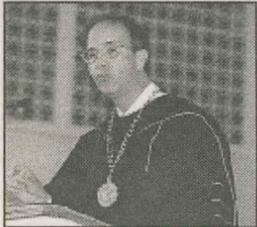


September 19, 2000  
Vol. 174, No. 37

## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
Texas Baptist leaders expand a proposal to reduce Cooperative Program funding to Southern Baptist Convention entities. *Page 2.*



**Education**  
Campbellsville University installs Michael Carter as its 10th president. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Catholic proclamation hampers ecumenical dialogue. *Page 5.*

**Weighty debate**  
Weigh Down Diet author criticized for what some are calling way out theological views. *Page 10.*

**Notice**  
Due to a computer systems failure at production time Monday morning, many of our church newsletter subscribers are receiving their papers on a delayed schedule. We apologize for the inconvenience.

## Survey counters stereotype of poor parenting by evangelicals

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Conservative Protestant parents yell at their children less frequently than other parents and the image that they are physically or emotionally abusive simply isn't accurate, according to a new Princeton University study.

Brad Wilcox, a research fellow at Princeton's Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, said he hopes the new study will "clear the air" about assertions that evangelical and fundamentalist parents are abusive and authoritarian.

Wilcox's new study was co-authored with John Bartkowski of Mississippi State University.

The report states that evangelical parents combine elements of corporal punishment—spanking—with a strong sense of verbal praise and affirmation for their children.

The study, uses data from a 1987-1988 University of Wisconsin survey of 4,000 parents, Wilcox said.

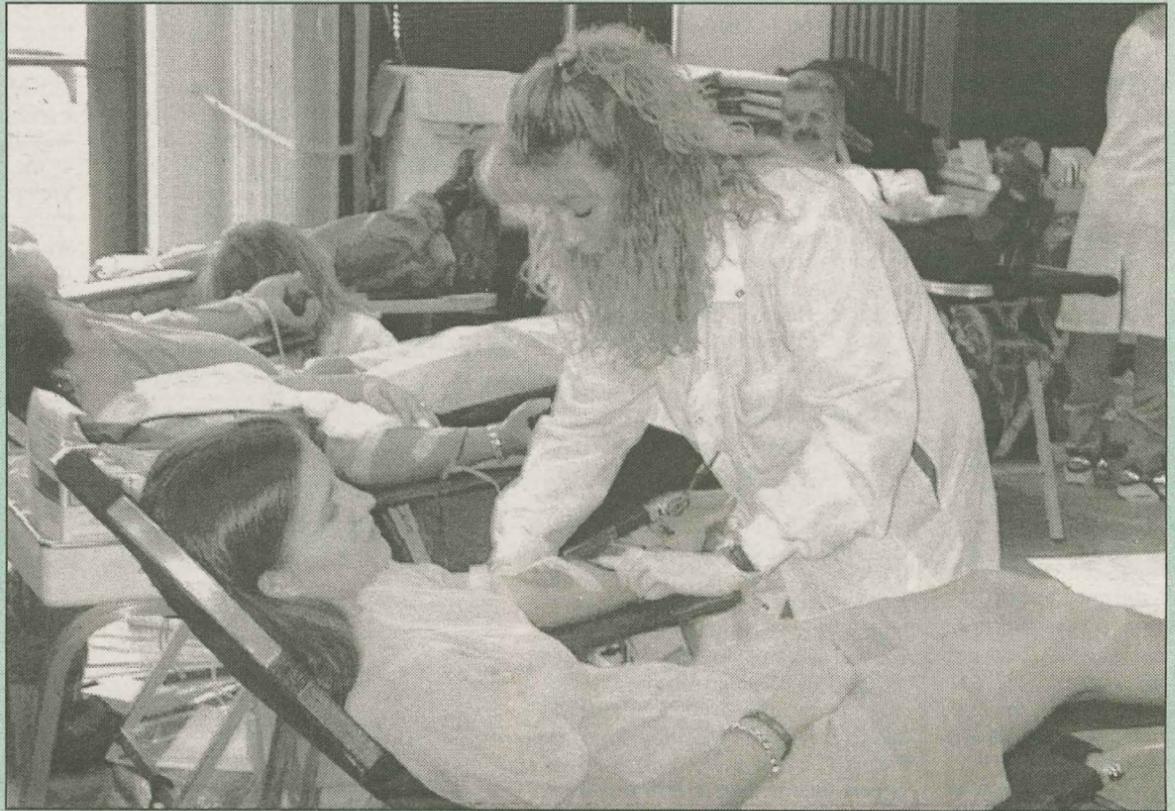
It found that evangelical parents yell at their children less frequently than other parents.

The study also found religious faith plays a greater role in parenting style than other factors, such as income or education.

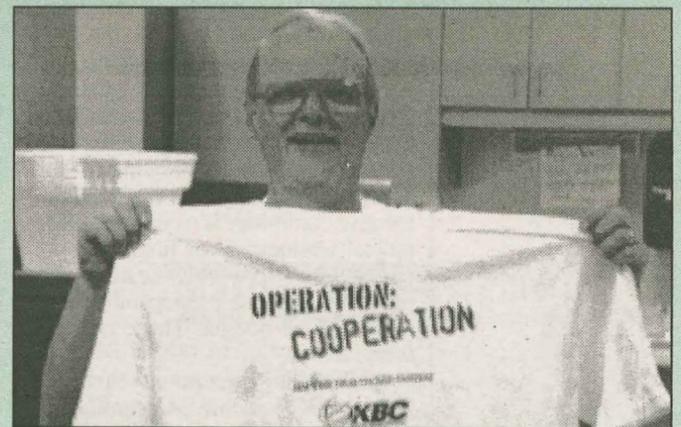
"For almost a decade, a number of scholars have claimed that conservative

□ See New study ..., page 8

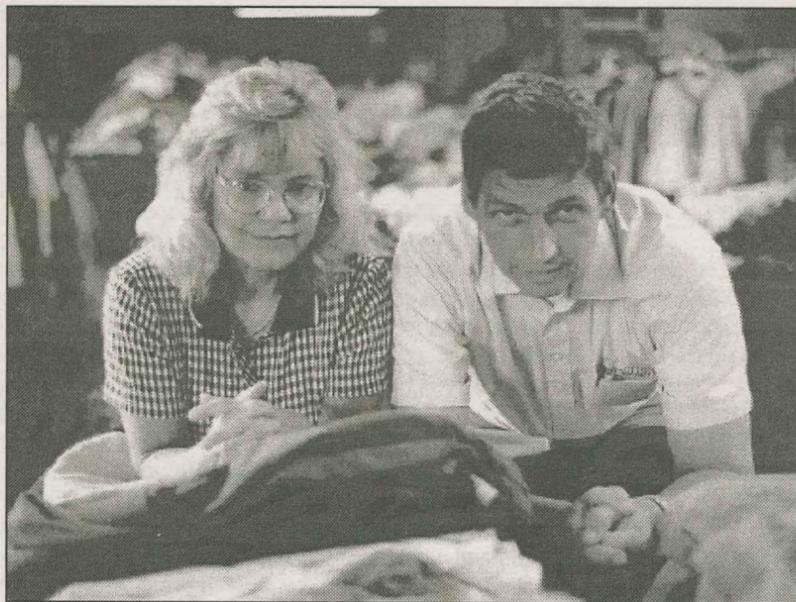
## 'Operation Cooperation'



More than 1,200 pints of blood have been collected thus far as a result of Operation Cooperation, a statewide effort to promote the Cooperative Program among Kentucky Baptists and present a positive message to other residents of the state. Approximately 70 blood drives are being held this fall. Organizers hope to collect 3,500 pints before the events end Oct. 7, according to Robert Reeves, communications director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. ■ Above: Members of First Baptist Church of London gave 106 pints of blood Sept. 10. ■ Right: A donor displays a T-shirt he received.



## Williamsburg ministry fights hunger in southeast Kentucky



**CLOTHES EVERYWHERE** Keith and Joyce Decker operate Cedaridge Ministries in Williamsburg. In addition to a thrift store selling clothes, the ministry helps distribute food and coordinate home repairs throughout six counties. In eight years, the ministry has distributed more than 16 million pounds of food, and repaired about 90 homes, according to Decker.

By David Winfrey  
News Director

WILLIAMSBURG—Keith Decker's blue-gray eyes light up when he talks about what impact Cedaridge Ministries might have on southeastern Kentucky.

"I don't want to just fight hunger. I want to stop poverty," said Decker, president of the 8-year-old ministry that distributes food, clothing and building materials throughout six counties.

"I can do it," he says before correcting himself. "God can do it, but He can do it through us."

Decker's contagious excitement is based on a track record of seeing needs—both those of the ministry and those of area residents—met on a continual basis.

Since it began eight years ago, Cedaridge has distributed more than 16 million pounds of food and coordinated volunteers to repair more than 90 homes.

Cedaridge works with a variety of

sources to serve as a drop-off point for tractor-trailer loads of food. With little or no warning, a trailer will arrive loaded with loose sweet potatoes or, 50-pound bags of white potatoes or boxes of bananas or canned food.

In no time, the food is distributed, made available to more than 400 churches and organizations to help low-income residents in six counties.

Equally impressive is how Decker says God keeps the ministry supplied.

Once Decker received a truckload of bottled water, only to receive a call the next day from a local police station asking if he could help 16 families whose wells had been poisoned. "A lot of times, even before I think about what the ministry needs, it's already on the way," he said.

"It's a ministry that's truly run on faith," he added. "Cedaridge would have never grown if there had not been people that truly believed that God is able to do what he says he can do."

Decker didn't plan to direct a Christian distribution center. Originally he

□ See Cedaridge fights ..., page 7

## Texas proposal expands national CP budget cuts

**The expanded Texas Baptist plan would defund the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and give only token funding to the SBC Executive Committee.**

By Mark Wingfield  
*Texas Baptist Standard*

DALLAS (ABP)—A Texas Baptist committee proposal to reduce funding to Southern Baptist Convention seminaries by \$4.3 million has been expanded to two other SBC entities.

Completing its work Sept. 13, the Baptist General Convention of Texas administrative committee will recommend no money for the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and only token funding for the SBC Executive Committee.

The administrative committee gave unanimous approval of proposed budget changes for calendar year 2001. To become effective, the budget proposal must be ratified by the convention's executive board Sept. 26 and then by the full convention Oct. 30-31.

Even before the Sept. 13 meeting, Morris Chapman, a former Texas pastor who is president of the SBC Executive Committee, was urging Texas conservatives to turn out in force at the BGCT annual session in Corpus Christi to defeat the proposed budget. Supporters of the budget changes also are urging Texas Baptists to attend the convention session, virtually guaranteeing a larger-than-normal turnout.

