct. 7

Evangelistic event draws 1,000 people to hear golf professionals

Continued from page 1

ranked player in 1996, "any competitor is really never satisfied. There's always much more out there."

Citing the overwhelming impact of Tiger Woods, golf's most dominant player, Lehman said Woods' success has pushed him to "worker harder at my golf game than ever before."

Woods "definitely has raised the bar in golf," he told the crowd. "Seeing a person achieve his potential is a great encouragement."



Lehman

During an interview after the event, Lehman said his primary ministry goal is to seek to reach and evangelize unbelievers. He said another goal is "reaching believers who have maybe backslidden and confronting them with the fact that God wants them to walk closely with Him."

Lehman said his life as a professional athlete and Christian role model is both "a responsibility and a privilege."

Emphasizing that his personal relationship with Jesus Christ is far more important than his golf career, Lehman added, "Everything that happens in life is to be used by God to mold you into what He wants you to be. I see my career as one element of that."

"We're all just like everybody else," he said. "We are in the public eye and have a responsibility to make people's lives better, not worse."

Jones, winner of the 1996 U.S. Open, said his life changed drastically after he became a Christian in 1984.

"The people who knew me before would really see a big difference in me," he said. "I was sort of a rebel when I was growing up. We used to play golf and drink."

"In '84 that all changed. A lot of my friends couldn't understand that change. For me, Jesus came inside my life and that changed my outside. God is the only one who can change you from the inside out."

Roberts, who grew up attending church, has won seven tournaments on the PGA Tour. Despite his professional success, "it always seemed to me like there was something missing. I acquired the head knowledge but I didn't have the heart knowledge."

While attending Bible studies on the PGA Tour, Roberts said he realized he needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "I decided my priorities were out of whack," he said. "I needed to turn it over to the Lord."

Clampett, who retired from the PGA Tour in 1995, founded the Players' Outreach Ministry in 1992 to help expand golfers' ministry opportunities. He said several Christian players involved in Bible studies together decided as a group to work together to coordinate speaking engagements and other outreach efforts.

Noting that "golf has never been as visible in the public as it is today," Clampett said such players as Lehman, Jones and Roberts "are passionate about their love for God."

"They're not the kind that want to slam it down people's throats," he added, "but when the opportunity arises for them to share what God has done in their lives and be able to influence and impact other people, they're willing and able to do that."

Acknowledging that outspoken Christian players sometimes "take a lot of hits from other players and the media to do that," Clampett said the three panelists "have stood very strong in that test. It's a battlefield out there."

Presenting a straightforward Christian invitation after the panel discussion, Clampett invited those attending the banquet to pray to receive Christ as Savior or to renew their Christian commitment.

"All of us were born in sin," Clampett said. "Sin separates us from a just and holy God." He affirmed that Jesus died and rose again "to bridge the gap between sinful man and a holy God."

Urging participants to "get things right between you and God," he added, "This event is about encouraging you."

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

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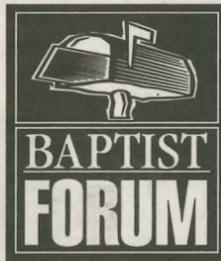
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Accept God's love

Whether I am a supporter of the Southern Baptist Convention or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or both, my responsibility as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is to witness to what He has done for me. He has demonstrated His love for me in laying down His life (no man took it from Him) to pay the penalty for all my sins—even those I have yet to commit. It is by His grace that I am enabled to believe this.

His doing this for me leaves me no doubt that He wants to do the same for each and every person who has, to this point, failed to believe in His unfathomable love. Whether or not you recognize the need for His forgiveness, my prayer for you is that you will be brought to see, believe and accept His love for you.

Quentin Gaskin
Harrodsburg



ments on a theological level. Publicly calling into question another person's salvation is uncalled for and does harm to the body of Christ.

Most of what Kentucky Baptists know of Dr. Mohler is mere hearsay. He is a man fervently dedicated to his Lord and his family. Furthermore, he is a national spokesman outside our convention and he has done an excellent job in publicly supporting traditional biblical ideals. He has stood for the exclusivity of the gospel and he has stood against many of the moral ills that other religious leaders in America simply have accepted. While some may not agree with him on every point of theology, it cannot be denied that he has admirably represented the cause of Christ in a nation characterized by postmodernism.

Shawn Merithew
Louisville

Avoid attacks

I am writing to express my disappointment with the editors of the Western Recorder for comments allowed in recent issues of the paper.

In the July 11 issue, a letter was published that basically questioned whether or not Dr. Al Mohler knew Christ. Then, in the July 25 issue, another letter was published that compared Mohler to a deist. Both of these occurred in spite of the stipulation specified in the margin of the Opinion section that letters will be considered for publication "provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone." It seems the editor chose not to enforce this stipulation in the case of letters referring to Dr. Mohler.

There are indeed differences in theology among Kentucky Baptists, and I support our ability to express our opinions in forums such as this one. However, conservatives and moderates alike should keep those argu-

Cultural awakening

The recent Kentucky/Poland partnership team project in Wroclaw, Poland, was a cultural awakening for all of us, both the volunteers from Kentucky and the Polish nationals.

We were struck by the tremendous economic progress made by Poland in the last 11 years since Russian domination ended. The cities and farmland were models of activity and obvious economic self-sufficiency.

Most noticeable is the genuine openness and gladness of the people as we visited and worked alongside them in a recreational construction project. The Christians are happy and it shows. This is in contrast to the non-Christians who do not show this openness.

Church meetings are indeed a family affair—the family of God. There is freedom of expression, freedom in music and freedom to be different. The 67 Baptist churches in Poland are largely populated and ministered to by a relatively young segment of the population.

Herbert Booth
Burlington

Wake up, America

I enjoy your publication and go through it from cover to cover every time I get it in the mail!

Harry Potter: If people were as excited about reading their Bible as they are about reading that Harry Potter is evil, this would not be such an issue. I would venture to say that the vast majority of the people who are reading Harry Potter have never read the Bible or do not read it and study it on a daily basis.

Ten Commandments: This document probably is hanging in more public places at this moment in time than in churches in this country. Where is it hanging in your church?

If this document offends so many people in this country, then just get rid of it and anything that is connected to it—such as the foundation for all laws in this country. I don't think so and neither will anyone else. Wake up, America!

Stan Bramblett
Princeton

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Kentucky Baptist churches on mission

It is gratifying to be with Kentucky Baptist churches and associations and observe how God is at work among His people. Let me share just a few of the vivid impressions from some recent trips:

In the Owen County and Ten Mile annual association meetings recently, messengers and guests were celebrating 42 years of ministry by George Stack as their director of missions. In Owen County, A.B. Colvin brought the closing message. He came to work with Kentucky Baptists 41 years ago and has been in those two associations more than 100 times. We praise God for the faithfulness of ministers like George and A.B!

I attended a powerful Crittenden Association meeting where Jay Holt, a very gifted bivocational pastor, brought the closing message. He called for Ron Chastain, director of missions, to come forward to allow the pastors to surround him with prayer.

It was memorable to hear eight pastors thank God for a faithful mentor in ministry.

On Saturday night, Aug. 12, Kay and I participated in the Hispanic dinner and worship service at Horse Cave Baptist Church. Pastor Kevin Denton reported that seven individuals had received Christ the week before. Three more professed their faith that night. Other churches in Liberty and Lynn associations are assisting the work along with the Hispanic mission sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow. Hispanic leaders are emerging although they have been Christians for less than a year.

On Sunday, Aug. 13, Kay and I worshipped with three missionary churches in Liberty Association and hosted a luncheon for the pastors and wives. I spoke in the 8:30 a.m. worship service at Coral Hill Baptist Church near Glasgow. Pastor Ray

Woodie has led the church to develop staff and grow to more than 450 people in worship. I was encouraged just to be around this enthusiastic pastor, staff and worshipping people. Then at 11 a.m. I spoke at Horse Cave Baptist Church. The number of children and young adults present indicated effective growth with a strong commitment to the local Hispanic ministry.

Pastor Robert Ward welcomed us to Pleasant Valley Baptist Church that Sunday night. This church has a reputation for partnership missions work. The pastor and a group of volunteers had just returned from a mission trip to New England. John Nunley, director of missions of Liberty Association, is serving as pastor for Pleasant Valley Baptist Mission that was started recently in an unchurched area.

What I discovered in my visits is that these churches not only are committed to local missions but also are strong in their support of world missions through the Cooperative Program. I thank God for the missionary spirit among Kentucky Baptists.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

STEWARDSHIP

Examine basics for ministerial compensation

By Don Spencer

It's the time of year when many churches are preparing new budgets which include ministerial compensation. A church, as a responsible employer, should

structure the financial support for its minister. Too often in the past, churches have offered a lump-sum total package. They assume this is to the minister's advantage. It is not to anyone's advantage.

For the church, a lump-sum package gives a false perception of true compensation. For a minister, it can result in increased taxes. For the church and minister, it can result in increased risk exposure.

A better approach is for a church to determine each element of financial support. The following steps can guide a church in structuring financial support for its ministers and other employees:

■ **Decide how ministry-related expenses will be paid.** Budget an adequate amount and use an accountable reimbursement plan for all ministry-related expenses. (Travel, conventions, books, etc.) Expenses should not be considered part of the compensation.

■ **Determine the compensation.** Compensation for the minister includes salary and housing. Housing may include the value of a parsonage, utilities paid by the church and/or a housing allowance. Churches with a parsonage should still designate a part of salary as housing to cover other housing expenses.

Make sure compensation is adequate for needs of the minister's family. Consider cost of living factors for the area. Compare the compensation to jobs requiring similar skills and training and to churches of similar size.

■ **Determine policy and amounts for protection coverages.** These protect both the church and the minister. Adequate provision should be made for retirement, life insurance, medical insurance and disability insurance. A Social Security equivalent also may be provided to assist the minister in paying the high self-employment social security tax.

■ **Total and re-examine.** Check for areas needing adjustment. Is the plan appropriate for the church? Is the plan fair to the minister and the minister's family?

More detailed guidance in structuring ministerial compensation is available through your Kentucky Baptist annuity department.

Reprinted from WR Aug. 27, 1996

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



Kids' questions about evolution deserve thoughtful discussion

Q: What should I tell my children about evolution?

Where are dinosaurs in the Bible? Which day were they created on? Where do they fit in the Genesis story? Sooner or later, questions like these enter the minds of children. They eventually begin to see conflict between the biblical account of creation they are taught in Sunday school and the evolutionary story they are taught in school. How should parents respond?

Focus on the "who," not the "how." A crucial part of the Christian worldview you want your children to have involves their understanding and experiencing God as creator. As such, the single most important truth a child needs to hear about creation is that God did it.

Reinforce the truth of God as creator through casual conversation and comments. "Only God could make something as beautiful as this flower." As you and your child stand at the edge of the ocean or look out over a mighty mountain range, quote verses like Psalm 8:1 and 19:1. When you pray together, express thanks to God for the beauty of the world.

Older children may bring more specific questions about how it all happened. Read, study and struggle together to find answers that honor God and that are consistent with the Bible. Visit the library; talk to a minister. Approach the questions, challenges and mysteries of creation from the standpoint that all truth is God's truth, and teach your children to do the same. Help them see science as an ally, not an enemy—a good and helpful discipline that often enables us to better understand how the wonderful world God created works. Teach them to recognize the limits of science, especially when it comes to answering questions of "why," which are every bit as important as questions of "how."—*David Garrard*

Q: Is it true that Baptists have the highest divorce rate of any major denomination? If so, to what do you attribute this statistic?

The statistic you referred to comes from the Barna Research Group, a Christian organization that does some of the best statistical research in America. Scott Stanley, author of marriage education materials known as Christian PREP, and co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver, offers two explanations: Baptists tend to marry at too young an age, and many Baptists have a high degree of socio-economic challenges.

