

September 5, 2000
Vol. 174, No. 35

AMONG US Week of Prayer for State Missions

See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

A WMU consultant says the women's missions agency can coexist with women's ministry organizations. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

An Owensboro church shows how advanced planning can improve a mission trip experience. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Ministry to internationals begins at home. *Page 5.*

Resources

Two conference leaders offer ideas for addressing church conflict. *Page 6.*

Music

Christian rock band Petra is among the latest inductees in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. *Page 11.*

Books

A children's book author turns his wit on the Bible. *Page 12.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, September 6

People needing churches might be left holding the line

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—No one's picking up the phone at 40 percent of the nation's Protestant churches, a survey by the Barna Research Group has found.

The marketing research firm found that researchers never could contact a person at 40 percent of churches called, even when multiple call-backs—as many as 12 per church—were placed.

And at 44 percent of the churches where there was no human contact, there also was no answering machine to take a message.

Barna found it took an average of 2.1 telephone calls to reach a person at a Protestant church during regular weekday business hours. One-third of

those calls were answered on the first attempt, but a person was not reached until at least the fourth try at one out of every 10 churches that eventually did pick up the phone.

Mainline churches were found to be a bit more responsive than evangelical ones, with a person answering the phone 73 percent and 66 percent of the time, respectively. Mainline churches ranged from someone answering the phone at 83 percent of Episcopal churches to a phone being picked up at 66 percent of American Baptist churches. Evangelical churches with the most accessibility were Christian & Missionary Alliance (100 percent, based on a small sample) and nondenominational evangelical

churches (80 percent).

Researchers found someone answered the phone at 53 percent of Pentecostal and charismatic churches called.

They also learned that the larger the church, the more likely there was someone available to answer the phone—and to pick up on the first call. Calls were answered on the first try at 70 percent of the churches with 250 or more adult attenders, compared to 55 percent of churches drawing 100 to 250 adults and 44 percent of churches with fewer than 100 adults attending.

George Barna, president of the research firm, said the statistics revealed the inaccessibility of some churches.

"In a world where people are extremely busy and are suspicious of the practical value of churches, they are not likely to make three or four calls to a church before they get to speak to a human being," he said.

"If churches really want to help people, they have to be accessible. When we make it difficult for people to get our attention, we send a negative message about the heart of the church while also training them to look elsewhere during their times of need."

The data was based on telephone interviews in June and July of a nationwide random sample of 3,764 Protestant churches. The study had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Walking miracle an advocate for KBC blood drives

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

OWENSBORO—It took more than 75 people to get Betty Sapp across the stage to receive her diploma at the Owensboro Community College commencement exercises in May. Not because she was a reluctant graduate, but because she is a miracle.

Donors provided 75 units of blood to give Sapp a second chance at life after a horrific car accident in 1995.

During the past five years Sapp, 54, has used her second chance to achieve many things, including encouraging others to donate blood through Operation Cooperation, a statewide blood drive being organized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Sapp is a member of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.

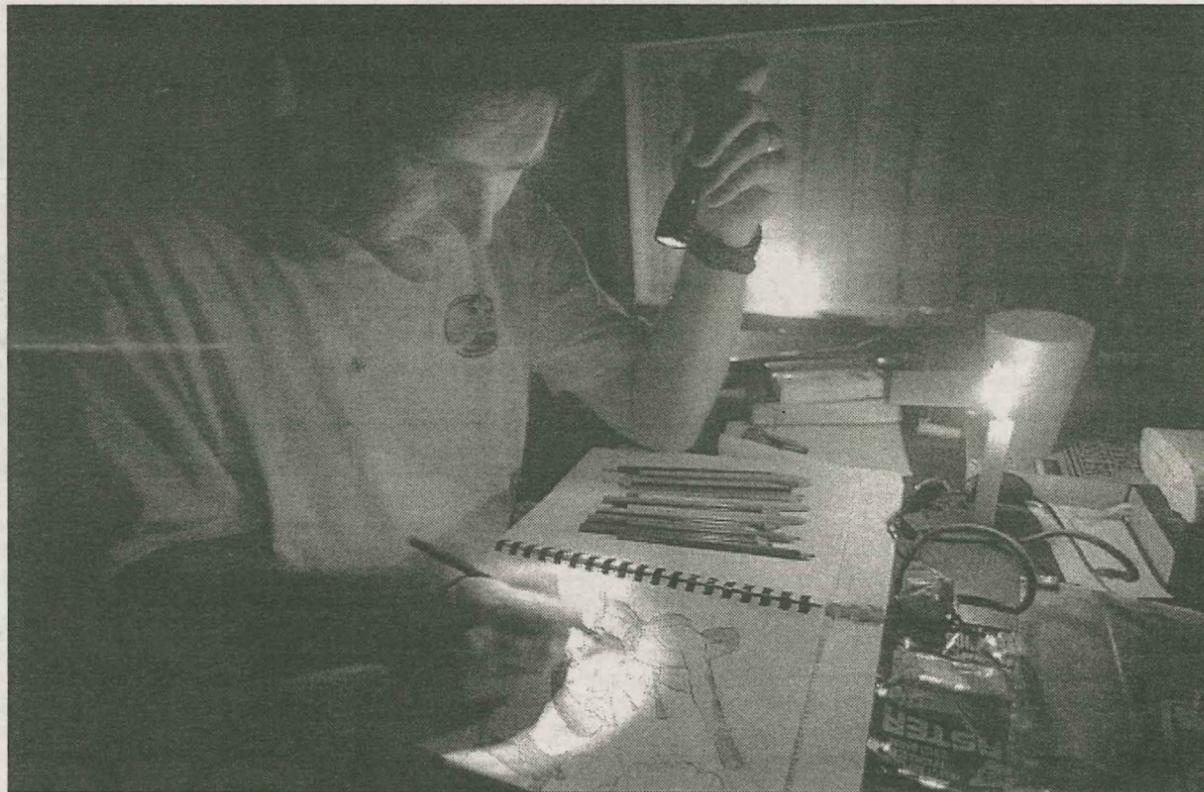
Organizers initially hoped the blood drive, dubbed "Operation Cooperation," would cover 25 sites throughout Kentucky. Thus far, local volunteer committees have organized events at more than 60 sites, working with blood service professionals in Kentucky's 10 blood service regions. Many of the sites also 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.

"I know that today I am alive because people cared and that God saw a need and purpose for me. I hope my story can encourage others to donate blood not only in crisis but regularly," Sapp said.

□ See *Accident survivor ...*, page 3



STORY TELLING MISSIONARY Southern Baptist missionary Marty McAnally, prepares his "storying" drawings for the next day's Bible study in the village of Dulce Gloria, Peru. McAnally spends hours drawing only by candlelight and flashlight, in an old wooden shack in the middle of the village. (SBC International Mission Board photo by Bob Siddens)

Artists ask: 'Can Hollywood's soul be salvaged?'

By Marshall Allen
Associated Baptist Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (ABP)—Hollywood often is criticized in religious circles as lacking moral scruples. But at least some members of the entertainment industry are taking ethics and morality seriously.

Nearly 200 people involved with television and the silver screen—many of them committed Christians—gathered Aug. 12 in Beverly Hills, Calif., for a first-time conference titled "Content and Conscience: Toward Ethics of Screenwriting."

Mostly writers attended the conference at the Writers Guild Theater, but a smattering of producers, directors and actors also appeared. They came to wrestle with complexities of producing honest and compelling entertainment that affirms Judeo-Christian

values in the secular media.

"The Columbine incident was a watershed moment for this industry," said conference coordinator Jimmy Duke. "It made writers and producers stop and wonder if they have something to do with this situation."

Conference moderator Miguel Valenti, author of the book "More Than a Movie: Ethics in Entertainment," noted that while almost every professional field has a code of ethics, Hollywood is completely lacking any such standard. Considering the fact that the media is arguably the most socializing force in society, Valenti said it's apparent that ethics must be addressed.

The conference was sponsored by Inter-Mission, a nonprofit organization of more than 3,200 entertainment professionals in Hollywood and New York City. Inter-Mission is based in First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and exists to encourage Chris-

tians to pursue excellence in television, film and theater.

"The goal of this conference was to start the dialogue," Duke explained. "It's very important for us as Christians to be a part of the solutions in Hollywood, not the problems. So often the Christian church wants to stand outside and criticize but not do anything about it. We don't engage pop culture."

One of the tenets of Inter-Mission is to establish and strengthen a Christian presence within the industry in order to slowly influence Hollywood from the inside. Through its "Act One" program, Christian writers are trained in the art of screenwriting.

"We believe that in order to effect change we have to be on the inside of the industry, so first we strive for excellence," Duke said. "Nothing preaches the gospel more than excellence."

□ See *Artists ask: 'Can ...*, page 10

BAPTIST DIGEST

Speaker: WMU & women's ministry groups can co-exist

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

WACO, Texas—Women's ministries and Woman's Missionary Union are like inhaling and exhaling, according to a Texas WMU consultant. Both are essential to health.

"But you can't inhale all the time, and you can't exhale all the time," said Terri Dowell Ussery, a Texas WMU consultant for women's ministries. "There is a rhythm that has to work together to help us be complete."

Women need both the spiritual nurturing that many find in women's ministries and the opportunities for service provided through WMU, she told participants at a recent leadership conference.

Ussery compared WMU leaders to the New Testament character Martha and women's ministries participants to her sister, Mary.

"Martha is a big-time doer. If you want the job done at church, WMU will do it," Ussery observed. "But Mary sits at the feet of Jesus, learning who He is

and who she is in Him. It's the difference between doing and being."

Rather than seeing women's ministries as competitive with Women on Mission—the adult WMU program—she challenged missions activists to view the Bible studies and fellowships as "preparing women's hearts to be ready to 'do.'"

Women's ministries provide effective entry points for women who are new believers or who come from another denomination, she said.

Rather than viewing the need-based women's programs as "self-centered," WMU workers should recognize that "these ministries are meeting a need for women where they are," she said.

"They may not be ready to begin ministry. ... Women's ministries can be base-level spiritual preparation to minister. Then WMU takes a disciplined woman and gives her an outlet for ministry."

WMU is an established, structured organization, and its participants may be older and more mature believers

than those in loosely woven women's ministries, Ussery observed.

Therefore, she challenged Women on Mission to assume the role of "the big sister" and take the initiative in "learning how to work and play well together" with those who are in women's ministries.

Instead of treating women's ministries as unwelcome competition, Women on Mission can share helpful resources and introduce missions concepts into women's ministries.

"Infuse every area of the church with missions awareness, missions involvement and missions education. Think outside the box. It doesn't have to be a Women on Mission group to be missions," she said.

Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton agreed. This summer as part of WMU's World Missions Unlabeled conference, she led a session on partnership between Women on Mission and women's enrichment ministries.

"Women need both discipleship and missions opportunities," she said.

"When we affirm that and encourage women to participate in those opportunities which will help them grow spiritually and also reach out beyond themselves, we are providing a strong foundation of discipleship and missions."

Ussery said the goal is to involve women in missions and ministry, not to build an organization. Eventually, a women's ministries group may pray for missionaries, learn about missions and involve women in missions action but never call itself WMU.

"Try not to get so wrapped up in structure. Don't let the structure get in the way of what you are called to do," she said. "Appreciate differences and learn how to pray together. What's more important than programs or organizations is people."

Ussery encouraged Women on Mission to practice servant leadership and develop mentoring relationships with younger believers.

"Younger women don't want your criticism. They don't even want suggestions," she said. "They want you to love them."

The Southern Baptist Convention has the "deepest appreciation" for radio talk show host Laura Schlessinger's stances opposing the homosexual lifestyle, SBC President James Merritt told "Dr. Laura" in a letter on behalf of the convention. The letter was sent in response to a motion supporting Schlessinger during the SBC's June annual meeting. "The Southern Baptist Convention recently voted to extend to you their commendation for your courageous stand and opposition to homosexuality," Merritt wrote. "The Southern Baptist Convention joins you in standing for what is right and against what is wrong."

Woman's Missionary Union will host a national Women's Conference Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at LifeWay Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N.C. Keynote speakers will include authors Jennifer Kennedy Dean of Blue Springs, Mo.; Denise George of Birmingham, Ala.; Karla Worley of Franklin, Tenn.; and WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee. Registration costs \$99, plus accommodations. For information, call (888) 968-0322 or visit WMU's Web site, www.wmu.com, and click on "Training Events and Important Dates." For housing information, call LifeWay Conference Center at (800) 588-7222.

Texas committee visits Southern to consider future funding

LOUISVILLE—A committee of Texas Baptists met with officials at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville recently as part of a study to consider how the largest state Baptist convention will continue to fund theological education.

Hanging in the balance for Southern is approximately \$1 million, the amount Texas Baptists annually contribute to the school as its share of Co-operative Program funds from the Lone Star State.

Changes in that arrangement are considered a possibility, however, depending on findings and recommendations of the committee formed last fall "to examine the financial resources, theological positions and philosophies of Southern Baptist and BGCT-supported seminaries."

Study committee members have visited all six SBC seminaries, as well as the BGCT-supported George W. Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas, and Logsdon School of Theology in Abilene, Texas.

Texas Baptists, the largest state partner with the 15.8 million-member SBC, gave a total of about \$5 million to Southern Baptist seminaries last year. In light of recent disagreements

between moderate leaders of the BGCT and the conservative-led SBC, some Texas Baptists have suggested some of that money might be better spent if it were reallocated in ways that more directly benefit the state's Baptists.

In early 1999, then-BGCT president Russell Dilday identified Southern—along with Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.—as potential targets for funding cuts.

Dilday, a former Southwestern Seminary president who was fired by conservative trustees, said at the time that many Texas Baptists objected to Calvinism being promoted by some seminary leaders.

Southern Seminary spokesman James Smith said the Texas study committee visited the Louisville campus Sept. 25, but declined to comment further on the meeting, citing an agreement by all SBC seminary presidents.

Abilene pastor Michael Chancellor, vice chairman of the Texas study committee, also has declined to answer questions about all the campus visits. "We have agreed ahead of time

that we would have no comment on our work."

Chancellor said committee chairman Robert Campbell, a pastor from Houston, would speak for the committee when its report is finished.

BGCT spokesman Ken Camp said the theological education study committee probably would have an interim report for the state convention's administrative committee meeting, Sept. 7-8.

The state convention could take action on any funding recommendations during the BGCT annual meeting, Oct. 30-31 in Corpus Christi.

A key concern for the study committee appears to be how the seminaries act on the recently revised Baptist Faith & Message.

William Crews, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and chairman of the Council of (SBC) Presidents, recounted in a letter to Campbell a meeting with BGCT Executive Director Charles Wadell.

"In the course of our conversation, it became clear that the 'Baptist Faith and Message' as adopted this June by the Southern Baptist Convention is a major focus of your consideration,"

Crews wrote.

Crews said in the letter that he had been told a primary purpose for the meetings with the seminaries was to determine whether endorsement of the revised faith statement would be made a criterion for employment at an SBC seminary.

"All six of the seminaries stand together in affirming that we will indeed make the 'Baptist Faith and Message' an issue of non-negotiable accountability for all who teach in our institutions," Crews wrote.

To do so, he added, would continue "a long-standing policy that was in place before any of the current presidents were elected to our positions of responsibility."

At its 1999 annual meeting, the 2.7 million-member BGCT rejected the 1998 version of the 'Baptist Faith and Message' with its controversial amendment on the family in favor of the previous 1963 version.

Wade was among the messengers who spoke against further revisions to the statement during the SBC annual meeting in June in Orlando, Fla.

Compiled from reports by Tim Palmer of the Missouri Word & Way and News Director David Winfrey.

Oklahoma DOMs endorse new Baptist Faith & Message

OKLAHOMA CITY (ABP)—Directors of missions in Oklahoma have endorsed recent changes to the Southern Baptist Convention's official faith statement and encouraged local churches to do likewise.

A statewide directors-of-missions fellowship went on record Aug. 25 in a resolution "supporting the June 14, 2000, revision of the 'Baptist Faith and Message,' and particularly Article I, 'The Scripture.'"

The resolution further encourages pastors and church members "to seriously consider adoption" of the latest version of the faith statement. Earlier "Baptist Faith and Message" editions came out in 1925 and 1963, and an

article on family was tacked on in 1998.