Conservatives now control the SBC and have purged moderates from leadership. The BGCT, however, the SBC's largest state affiliate, steadfastly has resisted the conservative tide and has remained under the direction of moderates.

Tension between the state and national conventions reached a peak this summer, when the SBC revised its Baptist Faith and Message statement.

In response to the growing rift between the two groups, the Texas administrative committee is recommending a radical reallocation of funds that are currently in the "worldwide missions" portion of the state's Cooperative Program unified budget. Those changes include:

- Reducing the amount of funding for the SBC Executive Committee to \$10,000 from \$706,000. The Executive Committee is the SBC's main administrative office and is responsible for setting policies, distributing Cooperative Program money and running a national news service, Baptist Press.

- Eliminating \$345,000 in funding

### Study committee details rationale

DALLAS (ABP)—A study committee recommending dramatic changes to the way Texas Baptists fund theological education filled in details Sept. 13 at a called meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas administrative committee.

Proposals to reduce Texas funding of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries by more than 80 percent and reallocate more than \$4 million to Texas schools, were brought by a theological education study committee chaired by Robert Campbell, pastor of Westbury Baptist Church in Houston.

The 16-member committee spent six months conducting research, including on-site visits to the six SBC seminaries and extensive dialogues with the president, administrators and some trustees of each school. The committee initially asked the SBC seminary presidents to meet with them in Dallas, but the presidents spoke as a group to decline that invitation.

"We did not appoint the committee nor ask for it, and we are not directly accountable to state convention committees anyway," Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, told the committee in a July 27 letter.

So, over a period of about two weeks, the Texas committee under-

took a whirlwind tour of the SBC seminaries.

Completing its study, the committee cited a number of concerns behind its recommendation:

- **Creedalism.** The committee specifically cited changes in the Baptist Faith and Message statement and the way those changes are being enforced at the SBC schools. "During interviews with the administration and trustees of the six SBC seminaries, it was clearly stated that no faculty member could call into question any portion of the 2000 'Baptist Faith and Message' for any reason at any time. Thus the 2000 'Baptist Faith and Message' is elevated to inerrant status," the report noted.

- **Financial irregularities.** "BGCT-related churches are spending a disproportionate amount of money on seminary education in the six SBC seminaries as compared with the amount spent on seminary education within BGCT-supported seminaries."

Specifically, the report notes, 93.3 percent of all BGCT funding for theological education has been going to the SBC seminaries, while 6.3 percent has gone to the BGCT-related seminaries.

- **Faculty purges and replacements.** "Most Southern Baptists are well aware of the purging of faculty or administrators who refuse to go along with the ideas and philosophies

of the new SBC president and trustees," the committee noted.

On a related issue, "a large number of new faculty members are being employed in the six SBC seminaries who lack background or experience in Baptist life," the report charges.

- **Trustee interference.** "The style of seminary governance has significantly changed in the last decade," the committee said, citing examples of trustees becoming involved in directing classroom content and teaching.

Further, the selection of seminary trustees "has been narrowed to no longer represent the broad spectrum of Southern Baptist thought and belief. Consequently, current SBC seminary trustee boards almost exclusively reflect the narrow attitude of doctrinaire Fundamentalism."

- **Enrollment.** "Enrollment in graduate-level theological education has plummeted in most of the SBC seminaries in the last decade," the report says. "At the same time, some SBC seminaries have inflated their enrollment figures by including undergraduate college and university-level degree programs. Cooperative Program dollars that were originally intended by most Southern Baptist churches for graduate theological education are now being used to fund these competitive and redundant undergraduate programs."

for the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Many Texas Baptists have criticized the ERLC for its departure from a strict advocacy of church-state separation and a perception that it is partisan.

- Reducing funding for the SBC's six seminaries from \$5.3 million this year to a maximum of \$1 million next year. That \$1 million would be distributed based on the number of Texas students enrolled at each school.

The net effect of this change, which was recommended by a special theological education study committee, would be a virtual defunding of five of the six SBC schools, which currently receive anywhere from \$443,000 to \$1.5 million annually from the BGCT. Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary,

based in Fort Worth, Texas, would get the largest share of the \$1 million pool because it currently enrolls about 1,400 of the estimated 1,600 Texas students attending SBC seminaries.

Texas churches still would be able to designate funds through the BGCT to all SBC causes, including the seminaries, should they desire. However, designated funding from Texas churches to the seminaries would be counted toward the cap of \$1 million given to the SBC schools collectively.

The budget proposal does not alter distributions to the SBC's International Mission Board or North American Mission Board, which would continue to receive about \$12 million and \$5.6 million respectively from the BGCT next year.

The \$4.3 million balance of the seminary money would go to three BGCT schools—Truett Seminary at Baylor University, Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University and Hispanic Baptist Theological School.

The administrative committee proposal calls for dividing the \$1.1 million diverted from the SBC Executive Committee and ERLC three ways. Half would strengthen Hispanic ministries and church starting in Texas. A fourth would go toward Texas human-welfare ministries such as adoption and child-care. The final fourth would go to the Texas Christian Life Commission to produce church-resource materials and address ethical issues such as poverty and pornography.

## SBC leaders: Texas plan 'a dagger to the heart of Cooperative Program'

DALLAS—Texas Baptists do not have the right to redefine the Cooperative Program and risk causing the destruction of the unified giving plan if they adopt changes proposed by a Texas committee, presidents of the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries said.

They were reacting to a proposal by a Baptist General Convention of Texas theological education study committee that would reduce Texas funding of the SBC seminaries from \$5.3 million this year to no more than \$1 million next year. The recommendation is based on a six-month study that documented major shifts in the theology, philosophy and operation of the SBC schools.

Responses by SBC officials—including the seminary presidents—largely did not acknowledge those changes at the seminaries or the changes within the SBC over the last 20 years. Instead, SBC leaders pointed a finger toward Texans as the instigators of unnecessary change.

"The Cooperative Program is an agreement between the SBC and the state conventions," the presidents said in a 900-word statement issued jointly. "No state convention has the right to redefine this agreement unilaterally. The proposed BGCT action is a dagger thrust at the heart of the Cooperative Program. This is a sad day for all Southern Baptists, and a great tragedy for the BGCT."

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, also weighed in against the changes. "Tragically, anti-SBC leaders in the BGCT are now prepared to make the kind of recommendations that have the potential to cause hard feelings among Southern Baptists in Texas and split churches all across the state of Texas," he said.

SBC President James Merritt, a Georgia pastor, said the Texas plan would "destroy the whole spirit of cooperation that has made the Southern Baptist Convention what it has been and what the BGCT has been historically."

"The Cooperative Program is not just a program," Merritt said. "It's a spirit. It's an

attitude. It's as simple as ABC—All Baptists Cooperate."

BGCT leaders responded to the SBC leadership on several points.

"The Cooperative Program is not owned and operated exclusively by the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville," said Bob Campbell, chairman of the BGCT theological education study committee. "To believe there is only one Cooperative Program is a fallacy."

Mike Chancellor, vice chairman of the study committee, said part of cooperation involves participation in decision making. "The Cooperative Program is about sending dollars, but it's also about stewardship in the spending of the dollars," he said.

## Carter inaugurated, affirms student-centered focus

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Pledging to lead Campbellsville University to “push forward in new and creative ways,” Michael Carter was inaugurated Sept. 15 as the Kentucky Baptist institution’s 10th president.

Carter, 46, began serving as president more than a year ago. He previously was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

The inauguration service, held at Campbellsville Baptist Church, culminated a week of inaugural activities including a prayer breakfast, a student cookout and a tree planting ceremony.

“Today is not a day about Mike Carter,” the new president told the inauguration crowd. “Today is about the student-centered experience that is Campbellsville University. Today is about serving others.”

Outlining his goals as president, Carter said the university’s seal contains three core values: scholarship, leadership and fellowship. “Each must be realized if our missions is to be achieved,” he declared.

Urging the university community to embrace “the joy of serving and learning,” Carter said that can be accomplished through educational excellence, student-centered initiatives, financial strength and a Christ-centered campus.

“Some would tell us it is not possible to have quality higher education from a ‘biased’ faith-based perspective,” Carter said. He added, however, that “honest and rigorous education can and does take place on faith-based campuses,” emphasizing that “the quest for truth has never been

hindered by underlying Christian values such as honesty, truthfulness, compassion, care, serving and love.”

Announcing plans for a yearlong strategic planning process, Carter said it is time for the 94-year-old university to “re-chart and update our course.” He said campus priorities include upgrading the school’s library and athletic facilities and building a new student activities center and chapel.

Carter also announced plans to establish a new “workshop” program to provide students more work experience and financial assistance. He already has established the Kentucky Heartland Outreach to facilitate student-led service projects in the community and region.

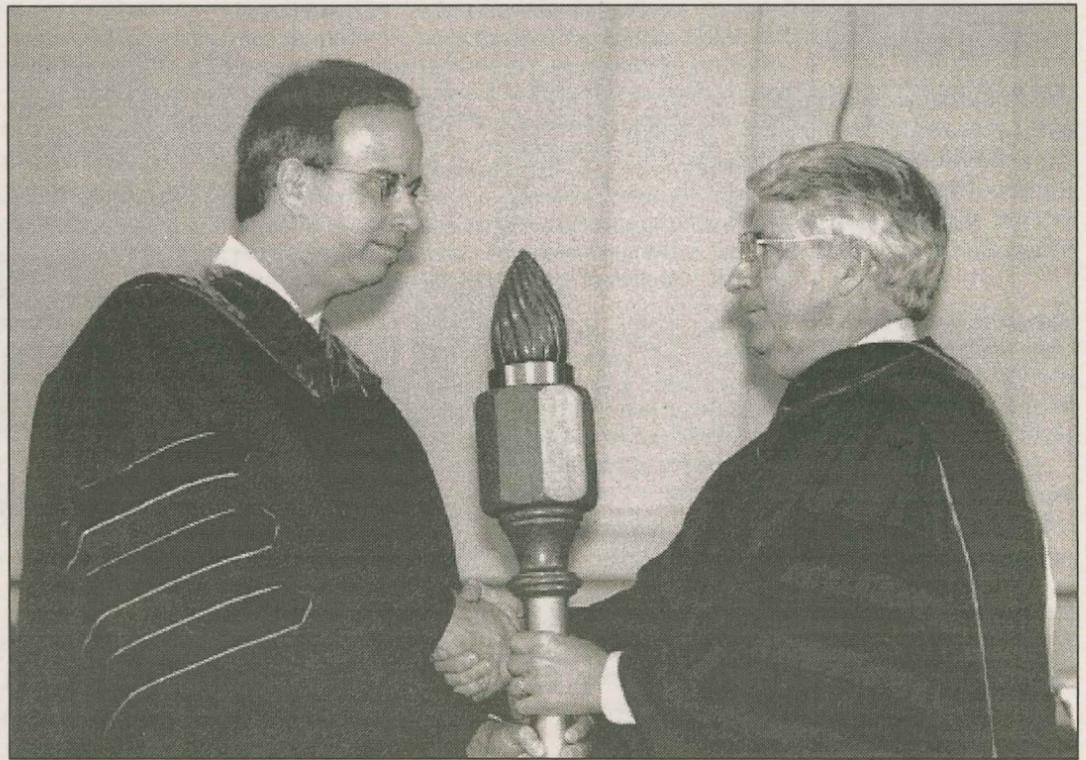
“We must never grow weary in doing what is right and good for the kingdom of God,” Carter said. “May we be found faithful as we diligently seek God’s will for Campbellsville University.”