Stanley concurs with the work of Neil Clark Warren who cites marriage at too young an age as one of the "seven most prevalent causes of faulty mate selection." In his book, "Finding the Love of Your Life," Warren asserts that the divorce rate for 21- and 22-year-olds is twice as high as for 24- and 25-year-olds. He also quotes a study that "divorce rates are lowest for both men and women who marry for the first time at age 28 or later."

Warren and Stanley concur that individuals' identity formation continues into the mid-20s when individuals, after emotionally separating from their parents and discovering the details of their own uniqueness, are more adept at marriage selection.

Resources such as Christian PREP, Marriage Savers and other marriage education programs have the potential to turn the tide of divorce. In communities where couples are given the "safety net" of premarital and marital skill building, divorce rates have plummeted. For more information about marriage resources, contact www.PREPinc.com or www.MarriageSavers.com.—*James Stillwell*

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; 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.



PGA tourney offers lessons on golf & life

Golf isn't my thing. I've been more of a tennis and racquetball kind of guy over the years.

However, like millions of people throughout the nation, I have acquired a growing interest in golf as a spectator sport the past few years. From the melodrama of John Daly's incredible shots and personal struggles to the Tiger phenomenon to Payne Stewart's powerful Christian witness in both life and death, professional golf is riding the crest of an intriguing combination of skill, heartbreak and personality.

For die-hard golf enthusiasts and casual observers alike, Louisville was the place to be this past week as the PGA Tour descended on Valhalla Golf Club for the 2000 PGA Championship. With Tiger Woods' one-stroke playoff victory over Bob May, the tournament offered all the drama and competition anyone could expect.

For me, the highlight of PGA week in Louisville took place a couple of days before the tournament officially began. The Kentucky Baptist Convention and several other organizations helped sponsor an evangelistic outreach banquet featuring several Christian pro golfers. CBS golf commentator Bobby Clampett moderated a panel discussion that included golfers Tom Lehman, Steve Jones and Loren Roberts.

It was refreshing to hear a group of professional athletes talk candidly about their personal relationships with Jesus Christ and the impact of their Christian faith on daily life. Rather than seeking the spotlight because of their athletic accomplishments, they used their personal fame as a tool to help spread the gospel.

They acknowledged the emotional toll of missing a six-foot putt in a major tournament as well as the unrelenting demands that winning a championship brings. Yet each of the men emphasized that spiritual priorities are far more important than how well they perform on the PGA Tour.

In addition to the insights shared by each of the panelists, golf fans can learn a lot about spiritual disci-

pline through the analogy of golf. For example:

■ *Focus.* It's not enough to show up for a golf tournament without practice or preparation and expect to do well. During one of last week's practice rounds, Tiger told autograph-seekers, "I'm trying to get ready to win a major." He was clearly focused on his goal and what he needed to do to achieve it.

The same level of focus is vital in the Christian life.

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men," Colossians 3:23 instructs. It's a matter of being spiritually focused on a daily basis rather than just showing up for church on Sunday mornings, going through the motions of worship and expecting God to bless our endeavors.

■ *Follow-through.* Once the tournament begins, paying attention to details is important. Something as basic as consistent follow-through on each swing is essential to ensure the ball goes the right direction and distance.

The same is true in living an abundant Christian life. It's not enough to profess faith in Jesus, join a church and merely warm a

pew for the next 50 years. Christ-honoring discipleship involves following through with the discipline of personal spiritual growth.

■ *Finish well.* Once again, Tiger is a prime example. While many observers expected him to coast to victory while earning his third straight major championship, the fact is he handled the pressure of tight competition on Sunday and achieved his ultimate goal by finishing well.

It's much easier to start well than finish well. But the finish is what people remember—especially in the Christian life. "Let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us," Hebrews 12:1-2 urges. "And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."

Fixing our eyes on Jesus is the real key to spiritual victory. And that's the only major championship that truly matters.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Connecting the unconnected to Jesus

By Steve Ayers

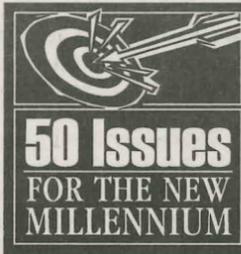
"Love one another as I have loved you. ..." (John 13:34)

Jesus has told us, as the church, "go ye therefore" (Matthew 28:19), preach, teach, baptize and disciple. This is the calling; we are all responsible for sharing the good news of Jesus.

The first thing to consider when reaching unchurched people is that most people in our culture are not attending church. In 1950, 70 percent of people in our society attended a Christian church. Now, 60 percent of the culture is not attending church, according to researcher George Barna. We can be sure that we are always around the unchurched.

Second, when we talk to unchurched people, we don't need to talk about church, but we do need to talk about Jesus. Tell people how Jesus has impacted your life. Why do you follow Him? Why do you believe the cross has forgiving power? How do

you know that Jesus was resurrected from the grave? What does it mean to be a part of new life? What does it mean to be a part of full and abundant life? In dealing with unchurched people, we need always to talk about Jesus.



Jesus to the world. We need to listen to their story so we can inject the true story of Jesus.

Fourth, when making statements of truth, be sure you practice truth. If you tell someone that Jesus requires us to love our neighbors, they need to see you in your neighborhood loving your neighbor. The truth that sets us free is a truth that is experienced, not just a truth that is stated.

Most of all, we need to realize that Jesus Christ came for the world. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the

world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." We have a great opportunity in the state of Kentucky to tell the "world," our culture in Kentucky, how much Jesus Christ loves them.

When thinking about reaching the radically unchurched, I hope these four points will help you do a better job. First, remember that most people do not attend church. Second, people want to hear about Jesus, not your church. Third, listen to what people are trying to tell you; the Jesus story always fits somewhere in their lives. Fourth, make sure that you are practicing the truth you proclaim before people.

We all need to be involved in connecting the disconnected to Jesus. May we learn to do what Jesus told us to do in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. ..." People will know we follow Jesus by our love, not by our theology. May the world be changed because we are in love with Jesus.

Steve Ayers is pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green



MISSIONS

Former missionary from Kentucky goes to Balkan region

"The future for witnessing and work there is great because of the work that has gone on for the last two years."

Ruth McConnell of Elizabethtown

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—After serving as a career missionary in the Middle East for 16 years, Ruth McConnell was amazed by the receptivity to the gospel she encountered during her recent trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The nurse midwife from Elizabethtown led crafts classes for 30 children during daily Bible club sessions in a residential neighborhood near the Sarajevo airport.

During her previous missions service, "I was never in a place that was Muslim that had any freedom," said McConnell, a member of Cecilia Baptist Church. "For me, the highlight was seeing how open people were to the gospel. God was really moving."

Her overseas visit marked her first volunteer mission trip since returning to her hometown three years ago.

An article last year about the Bosnian partnership in a national Woman's Missionary Union missions magazine caught her eye. She stuck it on her refrigerator and finally decided to call WMU to ask about going.

When she arrived July 8, she noticed a striking contrast. At first glance, the beauty of the city and surrounding mountains captivated her. But a closer look showed lingering evidence of war. Graves dot-



CRAFT TIME Ruth McConnell of Elizabethtown recently participated in a WMU-sponsored mission trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina. "For me, the highlight was seeing how open people were to the gospel. God was really moving."

From Horror to Hope Baptists in Bosnia

ted the landscape and many houses were pockmarked by bullet holes.

Despite the damage, she saw no signs of unrest. United Nations and security forces patrol the streets, but she said that when her team visited shops and restaurants at night the soldiers seemed to be relaxing, too.

In addition, many buildings had freshly-painted interiors and residents had planted vegetable and flower gardens in front of their homes, "like they were trying to move on."

Because her group was working in a predominantly Muslim neighborhood, McConnell was surprised at the lack of obstacles to distributing leaflets inviting children to the Bible camp.

"I was impressed with how the missionaries had opened the door," she said. "The future for witnessing and work there is great because of the work that has gone on for the last two years. The people were open and friendly and the children didn't seem sad or anything like that."

Other volunteers helped pave the

way for the latest WMU team. Two teams from Kentucky Brotherhood had made house and roof repairs and built a playground in the neighborhood. And a WMU medical team had sponsored a health clinic and home visits during a previous visit.

McConnell's craft sessions related to the Bible stories that were presented each day. Volunteers talked about such topics as creation and the miracles Jesus performed, leading to a direct gospel presentation on the final day.

No children accepted Christ as their Savior during the team's work, but McConnell said the team helped open doors that will create opportunities for the missionaries stationed there.

"Maybe some doors were opened and seeds were planted," she said. "The missionaries will follow up and build relationships with these families. They will share with them and get them into Bible studies."

Although Sarajevo was much different than her experiences in the Middle East, the Elizabethtown resident wasn't nervous during the trip. She said God gave her peace about being there and she felt comforted by the prayers of supporters in the United States.

She said the trip has emphasized the importance of all Kentucky Baptists praying for missions and being supportive of fellow church members who want to go on short-term mission trips.

"Be available to what God wants to do," she said. "And do (missions) at home, too."

Volunteers' work opened door for Southern Baptist missionaries

By Teresa Dickens
Woman's Missionary Union

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (BP)—Normalcy is returning to war-torn Sarajevo.

New construction is everywhere. People are out and about going to work, shopping and enjoying each other's company at sidewalk coffee shops. Children are full of laughter and life.

Today's Sarajevo is quite different from three years ago when Woman's Missionary Union leaders made their first visit to the southeast-

ern European city. The cease-fire in the country was only a few months old. Destruction was everywhere.

"Bosnians were very solemn," recalled Mary Jo Troughton of Lenexa, Kansas, a member of the WMU survey team that visited Sarajevo in March 1997. "Nothing had been repaired except for new red tile roofs. Ninety-five percent of the deaths then were a result of suicide. There was no hope, no forgiveness."

Troughton returned to Sarajevo last month as a member of one of the last two teams WMU will send into the country as part of its partnership with Southern Baptist International Mission Board personnel there.

The team on which Troughton served focused on prayerwalking.

"As we drove from the Sarajevo airport to the WMU house, I was silent," Troughton recounted. "I could see that God had been good to Sarajevo. Rebuilding was evident. Bosnians were everywhere, smiling, laughing and talking."

"He is definitely at work there," she concluded. "The things that have happened and are happening in Bosnia are beyond anything that the task force could have dreamed. But God's timing and plan is perfect."

The task force to which Troughton referred is the Project HELP: Violence task force that she has chaired since 1996. The task force

developed the plans for Project HELP: Violence, which has been WMU's social issue emphasis since October 1998. The emphasis ends Sept. 30.

WMU's partnership with IMB personnel in Bosnia-Herzegovina was part of the task force's recommendations.

"We (task force members) were fearful that volunteers would not come through," she said, "but we finally decided that God's presence was so evident, this must be His chosen country."

Her fears were stirred again when she visited the country. "The authorities we spoke to said that the people were very suspicious of 'dogooders' because they promise they will be back to do this or that, but don't come back," she recounted. "It was my personal message to WMU and myself that we had to follow through. Many prayers went up regarding this project."

Those prayers were answered, she and others said.

More than 100 volunteers participated in missions projects in the country. Teams did construction, led Bible clubs for children and provided medical services.

"The volunteers have been high caliber," said Diane Crisp, who with her husband, Norman, served as on-site volunteer coordinator for the WMU-IMB partnership.

"It has been wonderful to see in two weeks' time how the Lord can move in a group of volunteers and build a fire that has never been quenched," she continued.

Todd Golden, IMB strategy coordinator for Sarajevo, said the WMU partnership helped prepare Sarajevo for the next step in Baptist work there, which is transitioning from a humanitarian aid-based ministry to one that plants churches.

"The WMU partnership has provided the foundation on which we can walk," Golden said. "Fruit will remain well beyond the partnership."

WMU members still can be involved in the ministry in Bosnia, Golden said, explaining that the team's strategy is built on prayer support. One goal is to have a prayerwalking team in the city each month of 2001.

Delane Tew, director of WMU's Volunteer Connection and the state-side coordinator for the partnership, said WMU's affinity for the country will not end soon.