Tom Owens, president of Oklahoma's directors of missions, told Baptist Press the resolution's key concern was to affirm the SBC stance on Scripture.

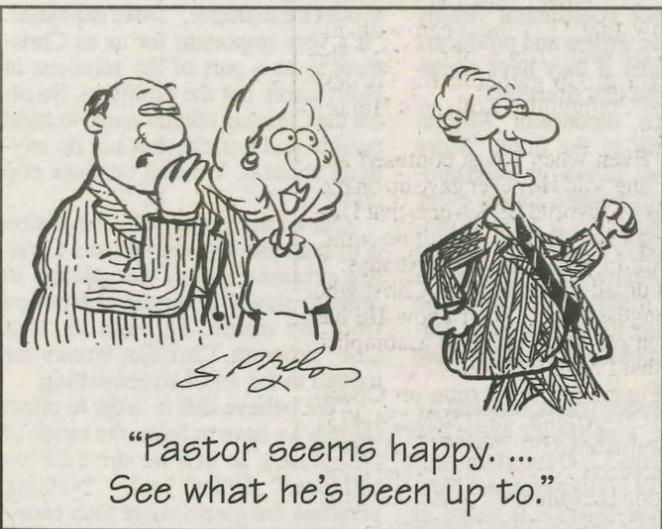
"If we lose the ability to state commonly held beliefs among Southern Baptists, then we have lost the basis for our evangelism," Owens said. "We would have no message left."

Directors of missions work with churches in a defined geographic area, typically one or more counties, but hold no ecclesiastical authority over Baptist churches, which are self-governing. Still, moderates called the res-

olution an attempt to pressure churches that oppose the new faith statement to leave both the SBC and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

Mainstream Oklahoma Baptists, an organization representing a moderate minority in the overwhelmingly conservative state, responded by announcing a series of public forums beginning Sept. 7 to discuss differences between the old and new "Baptist Faith and Message" statements.

"Before your church and/or local association adopts the 2000 'Baptist Faith and Message,' we encourage you to study it carefully," advised an announcement on the group's Web site.



Advance work boosts Owensboro team's impact in Maine

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

WATERBORO, Maine—When members of First Baptist Church of Owensboro went to New England for a recent mission trip, they helped draw nearly 1,000 residents for a July Fourth festival coordinated with a local Baptist Church.

But First Baptist's mission volunteers aren't gauging their success solely in terms of numbers.

And a Kentucky pastor who spent a sabbatical in New England said First Baptist's method represents how more mission groups can boost the efficiency of their work.

Kevin Hall, youth pastor for First Baptist of Owensboro, took a 65-member team to Maine to help Lakeside Community Church in Waterboro host a July Fourth community celebration.

"There weren't thousands of people who got saved, but there were thousands of seeds planted," Hall said. "Now it's up to another group to go up there and water and harvest."

Kentucky Baptists have been involved for five years in a partnership with New England Baptists.

Calvin Wilkins, director of partnership missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said he is amazed by how God has inspired people to get involved.

The partnership agreement remains open-ended, he added. "As long as there is a challenge and a response, we need to keep going."

Wilkins said his only frustration is trying to get an accurate count of how many Kentuckians are traveling to the region. He estimates between 25 and 30 churches, representing between 400 and 500 volunteers, visited New England this summer.

"I only have three reports from people in my office," he said. "A lot of churches deal directly with churches or associations there and we never hear about it."

In addition to better communication, Floyd Price said Kentuckians should improve their orientation to the region. Price, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church, spent a two-month sabbatical this summer in New England, visiting churches and photographing Kentucky mission teams.

"The reaction I got from a lot of pastors there is we're sending a lot

of teams that do good, but we need to maximize our efforts," he said. "If we had some people who went two or three days (early) to do some groundwork, and stayed ... after to do follow-up, we would make better use of our time."

Owensboro First Baptist followed the first part of that prescription.

Hall and another staff member visited Waterboro in April to look over Friendship Park, site of the holiday celebration.

In addition, the church flew Kevin Litchfield—pastor of host Lakeside Community Church—and his wife to Kentucky to establish a closer relationship.

Those ties helped the planning process for the extensive outreach.

The attractions included food tents, gift certificates and other prizes, children's games, music, drama and puppets; a horseshoe tournament, hockey puck shooting and hot air balloon rides.

Hall said the real key to the effort's success was the registration tent. Volunteers handed out questionnaires asking visitors about their interest in a visit from the church. Seventy-five families checked



MISSION TRIP Volunteers from First Baptist Church of Owensboro staff a July Fourth festival in Waterboro, Maine. Working in advance with Lakeside Community Church in Waterboro helped boost the mission trip's effectiveness.

"yes," and three of them already have joined Lakeside, Hall said.

The registration area also helped publicize a two-day sports clinic after the celebration, he said.

"This all made a definite impact on our people," Hall said. "Their world view has changed, seeing people in other parts of the country as needing Christ. A couple of teens surrendered to full-time missions. It's definitely drawn all of them closer to God."

Youth ministry leaders: Teens ready to share their faith at school

LOUISVILLE—On Sept. 20 when students gather around their school flag poles for prayer, the shadows of recent school and church shootings might linger but won't overpower, according to Kentucky youth ministry specialists.

Rather than being intimidated by evil, youth are more focused than ever on carrying out the Great Commission, said Randy Record, a Kentucky Baptist Convention youth evangelism associate.

"It's made students passionate," he said. "It's not complicated for them. They say, 'I want to reach my friends and be obedient.'"

The annual nationwide "See You at the Pole" event will be Sept. 20 this year. Christian students around

the country will gather before school at their campus flag poles to pray for friends and teachers.

While school violence has affected this generation of youth, the immediate impact has faded, according to Roger Palmer, minister of students at First Baptist Church in Paducah. "The motivating factor now is a desire to see lost friends come to know Christ," he said. "Christian kids are seeing the junk thrown at them and realizing they need to take a stand."

One strategy for helping youth evangelize their friends is First Priority clubs. The clubs are a multi-denominational evangelistic effort developed by the organization First Priority of America.

During the 1999-2000 school year, Record's helped students start approximately 100 "First Priority" or similar clubs across the state. Record said his goal is to support student-led evangelism efforts in every high and middle school in Kentucky within the next three years. He said he hopes to see 50 more schools added during the 2000-2001 school year.

Record said he also hopes to strengthen existing clubs through training seminars. Such seminars already are scheduled for four locations:

■ Sept. 27 at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ Oct. 7 at Graceland Baptist Church in Jeffersonville, Ind.

■ Oct. 14 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Shively.

■ Oct. 14 at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

In January, Record and volunteer regional coordinators will visit every school with a First Priority or similar student-led club to energize and encourage students. Regional coordinators say campus mentoring is the key for students to stay charged up and on mission.

"We want to deepen our relationship, indicate that we are serious and this is not fly-by-night," Record said.

For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention youth department toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5714 or visit the Web site, www.kybaptist.org/sayYES.htm

Accident survivor helps promote KBC's Operation Cooperation blood drives

Continued from page 1

But blood donors didn't just save her life; they had a part in transforming it.

"Sometimes a person does not realize how much God can do for them until they look back and see how far God has brought them," Sapp said. "I am one of those people. I know that it is by God's grace that I am here to tell my story."

On Jan. 24, 1999, Sapp was driving to her home, then at Fordsville, from the midnight shift at an Owensboro manufacturer. Just three miles from home, she hit head-on with another vehicle.

Her right ankle, left leg, left femur, pelvis, the roof of her mouth, facial bones, right wrist and all but three ribs were broken. Her diaphragm and spleen ruptured, her lung collapsed, she lost sight in one eye and she suffered internal bleeding.

Within the first three weeks of

Sapp's 97 days at Owensboro Mercy Hospital, she required 75 units of whole blood, plus additional infusions of plasma. The accident occurred during the post-holiday season, a time of the year when blood donations are typically down, so donors had to be called in. A call went out across the community and a total of 267 units were donated through the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center and mobile units.

Weeks later, after she was transferred out of the intensive care unit, she learned a passenger in the other vehicle had been killed. Sapp was devastated.

"It was a total shock. I don't know how I would have handled it without my children," she said of daughters April Carwile and Latonya Norris and her son, Lee Todd Coppage. "God has taught me that my children love me unconditionally. It makes me think that He loves us unconditionally."

Sapp said she got the opportunity to return that unconditional love when she was released from the hospital. Not long after she was released, her son was hospitalized and diagnosed with a chemical imbalance.

For the next two years, Sapp and Coppage took care of each other. Sapp learned to walk again and accept her scars while Coppage struggled through bouts with his illness.

Subsisting on monthly disability payments, her self-esteem as battered as her body, Sapp said she questioned why God let her live.

"In the midst of this, I knew I could not just sit down, I had to do something," she said. With encouragement from her family, Sapp returned to school, pursuing an associate degree in business management at Owensboro Community College.

Tragedy struck again in 1998 when Coppage was killed in a single-car accident. But his death didn't derail

Sapp's education. She completed her associate's degree and landed a job as an administrative assistant with Asmark, Inc.

"As I reflect back over my life I know that God has been with me though each change of my life," she told a group gathered for Owensboro Community College's Honors Night.

"Even when I was confused and running wild He never gave up on me. I have a favorite Bible verse that I use when I start to think I can't do something. In Philippians 4:13 it says: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' For I know He has given me the strength to accomplish all that I have achieved."

For more information on Operation Cooperation, call (502) 254-4731 or toll-free (888) 254-5713. A list of Operation Cooperation sites and information is available at www.kybaptist.org/operationcooperation.htm.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Conference applauded

I have been meaning to write applauding an event about which you carried an advertisement earlier this summer. Just before the Fourth of July about 50 Christian educators from public schools gathered at Georgetown College for the first in what we hope will be many such opportunities. They learned from attorney Oliver Thomas and Freedom Forum's Marcia Beauchamp about the current status of the law of church-state separation. They enjoyed inspiring, motivational and informative sessions from exemplary presenters on such topics as "Rescuing Childhood," "Science and Religion," "The Church's Role in Public Schools" and "Living Our Faith in the Public Schools."

There were worship services and former Gov. Brereton Jones joined the group for a taping of "In the Meetinghouse," a feature of Georgetown College's public radio station, hosted by Dwight Moody.

Working everyday with teachers of the public schools, I knew this retreat was exactly the elixir they needed. I was particularly struck by a Somerset teacher's expression: "I have been debating with myself; I thought I was where I was supposed to be, but with some people leaving public schools, I was beginning to wonder. When I saw the ad in the Western Recorder I said, 'Those are the people I need to hear from!'" As I enjoyed her wonderful spirit throughout the conference I could only wish that every Christian public school teacher could have the same experience.

The Marshall Center at Georgetown College is to be applauded for this effort. They alone seem to have recognized that Christian public educators hold the key for exemplifying living our faith in the world without being of the world and need to be supported in their journey. I hope next year many church-

es will pay the expenses of their public school teachers to attend this non-denominational, apolitical retreat.

*E. Joy Arnold
Midway*

Pro-hymn growth plan

I would like to make a case for churches that do not necessarily believe you have to clap your hands, stomp your feet, sing choruses, etc. to attract young adults. Yes, I am a senior adult, but I am not brain dead or resistant to change. I am not an expert on church growth although I have been involved in trying to help Sunday schools grow for the last 50 years.

Recently I was in two average-size Baptist churches. They both were filled with all age groups including a fairly good-sized group of young adults. In one of the churches three young adult men were being ordained as deacons. This particular church sang old hymns, and I did not detect any unhappiness about the music. In the other church, the pastor is far past retirement age. Since his coming to this church the church has grown tremendously for a small rural church. It now has 130-140 people in Sunday school, has remodeled its sanctuary and has a large number of young adults. They don't use screens and sing the music we sang years ago.

I want to suggest a formula that might work for church growth:

A staff and particularly a pastor who truly loves and cares about his people.

A church where everybody is somebody and are treated the same, young or old.



BAPTIST FORUM

What are you thinking?

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

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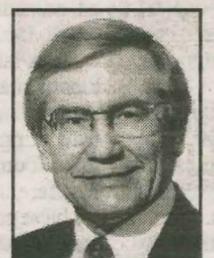
A million-dollar goal

There are so many worthy ministries represented in the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. By reaching the \$800,000 primary goal and \$200,000 challenge goal—a total of \$1 million—essential support will be provided for a wide array of vital missions right here in Kentucky. Let me tell you about just a few:

Through the offering, support will be provided for 20 association directors of missions, key county churches in Eastern Kentucky and for local community center directors. Groups speaking 10 languages, including 50 Hispanic ministries, also will be supported.

The state missions offering also provides resources to help support deaf ministry and literacy missions. Congenital deafness and illiteracy are at record highs in Kentucky, so ministries in each of these areas are of vital importance.

Joy Bolton and Kentucky WMU, which sponsors this offering, have caught the vision for reaching people in Kentucky through new work. They understand that the foundation must be strong at home if Baptists are to reach around the world with the gospel. We cannot afford to miss reaching and keeping new generations.



Bill Mackey

Some estimate that there are tens of thousands of unreached people in Kentucky who will respond to blended and traditional styles of worship. And there are multiple thousands more who will need non-traditional approaches.

New approaches are especially needed to reach people living in multi-family housing. Only 2 to 4 percent of this population currently attends church. There are also growing pockets of people in lower socioeconomic communities who need new opportunities to respond to Jesus Christ.

Kentucky Baptists have a new staff

A church that believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and preaches and teaches the same.

A church that reaches out consistently to the community, not to any one group but to all who need the Lord.

A church that also reaches inwardly and ministers to its members.

I hope we can come up with some better news than that which tells us the same refrain over and over again.

*Bob Lawrence
Hopkinsville*

KBHC stand supported

The Russell Creek Association of Kentucky Baptists would like to take this opportunity to state publicly what we already have said privately regarding the controversy over the stance taken by Mr. Smithwick and the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. We are proud to be associated with an organization that is willing to stand firm on the clear principles found in the Word of God. The following is a letter that was sent from our association to Mr. Smithwick:

"Mr. Smithwick, We, the members of the Russell Creek Association of Kentucky Baptists Executive Board, want you and your colleagues to know that we appreciate the stand you have taken concerning the hiring practices of the KBHC. It often seems that when Christian people take a stand for what is spiritually and morally right that they are immediately criticized. We are, and will continue to be, remembering you in prayer. May God continue to bless the great services that KBHC are providing for so many needy children."

*Russell Creek Association
of Kentucky Baptists*

FAMILY

Questions can help chart one's financial status

By Jeremy White

We often compare our wealth with others. We compare our cars, house, clothing and other property to what neighbors, church friends and coworkers own.

Perhaps we do so to see how we are doing financially. Are we successfully competing in our economy? Are we keeping up with our peers?

Instead of comparing the stuff we have, I would like to suggest a more qualitative diagnostic test. Check yourself against the following signs of financial bondage and financial freedom:

- **Signs of financial bondage:**
- You are ashamed before God and man of your giving record.
- You don't save regularly.
- You regularly pay finance charges on credit cards.
- You would have to sell assets immediately if you missed a paycheck.
- You use spending as emotional and psychological therapy.
- You find yourself saying, "I don't know where all the money goes."
- You frequently buy items on impulse.

■ You spend significant time and energy thinking and worrying about your finances.

■ You have obtained or considered a consolidation loan to pay off other debt.

■ You are frustrated with your financial position, but have no plan to improve it.

■ **Signs of financial freedom:**

■ You have a clear conscience before God about your giving.

■ You can make life adjustments without first considering the financial impact.

■ You consistently pay all bills and meet all financial obligations in a timely manner.

■ You rarely argue about money matters within your family.

■ You are at peace to live on what God has provided.

■ You have financial goals and gradually are making progress toward those goals.

More than comparing stuff, financial freedom is the peace that results from being a faithful manager of God's resources. It is a condition of the heart confirmed by lifestyle and balance sheet.

As Jesus said in John 8:31-32, "If you hold to My teaching, ... then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. Free financial tips are available on his Internet Web site, www.consultcpa.com.



FINANCIAL FORUM

How can single adults build quality, lasting friendships?