Prior to Carter’s address, former presidents Kenneth Winters and W.R. Davenport presented him with the university mace and presidential medalion symbolizing the transfer of presidential leadership.

Campbellsville alumnus Bruce Heilman delivered the inaugural challenge, citing the need for “vision, leadership, momentum and results.” Heilman, chancellor of the University of Richmond, is vice chairman of Campbellsville’s board of trustees.

Leading a university as president “offers unparalleled stimulation, excitement, challenge and opportunity,” Heilman said, adding that successful universities “are pushed and pulled by strong presidents.”

“While we are proud of our past, we can look with anticipation under President Carter’s leadership to new



levels of success,” Heilman noted. He said Carter “stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before him so that he can see farther and dream bolder.”

He encouraged the new president to “hold our feet to the fire by drawing out of us the best we have to offer.”

Cordell Maddox, president emeritus of Carson-Newman College, urged Carter to “focus on the future and what best serves the kingdom.” He said the president’s responsibility is to “set the tone and provide the faculty and staff the opportunity to see and share the university’s vision.”

“I challenge you to make Campbellsville University a campus where

students are prepared for leadership and service, prepared to carry forth our Master’s call,” Maddox added.

James Baggett, president of Campbellsville’s student government association, was among several individuals who shared words of greeting during the inauguration service.

“As a student, I am proud to say Dr. Carter is my university president,” Baggett said, affirming that Carter “represents the very essence of servant leadership.”

“You and you family bring a contagious enthusiasm to this campus,” he said. “You challenge us all to greater heights of excellence and a deeper walk with our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**PASSING THE TORCH**  
Campbellsville University President Michael Carter (left) receives the university mace from his predecessor, Kenneth Winters, during Carter’s inauguration Sept. 15.

## ‘Expensive’ mission trip pays spiritual dividends

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

MOUNT STERLING—First Baptist Church of Mount Sterling had an expensive summer mission trip to Wales, but Kime Murphy said it was worth every penny.

In addition to about 120 professions of faith in Jesus, the youth pastor said the late July trip made a significant impact on the 43-member team. It included 22 teens and two college students.

“My kids came back changed,” said Mrs. Murphy, whose husband, Mark—the minister of music—helped coordinate the trip. “They’re taking their experience in Wales and bringing it back home. If one kid is changed, I don’t care if it costs \$80,000. Who knows whose life we’ve affected?”

The trip touched her daughter, who recently enrolled in Carson-Newman College in Tennessee. Before leaving home, she told her mother, “I learned how to pray (in Wales).” Another young woman committed to go to the mission field in the future.

The church kept its commitment to the trip despite a \$2 million fund raising campaign for a new building. The church vowed that wouldn’t interfere with missions, she said, giving half of a 1999 budget surplus to the Wales trip.

The youth raised the rest of their expenses by parking cars at a community flea market, yard work, cleaning houses and a stock sale. The young people sold “shares” in a person’s life, with the dividend touching someone in Wales.

The group visited Bridgend, located near the coast in the country’s central region. Their hosts were missionaries Bill and Lucy Pat Curl. He was pastor of First Church from 1965 to 1972.

In Bridgend, one team led a three-hour vacation Bible school every morning that attracted 400 children.

Because the churches, which average 35 in Sunday attendance, are small the event was held in a community center. That meant the group had to spend an hour setting up every morning and another hour taking down displays, Murphy said.

In the evening, the teens led a two-hour youth service. It included worship music, drama and testimonies from youth group members. The youth pastor also led interactive games and related Bible studies.

Two other teams conducted Bible schools in nearby cities, while a fourth did construction work at the Curls’ home. Recently purchased by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, the house needed extensive ren-

ovations, she said.

Because none of their power tools would work in Wales, the team had to do everything by hand, such as making cabinets, installing shutters and painting.

First Church’s teens spent their free time mingling with Welsh youth, which touched many hearts, Mrs. Murphy said.

For example, one girl swore at the group the first time she saw them. But the day they departed she was part of a group that came to see them off at 4 a.m. The girl has since sent an e-mail saying she wants to visit Mount Sterling.

The youth pastor suggested that Kentucky Baptists who aren’t taking mission trips get involved. Among her tips for a successful mission are prayer, Bible study, advance training and being flexible on the field if conditions suddenly change.

She also hopes that more Christians see the value of living simpler lifestyles so that they can do missions.

“What our kids are learning is we have to give to other people,” Mrs. Murphy said. “We want them to see they don’t have to work three jobs and accrue all kinds of debt to get stuff. They don’t need stuff. I wouldn’t take a million dollars for all the mission trip experiences I’ve had.”

### BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Theologian to deliver Campbellsville lecture.** Stanley Grenz, a professor of Baptist heritage, theology and ethics at Carey Theological College in Vancouver, British Columbia, will deliver the annual Staley Lectures at Campbellsville University, Oct. 24-26. Grenz is the author of more than 20 books. The lectures, which are open to the public, will be held in recital hall of the school’s Gosser Fine Arts Center.

■ **Cumberland to display Dehoney African exhibit.** Cumberland College will dedicate the Wayne Dehoney Collection of African artifacts at the Cumberland Museum, Sept. 23 at 5:30 p.m. Dehoney, former pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, collected the artifacts and stories from rural African tribes and the hides or heads from wild African animals during trips taken during the past 30 years. Dehoney also will sign copies of his latest book, “When Life Falls to Pieces,” a collection of sermons.

■ **Heaton, Sapp to lead KBHC programs.** Bill Heaton, the previous administrator for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children’s foster care and pregnancy counseling and adoption ministries, has been named vice president of child placement services. Heaton will oversee the agency’s eight residential programs, six regional foster care programs and pregnancy counseling and adoption. Bill Sapp, former administrator for KBHC’s Cornerstone Counseling ministry, has been named the agency’s vice president for community-based services. He will oversee such nonresidential programs as the center for independence in Louisville, the family preservation and reunification in Somerset and the 22 Cornerstone Counseling sites throughout the commonwealth.

## 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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## Religious posturing

The infusion of religion into politics is drawing considerable attention in the presidential campaign. Bush-Cheney and Gore-Lieberman are trying to convince the American people that they and their party are more religious than their opponents. I find it disingenuous on the part of the Republican and Democratic candidates in that their campaign funding primarily is provided by big money from the rich and powerful who seek special favors and who exploit and oppress the poor.

All the way through Judeo-Christian scriptures, our compassionate Creator expresses God's loving concern for the poor and oppressed. God brings down the powerful and lifts up the lowly. We live in a nation whose enormous wealth is unparalleled in the history of humankind. Yet our politicians do everything they can to direct the wealth upward to the privileged few while allowing a pittance to raise the standard of living for the poor. They promote a system of justice that favors the rich and influential while it fails to protect the powerless people in our society.

Our presidential candidates should cut out the political-religious posturing and get to the core of our moral decline. Greed, or the love of money, is the source of all wrongdoing. We cannot serve both God and money. When we take the money out of politics and compassionately meet the needs of the poor and oppressed, our candidates' cries of "God bless America" will be genuine. The rich and powerful will be with us always, and they will always have much more than enough.

Paul Whiteley Sr.  
Louisville

## Worthy candidate

I read with interest that Jim McKinley is to be nominated as a candidate for president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Bowling Green. There is a time when a person should both be

honored and given a special responsibility of service to the cause of Christ and his denomination, and this just may be that moment.

I am not sure who else or how many may be nominated, but there is no Kentucky Baptist who has served more faithfully and courageously than Jim. He has pastored, but beyond that was a career missionary.

The most moving experience I ever had at a Southern Baptist Convention was listening to Jim tell of his experiences in Bangladesh and his escape when death was all around him. I stood as he finished to applaud a man so committed to Christ's call.

Jim's service as an international missionary is distinguished, but he continued to serve when retired as a Kentucky Baptist Convention consultant for missions and Cooperative Program support.

Although he may not be known to a lot of younger Baptists, Jim has been there when things were rough and stood there at the risk of his life. In a sense, like others who have served when their lives were at risk, he is a modern hero for Baptists and is worthy of support.

Jim is a traditional Baptist in beliefs with a vast background of service to Baptist life, and a great vision for missions, which is so vital for our times.

I write to say to those unfamiliar with Jim that this is an opportunity to honor a man worthy of honor but who would not claim it, and to provide an opportunity of leadership and service that would give vision toward our future of which missions is so important.

John Dunaway  
Henderson

## Masons defended

First, I thank Jake Huffman of McQuady for his rebuttal of my letter where I explained that the Southern Baptist pamphlet condemning Freema-

sony is false and entirely erroneous. I am glad that my treatise sparked interest and action from someone.

Second, Huffman, like many others, believes anything in print has to be unerringly correct. This is most unfortunate in this day of wide-open and libelous journalism, where history is rewritten and good deeds are made out to be bad. Huffman takes at face value the accusations of the pamphlet as being correct. I firmly believe if Huffman experienced Freemasonry (instead of just reading about it), his views would change.

Third, what does it take to get through to some people that Freemasonry is not a religion and does not pretend to replace any religious feelings or beliefs of the individual? To quote the pamphlet as truth is to perpetuate the wrong.

Fourth, when all the activities of Freemasonry are considered (the Shriners' crippled children's hospitals, the burns institutes, the hearing impaired clinics, all of the youth activities, the programs to restore patriotism, etc.), how can anyone say these things are against God? I have to ask Huffman and others: "Is faith without works dead?"

Fifth, a point I was making has been glossed over. Our society has many ills which no one will deny. It took time, effort and money to compile and distribute the pamphlet by the North American Mission Board. I wonder how many Southern Baptists question whether their missions money is being well spent for its intended purpose of carrying out the Great Commission or is this money being spent to further someone's social agenda? Attacking Freemasonry indicates the latter.

Many of the founding fathers were Masons and God-fearing men who lived and died the Christian life. This fact should not be ignored.