"Our membership in general has been touched as they have listened to the testimonies of volunteers and read in WMU's publications about the partnership," Tew said. "WMU's official partnership with Bosnia will soon end, but the emotional partnership will live on for a long time."

PRAYER WALK Darrell and Teresa Pace (standing in back), missionaries from Alabama, lead a team of prayerwalkers through an area in downtown Sarajevo where they hope to start a church. The Paces began their career missionary assignment in Sarajevo in March 2000. Pictured with them are (from left) Marilyn Hess of Michigan.; Mary Jo Troughton of Kansas and Dalibor Ilic, translator and a believer. (WMU photo)



MISSIONS

Volunteer organizers recount ministry's growth in 2 years

By Teresa Dickens
Woman's Missionary Union

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (BP)—Norman and Diane Crisp have seen many changes in Sarajevo and all of Bosnia-Herzegovina during the past two years.

They have seen a city being rebuilt. In some instances they helped in the effort as they hosted and worked alongside volunteer construction teams from Kentucky.

The Southern Baptist efforts have been well received by the nationals, with one Bosnian man telling Crisp, "Moslems build mosques and Baptists put roofs on our houses."

They have seen a mission come together as Southern Baptist personnel in the country grew from fewer than 10 to more than 40. They have seen the work move from humanitarian aid-based to church planting-based. Southern Bap-

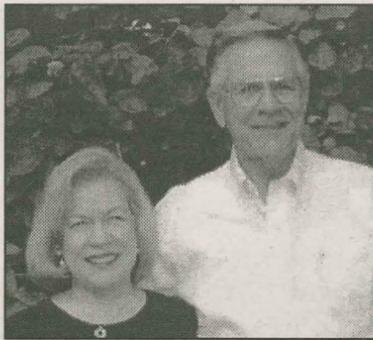
tist work in the country is only four years old.

Most importantly, they have seen Bosnians become believers in Jesus Christ. "Christian" is not a term used in Bosnia because of political connotations.

Crisp, a retired pastor of 40 years, baptized two young men last summer. Both have become strong leaders in the work. One of them recently baptized another new believer.

The Crisps have served as on-site volunteer coordinators for the two-year Woman's Missionary Union-International Mission Board partnership in Bosnia. The retired couple finished their assignment and returned to the States July 17. The WMU-IMB partnership ends next month.

"I thank the Lord that He gave us this opportunity," Crisp said a few days before finishing his assignment in Sarajevo. "He equipped us for the assign-



Diane and Norman Crisp

ment so all the glory goes to Him.

"We've enjoyed it," he continued. "It has been hectic at times, but anything worthwhile has its stress points. We have met people from all over the world through the volunteers and the United Nations personnel who have attended our Sunday morning worship services. I would do it over again."

Mrs. Crisp agreed. "It is amazing how the Lord validates our gifts by showing us that He has called us to a

Three keys to success

Missions volunteers need three things to be successful, according to Norman and Diane Crisp: flexibility, people skills and no preconceived ideas.

The Crisps recently completed a two-year stint as on-site volunteer coordinators for the Woman's Missionary Union-International Mission Board partnership in Bosnia.

"You have to be able to work with different kinds of people," Crisp said, noting that the goal is to have a good experience with all of them.

Mrs. Crisp added that volunteer work can prove that life exists after retirement. "You can find purpose, meaning and satisfaction in the here and now. Too many people retire and let go of life. You have to plan to be useful."

For information about volunteer missions opportunities contact Delane Tew at WMU, (205) 991-4097 or the IMB volunteer office at (800) 999-3113.

place for an appointed time. We didn't have any idea what would be required of us when we arrived two years ago, but God has used Norman's pastoral background and my counseling career to meet many needs here.

Crisp said he and his wife "leave here on a high note and feel like we have contributed our part."

The Crisps are especially pleased that new volunteer coordinators have been assigned to Bosnia. Bob and Pat Barnes of Nashville, are scheduled to arrive next month.

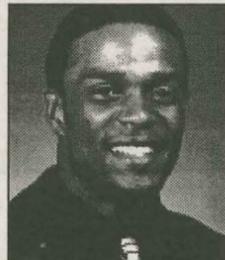
"It is great to know that we are not leaving the mission family in a lurch," Mrs. Crisp said. "It is also an affirmation that our time is complete here."

The couple strongly encourages others to consider long-term missions volunteer opportunities.

"I would encourage anyone who is retirement age and in good health to consider being a long-term missions volunteer," Mrs. Crisp said. "It will be an experience of a lifetime, one that is very stretching and enriching."



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CHRISTIAN STORES**

U.S. visitors: Indonesian Christians' suffering ignored

Christians are fleeing into the mountains, flooding into refugee camps and clogging ports to wait for the few ships ferrying refugees off the island.

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)—Persecuted Christians on Indonesia's Ambon island face desperate conditions and the world is largely ignoring their plight, said two Americans who recently returned from a visit to the island.

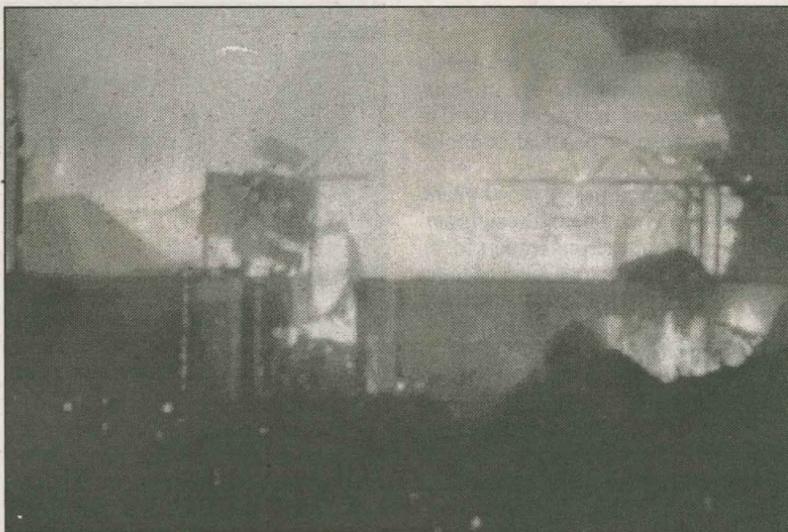
As many as 500,000 Christians have been driven from their homes and more than 2,500 have been killed by Muslim "jihad" warriors who have publicly declared they will push all Christians off the island or kill them.

Christians are fleeing into the mountains, flooding into refugee camps and clogging ports to wait for the few ships ferrying refugees off the island. Meanwhile, an Indonesian government reluctant to confront the extremists is refusing to allow international intervention. Elements of the Indonesian army reportedly are assisting the jihad warriors.

Drew Stephens and Brett Ferguson, members of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, were in a refugee camp on Ambon Aug. 1 just after Muslim fighters attacked the village of Waai, killing two dozen people.

"Villagers were coming into the camp after walking 10 hours on a trail through the mountains," said Ferguson, a broadcasting major at Metro State University in Denver and son of Riverside's pastor, Rick Ferguson. "Many of them were malnourished. There were lots of children whose parents had been killed. One baby we saw died of exposure from the long night of walking in the rain over the hills."

Ferguson and Stephens, Riverside Baptist Church's media minister, trav-



FIRES OF PERSECUTION Muslim extremists set buildings of the Yayasan Doulos ministry ablaze when they attacked the facility in Jakarta, Indonesia, Dec. 15, 1999. One person was killed and a 100-bed hospital was destroyed. Two Americans who recently returned from a visit to Indonesia say persecuted Christians there face desperate conditions and the world is largely ignoring their plight. As many as 500,000 Christians on the island of Ambon have been driven from their homes and more than 2,500 have been killed by Muslim warriors.

eled to Indonesia with Imam Sugianto, a member of Riverside's Indonesian mission congregation, to videotape the persecution.

Members of that mission congregation—many of whom have friends and family in Indonesia—are distressed that U.S. media aren't telling the story of what is happening in Ambon, Stephens said. The Ambon atrocities are not receiving nearly as much media attention as those that happened in Bosnia or Kosovo.

"It's so very difficult for our Indonesian friends to know the kind of persecution happening to their friends and family members," Stephens said.

"I really felt compelled that we needed to go so we could tell the story of what's happening there, not just for those people, but also for the church in America."

The team videotaped churches that had been burned out and people who had been hospitalized because of injuries inflicted by jihad warriors. They interviewed Christians in refugee camps while the sound of mortars and automatic weapons fire echoed in the distance.

Tension between Muslims and Christians on Ambon and other of the Maluku Islands dates at least as far back as 1945, when pro-Western sep-

ararists razed Muslim villages, according to Jubilee Campaign, a Christian human rights organization.

Recent Muslim immigration into Maluku has pushed the Christian population into a minority status. The problem is complicated by powerful men who hope that by funding and arming Muslim insurgents they can topple the moderate government of Indonesia and gain power for themselves.

The current violence began in January 1999, when a dispute over bus fare between a Muslim and a Christian escalated into riots. More recently, trained fighters of the "Laskar Jihad" (Banner of Holy War) have entered Ambon to eliminate the Christian population and establish a Muslim state on the island. In 20 months, 455 churches have been destroyed and 2,500 Christians killed. Muslim homes, businesses and mosques also have been destroyed in retaliation.

Well-armed Muslim fighters, assisted by soldiers, continue to overrun Christian towns, forcing people into refugee camps that also are threatened, Ferguson said. The fighting has forced aid organizations to leave the island, and food, clothing and medical care are in short supply.

Catholic, Protestant and evangelical leaders in Ambon have expressed concern to the United States and the European Union, saying they feel the world is ignoring the crisis. Human rights organizations are calling for military intervention to stop the violence and open an emergency humanitarian aid corridor. They also are urging the Indonesian government to allow an impartial investigation of the crisis by United Nations human rights observers.

WORLD VIEW

■ **Expanded sanctions urged against Taliban.** In an appearance in Geneva before the U.N. Subcommission on Human Rights, a representative of an Afghan women's rights group accused the country's Muslim Taliban rulers of creating the worst human rights crisis in the world, and urged the United Nations to deploy peacekeepers to the country. "Until we cut off the money and guns, the foreign financial and military support, then we can't think about real peace or security in Afghanistan," said Sehar Saba, of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan.

■ **Indian church attack suspect arrested.** Authorities in southern India announced Aug. 17 they have arrested a man suspected of participating in several bomb attacks on Christian churches since June. Syed Hasan Ur Zama, a junior warrant officer in the Indian Air Force, was arrested outside New Delhi, Reuters news agency reported. Police believe he may have conspired to bomb four Christian churches in southern India in June and helped plan similar attacks outside two churches in Karnataka the following month.

■ **Conference planners urge day of prayer for peace.** Organizers of the upcoming World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders in New York are asking people worldwide to join in a "Day of Prayer for World Peace" on Aug. 28, the day the summit begins. About 1,000 religious leaders from across the globe are expected to gather at the United Nations for the summit, which will focus on ways religious and spiritual communities can work together to foster peace, eradicate poverty and work on environmental issues.

Amsterdam statement affirms evangelism in pluralistic world

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands (RNS)—A declaration issued at the end of the Amsterdam 2000 international meeting of evangelists calls for renewed dedication to worldwide evangelism and continued proclamation in a pluralistic world that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation.

"Because God's general revelation extends to all points of His creation, there may well be traces of truth, beauty and goodness in many non-Christian belief systems," the statement reads. "But we have no warrant for regarding any of these as alternative gospels or separate roads to salvation. The only way to know God in peace, love and joy is through the reconciling death of Jesus Christ the risen Lord."

The statement, called "The Amsterdam Declaration: A Charter for Evangelism in the 21st Century," includes a pledge to treat people of other faiths with respect while affirming Christian beliefs. It was issued at the close of the gathering of 10,000 evangelists sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, held in the Netherlands earlier this month.

"As we enter into dialogue with adherents of other religions, we must be courteous and kind," it says. "But such dialogue must not be a substitute for proclamation."