Q: Much has been written about successful marriages, but not many people talk about the importance of friendship in the lives of single adults. How can I make friendships that last a lifetime?

The best-selling book, "Girlfriends for Life," identifies four characteristics of lifelong friendships: connection, caring, commitment and courage.

■ **Connection** is the sense that a friendship was meant to be, that friends are on parallel paths. Connection foresees old age shared together and more fun times to come. Connecting creates a welcoming space, bringing together human presence and the freedom to grow. To have a friend, one must show one's self friendly, showing hospitality as Abraham did to his guests (Genesis 18), the widow to Elijah (1 Kings 17), and the travelers to the stranger on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). When you befriend someone, miracles happen. Often, God shows up.

■ **Caring** occurs through a number of ways. Many people have difficulty physically or verbally showing affection. Action transcends affection. Friends honor one another as individuals, respect each other's differences and support one another's life choices, even though they may not always agree. A caring friend will attend, knowing when the other needs help, and will step in when necessary.

■ **Commitment** is like glue. It is the nourishment of the third entity, the "we." It requires each person's trustworthiness and loyalty. A friend has the gumption to face conflict and to wrestle to resolution.

■ **Courage** is needed to help each other get through whatever comes. Shared times of laughter and fun bring perspective. Courage says, "You are valuable, worthy of pursuing your dreams." Self-esteem often is found through the eyes of the person who encourages you in this way.—
James Stillwell

Q: How can I help my child develop motor skills and coordination?

Children will enjoy as well as benefit from games and activities that strengthen muscles while teaching balance and coordination.

Mark a line on the carpet or ground. Use it to teach proper foot placement, heel strike and balance. Play follow the leader. Walk forward, then backwards and sideways. Walk on your toes. Do the same with running. Skip. Hop. Jump on one leg, then two. Jump off things and over things. Jump sideways and backwards. Use tumbling to help children learn how to fall without hurting themselves.

Many children experience difficulty catching a ball because they have trouble following objects with their eyes. Attach a ball to a piece of string and swing it over them while they lie on the floor. Get them to follow the ball with their eyes. Do the same with the child standing.

Children will begin to develop fine motor skills and strength between the ages of 7 and 12. Many will play soccer, which teaches balance and agility. Encourage climbing; it builds strength. Wrestle together on the floor. Children enjoy challenges, so create simple agility drills. If you have access to a swing set or jungle gym, make up "programs" consisting of tumbles, jumps, climbing and swinging. Children will have fun "performing" while you clap and cheer them on.

Gross motor skills develop gradually, so don't push your child to do too much too early. Most injuries result from a lack of balance and strength. Help your child lead an active life. Build strength and coordination as you have fun together.—*David Garrard*

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; 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.



Ministry to internationals begins at home

Responding to the spiritual needs of people around the world has been a hallmark among Southern Baptists for generations. From Lottie Moon to Bill Wallace to Bertha Smith, the work of Southern Baptist international missionaries has captured the hearts and imagination of Baptists.

In recent years, however, international mission opportunities have moved closer and closer to home. Advances in transportation, communications and other technology have made it easier for people from distant parts of the world to interact. Wars, famine and other hardships often force people to relocate to new settings.

Here in Kentucky, census projections indicate that thousands of internationals will move to the Bluegrass State in the next 25 years. The mix of people new to our state and nation includes students, businessmen, migrant farm workers, refugees and others.

Diverse opportunities for ministry to internationals accompany this trend. And that's where Kentucky Baptists' 2000 state missions emphasis comes into play.

State missions traditionally involves ministering to people in our communities who look, talk and act a lot like we do. It often has been a matter of reaching out to people with specific spiritual, physical and financial needs.

While this year's Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions and the accompanying week of prayer will continue that tradition, the 2000 theme highlights the urgency of reaching out to internationals "among us" here in Kentucky.

This year's offering goal of \$1 million includes a base goal of \$800,000 for Kentucky Baptist missions and evangelism projects, special ministries and missions education. An additional challenge goal of \$200,000 is earmarked for new work in Kentucky.

Among the missions, evangelism and special ministry projects budgeted in the 2000 offering, ministries specifically geared toward internationals include funds to assist language congregations, international student ministry projects, migrant ministries, race track ministries and Friendship International.

In addition to giving to the annual Eliza Broadus Offering, Kentucky Baptists can get personally involved

in state mission projects for internationals by learning to teach English as a second language, helping organize food or clothing distribution for those in need, providing needed resources for an international student or volunteering to help teach or provide other assistance to new language congregations.

The fact is that many Kentucky Baptists come into contact with internationals on a regular basis in a variety of settings but fail to recognize the tremendous ministry opportunities available.

Another key aspect of the annual state missions emphasis is the week of prayer. This year's State Missions Season of Prayer is Sept. 10-17. It is an ideal time for local congregations to highlight missions needs, contribute financially, organize ministry projects and pray earnestly for God to use Kentucky Baptists to minister effectively to internationals among us.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union leaders have compiled several prayer requests related to the state missions focus on ministry to internationals. Specific requests include prayer for:

- Cultural sensitivity in reaching out to those who are new to our state, food, culture and language.
- Internationals to come to know Jesus Christ as Savior while living in Kentucky.
- More people to be trained as tutors to teach English as a second language and conversational English.
- Greater sensitivity among Kentucky Baptists to the migrants who live and work here.
- More people who are bilingual to get involved in migrant ministry.
- Increased involvement in race track ministries among local churches.
- International students to take the good news of the gospel to receptive hearts when they return to their home countries.

A supplement to this week's *Western Recorder* includes these and other prayer requests as well as details about the Eliza Broadus Offering and week of prayer. As you determine your personal involvement in this year's state missions emphasis, make a commitment to reach out in the name of Christ to internationals "among us."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Is your church ready for the age quake?

By Bill Carter

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare Your power to the next generation, Your might to all who are to come" (Psalm 71:18).

America is rapidly aging. There are now 34.7 million people age 65 and older. Within the next 30 years this number will double to nearly 70 million. People are living longer than ever before. Life expectancy is increasing due to modern medical technology, better nutrition, reduced job risks and other factors. We are experiencing a new revolution.

If our society is aging, so are our churches. We are quickly moving from a "youth-oriented" culture to an "elder-oriented" culture, where older adults outnumber children and youth.

There is as much difference between ages 60 and 90 as there is between ages 3 and 30. Everyone ages differently and there are no two older adults alike. Each has had different social, educational, physical, biological,

emotional and religious experiences. Aging is affected by the lifestyle we have lived, physical exercise we have performed, how we handle stress, the food we eat, heredity and other factors.

Certain myths have developed about aging. Society has concluded that seniors are economically disadvantaged, physically frail and in poor health, totally disengaged from life and awaiting death.

Today's seniors are so different from what most church leaders have grown up thinking them to be that the old approach to this millennium group would be like fishing with a net full of holes. For a church to have an effective senior adult ministry, new paradigms are essential. Churches need to remember that one out of every four people in society is a senior adult and that one-third to one-half of the average congregation's members are over age 55.

Senior adult ministry is not about age. It is about people. The 76 million "boomers" are moving rapidly into this era but will never allow themselves to

be called senior adults. In Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, all adults 55 and above are called "Forerunners."

Today, some churches have a limited interpretation of senior ministry. They often emphasize a ministry "to" and "for" seniors to the exclusion of any other form of service. Churches that are intentional about senior adult operations know it is as much a ministry "by" and "with" as it is "to" and "for" senior adults.

How will today's churches respond to the increase of seniors? Every church should have a minister or coordinator. This person would coordinate ministries with seniors. The coordinator should be caring, faithful and visionary. Realizing some seniors can provide services while others need services, a survey is necessary to gather pertinent information on each senior. This information can reveal services and ministries the church might offer. Then using the church's vision statement, develop and implement a program of relevant ministries.

An age quake is about to shake America, and what the churches do to prepare for it can change the course of future events. Will your church be ready to deal with this change?

Bill Carter is minister of senior adults at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington



Experts offer tips to understanding church conflict

"The way we are at home is the way we are at church."

Steve Lyon, professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

GLORIETA, N.M.—Churches are organisms but often are treated as organizations, and that's a key problem when facing congregational conflict, according to Vaughn Manning.

Manning, a consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas minister/church relations office, led a summer conference on understanding church conflict.

The problem, Manning said, is that organization techniques are not effective in solving organism problems.

"The central focus of an organism at its core is life, while the central focus on an organization at its core is structure," he explained. "A vital part of an organism is concerned with relationships, while an organization is concerned primarily with structures and their functioning."

Healthy churches functioning as organisms focus on fellowship, consensus and focus, Manning said, while organizations focus on buildings, programs and finances.

"Organization may be needed to function well, but when structure is substituted for relationship, it has a deadening effect on the health of the church."

Manning listed seven common sources of conflict in churches:

- Lack of information.
- An important action being taken too quickly.
- A lack of trust in leadership.
- A suspicion of motives.
- Changes viewed as unnecessary.
- A long history of conflict.
- Protecting church secrets.

Above all, much conflict can be avoided by giving church members plenty of information about decisions that are being made and how they are being made, Manning said. "You can't give them too much information."

A quick count might save future fight

GLORIETA, N.M.—Baptist churches often major issues to a win-lose vote in a business meeting.

But that might not be the best course of action to ensure church health, according to a church consultant.

Vaughn Manning, of the Baptist General Convention of Texas minister/church relations office, said many churches would be aided by learning how to find consensus on difficult issues rather than forcing votes that make winners of some and losers of others.

He suggested one method of gauging consensus called "fist five." This

is a method of straw balloting that helps a group quickly gauge the level of agreement or disagreement about an issue under discussion.

Under this agreement, outlined by author Neil Chafin, any member of the group may call for a fist five at any time.

Members of the group are then asked to raise a hand, with the number of fingers displayed showing their level of agreement or disagreement with the issue or proposal being discussed.

Five fingers raised means the person is in total agreement and support of the proposal under discussion.

Four fingers raised means the person is in general agreement but has one slight reservation that needs to be addressed before a vote.

Three fingers raised means the person is in general agreement but needs more information before the vote.

Two fingers raised means the person is leaning against the proposal and could not support it without major modification.

One finger raised means the person strongly disagrees with the proposal and would vote against it.

No fingers raised, resulting in a clenched fist, means "this proposal will pass over my dead body."

In most churches, for example, committees work diligently on a proposal behind the scenes for months. But the first time other church members know anything about the issue or the proposal presented by the committee is when it surfaces in a business meeting.

Church health would be enhanced if committees kept the full church informed about the issues they are dealing with and gave plenty of advance notice of recommendations, Manning said.

Even in the best of situations, conflict will occur in churches, just as it does in families, he explained. When conflict does arise, though, the wise leader will identify who owns the conflict and let those parties resolve the conflict.

In a related conference, Steve Lyon added that if one wants to understand church conflicts, look at the families that church members have come from.

"The way we are at home is the way we are at church," said Lyon, professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. "The stuff we learn at home, we take to church."

Church members and ministers "think and behave the way we learned in our families of origin," Lyons said. "We continue our way of thinking and acting from generation to generation."

Often, church conflicts represent a "clash of cultures and history" learned in families of origin, he added.

It benefits the church to help members deal with family issues, Lyon said, because when family of origin issues are resolved at church, they're fixed at home too, and vice versa.

Most church conflicts have more to do with the process by which decisions are made, not the content of the decision, he reported.

And the triangles created by troubled interpersonal relationships in churches are like the triangles cre-

ated in troubled family relationships, Lyon said. For example, a triangle is created in a family when one member, perhaps an alcoholic, becomes victimized by his addiction. Another family member often is drawn in as a rescuer, to save the addict from the consequences of his own actions.

Until this triangle is broken, family systems theory says, the addict cannot find healing.

Ministers and other church leaders often get pressed into similar relational triangles at church, Lyon said. And just as family members sometimes sabotage an addict's true attempts at recovery because they don't know how they would function without the addiction present, so church members sometimes sabotage progress toward wellness, he added.

Effective church leaders must articulate their position, stay connected and deal head-on with sabotage, Lyon said.

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October 6 - 7, 2000

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Friday:

9:00 a.m. Annual Golf Scramble
7 - 9:00 p.m. Brotherhood Convention
Mission Action Praise Reports
9:30 - 11:00 p.m. Mission Celebration

Saturday:

8:00 a.m. - Noon Mission Projects and Education Training for Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Challengers, Acteens, Baptist Men on Mission and Women on Mission

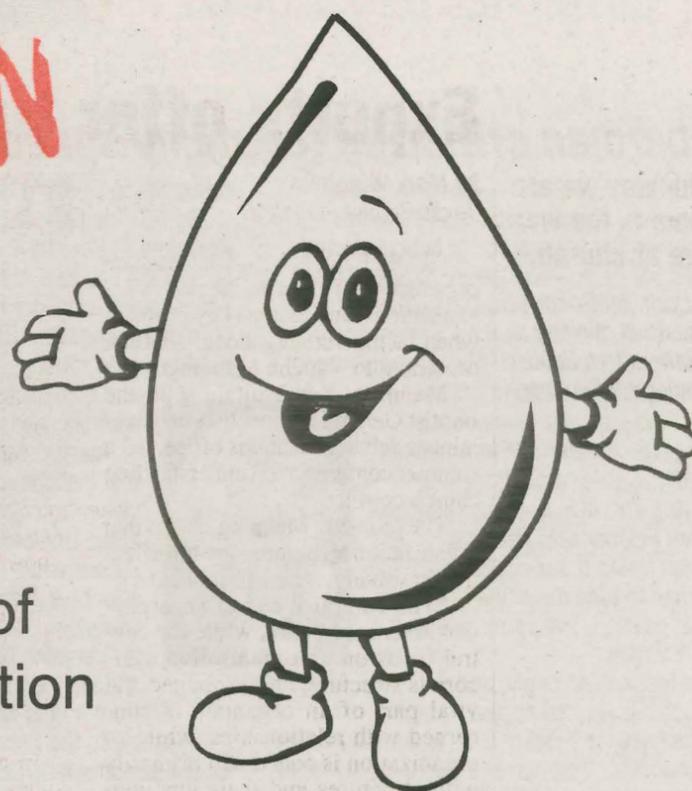


For Registration information, contact:

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
Brotherhood Department
10701 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243
1-888-254-5720 or 502-244-6489
www.kybaptist.org/brotherhood.htm