Theodore Gaeddert Jr.  
Fort Thomas

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Focus on personal evangelism

On Sunday, Sept. 24, I will speak at my home church, Fork Hill Baptist Church, for its homecoming. The church is located in an open country community of about 110 homes in what was rural Lancaster County, S.C.—only 40 miles from Charlotte, N.C. Many of the area residents travel 20 to 40 miles for employment.

The pastor has requested that I challenge the church to respond to its opportunities to share the gospel. Evangelism opportunities may be limited in the community, but they are unlimited in numbers and diversity in their marketplaces. A community contractor has 300-plus Hispanics providing labor for his construction projects in Charlotte. The contractor has provided Spanish Bibles and showings of the "Jesus" video for the workers. The contractor, along with my brother, conducts frequent mission trips to Brazil for the construction of mission chapels. In fact, my brother will coordinate 20 mission chapel construction projects this year. My first memories of personal wit-

ness training were in Fork Hill Baptist Church as a teenager. A course on personal witnessing for youth was taught by a lay minister. I was so convinced that I should be a witness that I drove



Bill Mackey

to the home of one of my friends to witness to his father, but he wasn't home. I regret that it was many years before I understood that I was to be a verbal witness. We had some wonderful teachers and pastors but no one offered to coach or assist me in being a witness. Evangelism primarily was public preachings.

A few years ago I read the minutes of the South Carolina State Convention and discovered the source of the youth witness training course that I experienced. In 1950 and '51 Southern Baptists conducted national emphases on simultaneous revival efforts. The church emphasis was launched with a book study on prayer for evangelism during January. In February a prospect survey was conducted, followed by assignments to Sunday school classes for follow-up visitation every week. In

March witness training was conducted for adults and youth utilizing age-graded books. Witness visitation followed simultaneous revivals conducted in April. Follow-up wasn't a big challenge because new converts had been enrolled in Sunday school.

The principles of prayer, friendship, cultivation and ministry through contacts, sowing the seed of the gospel, assimilation and harvest are effective even today.

During the Celebrate Jesus simultaneous efforts to pray, witness, proclaim and conserve results, I saw many people equipped in personal evangelism and cooperation who never would have been without these efforts. This is one reason I favor simultaneous efforts.

It took four years for the simultaneous witness training to get to my rural church. In God's timing it was right for my brother and me and I am grateful. This is why I am excited about the plans developed for 2001-2003 by the evangelism growth team, in consultation with associations. The plan includes homes becoming Lighthouses of Prayer, simplified witness training and simultaneous harvest events in 2003.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## GIVING

### Endowment fund gifts produce lasting impact

By Laurie Valentine

You don't have to be a millionaire to be able to provide financial resources that will make a lasting difference for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Your desire to provide financial support—until Christ comes again—to your church; ministries to hurting children and their families; home, state or international missions work; our Kentucky Baptist assemblies; or our Kentucky Baptist educational institutions can be accomplished through the establishment of your own endowment fund or through gifts to an existing endowment fund.

An endowment fund is a perpetual fund managed either by the cause that will be benefited by your gift or another entity such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Only the income from the endowment assets is used by the charitable beneficiary or beneficiaries for the purposes you designate.

A large gift is not required to establish an endowment fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. An endowment can be started with any amount of money. It can be added to from time to time over your lifetime or at your death. This permits even those of modest means to do much more than they ever dreamed possible. As your fund grows, more lives will be touched and blessed through the support provided.

Endowment fund giving does not have to be an all-or-nothing proposition. You may choose to make a gift now that provides an income stream to you for life with the endowment fund established at your death with the remainder. Making the gift now will provide income tax benefits (a charitable income tax deduction and capital gains tax savings if appreciated assets are gifted) and possibly a higher level of income. You also are provided the peace of mind of knowing that at your death your designated causes will receive vital financial support in perpetuity.

All that we have, whether great or modest in amount, comes from God. Whether accomplished through a single large gift of capital assets or a lifetime of more modest levels of giving, establishing an endowment fund permits you to demonstrate your gratitude for God's blessings and your desire to be involved in touching lives in Jesus' name.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



## Avoid favoritism by affirming each child's unique qualities

**Q: How can I avoid playing favorites with my children?**

Avoiding favoritism can present a real challenge to parents—especially if one child is particularly smart or talented in some specific way.

Certain kinds of accomplishments receive more attention than others do. Children who make great grades or who possess extraordinary athletic skill will be noticed and praised by almost everyone. Proud parents naturally express approval when a child achieves or performs well. Meanwhile, other children can end up feeling overlooked and left out, and can even get the impression that Mom or Dad has a favorite.

Comparisons probably are inevitable, but be careful how and when you compare. Phrases such as "Why can't you be like your brother?" have no place in a parent's vocabulary. When given the opportunity to brag about your children, express appreciation and pride for each one—especially if they are listening. Words you say about them within their hearing can open or close a child's spirit.

Ask God to help you see the uniqueness of each child—to notice the significant but sometimes small things others often overlook, especially in terms of character. Ask God to help you find concrete ways to affirm, encourage and express appreciation for their uniqueness.

All children, including high achievers, need to know they are loved for who they are, not for what they do. Such love builds a sense of worth and self-esteem separate from performance. It is based instead on the great truth that God made us all and loves us all equally.—David Garrard

**Q: In this postmodern age, how are single adults supposed to do evangelism?**

"Come and see" was the response of Philip to his friend Nathaniel, when they were discussing the authenticity of a young single adult known as Jesus of Nazareth. Similar was Andrew's quiet, relational evangelism when he reached out to his married adult brother, Simon Peter, giving the early church one of its major players. In this postmodern age, we are in many ways thrown back to the kinds of conversations people had in the pre-modern age of the Bible. People are no longer satisfied with rationalistic, linear arguments for deity. The smorgasbord of religions puts all beliefs on an equal plane. Dialogue is replacing monologue. Personal testimony is replacing "canned" presentations.

Single adults do evangelism the same way married adults do—through relationships. God has placed certain people in your daily path: neighbors, people you work with, people you work out with, or those with whom you do business. At least a few of those are ready to hear the good news. They're waiting for you to develop a relationship with them so they can cross the bridge of faith to find a relationship with Christ.

Trust is developed over time. When you prove yourself trustworthy, others will be drawn to the source of your peace, love and joy. Others may not be so ready. Prayer is the vehicle that gradually moves your friends and acquaintances from the "not so ready" to the "ready" category.

"Come and see" also is a hint that you can use events to reach people for Christ. You can host informal events such as a barbecue in your home, working with other Christians in your network to reach out to those who are not yet Christians. And you can invite them to "big events" such as the Franklin Graham Festival 2000, coming to Rupp Arena in Lexington, Oct. 13-15. Take advantage of every opportunity to touch your world for Christ.—James Stillwell

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



## What were Roman Catholic leaders thinking?

It's right there in black and white for all the world to see. The recent "Declaration on the Unicity and Salvific Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church" by Roman Catholic Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger claims that the New Testament church established by Christ "continues to exist fully only in the Catholic Church."

Labeling all other Christian denominations "defective," the document declares that non-Catholic congregations "are not churches in the proper sense." While acknowledging that Christians who are baptized into other denominations are "incorporated in Christ and thus are in a certain communion, albeit imperfect, with the Church," the statement insists that the Catholic Church is "the instrument for the salvation of all humanity."

And this isn't just any Roman Catholic leader's view. Ratzinger's statement was ratified and confirmed by Pope John Paul II. So much for ecumenical dialogue and cooperation.

While Southern Baptists leaders have drawn criticism in recent months for efforts to evangelize Jews, Hindus and Muslims, there is a significant difference between declaring the absolute truth of the Christian gospel and claiming that role for a particular denomination.

Even statements within the Catholic document are contradictory. On the positive side, Ratzinger cites Christ's words in John 14:6 that He is "the way, the truth and the life." Several pages later, however, he declares, "It must be firmly believed that 'the Church, a pilgrim now on earth, is necessary for salvation.'"

The entirety of John 14:6 paints a quite different picture. In addition to teaching He is "the way, the truth and the life," Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father but by Me." He didn't say "but by Me and the church" or "but by Me and a specific denomination" or "but my Me and any other criterion."

Christ's words are unequivocal. Salvation comes through personal faith in Him alone. That is why Southern Baptists are willing to take part in ecumenical ministry efforts. Among Christians who believe in salva-

tion by faith alone through Christ alone, there is room to accept other doctrinal differences and still cooperate for the sake of the gospel.

Statements that seek to elevate one denomination to a superior position at the expense of others serve only to damage interdenominational interaction. Certainly members of any denomination believe their doctrines and practices are closely aligned with Scripture, but that doesn't mean they have an exclusive corner on biblical revelation.

Granted, there are those who eschew any ecumenical involvement, preferring to carefully guard their own doctrinal distinctives. While some Baptists have that tendency, there also has been ongoing dialogue between Baptist and Catholic leaders in recent years.

A report released last year detailed the findings of a five-year "conversation" between Southern Baptist and Roman Catholic representatives. The study noted that while both groups share a deep appreciation for Scripture, they hold vastly different beliefs on foundational issues of the Bible's nature, authority and role in the Christian faith. That is

to be expected.

But statements like Ratzinger's serve to stifle cooperation between Catholics and Baptists as well as other Christian denominations. Episcopal priest Tom Ehrich, a columnist for Religion News Service, said the Vatican's pronouncement "is so pathetic it seems cruel even to notice it." He called the document a "glimpse into a dark side of Christianity."

By contrast, Catholic priest Frank Ruff acknowledged that the Catholic view of a universal church is "not something most evangelicals share with Catholics." He suggested, however, that conservative evangelicals should rejoice in the statement's "clear and strong proclamation that Jesus is the only way to salvation."

Affirmation of that truth gives hope for future dialogue among diverse denominations. But the message of eternal salvation through Jesus Christ—plus nothing—must remain central.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Language ministry touches lives in need

By Bob Allen

*"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)*

A growing number of refugees from Central America are arriving daily in Northern Kentucky and the greater Cincinnati area as well as other regions of Kentucky.

Many come from desperate situations, seeking a better way of life. Many leave families behind for years at a time to come to the United States to work to provide money and food for their families.

Kentucky Baptists have a tremendous opportunity to minister and demonstrate the love of God in very real ways through language ministries.

Many new immigrants come to the United States with little or no English-speaking ability, no money and no transportation. Many need medical care and inexpensive places to stay. Many just need a friend to help and care for them. The needs are extensive. There

are numerous opportunities not only to share the gospel with our words but also with our lives. God is calling people to become involved in various ways, but so many more volunteers are needed.