The statement also calls for "new

initiatives to reach and disciple youth and children worldwide" as well as the encouragement of women and young leaders and congregations in evangelistic work.

The declaration states that the church should not permit evangelists "whose lives dishonor God" to maintain their positions.

The statement also links evange-

lism with social responsibility, and it urges that Christian believers "cooperate as fully as possible in evangelism" to foster a sense of unity.

Division among Christians hinders evangelism, the document states. "But in all ways that do not violate our conscience, we should pursue cooperation and partnerships with other believers in the task of evangelism."



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Specialists ponder: Why can't Christians stay married?

By Stacey Hamby
FaithWorks Magazine

FRANKLIN, Tenn.—It didn't happen overnight. But James McClintock started noticing changes. His wife stopped wearing her wedding ring. She stopped talking to him. Then he received the divorce papers. Their five-year marriage was over.

"There was no second chance, no talking about it. She just shut down," recalled McClintock, 33, a member of Strong Tower Bible Church in Franklin, Tenn. "It ... ripped my heart out. I loved my wife more than I loved anything in my life. She was my best friend. We did Bible studies. We were going to start a family. It went from that to the light switch going off. Then my entire vision vanished."

McClintock is not alone. Recent studies by the Barna Research Group reveal that 27 percent of born-again Christians have been divorced. That compares with 24 percent of adults who are not born-again.

Those statistics are sending Christian leaders scrambling for answers. Why are Christians, who believe marriage is sacred to God, divorcing at a higher rate than those who don't?

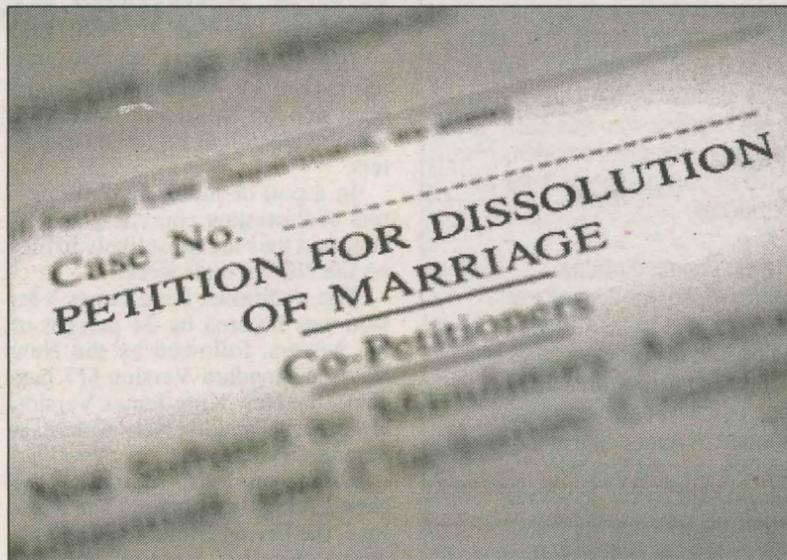
Some observers blame Christian idealism for giving couples unrealistic expectations of marriage. Others say divorce among Christians has little to do with faith at all.

David Popenoe, co-director of the National Marriage Project of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., says the answer has little to do with religion and more to do with education level and age at marriage.

"Born-again Christians have a somewhat lower level of education than the population as a whole, and this educational level is very highly associated with divorce—the higher the education level, the lower the divorce rate," Popenoe says. "One reason is that people with a higher education level don't marry as young. And the age at marriage is extremely sensitive to the question of divorce. The younger you are when you marry, the higher the divorce rate."

Others suggest that cohabitation, more prevalent among non-Christians, keeps some bad marriages from ever happening and skews the divorce rates. Since Christians are less likely to live together without marriage, their weak marriages become divorces, while cohabitators who split up don't show up in the statistics.

Counselor Pat Compton of Springfield, Mo., sees other forces at work—such as human nature. "Christians ought to have this deeper understanding of what it means to take our vows. But on



the other hand, we're still quite human," says Compton, an Episcopalian.

DivorceCare president Steve Grissom acknowledged that some of the most common reasons for Christian divorces are the same as for non-Christians. "Some of the top rationalizations are: 'Our kids would be better off if they weren't exposed to this fighting all the time.' 'We just don't love each other any more.' 'I need to leave the marriage to find myself, realize my potential.' Or 'we've grown in different ways,'" says Grissom of Raleigh, N.C.

Counselor Ron Kemp agreed with Grissom, added that Christian marriages might fail more because the spouses' expectations of marriage were higher than those of non-Christians.

"People in the church tend to idealize things," says Kemp, a member of First Baptist Church of Bolivar, Mo. "Husbands are supposed to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and when wives find out a Christian husband can be just as much of a jerk as anybody else, they get disappointed. The same is true for men. They tend to idealize this Christian woman who is supposed to be loving and supportive, and they find out she can be just as critical as anybody."

But consultant Jim Talley says the reason for a higher divorce rate among Christians is simple. "The divorce rate is high because people are committing adultery, and the people in the church are committing adultery at a higher rate than outside the church," says Talley, president of Oklahoma City-based Relationship Resources.

Barna's study isn't the only one showing a high number of Christian divorces. According to federal census numbers, the so-called Bible Belt states have the highest divorce rates in the nation. Except for Nevada, where fast divorces traditionally are easy to get, Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Tennessee lead the nation in divorces.

Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, agreed with Popenoe that the age at marriage plays an important role in divorce.

"Getting married younger tends to put people of immaturity in a place where they are not ready to tackle the pressures marriage brings," Jordan says.

Clergy and state government leaders in Oklahoma are trying to curb the state's high divorce rate. Jordan, other faith leaders and the governor recently

signed a community marriage policy. The policy prevents a clergy member from marrying a couple that has not undergone premarital counseling.

"Since 75 percent of marriages are done in places of worship, our state initiative decided that if we're going to impact marriage, we've got to do it through the faith community," Jordan says. "The state realizes the social impact of divorce and the millions of dollars it takes to put Band-Aids on social ills."

"In our desire to be inclusive to reaching out to people in the hurt of divorce, sometimes the message gets mixed. The strong message of sanctity of marriage, that God hates divorce, gets watered down in our attempt to reach those that are in the pain of divorce."

Two years after her divorce, it still pains Sheila Graham, 44, of Waco, Texas, to hear her ex-husband's voice on her answering machine. Graham, married 23 years and the mother of two adult sons, says the devastation of her husband's affair and divorce hit her so hard that she attempted suicide twice.

"The only thing that stopped me was that I didn't want to add pain to my boys," she recalled. "After being through this, I now understand that suicide is not a matter of distorted thinking. It's a matter of 'I don't want to feel anymore'—anything—because all you feel is the pain."

Suicide and other forms of destructive behavior are what divorce recovery groups aim to prevent. DivorceCare president Steve Grissom, who went through a divorce in 1987, says there are common characteristics between people who suffer divorce and those who suffer the death of a spouse.

"There is a deep, scarring loss in both cases, loneliness, depression, anger—sometimes at God—and a period where you try to rediscover who you are," he says.

Howard Finley, 40, a member of St. Ignatius Orthodox Christian Church in Franklin, Tenn., was a recovery-group participant. "Before my divorce, I viewed divorce as something that was characterized as both a moral and spiritual failure," says Finley, a former pastor whose wife divorced him to pursue another relationship. "Divorce was something that happened to other people, weaker people, not me. I viewed divorce as very stigmatizing and damaging to one's reputation and influence, especially if he was a Christian."

Separation: The beginning of the end?

Does separation always lead to divorce? It doesn't have to, says author Gary Chapman, one of a growing number of people trying to help separated couples reconcile.

"Separation may be the valley of restoration, and the pain you feel may be the labor pains that will give rebirth to your marriage," Chapman writes in "Hope for the Separated."

Pat Compton, a counselor in Springfield, Mo., says that as soon as one spouse starts thinking about separation or divorce, it's time to take preventive measures.

"Instead of thinking separation or divorce is the only alternative, they need to know that there are a lot of people available who want to support couples spiritually and in every other way. ... Everybody has conflict and rough times in their marriages, but that doesn't mean it has to end."

That support can come from pastors, counselors, family members and friends. "When people are hurting really bad, it's hard for them to see anything but the hurt," Compton says. "That's when it's vital to reach out and get assistance."

Compton encouraged couples not to be embarrassed to share their marital troubles with their church families. "We think we need to look good. But the truth is, we as a Christian community need to make it safe for people to be honest about marital problems, so they can get support right away instead of waiting too long."

Chapman outlines in his book several steps a separated couple can take toward reconciliation. They include:

- Avoiding another romantic relationship.
- Realizing divorce will not lead to personal happiness.
- Understanding marital difficulty is caused by the marriage partners, not by someone outside the marriage.

Reconciliation is possible, he says, even if only one spouse is committed to it. He outlines some personal-growth assignments in his book that include seeking individual counseling, praying for ways to express love to the spouse and committing to walking with God no matter what the spouse does.

Now he views divorce as only someone who has been through it can. "Divorce is an emotional car wreck that required spiritual intensive care and spiritual hospitalization," Finley says. "For about two years, I was in that condition. Through God's work, my family and DivorceCare, I feel that I am out of the hospital, but I'm still walking with a walker and in need of spiritual therapy."

The experts say to allow up to five years to heal from divorce. Grissom says that's because of the emotional carnage left in divorce's wake. "It's the ripping of one flesh."

But time doesn't heal divorce's wounds; Christ does, McClintock says. "I felt like I was in the desert such a long time, but I had to wait on God's time."

McClintock's divorce was finalized in March after more than a year of legal proceedings. "Time is a journey God uses," he concluded. "If I didn't have Christ, I could not heal completely."

Though the divorce rate has remained high for the past 40 years, it seems to be slightly decreasing since it's peak in the mid-1980s, Popenoe says. "Some reasons for the decline are people are better educated now and marry later, but the fact is, the marriage rate is dropping and more and more people are just living together."

He cited a recent study, though, that may shed some hope on American marriages. "It showed that maybe people are just really working harder at staying married."

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Resources

- **Divorce Care**, (800) 489-7778, www.divorcecare.org.
- **Relationship Resources**, (405) 720-8300, www.dtalley.com.
- **Focus on the Family**, (719) 531-5181. Request resource list for divorce, blended families and step-parenting. www.family.org.
- **Covenant Marriage**, (800) 268-1343.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ "Kum Ba Yah" forbidden at talent show.

An 8-year-old girl was barred from singing "Kum Ba Yah" because talent show organizers at her Florida day camp said the campfire favorite violated their ban on religious songs. After practicing the song for a week, Samantha Schultz was told she could not sing it Aug. 11 at the North Port Boys & Girls Club talent show. The song repeated the word "Lord" and thus was excluded, Associated Press reported. "We just can't allow any religious songs," said Randy Bouck, the local club's director. "You have to check your religion at the door."

■ ELCA membership down a bit, giving up.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America saw a slight dip in membership in 1999 but had an increase in giving to congregations during the same year. The total of 5,149,668 baptized members is a decrease of about half of 1 percent—0.55 percent—or 28,557 baptized members. The decrease, greater than any previous year since the 1988 formation of the ELCA, can be attributed to roll-cleaning, officials said. Meanwhile, the income for the denomination's 10,851 congregations exceeded \$2.2 billion in 1999. That figure is 6.64 percent higher than 1998 figures. The average regular giving per confirmed member increased by 5.97 percent—from \$447.89 in 1998 to \$474.66 in 1999.

■ Anti-abortion prayer offered at convention.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony drew criticism from both sides of the abortion issue for opening the Democratic National Convention with a prayer asking God's protection "especially on unborn children." Mahony kept to a fairly benign script in his prayer but reaffirmed his anti-abortion stance by praying for "unborn children, the sick and the elderly, those on skid row and those on death row." Anti-abortion activists called Mahony hypocritical for praying at the convention since the Democrats support abortion rights. Pro-abortion delegates said Mahony should not have used his prayer to advocate against abortion.

■ Three leaders get Medal of Freedom.