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<u>Alexandria</u>	Main Street Baptist Church	Sept. 12	2-4:15, 5:30-8	<u>Louisville</u>	Shively Baptist Church	Sept. 21	3-8 p.m.
<u>Ashland</u>	Unity Baptist Church	Sept. 16	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	<u>Louisville</u>	Davis Memorial Baptist Church	Sept. 23	11 a.m.-3 p.m.
<u>Bardstown</u>	Parkway Baptist Church	Sept. 24	11:45-4:45	<u>Louisville</u>	Valley View Baptist Church	Sept. 23	9 a.m.-2 p.m.
<u>Bedford</u>	Bedford Baptist Church	Sept. 12	3-7 p.m.	<u>Louisville</u>	Highview Baptist School	Sept. 26	1-6 p.m.
<u>Benton</u>	Briensburg Baptist Church	Oct. 7	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	<u>Madisonville</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 9	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
<u>Burlington</u>	Burlington Baptist Church	Sept. 13	2-8 p.m.	<u>Mayfield</u>	Mid-Continent College	Sept. 23	
<u>Campbellsville</u>	Campbellsville University	Sept. 21	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	<u>McDowell</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 20	
<u>Catlettsburg</u>	Burnaugh Baptist Church	Sept. 22	2-7 p.m.	<u>Middlesboro</u>	Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church	Sept. 13	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
<u>Central City</u>	Muhlenberg County Association	Sept. 25	11:30-5:30 p.m.	<u>Morehead</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19	1-7 p.m.
<u>Crestwood</u>	Ballardsville Baptist Church	Sept. 12	3-8 p.m.	<u>Morganfield</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 10	8:30-12:30
<u>Danville</u>	Lexington Avenue Baptist Church	Sept. 10	12-4 p.m.	<u>Mt. Washington</u>	Mt. Washington Baptist Church	Sept. 14	1-6 p.m.
<u>Elizabethtown</u>	Severns Valley Baptist Church	Sept. 14	3-8 p.m.	<u>Murray</u>	Westside Baptist Church	Sept. 24	12:30-5:30 p.m.
<u>Erlanger</u>	Erlanger Baptist Church	Sept. 11	2-8 p.m.	<u>Nebo</u>	Silent Run Baptist Church	Sept. 21	3-8 p.m.
<u>Fountain Run</u>	Senior Citizens Center	Sept. 12	12-6 p.m.	<u>Nortonville</u>	Nortonville Baptist Church	Sept. 13	3 p.m.-8 p.m.
<u>Frankfort</u>	Immanuel Baptist Church	Sept. 17	12-5 p.m.	<u>Owensboro</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 12	3-8 p.m.
<u>Franklin</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19	12-6 p.m.	<u>Owensboro</u>	Macedonia Baptist Church	Sept. 13	4-8 p.m.
<u>Glasgow</u>	Glasgow Baptist	Sept. 12	2-7 p.m.	<u>Owensboro</u>	Third Baptist Church	Sept. 19	3-8 p.m.
<u>Grayson</u>	Senior Citizens Center	Sept. 16	9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<u>Owensboro</u>	Bellvue Baptist Church	Sept. 20	3-8 p.m.
<u>Hardinsburg</u>	Hardinsburg Baptist Church	Sept. 19	12-5 p.m.	<u>Owensboro</u>	Walnut Memorial Baptist Church	Sept. 21	3-8 p.m.
<u>Hazard</u>	Petrey Memorial Baptist Church	Sept. 26	1-7 p.m.	<u>Owensboro</u>	Yellow Creek Baptist Church	Sept. 25	3-8 p.m.
<u>Henderson</u>	Immanuel Baptist Temple	Sept. 16	8:30-12:30	<u>Owenton</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19	4-9 p.m.
<u>Highland Hghts</u>	Northern Kentucky University	Sept. 14	9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	<u>Paintsville</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 20	1-7 p.m.
<u>Hodgenville</u>	Hodgenville First Baptist	Sept. 13	3-8 p.m.	<u>Pineville</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 12	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
<u>Hopkinsville</u>	Hopkinsville Baptist Church	Sept. 16	7a.m.-12 p.m.	<u>Pineville</u>	Clear Creek Baptist Bible College	Sept. 21	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
<u>Hopkinsville</u>	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Sept. 23	7 a.m.-12 p.m.	<u>Pineville</u>	West Pineville Baptist Church	Sept. 19	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
<u>Irvine</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 23	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	<u>Prestonsburg</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 21	1-8 p.m.
<u>Lexington</u>	University of Kentucky	Sept. 15	11 a.m.-4 p.m.	<u>Radcliff</u>	Stithton Baptist Church	Sept. 12	3-8 p.m.
<u>Lexington</u>	Elkhorn Baptist Association	Sept. 16	9 a.m.-6 p.m.	<u>Sandy Hook</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 13	3-7 p.m.
<u>Lexington</u>	Immanuel Baptist Church	Sept. 27	4:30-8:30 p.m.	<u>Shelbyville</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19	4-9 p.m.
<u>London</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 10	1-6 p.m.	<u>Shelbyville</u>	Highland Baptist Church	Sept. 30	10 a.m.-2 p.m.
<u>Louisa</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 19	12-6 p.m.	<u>Somerset</u>	Central Kentucky Blood Center	Sept. 10-23	Business hours
<u>Louisville</u>	Greater Salem Baptist Church	Sept. 16	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	<u>Stoney Fork</u>	Mill Creek Baptist Church	Sept. 13	10 a.m.-6 p.m.
<u>Louisville</u>	St. Matthews Baptist Church	Sept. 16	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	<u>Taylorsville</u>	First Baptist Church	Sept. 28	2-7 p.m.
<u>Louisville</u>	Maple Grove Baptist Church	Sept. 20	2-7 p.m.	<u>Williamsburg</u>	Cumberland College	Sept. 14	10 a.m.-5 p.m.
<u>Louisville</u>	Southern Seminary	Sept. 20	12-4 p.m.	<u>Williamsburg</u>	Main Street Baptist Church	Oct. 7	10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Lieberman criticized for stump speech about faith

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Vice presidential nominee Sen. Joseph Lieberman's stump speeches on the importance of faith in private and civic life have drawn the ire of one of his biggest boosters—the Anti-Defamation League.

Lieberman, the first Jew on a major party national ticket, has infused his campaign stops with frequent references to praising God and the idea that religious faith should play a greater role in American life, both private and public.

On Aug. 28, ADL National Director Abraham Foxman and National Chairman Howard Berkowitz asked Lieberman to tone down the religious rhetoric, calling it "inappropriate and even unsettling."

"We feel very strongly, and hope you would agree, that appealing along religious lines, or belief in God, is contrary to the American ideal," Foxman and Berkowitz wrote in a letter to Lieberman. "The First Amendment requires that government neither support one religion over another nor the religious over the non-religious."

Lieberman's speech on Aug. 27 to a black church in Detroit drew national attention when he said, "As a people, we need to reaffirm our faith and renew the dedication of our nation and

ourselves to God and God's purpose."

Both Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore have talked openly about their faith. Bush has said Jesus is his favorite political philosopher, and Gore has professed himself a born-again Christian. But Lieberman's comments have been the most personal and most frequent, and Lieberman has said the country as a whole needs to come back to God.



Lieberman

Martin Marty told Associated Press that Lieberman is pushing his religious views "too far." The emeritus professor at the University of Chicago initially was upbeat when Lieberman began talking about his Jewish values in the campaign. Now Marty says Lieberman is "parading piety." Nevertheless, Marty added, "I don't think he could refrain from it. It is who he is."

Speaking to the New York Times after the ADL issued its statement, Lieberman said he was not implying that non-believers are less patriotic or less American, but said the country should not exclude faith and religion from public discourse.

"This is really less a matter of programs or legislation than it is of giving respect to the constructive role that faith can play in the lives of individuals, and in the lives of the community," Lieberman said.

Poll: strengthening families a major concern for Americans

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (RNS)—A new poll finds that most Americans believe strengthening families is a greater priority than having a cleaner environment or increasing job opportunities.

The poll, released last week by the year-old Alliance for Marriage, found 59 percent of American respondents said the state of the family as "not very strong" or "weak and losing ground," compared to 40 percent who think it is "reasonably strong" or "very strong and growing."

Seventy-seven percent of those polled said strengthening families was more important than creating a cleaner environment while 22 percent said creating a cleaner environment was more important.

Sixty-four percent of those surveyed said strengthening families was more important than increasing job opportunities while 35 percent thought job opportunities were more important than stronger families.

Ninety-two percent of those surveyed agreed with the following statement: "We can only go forward in this country if families and fami-

ly values are strengthened." Seven percent disagreed and 1 percent did not know or refused to answer.

The Wirthlin Worldwide poll surveyed 1,030 American adults representing a cross-section of the country. The overall margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

"There is a deep and wide consensus in America about the critical importance of the health of families for health of our societies," said Matt Daniels, executive director of the Alliance for Marriage.

The alliance is an Alexandria, Va.-based social policy organization that includes representatives of a variety of faith groups on its board of advisers.

"This is social issue No. 1 for this nation," he said.

Other findings by the survey:

- 87 percent of those surveyed said they would support initiatives encouraging support to offer flex-time, job-sharing or home-based work options.

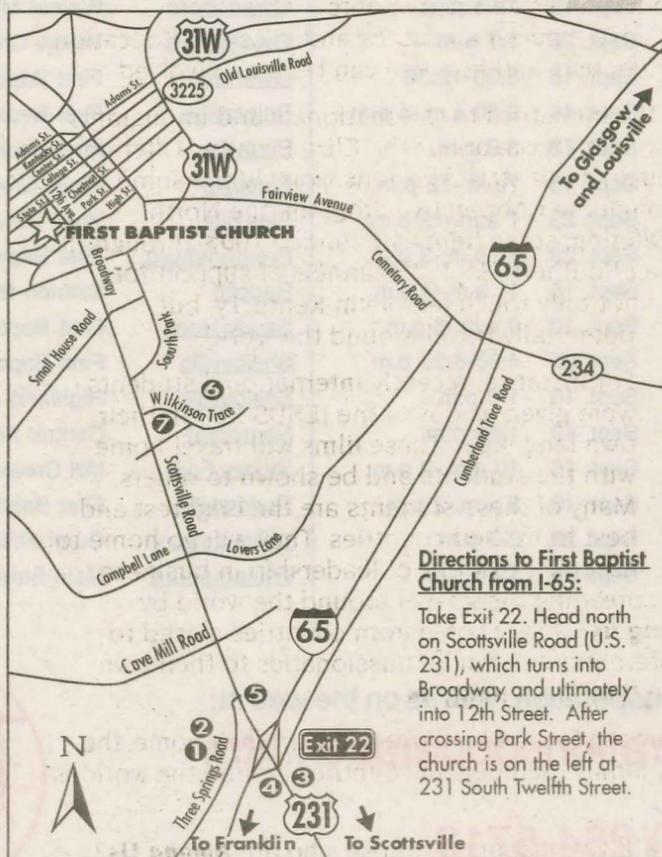
- 78 percent support requiring counseling for married couples with children who are considering a divorce before a divorce is permitted.

PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

**2000 KBC
Annual Meeting
November 14-15, 2000
First Baptist Church
621 East 12th Street
Bowling Green, Kentucky**

Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Non-smoking rooms were blocked whenever possible.

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
For more information, contact
Denise Withers by phone at
502.245.4101 X212 or e-mail at Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org



Accommodations

The following Bowling Green facilities are on Scottsville Road (or near Scottsville Road on intersecting streets), accessible from Exit 22 off I-65. All rates listed are subject to 10.24% hotel tax.

- 1 Baymont Inn & Suites**
165 Three Springs Road • 270.843.3200
Reservation Deadline: November 1
Rate: \$48 (double or king/1-4 persons)
Complimentary continental breakfast
- 2 Hampton Inn**
233 Three Springs Road • 270.842.4100
Reservation Deadline: November 1
Rate: \$59 (double or king/1-4 persons)
Complimentary continental breakfast
- 3 Comfort Inn**
4646 Scottsville Road • 270.843.1163
Reservation Deadline: October 15
Rate: \$69.88 (double/1-4 persons)
\$59.88 (king/1-2 persons)
Complimentary continental breakfast
- 4 Ramada Inn**
4767 Scottsville Road • 270.781.3000
Reservation Deadline: October 13
Rate: \$55 (single or double/1-4 persons)
Breakfast buffet - \$3 per person
- 5 Holiday Inn**
3240 Scottsville Road • 270.781.1500
Reservation Deadline: October 15*
Rate: \$59 (double/1-4 persons)
On-site restaurant
*Cancellations after November 5 are subject to one night's room rate.
- 6 University Plaza Hotel**
1021 Wilkinson Trace • 270.745.0088
Reservation Deadline: October 13
Rate: \$85 (single or double/1-4 persons)
On-site restaurant
- 7 Courtyard by Marriott**
1010 Wilkinson Trace • 270.783.8569
Reservation Deadline: October 13
Rate: \$65 (double or king/1-4 persons)
Breakfast available at cost

Among Us
 В КРУГУ ДРУЗЕЙ
 Parmi Nous
 Mit Uns
 Entre Nosotros
 Laurin Wa

The words "Among Us" appear above, beginning at the top, in English, Russian, French, German, Spanish and Nigerian.

Among Us. The world is coming to Kentucky. That's not just hype for promoting tourism or a sports event. People from around the world are coming to our state in growing numbers. Some are here for just a few months or years, while others come to make Kentucky home. And Kentucky Baptists are not the only ones taking notice. The Louisville *Courier-Journal* documented the changing ethnic and religious make-up of our state in the front page article, "New Neighbors," on January 16. Clearly the needs of people settling in a new land are opening doors for sharing the gospel in our state. But unless we respond quickly, the opportunity to share Christ will be lost to non-Christian religions that are here in the United States and also stepping in to reach internationals.

The United States Census Bureau projects that Kentucky will gain 67 thousand people through international migration between 1995 and 2025. In projecting the ethnic make-up of Kentucky during this same period, the number of persons of Hispanic origin is expected to increase from 0.7 percent of the 1995 state population to 1.3 percent of the 2025 population. Some of this increase will be in part from international migration.

The ministry of Kentucky Baptists to this changing population is diverse and targeted to the particular needs of internationals and immigrants. Internationals include those who are in the United States for a few weeks, months, or years. Internationals often come to the United States as students and will return to their homeland when their schooling is completed. Others come for business or other short-term assignments. We also minister to immigrants, those who have come to Kentucky to stay. Some are refugees. Others are living out the dream of coming to the United States in hopes of greater prosperity and opportunities.

The need for Kentucky Baptists to reach out in love and ministry to internationals **among us** has never been greater. Internationals, first generation immigrants, and families who are caught between cultures with first, second, and third generation family members now living in the United States, all need a hand extended in welcome.

During this Season of Prayer for State Missions, you are invited to:

- Pray for Kentucky Baptist ministries among internationals and immigrants
- Give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Special Ministries and Missions Education
- Find out more about the ministries of Kentucky Baptists and how you can become involved

In these pages you will be introduced to some of the ministries to internationals and immigrants. Each article contains prayer requests. You will also learn more about the Eliza Broadus Offering and how this vital offering provides funding for much of our state missions work. While some of our state missions funding is jointly provided through the Cooperative Program, the North American Mission Board, and the Eliza Broadus Offering, some items are funded 100% through the offering. Your support of this offering and the other Southern Baptist channels of support for missions, helps to make possible ministries which not only touch people in Kentucky, but potentially travel around the world.

"There is one God, who is the Father of all people. Not only is God above all others, but He works by using all of us and He lives in all of us."

-Ephesians 4:6 (CEV)

For instance, recently international students were given a copy of the JESUS film in their own language. These films will travel home with the students and be shown to others. Many of these students are the brightest and best from their countries. They will go home to assume positions of leadership in business and government. What difference will we make in spreading the gospel around the world by sharing Christ while these internationals are **among us**? Many come from countries closed to Southern Baptist missionaries. But these same internationals can be missionaries to their own people if they come to know Christ as Savior while they are **among us**.

God is bringing international missions to us. Even among those who make Kentucky their home, the opportunity to touch in some way the lives of their family members in countries around the world is mind-boggling.

Read on. The world is coming to Kentucky. How will you respond to those who are **Among Us**?

2000 Eliza Broadus

State
 Missions
 Week of
 Prayer

For State Missions,
 Special Ministries and
 Missions Education

September 10-17

Offering Goal: \$800,000

New Work
 Challenge Goal: \$200,000

A Million Dollar Goal for the New Millennium.

Total Goal: \$1,000,000



Kentucky
 Woman's
 Missionary
 Union



A packet of materials has been sent to the WMU director or contact person in every KBC church. It includes State Missions teaching plans for preschoolers, children, youth, and adults, as well as suggestions for churchwide promotion of the Season of Prayer and the Eliza Broadus Offering. The packet also contains an order form and samples of the offering envelope, prayer guide, and Season of Prayer poster.

You may request this packet by calling Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, (888)254-5726 or (502)244-6485. The Eliza Broadus Offering should be mailed to: Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433.

Friendship International. Imagine traveling to a new country to live. You do not speak the language, have only one or two contacts there, but know that your future depends on adapting quickly. You must find a place to live, learn where to shop, and begin to negotiate in an unfamiliar culture. If you have ever traveled overseas and experienced the difficulty of communicating and finding your way when few people speak English, you can identify somewhat with the feelings of those who have come to Kentucky from other countries.

Friendship International is a gift of love from Baptists in Louisville, Lexington, Bardstown, Murray and Paducah, and from Kentucky Baptists who give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Special Ministries, and Missions Education. This "gift" is to internationals whose "world" while living here might otherwise include no more than an apartment complex and nearby grocery store. Its purpose is to not only help make the adjustment to American life a little easier for internationals, but also to make their experience in Kentucky one of the finest of their lives.