The Spanish Baptist mission of Highland Avenue Baptist Church in Cincinnati, which ministers to Spanish-speaking people both in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, is among language works seeking to make a spiritual impact. The mission, which organized about three years ago, averages nearly 50 people in worship each Sunday. Ongoing outreach

activities include trips to baseball games, festivals, local attractions and picnics.

The mission currently is seeking a location for a ministry center. Many men leave their families behind when they come to the States and need a place to find friendship and encouragement. Spanish-language ministry sites offer an opportunity for immigrants to receive basic needs and talk with Christians who love and care for them and can share the love and hope of Christ in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Many immigrants don't have trans-

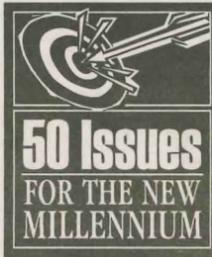
portation so language ministry sites need to be centrally located and easily accessible. Members and volunteers must be willing to go where God leads in order to reach as many people in need as possible.

While many language ministries throughout the state face overwhelming personal human needs, through God all things are possible. God is faithful to bring people to ministry sites who are looking for a better way, providing numerous opportunities to touch lives in a very personal way.

More than money or resources, the greatest need in language ministry is personal involvement. God always can use a willing, obedient heart. Being able to speak a different language is not a prerequisite. People who speak English can teach English. Many ministry centers provide food, clothing and other resources that volunteers can help distribute. Transportation, interpretation and personal concern also are badly needed.

Many people come to our nation weary and tired. Language ministry provides a tremendous opportunity for concerned Christians to help meet physical and spiritual needs by giving of our time.

Bob Allen is a church planter apprentice in Northern Kentucky with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board



# BAPTISTS

## Southern Seminary journal cites 'open theism' as false doctrine

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A group of theologians are recreating God in their own image. That is the conclusion of writers in the Summer 2000 edition of the "Southern Baptist Journal of Theology," the theological journal of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The journal's subject is "Suffering and the Sovereignty of God," and three of the essays deal with open theism. The debate has been fueled by the recent release of "God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God," a book by open theist and Bethel College professor Greg Boyd.

According to the journal, open theists believe God is ignorant of future events, is impotent in the face of evil and sometimes repents for being unable to control His creation.

Journal editor Thomas Schreiner, a New Testament professor at Southern, noted, "Some openness theologians claim to be radical biblical literalists, contending that traditional evangelicals have failed to interpret the Scriptures in accord with its most likely meaning. Hence, open theists insist that when Scripture says, 'God repents,' the text means exactly what it says. God really and truly changes His mind. This claim should be examined seriously since we are summoned to review our hermeneutical approach. The biblical strength of their view, however, is exaggerated."

Schreiner wrote that open theists "see another advantage in their paradigm, namely, God is not responsible for suffering we experience, for He did not know or ordain that it would occur. ... Open theists think that one of the great advantages of this new paradigm is that it solves the problem of evil."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **European journal launched.** An international Baptist seminary in the Czech Republic is introducing a new journal on Baptists in Europe. The "Journal of European Baptist Studies" will be published by the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, an institution owned by the European Baptist Federation. "In the past 10 years there have been massive changes in Europe," said Ian Randall, the seminary's academic dean who edited the first issue. "This journal will have as one of its concerns a European-wide dialogue between Baptists and others which will engage the different traditions from which we draw—Eastern, Central, Southern and Western European." The journal will be published three times a year.

■ **Chapel hosts homosexual union.** A controversial homosexual commitment ceremony was held Sept. 9 in North Carolina at Wake Forest University's Wait Chapel despite the objections of university trustees. Richard Groves, senior pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, was one of six ministers who officiated at the non-binding ceremony for lesbians Wendy Scott and Susan Parker.

Parker, 42, is a second-year student at Wake Forest Divinity School. A spokesman for the university said the church has no ties to the school and simply uses the chapel for worship services. Although trustees asked the church not to use the chapel for such ceremonies, the spokesman added that "the university made it clear that it would not interfere with church ceremonies and practices."

■ **Plan aids "secured" investors.** A disagreement has been tentatively resolved over how to divide Baptist Foundation of Arizona assets between two classes of investors. The dispute in the failed foundation's bankruptcy case concerned whether investors whose money was classified "secured" would be entitled to more money than investors whose investments were unsecured. Under the terms of the settlement, creditors holding what were offered as secured investments will receive a premium of \$13.2 million in addition to the funds all investors will receive on a pro rata basis. If the assets sell for the \$240 million that has been estimated, secured investors will recover about 44 cents for every dollar they invested, while unsecured

investors will receive about 31 cents for every dollar invested.

■ **Lessons examine "BF&M."** The Baptist Center for Ethics, a moderate Baptist ethics agency in Nashville, has launched online Sunday school lessons addressing recent changes to the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message statement. The agency posted the 13-week course, "Real Baptists: Spotting Changes in the Baptist Faith and Message," on its Web site, [www.baptists4ethics.com](http://www.baptists4ethics.com). Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, are among the writers.

■ **VBS adventure unveiled.** LifeWay Christian Resources' 2001 vacation Bible school curriculum will focus on "Truth Trackers and the Secret of the Stone Tablets." It will take participants through the deserts of Egypt and the Middle East on an archaeological expedition in search of the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments. Information is available at [www.lifeway.com/yourvbs](http://www.lifeway.com/yourvbs).

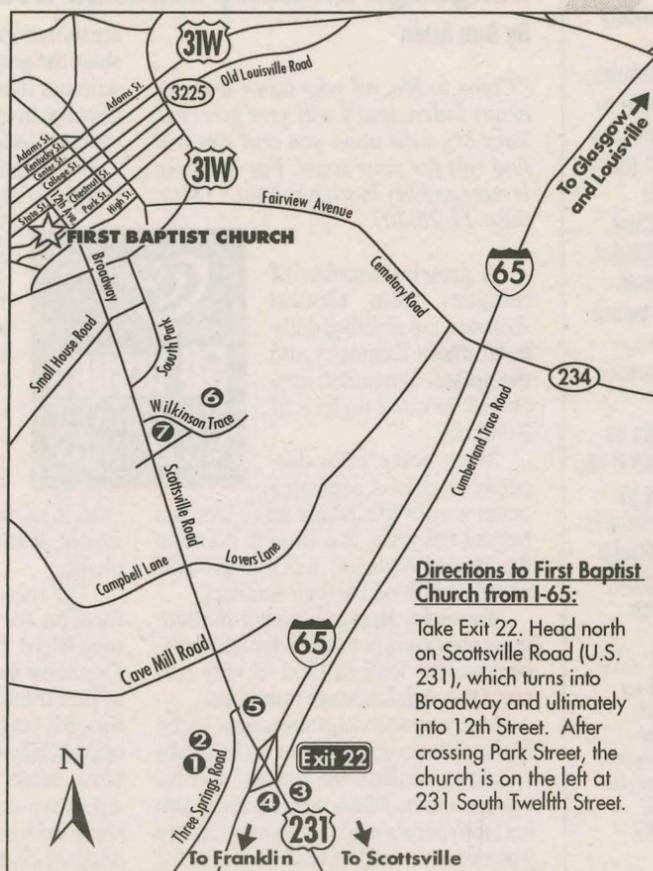
# PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

**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.



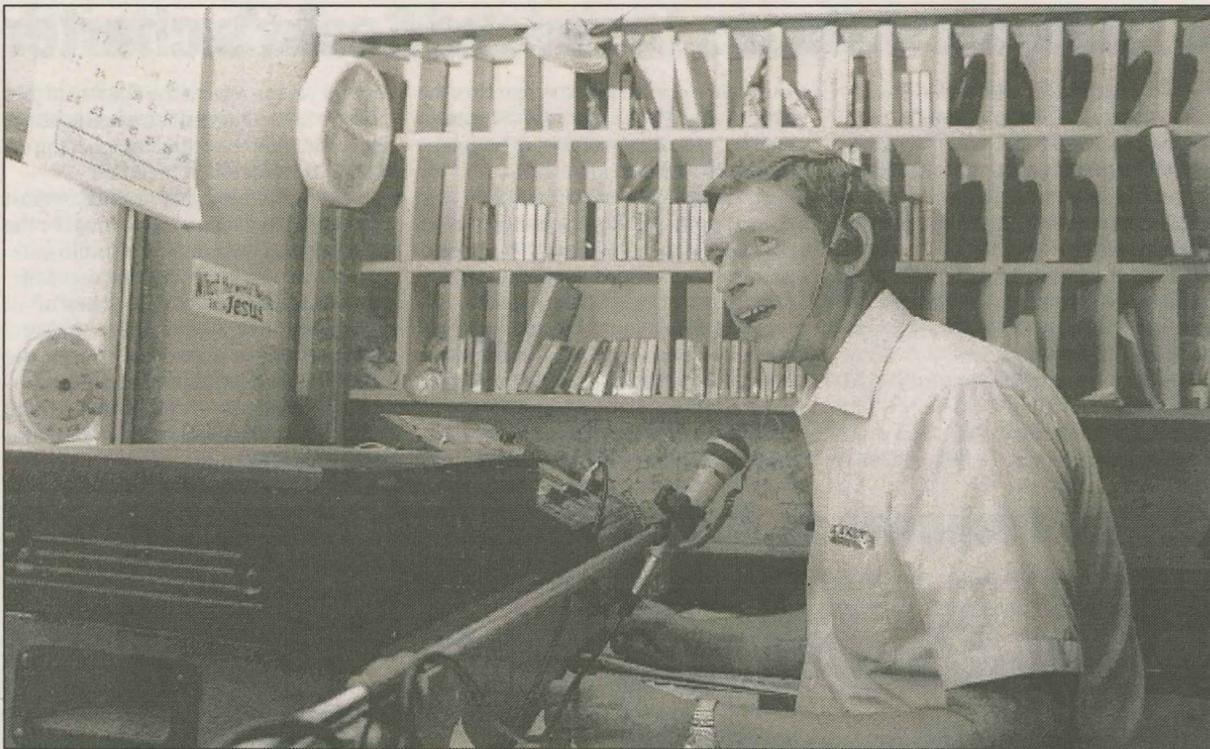
For more information, contact Denise Withers by phone at 502.245.4101 X212 or e-mail at [Denise-Withers@kybaptist.org](mailto:Denise-Withers@kybaptist.org)



## 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



**BROADCASTING GOOD NEWS** Cedaridge Ministries President Keith Decker promotes the clothes store, food distribution and home repairs through a radio program five days a week. Decker receives prayer support and training as a Mission Service Corps volunteer through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "Ever since I was a young kid, I wanted to be a missionary, but I never dreamed of being a missionary at home," he said.

## Cedaridge fights hunger in Williamsburg

Continued from page 1

was trying to help area churches buy a youth center. Monthly youth rallies were attracting more than 300 teenagers, and about 40 churches wanted to purchase a recently closed school building, Decker recalled.