Three religious leaders—Jesse Jackson, Gardner Taylor and George Higgins—were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom last week. Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition based in Chicago, has worked to expand opportunities for minorities and was a Democratic presidential candidate in 1984 and

1988. Taylor, recognized by Time magazine as the "dean of the nation's black preachers," is pastor emeritus of Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn. Under his leadership, the church grew to 14,000 members. Higgins, who has been described as "the labor movement's parish priest," has devoted more than five decades to promoting worker justice.

■ State kosher laws 'unconstitutional.'

State laws regulating kosher food standards violate the First Amendment since they endorse and advance religion, a New York federal court has ruled. The ruling stemmed from a 1996 lawsuit filed by two butchers against the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The plaintiffs charged that the department's 118-year-old kosher food laws violated statutes that separated religion and government. In her July 28 ruling, U.S. District Judge Nina Gershon decided that "the entanglements involved here between religion and the state are not only excessive in themselves, but they have the unconstitutional effect of endorsing and advancing religion," Associated Press reported.

■ Church of God leader re-elected.

Lamar Vest was elected to his third two-year term as the highest executive of the Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.) during the denomination's recent General Assembly. The denomination's membership now exceeds 5.2 million.

■ Christian gay convention held.

More than 1,000 homosexual Christians gathered in Dekalb, Ill., Aug. 3-6 for the first-ever convention of their own. Thirty-one years after the Stonewall riots in New York City gave birth to the modern gay rights movement, many described the Witness Our Welcome 2000 conference as a sort of spiritual Stonewall moment. It was the first time the gay-lesbian factions within a dozen or so Protestant churches had gotten together to worship, strategize and speak with one unified voice.

■ Anti-Semitism grows after Lieberman picked.

Several Internet providers said they have noticed an increase in anti-Semitic language after vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman was named to the Democratic ticket. America Online has banned several customers from its services after they made anti-Semitic remarks, according to the New York Times. The Anti-Defamation League said it will monitor online comments throughout the campaign.

Protestant preachers: NIV Bible most-popular personal choice

PHOENIX (ABP)—The New International Version emerged as the most popular Bible translation in a nationwide poll of Protestant ministers.

In a poll of more than 500 pastors of Protestant churches, 34 percent said they are most likely to rely on the NIV in their work.

The traditional King James Version was favored by 24 percent of the pastors, followed by the New Revised Standard Version (17 percent), the New King James Version (10 percent) and the New American Standard (9 percent).

Other versions, including the New Living Translation, The Message, the Living Bible, the Contemporary English Version and the Amplified Bible, each were named by less than 2 percent of the pastors.

The survey asked pastors only what version of the Bible they use for most of their work. It didn't ask them what is the "official" Bible of their church or denomination, what translations they own or what version they recommend to church members.

The type of Bible used varied by denomination. Pastors in mainline denominations favored the New Revised Version. Evangelicals favored the NIV, while Pentecostal and charismatic churches tended to prefer the New King James Version.

A pastor's personal political stance also emerged as a factor in

the choice of a Bible translation. Among self-described political liberals, 71 percent preferred the New Revised Standard Version for their work. The NIV was top choice among political moderates, at 43 percent. Conservatives split equally between the NIV and King James, with 35 percent each.

A surprising find, said researcher Ron Sellers, is that the pastor's age has little to do with selection of a Bible translation. The average age of pastors who favor the King James Bible is 51, compared to 50 for those who prefer the NIV and 48 for each the New Revised Standard, New King James and New American Standard versions.

"The research exploded the myth held in some circles that older pastors cling to the traditional King James, while younger ministers prefer more contemporary versions," said Sellers, president of Ellison Research. "Just under half of the ministers who prefer the NIV are 50 years or older, and almost half of the pastors who rely on the King James are under the age of 50. Their preference has far more to do with theology, worldview and denominational background than with age."

The survey, funded and conducted independently by Ellison Research, included 518 working pastors in a variety of Protestant denominations in all 50 states. The margin of error was listed at 4.3 percent.

Thanks to our staff

I was blessed to spend the summer at our Jonathan Creek facility. Since we were launching our new Crossings youth camp, I had a vested interest in the camp and wanted to be there all summer to be a part of it. As I have written, the eight weeks far exceeded my hopes and expectations, which were very, very high in the first place.

However, about 250 or so miles from Jonathan Creek, our Cedarmore facility hosted a record number of youth and guests between June 1 and Aug. 15. We were packed every week but one, and it was a marvelous summer there as well.

I want to offer my public thanks to our staff at Cedarmore for their outstanding effort this summer.

Our director, Jack Ellerbrook, has a servant spirit that is as sincere as anyone I have ever known in my life. I know many of you know that Jack will go the extra mile to make your stay with us as comfortable as possible. Now I also realize that there are circumstances and physical limitations on our facilities that need attention. I remind myself frequently that we have had these responsibilities for only three years, and while we have come long a way, we have years of work to do yet. I know that; so does

Jack. But we are working hard in the right direction, and I'll have more in two weeks on improvements that will begin around Labor Day weekend.

I also want to thank the rest of our leadership team. Bert Lace is our associate director and Craig Pitts is our food service director. They did a great job this summer. However, the fact is that our entire support staff does a

wonderful job. I won't name them all because I will miss a few, but I am so proud of each of them. We also had several thousand hours of volunteer work that was led by our coordinators, Ed and Wanda Lyons. Thanks to each person who gave of themselves tirelessly to make this summer work.

So once again I am reminded of the blessings to be a part of this ministry.

We are wrapping up year No. 3 as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. It has been a great three years. But the best is yet to come. You can count on that.

I believe with all my heart that God's plan for Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore is extraordinary. It's going to be exciting to watch Him work.

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Remarks on proselytism draw controversy

ORANGE, Calif. (RNS)—Remarks by a Presbyterian minister at a recent conference that Christian proselytizing is sometimes akin to religious "ethnic cleansing" have conference organizers scurrying to finesse his remarks to dampen growing criticism of the conference.

Dirk Ficca, a Chicago minister and executive director of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, spoke at the Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference in Orange, Calif., last month.

In his remarks, Ficca told the 600 participants that Christianity is only one of the world's religions and does not necessarily hold the corner on truth.

"Imagine that you're in a church and that light is streaming through a num-

ber of stained-glass windows," Ficca told the crowd. "The light is truth; the windows are religion; and the church is the world. Note that the window is not the light. ... Religions need to be distinguished from the light of God that shines through them."

Ficca drew a distinction between "evangelizing" the good news of the gospel and "proselytizing" to make converts. Too often, Ficca said, non-Christians view proselytizing efforts as a form of religious "ethnic cleansing."

"God's ability to work in our lives is not determined by becoming a Christian," Ficca said. "So what's the big deal about Jesus?"

In 1993, the church struggled to reign in another conference sponsored by church feminists who offered a view

of God as a woman and called on the spirit of Sophia, a reference to the female view of the God of wisdom found in the book of Proverbs.

Conference officials issued a statement saying Ficca's comments do not reflect the theological positions of the 2.5 million-member church, or even the conference.

"At no time did the conference or its speakers present the Christian faith as an option among many," the statement said. "In keeping with our church's interfaith policy, participants were reminded that, as Presbyterians, we acknowledge that people of other faith perspectives have different views, to which we must listen respectfully and with which we must engage in meaningful dialogue."

Black Baptist group calls for 'state of emergency'

LOUISVILLE (RNS)—Delegates to the annual meeting of the Progressive National Baptist Convention called on their churches to increase ministries to those suffering with AIDS and declared a "state of emergency" concerning the deaths of young African-Americans.

"We lifted up the AIDS crisis, encouraging our churches to certainly become sensitive and involved and hopefully develop programs within the local congregations that will be meaningful to those who are suffering because many of our members are victims," said Mackey Daniels, president of the denomination.

He said some churches within the 2.5 million-member denomination already have developed AIDS ministries, but "we must do more."

The meeting of about 10,000 registered participants ended Aug. 11 in Louisville.

"If you quantify the death and dying of African-Americans from whatever causes just for one day ... the statistics would be very grim," Daniels said. "We need to call upon Congress as well as the president and the two candidates to get a full investigation into the causes of massive death and dying of African-American youth."

Daniels said his denomination also

spoke out about the imprisonment of African-American males, many of whom are jailed "because of the hue of their skin."

He urged greater spending on education and less on prisons. "We cannot just continue to see the enormous number of our African-American males incarcerated," said Daniels. "That in itself is a form of genocide. It dilutes one from growth, from educational opportunities, from being good fathers."

"It's not just by accident that all of them are behind bars and not in college. College education affords tremendous opportunities and challenges. Incarceration affords nothing."

ACLU taking Virginia to court for minute of silence in schools

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (RNS)—American Civil Liberties Union representatives have challenged the new "minute of silence" law in the state of Virginia saying they hope to get it overturned before school begins in the fall.

The Virginia chapter of the ACLU filed a motion Aug. 11 asking a federal district court in Alexandria to immediately overturn the law that requires a minute of silence for students.

A hearing on the matter has been scheduled for Sept. 1—four days before the opening day of most public schools, the Washington Times reported.

Virginia previously had a law that left the decision to hold a minute of silence up to individual school districts. The General Assembly rewrote the law this year to require all public schools to hold a minute of silence for students.

Virginia Attorney General Mark Earley previously had said teachers can tell pupils about various uses for the minute, listed in legislation passed by the state's General Assembly earlier this year. The law permits students to "meditate, pray or engage in any other silent activity which does not interfere with ... other pupils."

Stuart Newberger, the ACLU lawyer handling the case, filed the motion on behalf of seven Virginia families with children attending public schools.

"The case law is rather clear on this," he said, referring to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June that declared a Texas school policy allowing student prayer before football games was unconstitutional.

David Botkins, spokesman for Earley, said state officials are comfortable with the new law.

"The attorney general is confident the minute of silence law is constitutional," Botkins said. "Nothing we have read in the motion for summary judgment changes that. We look forward to upholding the law in court."

Building for the future

This summer, while many of our Cumberland College students have been busily serving in missions experiences and many young people have attended summer camps and programs at Cumberland, construction crews have worked long hours bringing dreams into realities.

The Rollins Fine Arts Center will open some time in late fall. This beautiful building will provide much-needed space and vastly improved facilities for our communication and theatre arts department.

The center features a theater with seating for up to 225 people. The design of the theater allows for various seating configurations to enable our students to gain experience not only in acting and directing but also in technical design and construction.

The center also will house offices for communication and theatre arts faculty, a radio station and an improved television studio. The Joan Day Foyer features a grand staircase, and the chandeliered dome will provide the perfect atmosphere for receptions for opening nights and other occasions.

Kleist Hall will open in October. This new dormitory will

house 96 men in 12 suites. Laundry facilities, a computer lab, a study area and the Gheens Chapel will help serve the physical, mental and spiritual needs of the residents.

A divided roadway now circles most of the academic side of campus, easing traffic flow. The median of the roadway will be landscaped, adding to the beauty of the Cumberland College campus.

While many workers toiled on these projects, many others worked inside residence halls and academic buildings remodeling, painting and stripping and polishing floors to ensure our facilities are ready as our 2000-2001 academic year begins.

The purpose of all our construction and remodeling efforts has been to create a pleasant learning environment for our students.

As we move into a new academic year and a new century, we at Cumberland College are committed to providing the highest quality education in an environment centered on Jesus Christ.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has changed its address on the Word Wide Web to WWW.KBHC.ORG. Log on today to find out how you can support the CARE Act to end the so-called "incest exception" laws. You can also find out more about Family Foster Care, adoption and all the other programs Kentucky Baptists have to minister to children and families in our commonwealth. Log on today! You can also reach us the old-fashioned way at 1-800-456-1386!

Reviewer: Should Christians go to new horror flicks?

By Phil Boatwright
Baptist Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (BP)—After previewing Columbia Pictures' newest take on the invisible man story, "Hollow Man," a question arose: Should we support horror films? And if so, why?