During the school season, internationals and volunteers meet one morning per week. They begin with a fellowship time and refreshments, followed by an assembly and program. Then participants may choose from a variety of workshops, including English, Bible study, bowling, chorus, citizenship, crafts and seasonal decorations, driver's education (book only), quilting, sewing, typing, and other special interest courses. Depending on the particular workshop schedule, a participant may be able to attend up to three each week. Preschool child care is provided.

Lita Hunt came to Louisville in 1975 from the Philippines. She spoke very little English and knew only her closest neighbors. She was befriended by a member of Summit Hills Baptist Church and taken to Friendship International, where she was assisted in learning English and began attending church. After several years, Lita became a Christian and has since dedicated her life to Christ and His work. Lita became a member of Women on Mission at Summit Hills and also attends the Filipino church at Lyndon Baptist where she is very active. She helped begin WMU work there with her Filipino friends.

Hear the story another participant of Friendship International in her own words. "My name is Shi-Ru. I am from China. Life was so lonely when I first came to Louisville. I came because my son and family were living here. I came to see them, but mainly to help take care of my two beautiful grandchildren. I didn't know how strange I would feel in a new country. We lived in a nice apartment, but it was very hard to feel at home. Very few people around me understood my few words of English and no one understood my Chinese language. A trip to the grocery was so frustrating because I could not find my customary Chinese items in the big stores. I am trying to learn to eat a lot of new foods, but I really miss my regular Chinese dishes. I realized quickly that my first and foremost need was to learn English. One of my neighbors is very friendly. She is an American, but seems different somehow. She tries very hard to understand my English words. One day she invited me to go where I can study English and meet others who are more like me. I am excited to know that there will be other Chinese there and I can make new friends. So I begin to go one time a week to begin a new experience in my life. Soon I realized that this Wednesday morning time is called Friendship International. Sometimes I get lost and need a helping hand to find my classroom, but my kind neighbor is usually close by to help me. There are also many other friendly faces. Several in my English class are Chinese and we talk to each other eagerly in Chinese. Then our teacher reminds us it is time to try out our new English words. I am very grateful for this opportunity to have a class in English and at the same time many new friends coming into my life. Thank you Friendship International."



God is at work among internationals across Kentucky. English as a Second Language and Conversational English (for those who can read English but need help learning to speak it) classes are opening doors of friendship and ministry. But the need for trained tutors grows as the number of internationals and immigrants in Kentucky continues to increase.

It is exciting to know that the tutoring ministry of Friendship International is also traveling around the world with those who return home. One international student from Myanmar (Burma) returned to her country with the idea of starting a similar volunteer program to help the young people who must pass an English test. Since tutors are expensive, she plans to enlist other Christians to help her teach English as a way of having an opportunity to witness to Buddhist young people.

Pray for Ministries to Internationals.

- for those who volunteer to minister to internationals in Kentucky and for the directors of Friendship International: Gaye Rountree, Louisville; Gracie Irwin, Murray; Betty Clapp, Lexington; Brenda Madison, Paducah; Virginia Drake, Bardstown.
- for ministries to internationals across Kentucky, and for cultural sensitivity in reaching out to those who are new to our state, food, culture and language.
- that internationals will come to know Christ as Savior while living in Kentucky.
- for those who desire to take the gospel back to their home countries.
- for more people to be trained as tutors to teach English as a Second Language and Conversational English.
- that God will open a door for you to minister to an international.

Get Involved.

Contact your associational office for more information about ministries to internationals living in your community. Inquire about the need for volunteers to work in existing ministries and/or to help start new ministries. Take note of internationals living in your community and make an effort to befriend them. Learn about their culture and favorite foods.

To learn more about tutoring and teaching English as a Second Language, order a copy of Project HELP: Literacy by calling WMU Customer Service at 1-800-968-7301.

Race Track Ministry to Internationals.

Grandstands may be filled with thousands of spectators, but the backside can be lonely, especially for those who've come from the other side to find work. For backside workers, the pay is small and living conditions often substandard. Responsible for feeding and caring for animals worth tens of thousands of dollars, these workers often feel that their employers value the horses more than them. In a moment of nervous excitement, the horses can seriously injure or even kill a worker. Despair and discouragement, alcohol and drugs are common at the backside, but Kentucky Baptists are finding ways to minister there.

Thoroughbred racing occurs in northern Kentucky, in Louisville, Lexington and Henderson. At Churchill Downs in Louisville, there are Hispanic workers from at least ten Latino-American countries. By meeting these workers at their point of need, doors are opened for sharing the Good News of Christ -- thus meeting their greatest need. Area churches provide food following Monday night worship services (held April through December). Workers will often take church volunteers who arrive early on a "tour" of the stables. Jesus Pacheco, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Nueva Jerusalem, leads the Hispanic ministry at Churchill Downs, and Chaplain Dan Powell leads English services.

Turfway Park Race Course in Northern Kentucky is described by Anita Roberts, a Mission Service Corps volunteer, as an international community. "They come from all corners of the world--from Africa to West Virginia and from Japan to Mexico...in search of a better life working in the Horse Industry. Their dream is to work and train a Triple Crown winner, working seven days a week and sometimes getting only 3 or 4 hours of sleep per day. This rigorous schedule takes a toll on body and soul. But we...help those among us. Through the power of prayer we go beyond a hot cup of coffee at the community center located in the barn area. We take Jesus back to the stables. The Eliza Broadus Offering gave us a grant to be used in 1999...The Jesus video in Spanish and English was made available at an economical price. There could be no greater gift, especially during the Christmas season. The video opened the way for spiritual dialogue."

Robert Allen, Assistant Chaplain at Turfway Park, writes of this ministry: "What a blessing it has been to serve the many Hispanic workers at Turfway Park. Plans this racing season include beginning a Spanish speaking service at the track and the continuation of English classes. Ministry at the track is a highlight of my week...God is doing a tremendous work... and many lives are being touched daily."

Robert Allen is also reaching out to Spanish-speaking residents of Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. Nearly 200 Spanish New Testaments were distributed last year in addition to the Jesus video. Hispanic churches are being planted. In 1999, 12 members from one Hispanic mission were taken to the Lexington SuperSaturday training event. They received 40 new Spanish hymnals and a "like-new van". The mission set up a budget (including Cooperative Program funds) for the first time in their history.

Northern Kentucky churches are also reaching out to the internationals among us. First Baptist, Erlanger, held a festival to reach the Spanish-speaking population in their area. An Alabama youth group assisted with a mini-carnival in Lower Price Hill. First Baptist, Ludlow, hosted a fellowship/game night.

Pray for Ministries to Internationals.

- for Jesus Pacheco, Dan Powell, Anita Roberts, Robert Allen, and the many race track ministry volunteers.
- for increased involvement in race track ministries among area churches. Volunteers are needed to provide music for worship services, fellowship meals, personal items, linens, non-perishable food, and clothing for workers.
- for an openness to the Gospel among racetrack workers.
- for new opportunities to share Christ at Kentucky race tracks among spectators as well as workers.

Get Involved.

For more information on involving your church in race track ministry, contact:

Louisville: Suzette Gilpin, Church Coordinator, 502/933-1583

Northern Kentucky: Anita Roberts, Turfway Park Ministries Coordinator, 859/342-6943

Lexington: Sandra Williams, Church & Community Ministries, 859/254-7747

Henderson: Delois Nunley, Assoc. WMU Director, 270/827-9959

International Students.

In a seminar on "What Christians Believe," a student from Japan asked "Do other people have trouble understanding the Bible?" The student acknowledged that the Bible was very difficult for her. Bob Hartman, director of Bob Hartman International Ministries and seminar leader at Kentucky's annual International Student Retreat, suggested that she try reading a children's Bible. He promised that he would send her one and her eyes lit up. After returning home to Nashville, Bob found a children's Bible that explains what Christ has done for us and sent it to this student. Listen to her words:

"Thank you very much for sending me the nice Bible! I am so glad that I could get it very soon! Thank you very much!! I'm enjoying it every day. It is easy to understand for me, so I can learn easily about many stories...I have read 1/3 of that Bible. I tell Japanese friend about stories in the Bible. I like it very much."

Shiho returned to Japan not long after the International Student Retreat. Pray for her and many other students from around the world. The lives of the students who comes to know Christ as Savior during the few months or years they are in America to study are changed for eternity.



International students can be found at nearly every college and university in Kentucky, including our Baptist schools. There are also international students attending Oneida Baptist Institute (OBI), a Kentucky Baptist high school with a residential program for special students. For our Baptist Campus Ministers, the presence of international students presents unique witnessing opportunities and brings international missions to their front door.

Tommy Johnson, Associate Campus Minister, University of Louisville, reports that the Baptist Student Union (BSU) made contact with a number of international students by leading two conversational English classes at the International Center. This led to an introductory Bible study last fall which started with three Japanese students. The study eventually involved five Japanese and three Chinese students. For many, this Bible study provided their first experience in reading the Bible and hearing the Christian message of God's love in Christ. The study started with the gospel writer Mark's introduction of Jesus as the Son of God, and addressed questions like "what is Christianity," "what is God like," "who is Jesus," and "how does one become a Christian."

Interacting with students through Bible study led to the opportunities to share the plan of salvation individually with six students. The study also gave the Campus Ministry team the opportunity to follow-up on Haibo, a new believer from China, who had become a Christian through a Chinese congregation in Louisville. She has since returned to China where she has secured a promise from her husband to attend church with her.

Each year the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Special Ministries, and Missions Education provides funding for the International Student Retreat. International students from across Kentucky are invited to participate. As they prepared to return home after the November 1999 retreat, several students expressed that this retreat had been one

of the highlights of their time in the United States. High school students from Oneida Baptist Institute are also blessed by attending the International Student Retreat. One year there was a brand new girl from Japan at OBI. There were no other Japanese students at the time, and she was terribly homesick and knew hardly any English. That fall, someone from OBI took her to the retreat where she met many other students from Japan. Denise Spencer writes, "I wish you could have seen the expression on her face when she...saw all those Japanese students! She was happier...than I ever saw her before or since, and that...probably made a big difference in her ability to feel at home in the U.S."

Following the 1999 retreat, the BSU at University of Louisville showed the Jesus video (in English) to international students and then gave each student a copy of the video in his or her native language. After the film, one of the students stated, "It was an amazing story for me." Another indicated, "It was really good for me to understand about Jesus. I did not know that Jesus and the man who was killed on the cross are the same person."

Another ministry opportunity came to Tommy Johnson, Campus Minister, through an invitation to speak to Intensive English students about Religion in America. Following the seminar, a Moslem student from Turkey expressed interest in learning more about Christianity. She inquired

about local churches that she might visit and expressed excitement about attending them. Tommy writes: "As you can see, God is doing something amidst the international students. We have an opportunity for world missions at our very doorstep. Please pray that we will be faithful in the service of this ministry and that the international students will be drawn to respond to God's reaching out to them."

Pray for Ministries to Internationals.

- for the BSU directors who serve at colleges and universities across Kentucky.
- for volunteers who will assist with campus ministry, especially with internationals.
- for local churches to undergird work among students.
- that international students who do not know Christ may come to Him.
- that young Christians will grow as disciples while they are in Kentucky.
- that when these young people return to their home countries, they will take the Good News with them to receptive hearts.

Get Involved. If there is a college or university in your area, find out about international students who attend there. Learn when exams are given and bake cookies for the students. Work with the campus minister to arrange delivery. Offer to assist with getting their laundry done. Open your home to international students -- invite them over for a meal or to stay in your home during the holidays when dormitories are closed.

Migrant Ministries. They are the unseen workers to so many Americans. We enjoy the results of their labors and eat the food that their hands have picked. Their lives are hard, following the crops, often living in substandard housing. But Kentucky Baptists care about the migrants **among us** and are reaching out in a variety of ministries across our state.

Because so many migrant workers come work for a harvest season, then return home for a few months, migrant ministry also provides the opportunity to touch lives beyond Kentucky and the United States. Brenda Clopton, South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville, reported recently that two ESL class members had accepted Christ. The pastor met with them that very Sunday for one hour with an interpreter to be sure that they understood their decision. They were baptized prior to their return to Mexico.

Sometimes the opportunity to start a migrant ministry comes "from out of the blue." The Migrant Ministry of Hawesville Baptist Church began when a lady who had no affiliation with the church or any other church, approached a Sunday School class with a request for some mattresses and fans for the Mexican laborers who worked on her farm. Of this the pastor said, "Before her request, the bulk of our church was unaware that migrants even existed in Hancock County."

Hawesville responded by enlisting a translator and delivering the requested supplies. In the process they met eight Mexican men, who, through the translator, expressed a desire to attend the church. The translator, Beth Dehaven, was from neighboring Breckinridge County, and had studied Spanish in school. "God had not only made us aware of the Mexican men and had provided us with a translator, He had also created a desire in the men's hearts to seek Him."

These eight Mexican men became dear friends to Hawesville Baptist. The church discovered that they had incredible musical ability. The men formed a band and played for the congregation several times. The friendship grew as they began meeting with the men on Sunday evenings and spent time simply reading from Spanish Bibles. Later, a variety of evangelistic videos in Spanish were purchased.

It was a sad day when the harvest season in Hancock County ended that first year. But much to the delight of the congregation, many of the same men along with a few new ones, returned the following year eager to resume Bible study. God has continued to work since the start of this ministry. Through the help of the associational office they met Rose Miller, a Puerto Rican lady from Breckinridge County, whose help was instrumental in the first years of the ministry. Then God sent Simon Leon, a retired missionary, who comes each Sunday night to preach the gospel to a Hispanic congregation in their native tongue.

In 1999, the Hawesville Migrant Ministry touched 65 different men. This past year there were three professions of faith, and evidence of many others whose hearts have become tender toward the Lord.

Pray for Ministries to Internationals.

- for Kentucky associations and churches involved in migrant ministries.
- that God will make Kentucky Baptists more sensitive to the migrants who live and work in our state. Pray that we will radiate an attitude of acceptance and love to the migrant workers we meet in our communities.
- Pray for persons who are bilingual to get involved in Migrant Ministry.
- Pray for the families of migrant workers, children traveling with their parents, as well as family members left behind in the home country.
- Pray for an openness to the Gospel among migrant workers.

Get Involved. Contact your associational office to learn if there are migrant ministries taking place in your association. Learn about the needs and how you can get involved. Take a class in Spanish and make an effort to speak the "heart language" of another person. If you are bilingual, offer to serve as a translator and assist internationals as they visit the doctor, shop, or with any other situation where a translator would be a great blessing. Suggestions for involvement in literacy ministries are in the new Project HELP: Literacy kit, available from WMU, SBC.

A Million Dollar Goal for the New Millennium.

The 2000-2001 Eliza Broadus Offering goal is the most challenging we've ever undertaken for missions, special ministries, and missions education in Kentucky. This year we have been asked to take on the challenge of raising funds to start new churches across our state.

Henry Blackaby stated that one of the keys to experiencing God is to find out where God is at work and join Him

in that activity. God is certainly at work developing a church planting movement in Kentucky. At the heart of this movement is a host

of individuals that are experiencing and obeying God's call to start new congregations. These individuals have a passion for seeing the lost and unchurched people of our state reached for Jesus Christ. Many of them have a burning desire to share the unchanging message of the gospel in new and innovative ways. However, these individuals are only a part of the big picture of what God is doing in Kentucky. When we view the "larger picture" we see that God is also calling forth supportive individuals, churches, and leaders to partner with these planters. God has not called any of us to be "lone rangers" in the harvest. Paul described our partnership in 1 Corinthians 3:9 by stating "We are laborers *together* with God."

The church planting movement is God's response to the needs that exist in our state. What are those needs and why should we respond to the call to partner with God in this church planting movement? First, there is a growing number of ethnic groups in Kentucky. The world has literally come to us and we must start new churches that will uniquely reach these people groups in their own language and culture. Secondly, there is a great need to begin new work in multi-housing areas across Kentucky. Nationwide statistics indicate that 92-98% of people living in multi-family housing (apartments, mobile home parks, etc.) do not attend any church. Third, the 19-33 year old population in Kentucky is not being effectively reached by any religious group, including Baptists. Interviews with groups of young adults conducted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention indicate that the majority of this age group will not attend traditional churches. From this, it is apparent that there needs to be an emphasis on starting innovative, purpose driven churches to reach the 19-33 year old population with the gospel of Christ. Fourth, there are growing pockets of people in lower socioeconomic communities who are not being reached by anyone, thus indicating a need to begin new churches in these communities. And finally, there continues to be a need to begin new work among the more traditional areas of our state.