About that time, Decker, who was young's ministry director for Mount Zion Baptist Association, was laid off from his job. Director of Missions Janus Jones encouraged Decker to organize a rummage sale to raise funds.

"The more he sold, the more he got," Jones recalled. "When the yard sale was over, he brought back more than he took."

Decker continued to sell the goods by opening a thrift store in the association's office basement, Jones said. "But it got so big, he went over and rented a storefront."

It has continued to grow in size, relocating several times. By meeting those people who were coming for the low-cost clothes and other items, Decker saw the need for Cedaridge. "We had no idea that rummage sale would become a ministry all its own," he said.

One day Decker overheard a man talk about a shipment of bananas that went to waste. Decker mentioned that he could have given them away in no time.

"I'd never seen a semi-load of bananas, but I knew one thing: I wasn't going to let people go hungry if I had the food in hand," he said.

About three days later, a truck showed up with bananas. For three hours volunteers unloaded the truck by hand. "Within six hours, they were gone."

Decker's approach to fighting hunger is based on one simple premise: If someone in your family is hungry, you'd help. And if someone at your church is hungry, you'd help.

There's only one more step, and that's the community," he said. "Those communities are filled with people who go to churches."

But more than fighting hunger, Decker tells families he wants to make sure they aren't in a desperate state again. "And the only way we can guarantee you won't be in this situation again is you've got to put your trust in a higher power than us."

A wood plaque behind his desk reads, "God shall supply all your needs."

Decker knows how to share hope with the hopeless, and his approach is that of someone who has walked a mile in their shoes.

At age 16, Decker found himself homeless, depending on the charity of area residents who were willing to take him in. "I was raised more by other people than I was by my own family," he said. Before he graduated high school, he had lived with seven different families other than his own, he said.

"God was using those people to prepare me for the job that I was going to be doing later in life," he said.

He recalled a visit to the grocery store where he spent all his money on food. The clerk handed him back a penny and told him that as long as he didn't spend his last penny he wouldn't be broke. Today he uses that same line with families in need, trying to inspire the same hope that clerk gave to him.

Decker said God continued to grow him in order to accept each challenge or opportunity that has come to the ministry.

"I don't feel any more pressure operating this ministry than I did when I was in the basement," he said. "Every time God gets ready to move Cedaridge into another level, there's always someone that we can call on as a resource."

Like when the new building needed a sign and the owner of a sign company came in, unannounced, and asked if he could do something for the ministry.

Or when the ministry was ready to file its incorporation papers and one of the volunteers happened to be a legal secretary.

Or when a former coworker of Decker's asked if she could use her computer skills to set up a ministry Web site.

"Cedaridge belongs to the Lord," Decker said. "I'm just one person among many who gets to benefit from it."

## Radio show connects Cedaridge with Williamsburg community

WILLIAMSBURG—Five days a week at 8:30 a.m., Janus Jones sits by the phone, waiting for the call from WCTT-680 A.M.

For 15 minutes, the director of missions in Williamsburg becomes a radio announcer, mixing local announcements and "swap-shop" messages with Christian music. "Why don't you stay here with us if you can stand it at all?" he asks listeners.

"We've got church announcements and sell cars and dogs. We talk about food and weather, whatever comes to mind," Jones explains off-air. He laughs and shakes his head when asked if he ever thought his work with churches would land him behind a radio station's microphone.

The hand-written announcements aren't always the most coherent, Jones adds. "I had one recently that made it look like two beagles wanted to buy a television, until I read between the lines."

The program connects the ministry with the community, Jones notes. In addition to advertising the ministry's thrift shop, the show often tells of incoming food shipments or volunteer teams available to do work.

The radio show was an unexpected bonus when Cedaridge Ministries bought the former Bailey Country Store building in Williamsburg. For more than 50 years, Virgil Bailey's family hosted the program in its store building, according to Keith Decker, president of Cedaridge and radio co-host with Jones, broadcasting the second half of the 30-minute show.

The store, sometimes referred to as the Macys of Williamsburg, was an institution in town. One of the owner's original sons was ready to sell, but buying the building would be a bittersweet experience, Decker says. "I didn't want to be the one to close Bailey's store."

"People would come into this store, even if they didn't have any money," Decker explains. "When you walked into that door, there was someone who called, 'Howdy' to you and usually called you by name."

Talking with one of the Bailey's sons, however, Decker says he came to understand that it was time for Baileys to close and Cedaridge to continue the friendly relationship with residents.

"I got a feeling it was not going to be a closing but a continuation," he says. "It made me so proud then to, in a sense, combine Cedaridge's ministry with the work of their mom and dad."

The ministry now has its own building, but is in desperate need of a warehouse so it can distribute more food, Decker says.

In its last location, Cedaridge received and distributed more than 80 truckloads of food a year. Now there's barely a truckload each month.

But Decker is planning to build a new warehouse. Blueprints already have been designed, and a builder has been chosen. Decker is now working to raise the \$90,000 needed to build the building.

"I'm ready to start as soon as we get the first third of (the money)," he says.



**POTATO SACK RACE** Volunteers race to distribute 50-pound sacks of potatoes donated to Cedaridge Ministries. President Keith Decker says the organization needs a warehouse to be able to store and give away more food.

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## New study dispels stereotype of abusive evangelical parents

Continued from page 1

Protestant parenting is abusive and authoritarian," Wilcox said. "Our findings call into question those assertions and suggest that conservative Protestant parents have a neo-traditional style of parenting that may well be perfectly fine."

Wilcox and Bartkowski used "conservative Protestant" to encompass members of traditionally conservative churches, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God and other Pentecostal or independent churches.

Previous studies have shown that evangelical parents are more likely to spank their children, Wilcox noted.

But the new study showed that evangelical parents also are more likely to praise or otherwise show affection to their children.

Those two elements make up a distinctive evangelical method of parenting, he said.

While spanking does not necessarily translate into abusive parenting, Wilcox said yelling is just as important because parents who yell more are more likely to be physically abusive.

"There is a lot of affirmative parenting going on, and less yelling, and it suggests that this is not an abusive parenting style, and some of the accusations made against this subculture are, quite frankly, inaccurate," Wilcox said.

## U.S. House refuses to revoke Scout's charter

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Boy Scouts of America received a major show of support last week when the U.S. House of Representatives refused to revoke the organization's federal charter because of its policy regarding homosexuality.

Representatives voted 12-362, opposing a measure to revoke the group's charter because it does not allow gays as Scouts or Scout leaders.

Eleven Democrats and one Republican voted for the bill, offered by U.S. Rep. Lynne Woolsey, D-Calif. Republican leaders brought the bill to the floor

to showcase widespread support for the Scouts, and 50 Democrats refused to vote because they were upset with how Republicans handled the bill.

Woolsey, a former Girl Scout, said she supports the Boy Scouts but does not support the exclusion of homosexuals from membership and leadership positions.

"We're not saying the Boy Scouts are bad; we're saying that intolerance is bad," Woolsey said, according to Associated Press.

The legislation came after a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling earli-

er this year in which the court said that the Scouts, as a private organization, have the right to restrict membership in order to protect their message.

Conservative groups rallied against the bill, saying if passed, it would be the first step in a government effort to muzzle private organizations that do not accept homosexuality. "Churches of all denominations whose tenets condemn homosexuality should prepare for the next wave of harassment and government intimidation," said Lou Sheldon, chairman of the conservative Traditional Values Coalition.

## Disney responds to federal report on media violence

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (BP)—The Walt Disney Co. announced last week its ABC network will not accept R-rated movie commercials on any TV show airing before 9 p.m. Eastern time.

Disney's announcement came a day after the release of a Federal Trade Commission report that, while not mentioning specific companies by name, cited "evidence of marketing and media plans (in the entertainment industry) that expressly target children under 17."

The Disney/ABC announcement

primarily addresses "exceptions" to ABC's prior policy regarding commercials for R-rated movies, Disney spokesman John Dreyer told the New York Times.

"From now on," he said, "there will be no exceptions."

The Federal Trade Commission's study of the marketing of violent movies, music and video games to children was commissioned by President Clinton shortly after the massacre at Columbine High School in suburban Denver in April 1999.

Among TV networks in addition to

ABC, CBS declined comment to the New York Times on its policies.

NBC stated it does not accept commercials for R-rated films on any show with children comprising 30 percent or more of its audience, with an NBC official acknowledging that none of its shows have been affected by the restriction.

Fox officials stated that the network prohibits commercials for R-rated films on any show considered to be family oriented, including "The Simpsons" and "Malcolm in the Middle."



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reap a bountiful harvest.*

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Paducah, KY

**March 13-15, 2001**  
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church  
Knoxville, TN

**March 20-22, 2001**  
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## Clinton talks about debt relief during last prayer breakfast

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Clinton focused attention on international debt relief Sept. 14 during the last annual prayer breakfast in his term of office.

Speaking to more than 100 clergy and other religious leaders from a variety of faiths gathered at the White House, Clinton called alleviating the financial struggles of Third World countries—a stance that has gained widespread support this year from the religious community—“a moral issue.”

“I think that it is very much in the

interest of America to have big, large-scale debt relief if the countries that get the relief are committed to and held accountable to good governance and using the money not to build up military power but to invest in the human needs of their people,” the president said.

The wealth of America should propel its citizens to want to help others, Clinton told the gathering that included representatives of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Hindu and Sikh communities.

“I do not believe that a nation, anymore than a church, a synagogue, a mosque, a particular religious faith, can confine its compas-

sion and concern and commitment only within its borders, especially if you happen to be in the most fortunate country in the world,” Clinton said.

While Congress has supported forgiving bilateral debts—owed to the United States from poor countries—Clinton said it still needs to appropriate hundreds of millions of dollars for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative that would forgive multilateral debts due to organizations like the International Monetary Fund.

About 120 people packed the State Dining Room to hear the remarks from Clinton, who also called

on religious leaders' support for relieving health and education crises in nations across the globe.

The president urged them to help increase efforts to assist countries fighting AIDS and drug research companies developing vaccines for malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis, which he said are responsible for a quarter of the world's deaths each year. Financial assistance “ought to be an American obligation,” he said. “This is a serious global problem.”

Clinton also spoke of the need “to do more to universalize education so that everybody everywhere will be able to take advantage of what we're coming to take for granted.”



Dr. Richard Land

## First Baptist Church of Danville

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Dr. J. Timothy Mathis,  
Pastor

6:30 p.m., Monday, October 2, 2000



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Mission Action Praise Reports  
9:30 - 11:00 p.m. Mission Celebration

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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



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## NATIONAL NOTES

### House OKs adding gays, disabled to hate crimes list.

The U.S. House of Representatives approved Sept. 13 a nonbinding measure to expand hate crime legislation to include attacks against homosexuals and people with disabilities. The 232-192 vote called for the addition of crimes committed on the basis of sexual orientation, disability or gender to existing federal hate crimes laws, which afford protection for crimes motivated by a victim's race, color, national origin or religion. The House, which supported adding the amendment to a pending defense bill, followed the Senate, which approved the same amendment in June.