With "Hollow Man," alongside "Sixth Sense," "The Blair Witch Project," "What Lies Beneath" and the upcoming "Cherry Falls," the spooky thriller has been brought back from the dead and is thriving at the local cineplex. But the horror genre has under-

gone one more transformation than Madonna's musical career. In the '30s and '40s, horror films such as "Dracula" and "Frankenstein" were actually morality plays, where good triumphed over evil. For example, in the 1942 original "Cat People,"

one scene has the male lead holding up a cross and telling a menacing unseen foe to "leave us alone in the name of God." Not only was this a psychological thriller that depended on shadows and darkness rather than gruesome bludgeoning to inspire fright, but it was also a film that acknowledged God's ultimate authority.

ANALYSIS

In the '50s, most horror films were, well, goofy. Every respectable monster was 10 stories high.

In the '60s, classic fright flicks were rehashed by Hammer Studios ("Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed"), using vivid color to captivate, especially with the use of a thick red liquid that looked more like candy apple syrup than the gushing blood it was supposed to represent.

In the '70s and '80s, horror films became little more than gruesome showcases for studio special effects departments. Good versus evil themes were replaced with personifications of evil. Malevolent and apparently indestructible ghouls such as Freddie Kruger in "Nightmare on Elm Street" and Jason in "Friday the 13th" returned in sequel after sequel to kill as many teenagers as possible in 96 minutes.

The '90s once again gave us the classic monsters, but this time redone with a twist. In Francis Ford Coppola's 1992 "Bram Stoker's Dracula," his monster was an omnipresent creature who contemptuously burned a crucifix with a stare. No longer was God the conqueror of the devil; now man alone was in

control of his fate.

When adding up all the movies that purport the non-existence of God, whether they're sci-fi or slapstick comedy, it begins to register a blasphemous statement. If a generation not based in biblical teaching grows up hearing the same anti-spiritual message over and over, is there any question as to the outcome?

With one of last year's box office champs, "Sixth Sense," director M. Night Shyamalan returned to suspenseful Hitchcockian elements to unnerve the audience with psychological tension rather than pelting them with sadistic brutality. The strength of this chiller lies in what is suggested rather than seen.

Although I was unable to recommend it for family viewing due to the subject matter and the film's one misuse of God's name, I enjoyed the picture because of its creativity and the sincere performances. I still think Haley Joel Osment was robbed of the Best Supporting Actor Oscar.

But psychological suspense didn't reign at the box office for long. Paul Verhoeven's "Hollow Man" has returned us to the gory and brutal antics reminiscent of '70s fright flicks. And much like Freddie Kruger, this villain just keeps coming back to dish out more abuse.

While the subject of violence in the media has been debated to death, film savagery keeps getting more explicit. While deadly crimes are being committed by younger and younger offenders—the target audience for most violent films—many members of the en-

ertainment community take no responsibility for their product. Rather, they suggest ineffectual concepts such as gun control as the deterrent to deviant adolescent behavior. But if a person isn't taught morality, making weapons difficult to obtain won't cause him to be a more responsible person, or a less demented one.

Enough of my opinion. Let's see what God's Word has to say about repellent psychopathic exploitation:

■ "I will set before my eyes no vile thing" (Psalm 101:3).

■ "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things" (Philippians 4:8).

■ "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

Like all living things, man's spirit needs to be nourished. I couldn't possibly say it any better than the following quote. And it came from a movie, 1987's "I've Heard the Mermaids Singing."

You might keep it in mind when attending any new release: "Your head is like a gas tank. You have to be really careful about what you put in it, because it might just affect the whole system."

Phil Boatwright, a Baptist layman, reviews films and TV movies for iBelieve.com, an Internet news and information site on behalf of The Dove Foundation, a non-profit organization established to encourage the production of wholesome family entertainment.

SIXTH SENSE Haley Joel Osment's and Bruce Willis' movie about a boy haunted by dead people used more suspense than most horror films today, according to Christian reviewer Phil Boatwright.



100 years later

No matter how often I read Oneida Baptist Institute's history and think about our first day of school Jan. 1, 1900, I can only wonder what it must have been like.

More than 100 boys and girls from the creeks and hollows came on foot, mule back, wagon or by horse that first day. Virtually every child lived within walking distance of our campus. I can only imagine what it must have been like for them during the cold days in January and February.

I also wonder what would have happened if you had asked those students where Vietnam or Bosnia was located. Little did our founding fathers or those early students know that the ministry of our school eventually would encompass the entire world.

Through the years it has been our privilege and honor to help some of the most disadvantaged people on earth. During the '80's we helped hundreds of students who faced hunger because of the famines and wars so prevalent in many African countries.

As the 2000-01 school year begins, we again are blessed to be able to help students who have faced the ravages of war and hunger. One young man in particular has touched our hearts. "Eli" came to us from Bosnia. To my knowledge, this is the first Bosnian student we have ever had. A Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps worker from Tennessee recently served two years in Bosnia and met Eli and his family.

In 1991, Eli's father left Bosnia in search of work to support his wife and two young sons. Shortly after he left, war broke out. It was impossible for Eli's family to leave the country, and his father could not get back in.

As I listened to Eli talk of the horrors of war, I

could only faintly imagine what it must have been like. Eli was 11 at the start of the war, and his brother was only eight. Nearly everyone has seen the effects of war in that part of our world on television. Those bombed-out buildings take on new meaning when you meet someone who lived there and went to one of those schools. Eli is one of those people. Soon after the war began, his home was destroyed.

Eventually Eli and his brother were separated from their mother. For more than a year, Eli had to care for himself and his younger brother. I listened intently as Eli told about the difficulties of finding a place to sleep and securing food to keep them alive. While it was not always a life-and-death struggle, most days and weeks were extremely difficult. On one occasion Eli and his brother found refuge in a room of a partially destroyed building. He heard several loud bangs that he had heard many times before, but this time they were extremely close. When Eli ran into another room in the building where others had found refuge, he found several people who had been killed or seriously injured from exploding grenades.

There is much more to this story than space allows. Because of the efforts of this missionary and Ray Cooper, a director of missions who recently spent two weeks in Bosnia, Eli just enrolled at Oneida. He is a delightful young man who is grateful for the chance to go to school, a place to live and a peaceful environment. The many friends who support this ministry have made it possible for Eli and many others to attend our school on full scholarships.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Fulfilling the Great Commission in Tanzania

The highlight of my summer was a trip to Tanzania with seven students and two Western Kentucky pastors. Our work with Southern Baptist missionaries Charles and Carolyn Dixon, 1993 Clear Creek graduates, took us into nine communities in the Morogoro area.

We saw more than 300 professions of faith. The team showed the Jesus film in five villages. Some residents laughed as the screen showed the suffering of Jesus, but many others experienced conviction and turned to Christ in faith. During the day, team members participated in prayer walks, a women's seminar, a conference on Baptist beliefs, children's ministry, Sunday services, street evangelism and a construction project.

Randy and Delia Burns came to Clear Creek as single students. He proposed to her in a chapel testimonial service. They graduated in May and shared this mission together. Randy said, "I realize how important missions education and involvement is for all churches. A part of my ministry will always be dedicated to getting God's people involved in missions."

We experienced the fun that sometimes comes with a language barrier as Delia Burns testifies. "Do-

ing street evangelism in a village, the missionary warned us we would pass through a section where people made beer. I nodded yes but really didn't pay attention. We stopped to say 'Jambo shikomo' (hello) to some people and a man came staggering out of a building. He grabbed my hand and talked in Swahili. I just kept shaking my head and saying, 'Yes, yes, yes.' The missionary excitedly told me to say 'no.' 'He's asking you to marry him.' I pointed to my wedding ring and said, 'I'm married! I'm married.' He hit me on the head. I stood there shocked while everyone laughed. I learned that I need to pay more attention."

Cadiz pastor Bob Burnett prayed "for six months before the trip that God would deliver someone from occult worship. God answered my prayer with the response of a witch doctor."

Melanie Burdette talked with the woman who prayed to receive Christ. Pray that she will read the Bible and continue to turn from the darkness into a new life of Christian service.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

'Grandma' Holt pioneered global adoptions

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

EUGENE, Ore. (BP)—Bertha Holt—affectionately known as "Grandma" Holt, a pioneer in international adoptions—died July 31 at age 96 at her home in Creswell, Ore.

Holt and her late husband, Harry, who adopted eight Korean children in 1955, sparked, as The New York Times put it, "a movement that found American homes for thousands of children from overseas."

Grandma Holt was called a "World Figure in Adoptions" in the headline of her Aug. 2 obituary in the Times. The couple established Holt International Children's Services, in Eugene, Ore., in 1956. The agency now handles about 1,000 international adoptions a year from 12 countries. Until the days just before her death, Holt had remained active in the agency.

"Every family of an internationally adopted child should note Grandma's passing," Susan Freivalds of Adoptive Families magazine reflected, "for without her passion for homeless children, her tenacity and love, our families would not have been possible."

Holt had been a member of Pleasant Hill (Ore.) Baptist Church, a Conservative Baptist congregation, since 1978.

Known as the "jogging grandma" for running a mile nearly every day, Holt was on her daily exercise walk when she suffered a stroke the morning of July 24.

Known also for her daily Bible reading and prayer, Holt read through the Bible every year and prayed for a long list of children, families and organizations.

The Holts married in 1927, living in South Dakota, where he worked as a wheat farmer and where their first four children were born.

During the Great Depression, Mr. Holt maintained the family's livelihood by adding a flour mill enterprise and by using his tractor to mine lignite coal that lay a few feet below the surface of the ground. Holt also earned extra money by serving as a midwife.

Eventually, they decided to move to Oregon's Willamette River Valley. Using his tractor and castoff parts of

old sawmills, Mr. Holt started his own lumber business and soon owned a sawmill with 53 workers.

She gave birth to two more children, making the Holts a family with six children—a son and five daughters. They built a new large house as he continued to prosper and expand his businesses into farming and commercial fishing.

But Mr. Holt suffered a severe heart attack in 1950. They faced the reality that he would die and, though they had grown up in the church, the couple realized they had never truly committed their lives to God.

Together, the Holts sought a personal relationship with God. They also asked God to give them some way of serving Him. A few years later they got an answer.

In December 1954, the couple saw a documentary film showing children in Korean orphanages following the Korean War. "We had never heard of such poverty and despair," Grandma Holt wrote in her book, "The Seed from the East." "We had never seen such emaciated arms and legs, such bloated starvation ... such wistful little faces searching for someone to care."

At first the Holts sent money to help clothe and feed the children. But haunted by the sad faces, the couple came to an inspired realization: Those children needed families, and the Holts themselves could be the parents for some of those children.

They decided to adopt eight Korean children. A friend did a little research to see how they could do it. The answer: It was impossible—"unless you can get both houses of Congress to agree and pass a law."

"Then that's what we'll do," said Grandma Holt matter-of-factly. At the time, federal law prevented any family from adopting more than two foreign-born children.

On faith, Mr. Holt left for Korea while Grandma Holt stayed home with their six birth children. She took care of the farm, wrote letters to congressmen and rallied friends to help her campaign for a law allowing them to adopt eight children. Congress passed the "Holt bill" in just two months.

In October 1955 Mr. Holt returned

with their eight children—four boys and four girls ranging in age from infancy to 3.

The Holts' adoption was revolutionary. Intercountry adoption had been done previously, but it was virtually unheard of at that time. The social work establishment discouraged it.

Yet the Holts' openness and example proved that a family's love and commitment can transcend the barriers of nationality and race.

As the Holts tried to settle in as a family, they could not forget the thousands of children who remained behind in orphanages. The Holts inspired large numbers of people across the nation, and many inquired about how they, too, could adopt. Only five months after he brought their eight children home, Mr. Holt headed back to Korea and she began work in the United States to help other children have families.

The Holt adoption agency began as a family project, financed almost entirely by the wealth the Holts had accrued through their lumber business. They developed principles of temporary child care that continue to be effective models today.

But in the midst of this work, Mr. Holt died in 1964. Many thought that without him the Holt agency simply should fold up.