Allocations for Special Ministries Funds are made through an application process. The deadline for submitting an EBO Special Ministries request for the 2001-2002 offering has been changed to December 31, 2001. Contact the state WMU office for more information.

God is...at work developing a church planting movement in Kentucky. At the heart of this movement is a host of individuals that are experiencing and obeying God's call to start new congregations.

To address the needs that are before us we must rise to the challenge of supporting and resourcing this church planting movement. Among the needed resources are people, sound equipment, buildings to meet in, literature and supplies. These things cost money. It takes approximately \$50,000 from a variety of sources to fund a new work in it's first year. As you give sacrificially to the Eliza Broadus Offering your

gifts will go to work providing the needed resources. The North American Mission Board partners with each state convention to provide resources for starting new churches through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Funding to help with each new work is customized to meet the particular needs of each congregation. There are times the assistance is

a one-time start up grant. Other times a 2-3 year phase down assistance is provided. Financial assistance may be used for building rental, sound equipment, salaries, or other items needed to help a new church get started.

Through our partnership with the North American Mission Board, every dollar we raise for missions and new work in Kentucky is multiplied. For every \$ 4.00 that we provide for new churches in Kentucky, the North American Mission Board will provide \$6.00 to accompany it. That means that when you give sacrificially to the Eliza Broadus Offering and we reach our challenge goal of \$200,000. The North American Mission Board will provide another \$300,000. (A total of \$500,000 for new work in Kentucky!).

Let's accept the challenge to partner financially with God and with church planters across our state in order to see a great work and experience a great blessing!

Eliza Broadus Offering.

2000-2001 Offering Allocations for Kentucky State Missions, Special Ministries, and Missions Education

Kentucky Baptist Convention State Missions & Evangelism \$572,000

State Missions	285,000
Includes funds to assist KBC in providing salaries and benefits for associational directors of missions, mountain missionary, and five key churches in eastern Kentucky	
Language Missions	60,000
Provides funds for appointed missionary personnel and local congregational assistance	
Church & Community Missions	127,500
Includes funds for appointed missionary personnel, Fellowship Center workers, literacy, Baptist Fellowship Center personnel and office expense, Freeda Harris Center van	
Evangelism	10,000
Funding for a training conference on cults, Youth missions week at Cedarmore	
Student Work	68,500
Includes International Student Ministry, Reach Out Campus Revivals, Student Mission Action Projects, International student ministries	
Special Projects	21,000
Includes Angel Tree Project and Disaster Relief	

Kentucky Special Ministries \$48,500

Includes Friendship International, Migrant ministries, Hospital Hospitality House, Associational evangelism and summer missions projects, Oneida Baptist Institute, Ministry to released prisoners, Resort ministry, Deaf ministry, Race Track ministry, Baptist Centers, and Infant Resource Center

Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries & Missions Education \$179,500

Ministries to Kentucky Missionaries	15,560
Includes Christmas gifts to Southern Baptist International Missionaries, MK Re-entry retreat, Missionary dinner during the KBC, subscriptions to the Western Recorder for international missionaries	
Missions Education Leadership Training	17,250
Includes World Missions Unlimited (training for church & associational missions leaders) and Resource Team training	
Age-Level Missions Education	31,675
Includes State Acteens Conference, Youth on Mission Night, Christian Women's Job Corps, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, Children's missions event at the Annual Meeting, Campus Women on Mission activities, Associational leadership development, language and general missions education development	
Missions Education Camping	68,844
Includes Staff and materials for Girls in Action, Acteens camps, Mother/Daughter Overnights at Cedar Crest; Mother/Daughter Overnight and Acteens Splash at Jonathan Creek	
Missions Promotion	46,171
Includes State Missions Week of Prayer Materials, Kentucky Notes, Associational Newsletter, Partnership Missions, Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting	

Eliza Broadus Offering Goal \$800,000

Challenge Goal for New Work in Kentucky \$200,000

TOTAL ELIZA BROADUS GOAL \$1,000,000

A million dollar goal for the new millennium.



**Kentucky Woman's
Missionary Union**

PO Box 436569 • Louisville, KY 40253-6569
(502) 244-6485 or Toll Free (888)-254-5726
E-mail: kywmu@kybaptist.org



ANNUITY BOARD
OF THE SOUTHERN
BAPTIST CONVENTION

An open letter to church leaders

As you may know, during the past 18 months the cost of health care nationally has increased more rapidly than ever before. The entire health care insurance industry has indicated that these costs will not decline anytime soon. Information is being mailed to your church this month about upcoming rate increases in the Annuity Board's medical insurance programs. On average there will be double-digit increases in both the Personal Security Program and the Employer Security Program effective January 1, 2001.

In the past 20 semi-annual rate periods, Annuity Board participants in the Personal Security Program have experienced only eight semi-annual rate increases. In many of the semi-annual rate periods when rate increases were due, the Annuity Board used premium reserves to defray the rate increases in order to keep our insurance products affordable. The subsidy provided by the insurance reserves has averaged as much as \$106 per month per participant. Available resources do not permit further subsidizing of premiums. The Annuity Board receives no money from the Southern Baptist Convention to offset the cost of the insurance programs and the assets of the Board belong to retirement participants.

Regretfully, high utilization and rising medical and prescription drug expenses make it necessary to reflect these cost increases to our participants. We would prefer not to raise rates and are diligently working to find ways to further contain costs.

We are committed to continue providing a viable medical program for Southern Baptist ministers and employees. While the national average for administrative costs for our type of program is 15%, we have restructured our administrative services so that our cost is only 12%. We have placed an emphasis on preventive care by adding selected wellness benefits for men and women in most of the medical plans. We have expanded the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) coverage area through Private Health Care Systems (PHCS) and made discounted services available to 30% more of our constituency. We have provided the ability for new seminary graduates to enroll in life and health programs without proof of insurability.

Even with increased costs, which are comparable to national averages, we still offer significant benefits not available in other programs. Ministers and staff have portability to take their health coverage with them as they move from one church to another and from state to state, and the assurance that their medical coverage will never be cancelled for excessive or high claims utilization.

It is our privilege to work with church leaders to provide life and health programs for those who serve. We believe it is important for churches to provide life and health coverage for ministers separate and apart from salary and housing. This should be a priority for the church as it ministers to its own ministers. As you work with your minister and staff to evaluate medical options this fall, please remember the significant benefits provided through the Annuity Board. Also, please pray for us as we continue to seek new and creative ways to meet the needs of those who serve the Lord.

Sincerely,

O. S. Hawkins
President — Chief Executive Officer

Abortion providers may face lawsuits for withholding information

STAFFORD, Va. (RNS)—Claiming that abortion providers have withheld information about the procedure's consequences from women seeking abortions, a Virginia anti-abortion organization says it intends to sue providers on behalf of women who have had abortions.

Women who choose abortion should be told that they might face depression, alcoholism and infertility after the procedure, said Theresa Burke, founder of a Pennsylvania branch of the group filing the lawsuits, the American Life League.

"The right to choose includes the right to know," Burke told the Washington Times. "This information would have made a difference in the decisions of many women."

She added: "Women have been led to believe abortion is a safety net when it's a safety hazard. Women can sue abortion providers for not telling them this. There are millions of potential clients who can seek redress in the courts."

Attorney John Kindley—who represents a woman who has filed a lawsuit accusing a North Dakota abortion clinic of denying a link between breast cancer and abortion—said he believed "there will be many more lawsuits along this line if that's what it takes to bring justice."

"Any woman who's had an abortion can sue clinics for saying nothing," he said. "Abortion clinics are expected to be medically conversant with all facets of abortion."

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WESTERN RECORDER PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Artists ask: 'Can Hollywood's soul be salvaged?'

Continued from page 1

Duke said the conference on ethics came out of previous training seminars held for Act One students. Students said they needed more than just tools to hone their craft; they had to talk about the ethics of writing screenplays.

The collection of Hollywood hopefuls and insiders who attended Content and Conscience dealt with the paradoxes of being a Christian in the entertainment industry: Is it possible for Christians to produce screenplays that include the realities of sin? If so, how?

And, assuming that a Christian can write such a script, is it possible to produce a moral story when much of Hollywood seems to revel in debauchery?

"I'm trying to understand how to make my Christian faith real in the writing that I do," said Steve Storm, a 29-year-old screenwriter.

"I'm trying to figure out how to address violence and personal sexuality and things that involve the sin nature, and at the same time encourage people. If we're going to be truthful, we have to talk about sin," she added. "But at the same time there are certain ways of talking about truth that are damaging and other ways that are edifying and healing. I want to be sure that I'm not doing damage to the viewing public."

One featured speaker at the conference was David Gushee, a professor of moral philosophy at Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He said one of any professional to assess one's success is to consider the social impact of one's work.

Screenwriters are in the unique position of being the creators of projects that can have

worldwide impact, Gushee said. He encouraged writers to make their work "soul refining," as opposed to "soul coarsening."

"Refining the soul is about maximizing what it means to be human as God intended," Gushee said. "It's really the opposite of coarsening" content, he said, which could be defined as brutish, violent, vulgar, lacking sensitivity and joy and making little of human potential.

A dilemma facing Christian writers is how to deal with sinful elements in a productive way. Three issues at the conference's forefront were the use of sex, violence and profanity in telling stories.

"I think that there is something so private about sex that probably the more explicitly you depict it the less likely it is to be soul refining," said Gushee.

On the other hand, "If you have a film that communicates that violence is evil, and it creates suffering and it's evil, that can be soul refining," he said. "I think that 'Schindler's List' and 'Saving Private Ryan' did that."

Conference attendees said the meeting gave them no easy answers but encouraged them to continue their struggle both as individual artists and as a community to create compelling stories that both entertain and edify.

"I work with children a lot, and I know that what goes on in movies is the complete opposite of what I'm teaching them," said Angel McElhany, a young screenwriter and educator from Georgia. "I've wondered if it's possible to put on the screen an exciting, great, loving movie that kids could watch that I would be proud to say I wrote."

Survey: Protestant pastors back death penalty, oppose doctor-assisted suicide

PHOENIX (RNS)—An overwhelming majority of Protestant pastors supports the use of capital punishment and an even larger majority oppose the practice of physician-assisted suicide, according to a new poll of Protestant pastors.

The survey of 518 Protestant pastors, conducted by Ellison Research, showed that pastors support the death penalty 72 percent to 28 percent. Only about 15 percent of pastors feel strongly that the death penalty should be abolished.

But a wide middle—about 37 percent—do not have strong feelings one way or the other about the death penalty. That figure shows how complicated the issue can be in terms of morality, justice and theology, said Ron Sellers, who conducted the survey.

"It may be that the death penalty isn't a clear-cut issue for many ministers, who may be struggling over

conflicting feelings of the need for justice and punishment on one hand, and the call to mercy and support for life on the other hand," he said.

The survey also found a difference between churches in liberal and conservative churches.

Pastors in churches affiliated with the National Council of Churches—the more liberal end of the spectrum—supported ending the death penalty 56 percent to 44 percent. Those in churches affiliated with the more conservative National Association of Evangelicals supported the use of the death penalty 88 percent to 12 percent.

Opinion on the use of physician-assisted suicide was more uniform, with only 17 percent of pastors supporting laws to allow physician-assisted suicide, and 83 percent opposing them.

The survey, conducted in May and June, had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.3 percentage points.

The world in Kentucky

It hit me like a ton of bricks. When my younger son, Glen, was in the fifth grade, he had classmates whose ethnic and religious backgrounds covered the globe. I realized like never before the world had come to Kentucky. How different school would be for my son than it was for me. How different life in America and in Kentucky has become because of the flood of immigrants.

What a challenge for us Kentucky Baptists! What an opportunity for sharing the gospel! The Scriptures say, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34). Thankfully we Kentucky Baptists already are working together to congregationalize and minister with non-English-speaking ethnic and culture groups. According to KBC ethnic and language missions consultant Grundy Janes, there are 78 established language ministries, 50 of which are Hispanic ministries. However, we have only just begun, and the needs for leadership development and for church starts are significant and growing. Since 1990 the Kentucky Hispanic population has grown 61 percent and the Asian 54 percent.

I pray you and your church will take advantage of the Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering to become more informed about this. You and your church need to be a part of reaching for Christ these various people groups who now live "among us" in Kentucky.

The investment manager of the foundation, National Asset Management, has established a mutual fund for individuals that has a unique side benefit for reaching these people for Christ. The manager has agreed to compensate the foundation 20 percent of every account established under this special arrangement. The foundation is giving 100 percent of it to the Reaching Kentucky for Christ Fund. It will be used to reach for Christ these people groups who have come to Kentucky. This is the foundation's way of helping you identify an investment opportunity and at the same time be a part of starting new ministries and reaching people groups with the gospel. Call NAM toll-free a (877) 626-3863 to receive a prospectus.

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

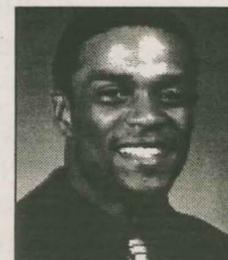
KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

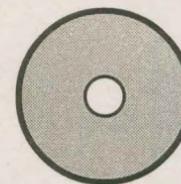


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MUSIC

Georgetown Baptist Church

is celebrating its 190th year of ministry to Kentucky Baptists and you're invited. Celebration begins Saturday, Sept. 23 and concludes Sunday, Sept. 24

Saturday Schedule

1-5 p.m. Fellowship hall historical exhibits and building tours

Location: Georgetown Baptist Church

5:30 p.m. Evening festivities begin

Location: Large tent, corner of Jackson and Mulberry streets on the Georgetown College campus

Meal-Music-Drama-Special Presentations

Sunday Schedule

10:45 a.m. Worship Celebration

Location: Georgetown Baptist Church
Worship Center

For additional information and to purchase tickets for the meal, call (502) 863-2739, or write to: Georgetown Baptist Church, 207 S Hamilton St., Georgetown, KY 40324

Petra to be inducted into Gospel Music Hall of Fame

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Petra has been named the first Christian rock group to be inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Acceptance into the Hall of Fame is a long way from the band's albums originally being banned from many Christian bookstores, according to GMA President Frank Breeden said.

"Petra was a true pioneer for our industry," he said. "The doubts about popular music mixing with Christian lyrics have mostly vanished due to their 25-year track record of proven ministry and changed lives."

Petra is among eight inductees to be honored Oct. 30 in Nashville.

The rock group was formed in 1972 by four men attending a Christian junior college in Fort Wayne, Ind. Their first record was released in 1974, and they remain a top-selling band 11 albums later.

The other inductees are:

■ Roger Breland and Truth, the musical company he founded in 1971 that includes 16 young adult musicians and technicians chosen to travel for three or more years presenting concerts across the globe. Truth has recorded almost 50 albums and presented more than 8,000 concerts in 21 countries.

■ Bob MacKenzie, who served as creative director of the John T. Benson Publishing Company and produced almost every album the company released in the 1960s and 1970s.



■ The Oak Ridge Boys, which dates back to 1945, when it was called the Oak Ridge Quartet. The group entered the country music realm in 1973. Among their gospel songs have been "King Jesus" and "Jesus Is Coming Soon."

■ The Edwin Hawkins Singers, known for "Oh Happy Day," a gospel song that became a huge hit on secular radio in the 1960s.

■ The Fisk Jubilee Singers, an African-American group that represents Fisk University in Nashville. It has traveled around the globe since 1871 and is known for preserving "slave songs."

■ The Kingsmen, a Southern gospel group that has won nine Dove Awards. Known for the song "Excuses," the group was the first to film and record a live performance at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

■ Shirley Caesar, who has recorded 35 albums, appeared in three Broadway productions and received numerous Grammy, Stellar and Dove awards.

TRUTH The group organized by Roger Breland, is among the eight groups and artists to be inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame next month in Nashville.

The class of 2004

By Robert Dunston

Two weeks ago, Cumberland College welcomed the class of 2004. Our freshmen arrived on campus, invigorating us with their enthusiasm and excitement.