**Religious leaders seek visa program extension.** A coalition of Jewish, Catholic and Protestant religious leaders has asked Congress to permanently extend a visa program that allows foreign missionaries to enter the country on a short-term basis. The provision, passed originally as part of a 1990 immigration bill, has been reauthorized twice but will die Oct. 1 unless Congress votes to extend it. The “Mother Teresa Religious Worker Act of 1999” would permanently extend a program that allows up to 5,000 foreign religious workers to enter the U.S. each year on short-term projects.

**Nun, Hindu make history with prayers.** The U.S. House of Representatives welcomed the first Roman Catholic nun and Hindu to open the body with prayer during separate sessions last week. Sister Catherine Moran, a member of the Dominican Sisters in New Jersey for 55 years, served as guest chaplain and offered the opening prayer at the start of the Sept. 12 session. House Chaplain Daniel Coughlin said Moran was the first non-ordained woman to offer the opening prayer in the House. Hindu Venkatachalapathi Samuldrala opened the Sept. 14 session.

**Polygamist sect withdraws children from schools.** Nearly 1,100 children have been withdrawn from public schools in Colorado City and Hildale, Utah, after their parents were told by leaders of a fundamentalist polygamist sect to prepare for the end of the world. The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints broke away from the larger Mormon church in 1929, and members are said to still practice polygamy, which was disavowed by the mainstream church in 1890. The group has an estimated 6,000 to 12,000 members scattered throughout Utah and the West.

**Religious leaders urge support for shared Jerusalem.** The head of the nation's Roman Catholic bishops and many mainline Protestants leader have written to President Clinton to urge the sharing of Jerusalem between Jews and Muslims as the peace process slowly drags on. The Sept. 6 letter, signed by 15 religious leaders, commended Clinton's leadership in the peace talks but said his administration has not paid “adequate” attention to the concerns and interests of U.S. churches. The leaders said both Jews and Palestinians must be considered in control of Jerusalem, and that the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem is “illegal” and efforts to keep Palestinians out are “unacceptable and discriminatory.” No Baptists were among the document's signers.

## Here's the skinny on Christian diet author's controversy

By John W. Kennedy  
*Christianity Today*

### Ministry also faces employment questions

NASHVILLE—As if Gwen Shamblin didn't have enough problems, her Weigh Down weight-loss ministry also faces questions about its handling of employees in connection with Shamblin's theological views and membership at Remnant Fellowship.

Carney Hawkins says she worked for Shamblin and the Weigh Down Workshop for four years before her dismissal.

Hawkins said she was fired because of theological differences.

"Gwen and I had an ongoing discussion for several months trying to nail down what she believed and what she was saying," Hawkins said. "To the end, I knew that I couldn't keep my job. She told me I couldn't embrace the message of grace and then she fired me."

"The problem I had is that I came to her in love with questions about what she was teaching," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said she wanted to talk to the staff before leaving, but Shamblin gave orders for no one to associate with her.

"Anyone who leaves is labeled a devil," Hawkins said. "She orders them not to speak or fellowship with those who leave the ministry. There is a spirit of fear."

Hawkins said the atmosphere at Weigh Down is extremely difficult: "It's very exclusive. There is a lot of fear and there is a lot of redefining of scriptural terms."

At least 40 employees either have been fired or resigned since Jan. 1, according to an anonymous source inside Weigh Down. Hawkins said employees are urged to leave their churches and join Remnant Fellowship, where Shamblin's husband is pastor.

NASHVILLE—A weight-loss program that has been criticized for its controversial health practices now is drawing fire for the questionable theological views of its leader, whose publisher has shelved plans for her next book.

Christians earlier had found fault with the Weigh Down Diet because it places no restrictions on what types of foods participants may eat. Apologists and church leaders now are asking whether founder Gwen Shamblin holds heretical views of the Trinity, based on her comments on the Weigh Down Web site.

Since 1992, Shamblin has taken her business from a garage start-up to a multimillion-dollar Nashville corporation. Her 1997 book "The Weigh Down Diet" has sold more than 1 million copies. Approximately 30,000 Weigh Down workshops meet weekly around the world, including in thousands of evangelical churches.

The controversy intensified after Shamblin posted a weekly e-mail communique to her followers on Aug. 10.

"As a ministry, we believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit," Shamblin wrote. "However, the Bible does not use the word 'trinity' and our feeling is that the word 'trinity' implies equality in leadership, or shared Lordship. It is clear that the Scriptures teach that Jesus is the Son of God and that God sends the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not send God anywhere. God is clearly the Head."

Since then, Shamblin has been removed from the Women of Faith Web site, several influential evangelical churches have dropped her program and some key employees

have left. Last week, Thomas Nelson Publishers canceled publication of Shamblin's new book, "Out of Egypt," scheduled to ship to bookstores in late September.

"Gwen has touched the lives of untold thousands of people," Michael Hyatt of Thomas Nelson said. "However, because of the recent controversy created by her doctrinal position we do not feel that we can go forward with this project."

Don Veinot Jr., president of the apologetics ministry Midwest Christian Outreach in Lombard, Ill., said he received more than two dozen inquiries about Shamblin from Weigh Down workers and coordinators after the Aug. 10 e-mail.

Veinot said he phoned Shamblin after reviewing the Web site, but he said the conversation only confirmed Shamblin's stance that the Trinity is unbiblical.

"When I asked about her statement that the Father and Son are two separate beings, her reply was 'absolutely,'" Veinot said. "Her views are closer to that of Jehovah's Witnesses than anything resembling the historic biblical faith."

Veinot said he believes Shamblin's religious beliefs avoided scrutiny for so long because of the subject matter she teaches. "Weight loss is not one of the high priorities in apologetics or counter-cult work."

"The material on the Web site makes a distinction between the Father and Son that is heretical," Veinot said. "She is clearly anti-Trinitarian."

In the same Aug. 10 e-mail—which has since been deleted from the Web site—Shamblin tells followers that Christians grieve Jesus if they adhere to doctrines not found in Scripture. "If God wanted us to refer to Himself, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as the 'trinity,' He would

not have left this word completely out of the Bible."

"There are a lot of words that contain biblical concepts that are not in the Bible," Veinot noted. "The word 'Bible' is not in the Bible."

Thomas Oden, professor of theology and ethics at Drew University and former senior editor of Christianity Today, agreed that such a literal argument is ridiculous. He noted that the word evangelism is not in the Bible, yet no serious Christian would deny its validity.

Shamblin said she does not see what all the fuss is about, and that many ministers—from Baptists to Episcopalians—have called to sup-

port her. Pastors who have closed the program down are ineffective because there are other congregations down the street where it is being held, she says.

"A few people have been on a witch hunt in the last month," Shamblin said.

Craig Branch, director of Apologetics Resource Center in Birmingham, Ala., said the weekly messages that Shamblin has written on the Weigh Down Web site reflect her Church of Christ background, which he said historically has had an ambiguous view of the Trinity.

With additional reporting by Todd Starnes of Baptist Press

### SEEKING: ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR MUSIC AND SENIOR ADULTS

The First Baptist Church of North Kansas City is searching for a full-time Associate Pastor for Music and Senior Adults. The Church does two blended services of contemporary and traditional elements on Sunday morning. We have an instrumental band that accompanies worship and adult ensemble groups. We have an age-graded choir program. Resumes and recommendations should be submitted to: Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 2205 Iron Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116.

### Collegiate ministry

Now that I am the parent of a college freshman, I have a greater appreciation for our Kentucky Baptist collegiate ministry, Baptist Student Union.

Recently on the day our son, Justin, arrived on campus to move into the dorm, guess who was the first person to greet him? You got it, a student from the BSU. Not only did this student greet him, but also others from the BSU helped him move into the dorm. What an answer to prayer! The first new friends Justin made were from the BSU.

During his years as KBC Executive Secretary, Frank Owen instilled in me as the KBC business manager an appreciation for the value of our statewide student ministry and the importance of resourcing it with money, campus ministers and facilities. He demonstrated his commitment by leading Kentucky Baptists to acquire property and construct Baptist student centers on a number of college campuses.

I had the privilege of serving on the KBC staff for 25 years with student ministry leaders like J. Chester Durham, Don Blaylock, Ralph Hopkins, Tom Smoot and dozens of campus ministers. They contributed greatly to the growth and ef-

fectiveness of the student ministry we have today on 45 campuses.

Across the years I have seen and heard many times how student ministry has impacted the lives of students. Now my son will be not only a beneficiary of this wonderful legacy, but he also will have the opportunity to extend this ministry to others as he becomes involved in the many service opportunities of BSU.

Perhaps you would be interested in perpetuating this ministry by making an endowment gift of cash, stock, real estate, life insurance or a bequest in your will or revocable living trust.

Another option may be a life-income gift like a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust from which you receive a lifetime of income, and the remainder at your death flows into an endowment.

Perhaps you are a BSU "alum" and would like to direct your endowment gift to a particular BSU. Call us toll-free for information on how to make a lasting difference through a BSU endowment gift.

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

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Barry Allen

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CHRISTIAN STORES

## Disney's planned community makes room for church

By Mark Pinsky  
Orlando Sentinel

CELEBRATION, Fla.—Like a new theme park attraction, the first church built in Celebration has gotten a "soft" opening.

The first service at Community Presbyterian Church's sanctuary was Aug. 20, after weeks of frustrating

construction delays but well before last Sunday's dedication.

It took until then, church officials said, to work all the bugs out of the high-tech house of worship. Until mid-August, the congregation had been meeting at a local movie theater.

When ground was broken on the two-acre downtown site in October, Patrick Wrisley, the congregation's

minister, proclaimed: "The kingdom of God has been planted in the shadow of the Magic Kingdom."

The church is historic in ways that extend beyond Celebration, a planned community built by the Walt Disney Co.

At Disney theme parks around the world, Main Street, USA, is meant to embody all the elements of a small, Midwestern town a century ago: dry goods store, fruit stand, ice cream parlor, theater, fire station, railroad station and town hall. The only thing missing from this idyllic tableau is a church.

In a sense, Main Street's missing element has been filled with Community Presbyterian Church.

The \$3 million structure on Celebration Avenue was built with a \$300,000 gift from Dorothy Puder, a niece of Walt and Roy Disney, and her husband, Glenn, a retired Presbyterian minister, who live in Bakersfield, Calif.