But Grandma said, "This work was always God's work. If He wants it to continue, it will." It was a simple statement of her unshakable faith in God that was a vital part of Holt International's growth into a world-renowned agency.

Holt International Children's Services and a network of partner agencies have served children and families in many countries, including Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Romania, Russia and Vietnam.

When asked how she wanted to be remembered, Grandma Holt said, "As that lady who loved the Lord."

"My earnest desire is that everyone who has heard me speak will be with me when we are gathered together in heaven to sing praises to our Savior," she wrote in a statement to be released upon her death. "That every one of you, though you are unworthy as I am, will be washed clean of our sins by the blood of our Savior and forgiven."



MAKING A SPLASH Mark and Denise Holt are spending their summer weekends ministering to boaters in Party Cove on Lake of the Ozarks.

Houseboat ministry offers 'free ice and eternal life'

By Tim Palmer
Missouri Word & Way

OSAGE BEACH, Mo. (BP)—An electric sign on the side of the huge houseboat moored at the entrance to Party Cove advertises "free ice and eternal life." When the weather heats up, the ice goes fast.

Then Mark Holt tells boaters, "We're out of ice, but we have plenty of eternal life left."

Hott and his wife, Denise, and a crew of volunteers are spending their summer weekends on the Hot Hot Hot houseboat, blasting Christian music from a professional sound system to a steady stream of passing watercraft. A typical weekend sees thousands of boats visit Party Cove—formally known as Anderson Hollow Cove in Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks State Park.

"We're believing it'll be 'Worship Cove,'" said Holt, who also conducts Sunday morning worship services and weekend afternoon Christian concerts aboard the boat.

He and his wife inherited the name Hot Hot Hot when they bought the 78- by 16-foot boat this spring from its Kentucky manufacturer. Holt got the idea of putting a boat in Party Cove during a Christian meeting in November 1999 in Branson. "God planted the vision for this ministry in my heart and spirit that night."

The notion of an outreach to Party Cove—with its reputation for alcohol and drug use and nudity—took Mrs. Holt by surprise. Then she set about to ensure the ministry was conducted at a level of excellence. "My husband is a very obedient servant of the Lord," she remarked.

Hott grew up in Missouri and made a profession of faith at age 13 during a tent revival sponsored by the Billy Graham organization. He met and married Denise after moving to the lake area 15 years ago. They make their living in real estate development.

Members of Walk on Water Faith Church in Osage Beach, Mo., the Hotts want their ministry to have a unifying influence on Lake of the Ozarks area churches. "If we all agree on Jesus Christ, let's set everything else aside," Holt suggested.

The Hotts launched their ministry on Memorial Day weekend—six months after Holt had the vision for it. "If it wasn't God," he said, "it wouldn't have come together this quick."

He also counted as blessings smooth dealings with the state, the solving of mechanical problems with the help of fellow Christians and a lack of hostility from Party Cove visitors. "People have prayed this into existence."

Some boaters have made U-turns and headed out of Party Cove after seeing the houseboat, which Holt believes is a conviction of the Holy Spirit that they should not go there.

A few hecklers have been noted. One group of young men decided to "moon" the ministry boat. They failed to notice a nearby state water patrolman, who promptly ticketed them.

On a lake that seems to be engaged in an endless game of "Who can have the biggest, most powerful boat?" Hot Hot Hot turns the head of everyone who cruises slowly past.

The fact that their boat represents Christ is at the heart of the Hotts' ministry. "It was God's idea," Holt explained.

B.B. McKinney hymn sing honors Baptist musician

HEFLIN, La. (BP)—As a young boy, B.B. McKinney's mother reminded him always to mean the words he sang.

Years later, McKinney stood in front of 10,000 Baptists to lead them in singing "Wherever He Leads I'll Go," one of the many songs he had penned.

As the singing ended, McKinney leaned toward the microphone and whispered the lesson he had learned well. "Be sure that you mean the words you sing," he reminded.

Tim Boyet recounted the instance in a 1962 article in HomeLife magazine.

"That is a presence that has got to be awesome—just to stand in front of 10,000 people and speak softly," said Boyet, minister of music at Bistineau Baptist Church in Heflin, La. Boyet recently joined McKinney's family and

friends in honoring the famed Southern Baptist musician at the annual B.B. McKinney hymn sing at Bistineau Baptist Church.

McKinney, a prominent Southern Baptist leader in church music, died in a 1952 car accident. Bistineau was the childhood church home to McKinney, who had a hand in writing more than 500 hymns and gospel songs, many familiar to Southern Baptists.

"If you're a Southern Baptist and you love the Lord, you know who B.B. McKinney is," Bistineau Pastor Everett Geis noted. Geis sang McKinney's "I Am Satisfied With Jesus" at the recent event.

Several of the 10 family members present sang their favorite hymns as well, in addition to the congregational singing of many McKinney favorites.

Mark Smith, McKinney's great-

nephew, sang "Wayfaring Stranger," a favorite of the man known to his family as "Uncle Ben."

"B.B. liked to sing it when he was at a gathering," said Smith, who never had the opportunity to meet his great-uncle.

Guests at the annual hymn sing used the Broadman Hymnal that McKinney edited while working for the former Baptist Sunday School Board. McKinney served as the board's first secretary of the department of church music.

The group that gathered for the hymn sing in McKinney's honor sang such favorites as "The Nail Scarred Hand," "Let Others See Jesus in You" and "Speak to My Heart."

And in fitting fashion, before leading the group in "Wherever He Leads I'll Go," Boyet emphasized what McKinney learned well from his mother. "Let's mean these words," he said.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Volunteer nurses to serve two weeks to one month pioneering medical education evangelism in Kigoma, Tanzania. The first such team went to Tanzania from Kentucky earlier this summer.

■ Alex Mwasile, pastor of Morogoro Church in Tanzania, and his wife, Hilda.

■ The many Muslims who live in Mbuyuni, a densely populated area in Morogoro, Tanzania.

■ Jim and Patti Barrett as they begin a Bible study in their apartment in Poland with their neighbors.

■ The search committee for an executive director for the Baptist Convention of New England.

■ The nearly 1 million students returning to the 276 colleges and universities in New England this month.

■ Baptist campus ministries throughout New England.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BEDFORD**—Bedford Church called **Bill Jagers** as interim pastor.

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church called **Jim Casson** as minister of music and religious education. Casson formerly was at Immanuel Church, Covington. **Terry Wilder** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host homecoming services Aug. 27 at 11 a.m., with lunch afterward. **Redeemed** will be in concert at 1:15 p.m. For information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Central Avenue Church will host groundbreaking services Sept. 10 at 11 a.m.

What's going on?

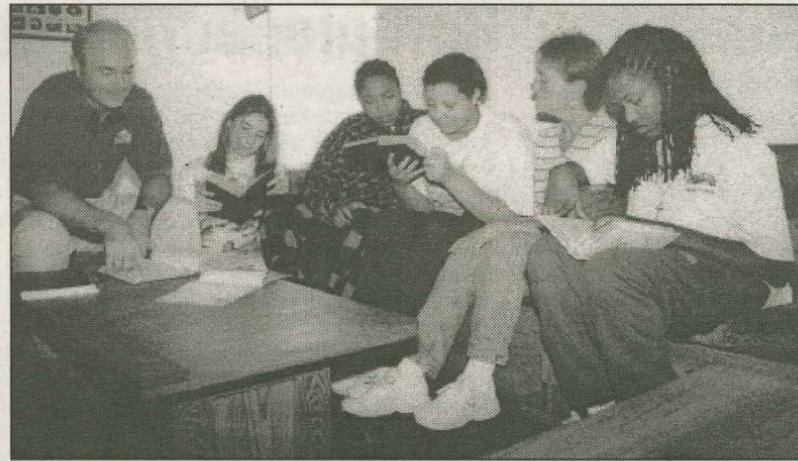
Send your happenings to Shirley Wooton for Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: shirley_wooton@kybaptist.org.

for a new sanctuary, office complex and classroom addition. **Bob Hamilton** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Dry Run Church will host homecoming services to celebrate its 200th anniversary Sept. 8-10. Services will be at 6:45 p.m. Sept. 8 with **Kevin Strausbaugh** as speaker and music by **The Way Makers**; picnic at 5 p.m. Sept. 9, services at 6 p.m. with **Bill Whitaker** as speaker and music by **The Bluegrass Boys**. Sept. 10 service at 11 a.m. with **Al Mohler** as speaker, potluck lunch and a 1:30 p.m. service with music by **Redemption and King's Strings**. For information, call (502) 868-9252. **Michael Parks** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Palomar Church called **Bryan Cantrell**, a student at Asbury College, as minister of youth and children.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Williamsburg First Church called **David Etter** as interim minister of music. Etter is professor of music at Cumberland College. **Kenny Faught** is interim preacher.



PRE-SCHOOL PARTY Some teenagers might see little to celebrate on the day before the start of the new school year, but residents of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Genesis Home in Mayfield used the day to have a party on the lake, thanks to volunteers **Tommy and Cyndi Morreau of Paducah**. The Morreaus, who have led Bible study at Genesis Home for nearly three years, hosted the event to celebrate the fact that the home away from home is currently safe from closure. The future of many KBHC facilities was in doubt during contract negotiations between the agency and the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children. ■ **Top:** Tommy Morreau (left) and his wife, Cyndi (second from right), lead the Genesis Home teenagers in a Bible study. ■ **Bottom:** Mrs. Morreau takes a teen on a ride. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Multi-faceted minister seeks position in which to serve a Spirit-led church. Strong leadership skills, life application preaching and teaching, youth experience and media applications. Seminary MDiv. degree and bachelor in business. Contact Brian Teater, 709 Logan Ave., Danville, KY 40422; (859) 238-2126; bteater@mis.net.

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: 1994 Dodge Ram 15-passenger church van with customized captains chairs throughout. Also equipped with electric step. Call Robert at (270) 786-1475 for more information.

FOR SALE: Padded church pews (twenty-four 18-foot, six 16-foot); pulpit; two pulpit and choir pews; communion table. Call (270) 754-4588 after 5 p.m. or (270) 338-5640. Woodson Baptist Church.

FOR SALE: 100-percent renovated house (Highlands). New plumbing, electrical, furnace/AC, windows, roof, tile floor, 3BR/2Bath. Open house Sunday. (502) 899-5353.

SEEKING: Valley Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking God's leadership for a full-time minister of students. This position requires ministering to approximately 100 youth and college students in a congregation that is growing and excited about Jesus. Please send resumé to: Valley Creek Baptist Church, 4685 Springfield Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Student Ministry Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director (24 hours per week) for Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, Buena Vista Baptist Church, 119 West 24th St., Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Catalina Baptist Association serving Tucson, Arizona, and surrounding area, is seeking candidates for position of director of evangelism and missions. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Catalina Baptist Association, 825 S Craycoft, Tucson, AZ 85711, or e-mail to kswrights@juno.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Ashland, Ky., is continuing its prayerful search for a senior pastor. A progressive, multi-staff church, First Baptist has two morning services, opportunities for midweek prayer meetings and congregational fellowship. It is a church that reflects the values of true Christian love and gender equality. For more information about our church and the requirements of the position, visit our Web site at www.fbcashlandky.com. Resumés should be sent to First Baptist Church, PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787, c/o Dr. Eugene II Foster.

SEEKING: LAN administrator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Candidate must have a business or computer-related college degree; 1-3 years of directly-related experience is required. This person must have basic knowledge of computer hardware and will be working with the following operating systems and software: Novell Netware 5, Windows NT 4.0, Windows 95, Lotus Notes and Microsoft Office. This full-time package offers an attractive benefit package. Contact Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Oak Forest Baptist Church, a moderate SBC church near Richmond, Va., is seeking a full-time minister of youth. Send replies to: Search Committee, 2934 Quisenberry Drive, Midlothian, VA 23112, or call (804) 276-6547.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education. Seminary preferred. Send resumé to Calvary Baptist Church, 785 First St., Idaho Falls, ID 83401 or calvary@srv.net.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Taylorsville is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of music. Those interested please send resumé to: Monica Cox, First Baptist Church, PO Box 446, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Nevada, Mo., seeks full-time music minister. Send resumé to: Search Committee, 301 East Highland, Nevada, MO 64772.