Our welcome activities began after church on Wednesday night with a time of fun and fellowship.

Freshmen participated in games, and everyone on campus enjoyed a pizza party.

Thursday afternoon, our freshman orientation classes began. Each freshman had been assigned to a small group led by a faculty member and upperclassmen. At the first session, students completed several tasks that would streamline their registration. Next, they participated in activities to help them get to know each other and to begin forming a caring community. That evening, our Campus Activity Board sponsored an ice cream fellowship.

While faculty members attended their initial faculty meeting of the 2000-2001 academic year, upperclassmen met again with the freshmen. Another session in the afternoon continued to nurture new friendships and prepare students for their Cumberland College experience. A college-wide carnival and

picnic topped off the evening, and our Baptist Student Union presented humorous skits introducing our freshmen to their many and varied ministries.

Saturday morning we were up again for another orientation session with our small groups. By this time, new students had made friends and were beginning to feel Cumberland College was home.

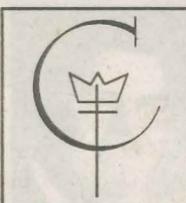
Sunday afternoon we had a special chapel service for the freshmen and the faculty and upperclassmen who had been meeting with them. David Blakeman, a Cumberland College senior, spoke. His words challenged us all to become not just the best we can be academically but the best we can be as

servants of Christ. As we stood to sing "Amazing Grace," we realized we all had come together by God's grace. His leading had brought students, faculty and staff together to prepare for lives of service and leadership for Him.

We begin this new year with excitement and anticipation, knowing God is with us to change lives and accomplish His will.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kentucky Baptists



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Witty books based on Bible stories tickle while teaching

By Nancy Haught
Religion News Service

PORTLAND, Ore. (RNS)—In Mike Thaler's theology, the Bible stories are as wacky as they are wise and the word of God is packed with puns.

With 130 children's books and sales of 6 million to his credit, Thaler has turned his hand to Scripture and turned the Bible upside down.

Out fall the same old stories, retold with humor, replete with whimsical and intricate drawings by Dennis Adler that delight children and crack up the adults who are reading to them

In the Heaven and Mirth series' first book, "Adam and the Apple Turnover," God creates heaven and Earth and commands all living creatures to multiply, "except for the amoebas, they divided."

Eve experiments with forbidden fruit and a box of Snake and Bake. Cain and Abel, in a story titled "Sibling Quibbling," labor over competing 4-H projects at the county fair. Lot survives the destruction of Sodom and then embarks on a new business venture—a camel-lot.

In "Moses: Take Two Tablets and Call Me in the Morning," the Israelites have manna every which way: "They had boiled manna, baked manna, barbecued manna. They had manna teriyaki, manna

fricassee, souffle of manna. They had manna tacos, manna pizza and manna-cotti. They even tried Manna Helper, but after a while they began to complain."

"It's the greatest story never read," Thaler is fond of saying of the Bible.

"God brought me this far in my life to write these books," he said in an interview. "I want people to go back to the Bible, to see the richness in it and the wisdom about God, about us and about our relationships."

At the end of each story, after Goldie, "the miner prophet," unearths a nugget of wisdom, Thaler refers readers to the "real story," citing its chapter and verse in the Good Book, what Thaler, in his third year as a practicing Christian, clearly sees as the Better Book.

"When I became a Christian, my secular friends in New York said, 'You'll lose your muse,'" he noted. "The truth is, I've got the greatest muse there is, the great Creator."

Thaler didn't set out to retell Bible stories. But one night, after watching a well-meaning grandfather struggle to read Bible stories to his squirming grandchildren (the stories were boring and the kids were bored), Thaler excused himself into his bedroom and wrote "Noah's Rainbow: The Zoo's Cruise."

That was the start. To date he's

written 300 stories. "I don't really write them," he said. "God gives them to me as presents." Many of them come to him in the middle of the night.

On Wednesdays at noon, always in the same booth at Jake's Famous Crawfish, Thaler lunches with his illustrator, Adler, and Clyde Van Cleve, the graphic designer who oversees production of each book.

All three are a little surprised, in this technological age of e-mail and fax machines—when collaborators don't need to live near each other—that they do.

Over weekly lunches, Thaler, a former cartoonist, looks over Adler's preliminary sketches and sometimes offers suggestions.

Adler, who's been a Christian all his life, offers his perspective on Thaler's stories. Van Cleve mediates between the two of them and the publisher, Cook Communications, in Colorado Springs, Colo.

All three agree that theirs is a good working relationship. Thaler knows that a picture, especially one of Adler's watercolor, pen and ink drawings bursting with comic characters and visual puns, will keep readers coming back to the books. Adler, who grew up on these Bible stories, marvels at how Thaler is able to put a new twist on old tales without tarnishing tried-and-true messages. Van Cleve is pleased that the books don't "dumb down" stories or art, instead respect-

ing both young and adult readers.

To date, Cook Communications has published three books in the Heaven and Mirth series, including the first featuring New Testament stories: "The Prodigal Son: O Brother!" Plans call for three more this year and six in 2001. Thaler said he hopes the series will culminate in a larger collection, the Heaven and Mirth Bible.

Thaler has read the stories in churches and bookstores from Oregon to the former Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia.

"I'll go anywhere to read these stories," he said. "It's sad to see what people have done to God." Too many people see God narrowly, he added, "as if they're looking through a keyhole when they could open the door and walk into His presence."

Thaler admits that his comic approach to the Bible might offend some readers, but he believes there's been enough attention to the stern and serious side of the Bible and it's time to illuminate the lighter side. And he says he can do that without making the angels weep.

"I want to excite kids about the Bible the same way 'Sesame Street' excites kids about the alphabet and counting—through imagination," he said. "The Bible is the most exciting, valuable book I know—as is its Author. This is my way of introducing children to the excitement. These books prove that God created laughter!"



"I want to excite kids about the Bible the same way 'Sesame Street' excites kids about the alphabet and counting—through imagination."

Author Mike Thaler

They come in all shapes and sizes

Each school year brings a host of new students to Oneida. Most school systems have a rather stable base of students, but our population is very fluid. While we have a substantial percentage of students who return year after year, we also have many new students each year.

We began introducing new students to Oneida last April and May. Those students realized a need to be here, but had waited too late in the school year to enroll. They were encouraged to consider summer school or the fall term. Week after week, dozens of students, parents, grandparents and friends visited our campus. Most students easily decide to come to Oneida. Others aren't quite so sure. The decision to leave family and friends is often a very emotional one.

As these new students enroll, our expectations are high. Based on all the information we have gathered, we believe Oneida has a lot to offer them. While we are naturally a little more optimistic with some than with others, we are excited at the prospect of helping another young person find success in various areas of his or her life.

When "Chuck," an 11-year-old from Florida enrolled, I wondered how he would make the adjustment to dormitory life. When this 4'6" lad, weighing 57 pounds, came into my office for his interview, I wondered if he would be able to adjust to being away from Mom. Like the vast majority of our students, Chuck came from a single parent family. Though he does see his father from time to time, it did not take long to tell that relationship was not all that it could be.

Chuck was having a lot of problems in school. He admitted to not liking homework and being lazy, which accounted for his making nearly all F's last

year. Chuck told me he thought he could make better grades but he had distractions at school and was having a hard time staying out of trouble at home. It was obvious early in the interview that this little guy was a bundle of energy. While he had a hard time sitting still, he admitted to not being very excited about coming to Oneida when he first heard about it. But now, after taking a tour of our campus and hearing more about the school, he was really excited to be here.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

He admitted to being lazy about his chores at home and to taking things that did not belong to him, but his biggest problems were at school. While Chuck is an avid reader, he really struggles with written work. He disrupted class by walking around the room, "bugging" other students, rolling his pencil and being disrespectful to teachers. Chuck also admitted to having very few friends, being in a fight or two and trying to smoke.

When I asked Chuck what he wanted to accomplish at Oneida, he said he wanted to get a good education, and "be stronger in God and grow physically." His mother had told us Chuck had made a

profession of faith in Jesus, but had been having a hard time living the life he knew God wanted him to live.

We pray that we will be able to help Chuck get the education he wants by having him in much smaller classes so he can get the individual attention he desperately needs. Our average class size of 12 students should be a great help. Additionally, we will do all we can to help him grow in his walk with God.

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

Faith without sight

Edgar and Opal Dority of Covington became friends of Clear Creek in 1951 when a neighbor, Luther Fox, surrendered to preach and moved to campus.

They've never seen the campus but keep up with our ministry through the Western Recorder. With a 60-year marriage and at ages 85 and 82, they exhibit the spirit of Caleb described in Numbers 14 and the joy of life in Christ.

"National surveys show that people who have the most birthdays live the longest," Edgar reminded me with a broad smile. Opal's advice is "to get out of bed early and start the day."

"The Lord told me if I took leadership in my church He would take care of me," he declared, with 77 years of involvement in Latonia Baptist Church to back it up. For nearly 30 years they directed the training union for ages 9-12, reaching as many as 130 children. He devised a "Junior Army" program that encouraged children to advance in rank to a five-star general as they did Bible memory work and other projects.

Edgar now teaches the older men's class, and they frequently visit homes and hospitals. I left

some Clear Creek pens for Opal to use in the holders she crochets and gives away. They enjoy bowling each Tuesday, and their backyard is filled with flowers and vegetables.

The church brought these two together. Opal is a native of the Brownsville area. After her mother was killed, she lived with an uncle, L.C. Ray, who became pastor of the Latonia church.

After a honeymoon to Mammoth Cave, the Doritys rented an upstairs apartment in the house they eventually bought and where they still live. Edgar "retired" from the Soo Line Railroad but still works part-time, making freight calls in three states. Opal says, "It is time to get off the road." I hope

they don't get off the road until they make a visit to Clear Creek.

I thank God for many who support us with the kind of faith that Jesus described, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

School football prayer rally sparks counter demonstration

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—A fledgling protest movement regarding prayer at school football games already has encouraged a different sort of religious activism at school property.

In response to a "We Still Pray" rally at an Asheville, N.C., high school, a pagan group has requested equal time for a celebration of the autumnal equinox.

The "We Still Pray" rally attracted more than 13,000 people to Reynolds High School's football stadium Aug. 17. Another 9,000 people were stuck in gridlock trying to reach the stadium, according to the Asheville Tribune.

The rally was held to protest a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling against prayer at public school football games. Justices voted 6-3 in June, ruling unconstitutional a Texas school district policy that permitted the high school stu-

dent body to determine if it wanted a student to speak over the public address system before football games. If so, the students elected the speaker, who determined whether he would pray or give some other message.

One of the national goals of the "We Still Pray" movement is to encourage "spontaneous prayer" at high school football games—by joining in the Lord's Prayer immediately after the National Anthem.

"This is not in defiance of the Supreme Court ruling," said Wendell Runion, one of the interdenominational rally's organizers and owner of Christian radio station WKJV in Asheville Citizen-Times. "If the fans break out in a spontaneous prayer, there is no Supreme Court ruling against that."

In response, the Appalachian Pagan Alliance has petitioned for permission

for a "We Still Work Magic" rally at Reynolds High School Sept. 22.

Ginger Strivelli, leader of the alliance, sent a letter to the school's principal and the superintendent of Buncombe County schools, the day after the prayer protest rally.

Strivelli said her group plans to cast blessing spells asking for acceptance and call for a healing of the earth, Associated Press reported.

"It would probably be the same stuff the Christians do. It's just that we have more gods than they do," she said. "We wouldn't be up there sacrificing cattle or anything."

Reynolds High Principal Tony Baldwin said officials are responding to the alliance's request and referred to the school system's policy that requires a group to fill out an application form and pay a small rental fee.

"We will follow the policy," said school superintendent Cliff Dodson.

Strivelli said that the Appalachian Pagan Alliance covers a wide area. "We have a hundred members, stretched out from Knoxville to Charlotte."

She said her group had received a great deal of feedback since announcing its plans and that she had been contacted by numerous media outlets and is hoping to gain support for the pagan rally.

As of Aug. 22, Strivelli said her group had not received a response from Buncombe County Schools. "The letter was hand delivered Friday morning (Aug. 18) and we have not heard from them. They are dragging their feet, and being very difficult, which we fully expect them to be."

Compiled from reports by Baptist Press and Religion News Service

"We wouldn't be up there sacrificing cattle or anything."

Ginger Strivelli, leader of the Appalachian Pagan Alliance, explaining plans for "We Still Work Magic" rally

Students' book covers get Ten Commandments into classrooms

By William Perkins
Mississippi Baptist Record

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—Where there's a will, there's a way.

At least, that's what the Mississippi Baptist Convention's youth ministry team believes when it comes to getting the Ten Commandments into schools throughout the state.

While legal battles rage throughout the country concerning the posting of the Ten Commandments in public locations such as schools and courthouses, the Mississippi convention's youth ministry team quietly has developed a way for Christian teens to display the commandments and also share their faith with non-Christian friends and classmates.

It's as simple as a trendy book cover—and the back of one's hand.

The Ten Commandments, along with the messages of God's love and an explanation of the Christian faith, are prominently displayed on the book covers and used in sharing one's faith by the five digits and back of one hand.

According to youth ministry team chairman Don Lum, the team spent five months designing the materials.

Cooperative Program gifts funded the first printing of 8,000 book covers. Lum predicted a second printing will be needed shortly after the initial wave of the bright-colored covers and Bible studies are in the hands of youth leaders throughout the state.

The goal of the project, he said, is to provide resources to help churches be

most effective in reaching out to teens.

"We're not openly defying any court orders, and we're not trying to make a political statement. We just want to help teenagers live for Christ and be able to share their faith with their classmates," Lum said.

The covers aren't just a tool for sharing one's faith, he added. They also "give them the encouragement and boldness they need to stand for Christ," he said.

The book covers are accompanied by three Bible studies to prepare young people to use covers as witnessing tools:

■ "The Ten Commandments:" a detailed explanation of each commandment.

■ "Hand to Hand, A Student Witness That Changes Lives:" a guide for ap-

proaching non-Christians with the message God's love.

■ "Be The One:" a challenge to young people to share their faith by exercising their power as one person to make a difference.

Also included in the package is a diagram for witnessing with the back of one's hand and a "One-Minute Witness" resource.

"We're hoping to put thousands of these in the hands of teenagers," he said, adding that he hopes that teens review the Bible studies at the same time they use the book covers. "Without the Bible studies, all you've really got is a bunch of nice-looking book covers."

For more information on the book-cover project, contact Lum at (601) 292-3280; e-mail, dlum@mbcb.org.

Churches against school lotteries asked to put their money where their votes are

By Linda Long
Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM Ala. (RNS)—At least two Alabama Baptist churches are taking up a challenge from a fellow Baptist to help the state's schools after churches played a key role in defeating an education lottery last year.

But not everyone in the denomination think that's an appropriate idea.

Wayne Flynt, an Auburn University historian, issued the challenge earlier this summer in a column published on several Alabama newspaper editorial pages.

Flynt, a long-time critic of what he contends is a dysfunctional state government, said it's time for Alabama's evangelical Christians, who opposed Gov. Don Siegelman's proposed lottery to support education, to "put their money where their mouths were."

Flynt asked all 5,000 churches, synagogues and other religious institutions throughout Alabama to "voluntarily give up your tax exemption" to provide money for public schools.

Flynt's own church, Auburn First Baptist, is leading the way. Members have voted to give Auburn schools money equal to the church's property tax assessment.

"Most of the anti-lottery leaders kept saying there was a better way to support public schools than the lottery," Flynt said. "(But) in the ensuing six months since the lottery was defeated, I concluded that evangelicals were not going to do anything. I got tired of all the pious talking and no acting, so this seemed like the perfect opportunity to call their bluff."

"Ours is a traditional, mainline Baptist church with money problems like most Baptist churches," he added. "I figured, if we can do it, anybody can do it."

Some other Alabama churches apparently are in agreement.

"Our church didn't jump on the bandwagon to defeat the lottery," said David Freeman, pastor at Weatherly Heights Baptist in Huntsville, Ala., "but a lot of Baptist churches did. Since that's the case, we need to provide some alternative."

The Auburn church's action "shows that Baptists aren't always against things," Freeman said. "Sometimes we're for things, and this is a way for us to say we're pro-children, pro-education and willing to do what is not required of us."