SEEKING: Christian married couples and singles needed to help raise children at Boys and Girls Country, a 200-acre ranch north of Houston, Texas. Great benefits, competitive salaries, newly renovated, spacious living quarters, plus a rewarding lifestyle and atmosphere. If you want to make a difference in the lives of children from elementary age through college, call Shirley at (281) 351-4976, ext. 214, or fax your resumé to (281) 351-4978. EOE.

SEEKING: Full-time financial secretary. Knowledge of Automated Church Systems software preferred. Salary commensurate with experience. Send or fax resumé to: Bethlehem Baptist Church, 5700 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40219, Attn: Personnel Committee. Fax: (502) 964-9678.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville, Ky., is accepting recommendations and resumés for the full-time position of pastor. Affiliated with the CBF and SBC, FBC has a strong commitment to CBF-related ministries while continuing to participate in Co-operative Program giving. Send recommendations or resumés to: First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville, 238 Frank E. Simon Ave., Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: Chairperson, Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Administrative assistant. Excellent phone, computer and organizational skills, plus strong work ethic required. Experience with financial planning, investments and insurance helpful. Send resumé: Daniel Hardt, CFP, Kentucky Financial Group, 2225 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Hazard is currently accepting resumés for the full-time position of minister of music. The congregation and leadership are moving toward a blended style of worship. Interested candidates should possess at least an undergraduate degree in music or sufficient experience to lead the program capably. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 560 Main St., Hazard, KY 41701.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

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

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

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Canadian family boycotts park for 'Second Coming' theme

By Douglas Todd
Religion News Service

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (RNS)—The Stackhouse boys live in a home perched on a hill with a view of the flashing arcades and screaming rides of Playland Amusement Park. But Trevor, 14, Joshua, 11, and Devon, 6, have decided they're not going to buy tickets this year to the Vancouver thrill center, one of the largest in Canada.

They're offended by Playland's "Second Coming" marketing theme, which is trying to entice young customers by toying with symbols reflecting beliefs held dear by many Christians.

Two Playland rides this year, for example, are called "The Hellevator" and "Revelation," the name of the last book of the New Testament.

A "Second Coming" TV ad campaign features a turnstile clicking sinisterly to "666," a symbol in some Christian circles both for Satanic evil and an early Roman emperor who slaughtered Christians.

"We were looking forward to our annual trip to Playland," said John Stackhouse, a professor of theology and culture at Regent College on the University of British Columbia campus.

"But one evening, as we ate supper on our deck that overlooks Playland, the boys spoke up and said, 'We saw some more of those Playland ads.' Devon said, 'I'm not going to Playland because Playland is making fun of God.'

"Even at their age, they know exploitation when they see it," their father noted. "They know the sacred is being profaned. They know the ads are supposed to be nifty and clever, but they also know it's a trivialization of the Bible."

Although some people might suggest that the Stackhouse family simply lighten up, John Stackhouse said the family's decision to bypass Playland is a relatively mild reaction to religious offense in this day and age.

Even if detractors think the Stackhouse family's evangelical theology and their view of the apocalyptic book of Revelation are odd, it is hard to overlook the fact that the family belongs to a significant minority in Canada.

A survey by Angus Reid, one of the country's largest polling companies, shows 30 percent of Canadians believe Jesus will return to usher in God's kingdom in "the Second Coming." Fifty percent believe in hell and 41 percent agree that "Satan the devil is active in the world today."

Can you imagine the outcry, Stackhouse wonders, if Playland had fun with other religions? What if it named a chaotic roller coaster "Mohammed's Mania"? Or if some marketing wiz showed real attitude by calling a frightening site "The Holocaust Horror"?

The outrage would be heard across the continent.

Most Canadians believe they stand for tolerance. But some evangelical Christians believe that translates into a double standard when it comes to them. It did last year, they said, when federal government officials ordered Christian ministers memorializing the victims of Nova Scotia's Swissair crash to avoid mentioning Jesus and the New Testament, while Jewish and Muslim clergy were left free to name Mohammed and the Torah.

"Christianity is paying the price for having been a hegemony," said Stackhouse, author of "Canadian Evangelicalism in the 20th Century" and "Can God Be Trusted?" Many Canadians, he said, "think they can beat up on

Christianity because it used to be a majority—even though it's now a minority."

The marketing manager for Playland, Deb Marko, says she's received about half a dozen complaints about the "Second Coming" ads. She defended what she called the "edgy" campaign created by Vancouver's Rethink advertising company, arguing that it's based on the horror movie genre, and as such its symbols are part of popular culture.

Stackhouse readily acknowledges Christianity has deeply influenced Western society. But he argues that "666," "Revelation," "The Second Coming" and even hell are not public domain. They carry marketing oomph because they originated in Christianity and still have meaning to hundreds of millions of people.

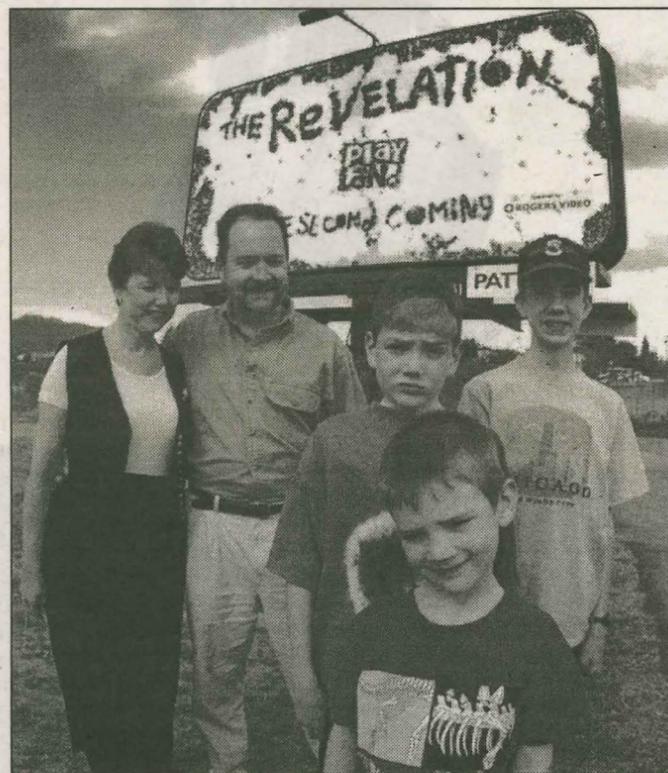
Stackhouse said he also thinks horror movies approach Christianity a lot more seriously than Playland does, pointing to the apocalyptic "End of Days," in which Arnold Schwarzenegger plays a tough cop who realizes he can overcome Satan only through self-sacrifice.

Two Canadian Jewish scholars agree the public has to be consistent if it truly believes in respecting different religions.

The Playland ads sensationalize and trivialize Christianity, said UBC Jewish history professor Richard Menkis and Michael Brown, director of York University's Centre for Jewish Studies. "At best it's tasteless, at worst it's unacceptable," Brown said.

While the Jewish thinkers believe in allowing room to discuss and criticize religions, they also think it's appropriate for Christians to boycott Playland for cheapening beliefs they hold sacred.

They suggest this response is an option that could be applied to other TV



PARK BOYCOTT John and Kari Stackhouse look on as their children take a stand against the Playland amusement park because they believe the park's "Second Coming" advertising mocks their evangelical beliefs. Devon, 6, Joshua, 11, and Trevor, 14, say they won't visit the park near their home. (RNS photo by Denise Howard)

advertisers, including computer companies, candy bar makers and toilet manufacturers who have recently made light of Christian, as well as Buddhist, symbols to sell their products.

While Stackhouse said he doesn't want to see Christians or any other group stifle honest debate or lose their sense of fun, he wonders how crass a message has to be before Christians will make an organization sweat for its insensitivity.

"I'd challenge Christians and ask them, 'If you're not offended by this, how sacrilegious and profane does it have to be before you're willing to boycott a pleasure to make your point?'"

Challenger launch director recalls crisis, questions & hope

By Anthony Wade
Alabama Baptist

SARALAND, Ala. (BP)—The horror of watching the disaster surrounding the space shuttle Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986, is something Gene Thomas still clearly remembers.

"My job that morning was launch director," said Thomas, who shared his testimony recently at Lafitte Baptist Church in Saraland, Ala. "I was in charge of everything that went on—without the launch director's approval, you don't launch the shuttle."

Describing the launch director's role as "one of the best technical jobs in the world, and the best job in the space program," he said it is a position everyone on the team wants.

"Everything was right with God; He was first in my life, and Jesus was important above everything. I was on top of the world," Thomas said. "Then something happened. There's no more terrible feeling than to all of a sudden see that big ball of fire and smoke."

Sitting in launch control at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., he realized no difficulty in his life had been, or perhaps

ever would be, as hard to cope with.

"When the realization hit me in about a minute that the astronauts were either dead or dying, I pounded my fist in my hand and said, 'Lord, why does this have to happen?'" Thomas recalled. "And I can assure you God spoke to me like never before and said, 'Don't you worry about this, I'm still in charge of this universe; all of this will come to good.'"

Thomas shared how he attended a cookout with the Challenger crew the night before the launch. He said he had worked with pilot Mike Smith and commander Dick Scobee who were "close friends, like brothers of mine."

"I never left one of those (gatherings) that I didn't think that it may be the last time I see these folks alive," Thomas said. "I got in my car, buckled my seat belt and I thought about safety."

"I stopped and prayed, 'God, please protect these astronauts when they fly.'"

"The next day was the most beautiful day I'd ever seen," Thomas recounted. "By the time we got ready to launch, the temperature was around 40 degrees."

Thomas was in charge of 300

engineers who managed the launch of the shuttle, each member part of a small group specializing in a particular aspect of engineering.

Although he did not know it at the time, engineers had argued throughout the previous night about concerns with the O-rings on the solid rocket motors.

"They had decided at their own level that everything was OK, and there was no need to tell anyone at a higher level about it," Thomas said. "They made a bad judgment call."

He said Vice President George Bush flew in from Washington the night of the tragedy.

"I stood there close to him, and he told us that Americans still supported us, and the president wanted us to find out what happened and rebuild the space program," Thomas said. "There were big tears in his eyes as he spoke."

Thomas went home around 11 p.m., after being at work 24 hours.

"I walked into our master bedroom and sat down on the bed." He said he and his wife and daughters "started hugging; I cried and cried—for 20 or 30 minutes. I wasn't crying for America or for the space program or myself. I was crying for seven people who were dead."

"So how in the world do you cope with something like that?" he asked.

Thomas said God gave him a Scripture passage the day after the Challenger tragedy—Romans 8:38-39:

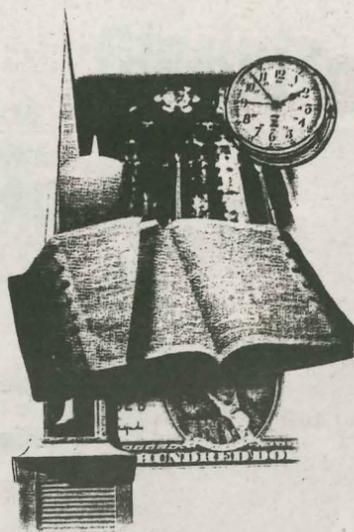
"For I am persuaded that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord," he said, quoting the verses.

"I don't know why God allowed this tragedy, but He gave me a way to get through this time of trauma," Thomas said.

"Fifty years from now, if Christ hasn't returned, people will still be learning to make war, how to make peace, how to make money, how to cure certain diseases—but nothing in this world matters more than a personal relationship with Jesus Christ," he said.

"Some people ask me how I convince folks that all this (space program) stuff is real," he added, "but if I could convince you of something, I'd use every fiber in my body and every brain cell in my head—every bit of energy—to convince you that the only thing significant is eternal."

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