Freeman said the issue already is on the agenda for discussion in his church.

Dennis Wiles, pastor at Huntsville First

Baptist, said his congregation is also giving a "positive" response to the plan.

"Both personally and as a Christian leader in Alabama, I opposed the lottery," Wiles said, "but this gives us a chance to help the state of Alabama improve education. This is one opportunity for the church to invest itself in the lives of children."

Flynt noted that "every tax assessor assesses religious property. They just don't send the church a bill. You call your county tax assessor to find out the amount your church would pay to schools instead of taxes." In Auburn First Baptist's case, the total came to \$4,662.

Flynt said getting the resolution passed in his church "took all the arguing and debating you find in most Baptist churches," but in its final form the resolution passed, giving money to Auburn schools with "no strings attached."

Flynt said response to the idea has been mixed. "I've had a lot of letters and phone calls. Some are denouncing our church. Others are supportive."

Birmingham attorney Lenora Pate, one of the most vocal anti-lottery voices during Siegelman's campaign to pass his lottery proposal last fall, said the plan is being discussed in her church.

She's a member of Dawson Memorial Baptist in Birmingham, one of the largest congregations in the state. Pate has reserved praise for the idea.

"For a church to give up its tax exemption status is a wonderful thing," Pate said, "but that's just one piece. If a church doesn't do that, it should not be an indictment of that church's heart."

But Dan Ireland, head of Alabama Citizens Action Program, a moral issues group based in Birmingham, warned against churches becoming involved in a state function.

Churches are to "deal with the spiritual and ethical condition of people," Ireland said. "It is the function of government to come up with a fair and equitable and prudent tax structure to meet the needs. ... Let the two roles remain separate."

"I don't think churches will feel any obligation to do what some other church is doing," he added.

Flynt said the religious community's response will be "telling."

"If only four or five respond positively," he said, "it will send a real message of cynicism to people in Alabama that churches care more about their tax breaks than they do the education of 3- and 4-year-old children."

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Two-year missionary "Journeyman" who arrived in Tanzania this month: Kathy Lydic, Tiffany Threatt and Lisa Pumpelly.

■ Teachers and students at the Kipoke School in Tanzania. Teachers are needed.

■ Follow-up to the work of a 14-member mission team from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., in Maine this summer.

■ Youth leaders from across New England who will attend a leadership retreat in Northborough, Mass., Sept. 29-30.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ BAGDAD—Christiansburg Church will host revival services Sept. 8-10 at 11 a.m. Sunday and nightly at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be **Gray Allison**, president emeritus of Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary, Germantown, Tenn. For information, call (502) 239-0889. **Doug Sturgeon** is pastor.

■ HODGENVILLE—South Fork Church will host **David Livingston** in concert Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. **Dan King** is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Bethany Church will host harpist **Greg Buchanan** in concert Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 452-2681. **Todd Robertson** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **Amy Lambert** in concert Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Davis Memorial Church will host a gospel concert featuring **Sandy Glass, Sonlight** and the **Shadrix Trio** Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. For information, call

(502) 491-6083. **Wes Brockway** is pastor.

Gethsemane Church will host **Michael Bright** in concert on the Belle of Louisville Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 969-3191. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

Hunsinger Lane Church will host **Willis Canada** from Richmond, Va., **Michael Bright** from Georgia and **David Livingston** in concert Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. **Charlie Davis** is pastor.

■ SQUIRESVILLE—Squiresville Church will hold its centennial homecoming Sept. 9-10. For information, call (502) 484-3806. **Craig Howard** is pastor.

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.

Power Team's founder divorces

DALLAS (RNS)—John Jacobs, founder of the Power Team, an evangelistic ministry that emphasizes the strength of weightlifters, has divorced his wife of 16 years.

In a statement, Jacobs said the divorce was the result of irreconcilable differences dating back to the start of his marriage to Ruthanne Jacobs, reported Charisma News Service, a news update of Charisma magazine.

The divorce was finalized in May and reported by Charisma News Service. The Jacobses have a 3-year-old son.

"I repent and apologize for the sin of divorce to the body of Christ," Jacobs said. "There was nothing about this divorce that had to do with a sin problem. Divorce was my last choice. I was in personal counseling for five years and I'm sorry there was nothing I could do to avoid it. Anything else is a lie."

Mrs. Jacobs declined comment, citing a confidentiality agreement in the settlement.

The Power Team, founded 22 years ago, features team members doing such feats as breaking baseball bats and bending iron bars with their bare hands as they present the gospel at school assemblies and evangelistic crusades.

Jacobs said he had stepped down from regular preaching for nine months and will return to "a regular crusade schedule" after a three-month crusade tour in Africa.

Charisma News Service also reported that since the divorce, more than a dozen members of the Power Team have left the ministry to start their own "strength evangelism" group, Team Impact.

Mom to appeal Bible-reading case to the U.S. Supreme Court

MEDFORD, N.J. (RNS)—An appellate court divided evenly Aug. 28 in the case of a New Jersey boy barred from reading a Bible story in public school, so his mother plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 6-6 split by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lets stand a lower court ruling that the Medford Township school district did not violate Zachary Hood's free-speech rights, Associated Press reported.

Zachary was a first-grader at Haines Elementary School in Medford in 1996 when teacher Grace Oliva rewarded students for their reading skills by allowing them to choose a story to read to their class.

Zachary, who is Catholic, picked a story about Jacob and Esau from "The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories" and was told by Oliva that it was inappropriate for him to read the story because of its religious content. She let him read the story to her privately, but not in front of the class.

Michael Madden, a lawyer repre-

senting the Medford Township school district, said he was pleased with the resolution of the Bible story case.

But the president of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a Washington-based group representing the boy, said the further appeal is necessary.

"The district court's dismissal of Zack's First Amendment rights must not be allowed to stand," Kevin Hasson said.

"The Third Circuit's division on this issue reflects both the complexity and the importance of issues involving children's rights of religious expression during the school day, and it is crucial that the court now confront this issue head-on," he said.

The appellate court sent back to the district court a portion of Zachary's case involving a Thanksgiving poster he drew. The lawsuit alleged that Zachary's rights were violated in kindergarten when a substitute teacher removed a poster he drew that showed he was "thankful for Jesus." It later was posted in a less prominent place.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 1990 Ford 20-passenger bus, \$4,000. Call (606) 474-6325, 474-5896 or 474-0037.

FOR SALE: New visual/digital nursery paging system: \$300 (sells for \$460). Simple operation, easy to install. Used baptistry immersion water heater: \$150. Call (502) 454-4681.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education. Must be saved, Bible-believer, called, have impeccable morals. Send resumé and request for job description to: Greenwood Baptist Church, 5165 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104.

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

SEEKING: Parkway Baptist Church of Bardstown is seeking a full-time minister of youth and education. This person will help develop and grow an already strong youth and education ministry. Parkway Baptist is a dynamic, cutting-edge church, seeking to reach our community and world for Christ. Send resumé to: Parkway Baptist Church, c/o Eddie Benton, 2580 Springfield Road, Bardstown, KY 40004.

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

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: 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: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to Personnel Committee, Yorktown Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Middleton Baptist Church is a rural church located half way between Franklin and Russellville, Ky., just off highway 100. We are searching for a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Middleton Baptist Church, 9193 Middleton Circle, Franklin, KY 42134.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for rural church in the heart of the Bluegrass. Seventy-five active members. parsonage available. Contact: Terry Newton, 2367 Munday's Landing Road, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 873-9160 after 6 p.m.

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 position offers an attractive compensation package. Contact

Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Hargrave Military Academy, located in Chatham, Va., is seeking an energetic individual to fill the position of chaplain. Hargrave is a private boarding school, grades 7 through 12 and one post-graduate year, affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. This position will report directly to the president of the academy. It will be the responsibility of the chaplain to minister to 400+ students and 100+ faculty and staff. The chaplain must be able to relate to people from diverse economic, racial, social and cultural backgrounds. This position requires a seminary degree from a Southern Baptist seminary, five years experience in ministry and ordination (or eligibility for ordination). Musical and/or drama talent will be a plus. The major responsibilities include three chapel services weekly, managing small-group Bible studies, providing ministry opportunities for students, facilitating faculty and staff prayer groups, counseling students and faculty/staff as needed and teaching in an expanded Bible program. The chaplain should be a team player who is highly motivated to reach young people for Christ and disciple them in their Christian walk. Benefits include housing and utilities. Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications. Please send a resumé that includes the following: a brief statement of faith, a brief ministry philosophy statement, picture, one audio/video tape of a sermon, one video tape of a youth activity, five references (two personal and three professional). Oct. 1 will be the closing date for resúms. Please send to: Joe Merricks, Chaplain Search Committee, Hargrave Military Academy, 200 Military Drive, Chatham, VA 24531. To learn more about Hargrave, please check our Web site at www.hargrave.edu.

Family mission trips are teachable times for kids

Involving families in volunteer missions might be the secret to ensuring a strong Baptist missionary force in the future, according to Sonny and Cindy Spurger.

The Spurgers, volunteer missions consultants in Texas, said that involving families in ministry projects together won't just result in good ministry. It also will teach children about missions through first-hand experience and will help them grow into more missions-minded adults.

"The best way to teach missions to your child is to get them involved, to help them learn it as a lifestyle," Spurger said.

Missions involvement provides families with quality time together, productive time, a teaching time, a loving time, a memory time and a fun time, the Spurgers said.

One way to get started is to take a family inventory, they suggested. Determine what are the family's gifts, priorities and goals. Then find ways to match those gifts and goals with missions opportunities.

The Spurgers said families on mission can impact their own neighborhoods by greeting newcomers, being available to others in times of crisis, holding backyard Bible clubs, offering help to single parents or senior adults, offering a Parents' Night Out with free babysitting for neighborhood children or giving "Jesus" videos as Christmas presents.

Determine if aging parent is sick or failing

When determining the needs of aging parents, adult children must distinguish between the "sick elderly" and the "failing elderly," Charlotte Ware cautioned.

Ware, who's mother lived with Ware and her husband 12 years before being placed in a nursing home, led a summer conference on care for aging parents based on her experiences.

Most older adults have at least one chronic condition, and more than half have at least one disability, she noted. Sickness is a part of growing old, but intervention isn't necessarily required unless a person is "failing."

"Failing is being sick without the capacity to realize the incapacity," Ware said. "The person is either unable or unwilling to recognize the problem."

Adult children should look for three warning signs that would require them to intervene, Ware said:

- **Memory loss.** Forgetfulness and slow recall is a normal part of the aging process, and it is not necessarily a major problem. But the total loss of memory—the inability to recall an event or person at all—is reason for alarm.

- **Social withdrawal.** When parents stop doing what they have always enjoyed, it can be a problem sign.

- **Loss of abstract thinking skills.** Uncharacteristic financial errors may indicate the loss of abstract reasoning ability. Another indicator is the inability to understand figures of speech or proverbial sayings.

Consultant has SHARP answer for dull speakers

Too many speakers are boring, drowning people in words before they get to the point.

"The solution to a boring and rambling presentation is putting heart into it," said Bert Decker, a communications consultant and author of "Communicating with Bold Assurance," an eight-session study.

To get heart into speeches, sermons and presentations, Decker outlined what he termed SHARP principles: presentations should include stories, humor, analogies, references and pictures.

"Jesus Christ is many things to many people. But to all, He is history's greatest storyteller," Decker wrote in his workbook.

"The effectiveness of your communication determines the effectiveness of your life," Decker said. "The habits you want to have a choice about are your communication habits. Pros are always in school. Are you a professional?"

Burnout prevention tip: You're not perfect

Ministers often are expected to do everything well, but in reality they must discover their two or three areas of giftedness and focus on those, a veteran pastor said.

Dennis Hochgraber, pastor of Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas and a veteran of 25 years in the ministry, urged ministers at a summer conference to focus on their areas of giftedness and seek to surround themselves with others who are gifted in different areas.

Though serving God faithfully through the church, ministers must not "sell yourself out to the church," he said, because left unchecked churches will continually make more demands until the minister burns out.

Hochgraber identified five premises for faithfully balancing the demands of ministry:

- **Recognize there is a difference between being successful and being faithful.**

- **Recognize you have but one life to live.** "The trap in ministry is to try to live several lives," he said. "You don't do anything well because you try to do everything."

- **Do not waste your life.** Ministers must "continually come before the Lord" for personal renewal in order to have the spiritual energy to minister to others, he said.

- **Understand the stages of life.** God doesn't always reveal His entire plan for a person's life at once, Hochgraber said.

- **Seek to glorify God in life and ministry.** "The reason the church is here is to bring glory to God."

Christians who get out of jail aren't home free

Too many Christians are practicing spiritual abandonment when it comes to evangelism in jails and prisons, according to Jim Young, coordinator of restorative justice ministries with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"When we lead a person to Christ in prison and then abandon them, we have failed," he said. The church has responded well to the need for ministries inside prisons and jail, Young noted, but has not begun to address the needs of inmates once they are released.

"The biggest problem is what happens when they walk out the door," he warned.

In most cases, the spiritual support system the inmate might have developed in prison is left behind and a new spiritual support system is not found.

Ex-convicts are not likely to integrate easily into traditional churches, Young said.

Christians must meet inmates when they walk out of the door of a prison and help them get re-established in society, Young urged. Otherwise, the majority of inmates released from prison fall into unhealthy situations.

"Without help, once people get out of prison, they're going to go back in," he said.

Do you buy based on impulse or strategy?

Responsible family money management involves a series of deliberate choices, including replacing impulse buying with delayed spending strategies, according to Roger Hall.

Hall, treasurer and chief financial officer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, led conferences on family money management this summer.

"As Christians, we are responsible to God for how we handle our resources," Hall said. "Stewardship is not only the tithe, but also what we do with the other 90 percent."

One key to breaking the overspending habit is learning to make decisions deliberately rather than spending impulsively, Hall said.

Setting goals and breaking bad habits are two crucial steps toward becoming responsible money managers, he noted. He suggested five questions as criteria for making discretionary spending decisions:

- **Is it consistent with Christian principles?**

- **Is it in keeping with established financial goals?**

- **Have I given the matter careful consideration?**

- **Have I communicated with God and my family about the purchase?**

- **Will I feel good about this purchase in the future?**

Parents can use help with new babies

Computers come with instruction manuals. So do cameras, lawn mowers and bicycles.

But when an infant is born, parents too often feel they're on their own to figure out how to raise a healthy, well-behaved, loving child, according to Melinda Mahand and Richard Shahan, who led a week-long session on parenting.

Mahand, a freelance writer and editor from Franklin, Tenn., and Shahan, minister of childhood education at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., also wrote the facilitator's guide for "ParentProject: Tools for Godly Parenting," a course for parents of children from birth to 2 years old.

"Before parents can know what to do in stressful situations, they have to know who their child is," Shahan said.

But some parents become so stressed by the challenge of parenting they cannot enjoy the experience, he added. "I love being a parent, but it's not fun to some parents."

In the area of discipline, Shahan said parents must learn to distinguish the difference between outright misbehavior and actions caused by hunger, fear or being tired.

"With my first child, I had to learn he was very sensitive to hunger pains," Shahan said. "When he got hungry, he lost control."

Mahand said helping a child develop self discipline begins with parents modeling appropriate behavior. When a child behaves well, his or her efforts should be reinforced.

Treat each sibling uniquely, not equally

Parents should deal with sibling children not by trying to parcel out equal care to each one but by recognizing each child's uniqueness and giving each child what he or she needs, according to educator Carolyn Strickland.

"Children don't need to be treated equally. They need to be treated uniquely," said Strickland, director of Mi Escuelita Preschools in Dallas.

Parents who worry about dividing everything equally among siblings are giving their children the impression that they are not one-of-a-kind, she said.

"Instead of claiming equal love, show children how they are loved uniquely," she suggested.

Parents should point out the individual qualities that make each child special and endearing, Strickland added.

In addition to giving material resources according to need, time also should be allotted on the basis of who needs a parent more at a particular moment, she said.

"Equal time can feel like less. Give time in terms of need," she advised. That lets the child know when he or she really needs a parent, mom or dad will be there and will devote undivided attention to that need.

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