Ironically, Celebration planners envisioned a white, clapboard church that would have been at home on Disney's Main Street. But the pastor and the congregation had other ideas, opting for what they call a "post-modern church."

"We wanted to take the best of the classical element of church architecture and blend them with the best technology of tomorrow," said Wrisley, 40.

Disney officials, including Chairman Michael Eisner, approved the de-

sign. The structure includes a traditional steeple with a 126-year-old bell salvaged from a rural church in Iowa.

Wrisley said planning for the church was not "micromanaged" by Disney officials, who agreed to share town parking with the congregation on Sundays.

"They've been very helpful and supportive," he said. "I can't slam them. They've been some of our biggest cheerleaders."

Inside the 21,000-square-foot church, there will be razzle-dazzle worthy of a Disney attraction. The 450-seat sanctuary is as well equipped for audiovisual effects as a Broadway theater: 32 channels of sound and 73 channels of lighting, plus a high-speed Internet connection with eight workstations.

"We wanted to build a church that engaged the senses," Wrisley said. But the road to the new church has not been entirely smooth.

Original plans called for an \$11 million facility, but that was scaled back because church planners realized it was too ambitious.

Delays extended the time the congregation had to make do without a permanent home, but the minister was undaunted. While waiting for the facility to open, the congregation published a cookbook.

The congregation has about 300 adult members, a third of whom come from outside Celebration to worship, Wrisley said.

"The church isn't the building, it's the people who gather," he said.

**"I can't slam them (Disney). They've been some of our biggest cheerleaders."**

*Patrick Wrisley, pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of Celebration, Fla.*

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Fort Thomas, KY 41075  
(859) 441-0442

### Mountain Outreach achievements

By Robert Dunston

During the next few months you will read what many of our Cumberland College students accomplished through summer missions. Their dedication inspires all of us, and their experiences already have enriched our campus.

This column focuses on the summer achievements of one Cumberland College ministry that has blessed our community and campus for many years.

Mountain Outreach built four homes this summer, bringing the total number of homes constructed to 92. Eight students coordinated the program this summer under the supervision of Jane Whitaker, director of Mountain Outreach, and Ed Woods, construction coordinator.

Our student missionaries were Ernie Freeman, Ryan Foulk, Jon Lee, Terry Lewis, Heather Murphree, Stephanie Petz, David Riggs and Tracy Welsh.

These students could not have done the work alone. Thirteen Baptist churches assisted in the building of the homes. Participating churches were: Bethel Baptist of Danville, Ill.; Buffat Heights of Knoxville, Tenn.; Callie Self Me-

morial of Greenwood, S.C.; Clemons Baptist of Clemons, N.C.; College Park of Winston-Salem, N.C.; First Baptist of Atmore, Ala.; First Baptist of Moultrie, Ga.; First Baptist of Richmond, Ky.; Lake Highlands of Dallas; Marbledale of Mascot, Tenn.; New Hope of Mauldin, S.C.; Trinity of South Haven, Miss.; and Weatherly Heights of Huntsville, Ala.

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



In addition to our student summer missionaries and dedicated workers from the 13 Baptist churches, an Elderhostel group also spent a week working on one of the homes.

The work of students and volunteers this summer enabled four additional families to enjoy new homes and to see God at work in their lives. Mountain Outreach already is planning for next summer. We look forward to next summer.

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

### Come See The Kids This Fall



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children invites you to any of three open houses this fall! Enjoy games, entertainment, tours and a complimentary lunch. Call 1-800-456-1386 a week before the event you want to attend to let us know how many are in your party. That will help us in meal preparation.

**Sept. 23**

**Southern Region Campus, Bronston**

**Oct. 7**

**KBHC Dixon Center, Dixon**

**Oct. 14**

**Glen Dale Children's Home, Glendale**

*all events are from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., local time*

## Southern professor's book grapples with bioethics

By Bryan Cribb  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—In vitro fertilization, stem cell research, cloning and genetic engineering might seem strange, mysterious and straight out of a futuristic movie.

But in the constantly changing world of bioethics, issues like these have become increasingly prominent and pressing.

A professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville is attempting to help Christians address such topics. Through a recently released book and an Internet column, William Cutrer is providing a means for Christians to digest and respond to modern bioethical issues.

"My strong encouragement would be to don't speak first and understand later," said Cutrer, the C. Edward Gheens associate professor of Christian ministry. The issues aren't so complex that the average, well-read Christian can't understand them and articulate a position, he said.

To help with that, he and Sarah Glahn are producing a biweekly column on the Christian Internet site, *ibelieve.com*.

"I think there are some things that we can support, and there are some things that we can adamantly stand against. But we better know what it's about or we'll come off looking unintelligent, uninformed, out-of-step," he said.

Cutrer and Glahn also have penned a novel whose story addresses some of the ethical questions of the day. Categorized as a medical techno-thriller, "Lethal Harvest" bases its plot on

issues such as cloning and genetic engineering.

The story follows the lives of a journalist, her husband and two doctors in a clinic as they try to sort through an unexpected death, some unusual research findings and some complicated relationships.

Some of the scenes are derived directly from real cases that Cutrer, a licensed obstetrician, has handled throughout his years of medical practice.

Other scenes and issues in the book were based on forecasts of future medical technology. Yet, even in the year's writing time, many of those prophecies already are being fulfilled, he said.

"We tried to project ahead as to where the science would be and guessed pretty well," Cutrer said.

For instance, the cloning techniques being predicted more than a year ago were still seemingly far off. But while human cloning has not been successful yet and is still illegal, Cutrer said he doesn't doubt that there are people somewhere in the world who are trying.

"I hope people enjoy the characters," Cutrer said of the book. "But I hope that doesn't cover the fact that they are dealing with some real-life crisis issues that aren't out of the realm of possibility in the next few months."

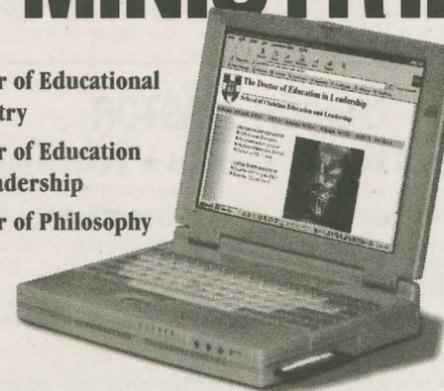
Christian themes are strong throughout the novel, Cutrer said. Yet, he added that he hopes the book will prove accessible and enjoyable to non-Christians as well.

"It's the kind of book that we want Christians to be able to give their friends because it's a good read," he said. "But you will see the gospel laid out clearly and decision-making and consequences."

## Christian Education and Leadership

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## They come in all shapes and sizes, part 3

In the past two weeks I have told you about several new boys who have enrolled for the fall term. You might have wondered why I did not include any girls. It was not an oversight; I wanted to group them separately.

"Beverly" enrolled as a seventh-grader and is from Kentucky. She is from a broken home but does live with her father and stepmother. Beverly has wanted to come to Oneida Baptist Institute ever since her sister came here a year ago. Her sister has done really well and loves being at OBI. She especially enjoys our agriculture program. Beverly has been a little irresponsible, and her father believes she needs to learn to make better decisions. He also thinks she could do much better academically, though her grades were about average. Beverly's parents, like many others, believe she watches too much TV and is a little lazy when it comes to helping with chores.

Beverly does not like to read and has had difficulties in math. Her conduct at school is good, and she gets along well with peers. When we asked Beverly about her two most important goals in coming to Oneida, she said she wanted to make better grades and be a better Christian.

"Cassidy" is from way out west and is another middle school student. She had been in a private school, but was not getting the education her parents wanted her to have. Cassidy did not always do what she was told. She did her chores well and was not one to argue with her parents. Other than not doing as well as her parents wanted her to do academically, she was a good student and got along well with teachers and peers.

Cassidy is on our volleyball team, and I was really impressed with her ability when she and several other girls on the team recently played our faculty and staff. She told us her two main goals at Oneida were to learn to listen better and to be a better person. We believe she will do really well here.

"Allison" is from Kentucky and is in high school. She is from a broken home and was excited about coming to Oneida after a teacher told her about our school. Allison said she was having a hard time in school. She could be "mouthy" at times and was easily influenced by her peers to do the wrong things. She did not like going to school, so it was a daily challenge to get her to go.

At home, Allison was not minding her mother and insisted on "doing things her way." She was "argumentative" and sometimes would run away. On the positive side, she did her chores well. When asked what two important goals she most wanted to accomplish at Oneida, she said she wanted to learn responsibility and coping skills.

Another new high school student is "Stacey," also from Kentucky. Like many of our students, Stacey was having problems in her old school. Her grades were fair to poor. There was a lot of disrespect at home, and Stacey did not like to be told what to do. She picked on her younger siblings and had been making many poor choices. She told us she wanted to "learn to keep her mouth shut and to control her temper." I believe both Stacey and our staff have their work cut out for them!

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## A rare stewardship decision

Alvis Johnson started employment with Ford Motor Co. in the 1920s. A plant equipment accident tore his arm off, and the settlement was a lifetime job with the company.

He never thought he had a handicap and could tie a tie and his shoes with one hand. With retirement in 1961, he and his wife Mae moved to Tennessee. They had no children, and when Alvis died Mae's nephew, Horace Graves, helped to look after her affairs.

When Mae died in 1999, Horace became the sole beneficiary of her estate.

"I wasn't any more entitled to her estate than the other nieces or nephews. Rightfully and legally it was mine, but I prayed about it," Horace said. "One day Clear Creek came to my mind, and the Lord directed me to establish a fund with the estate proceeds so that the interest will come to Clear Creek for student scholarships. There are lots of things I would like to do, but one thing I can do is give my money to God. He is so good to me."

Horace and Frances Graves became aware of Clear Creek in 1981 when their son-in-law, Steve

Deaver, left a good management job with Borg-Warner and moved to Clear Creek for ministry studies. Steve is now one of our newest faculty members and director of Christian service.

His wife, Ellen, was 14 years old when her mom married Horace. "I loved those girls and would walk the floor until they came in from a date. I didn't want Ellen to marry and that day was one of the worst days for me," Horace recalls with a smile. "Now I see how blessed they are with a Christian marriage and a good work at Clear Creek."

Ellen is secretary in the Christian service office. The couple moved to campus in June and reside in Mahon Apartments. Steve expects to complete a doctor of ministry degree at Southern Seminary in May.

Next year the Alvis and Mae Johnson Scholarship Fund will help Clear Creek students. This is an appropriate memorial and reflects a rare stewardship decision.

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Strategy helps start churches through Bible studies

By Erin Curry  
SBC International Mission Board

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP)—When Bill Davis traveled to Romania in 1994, he was distressed to see hundreds of Romanians profess faith in Jesus and be left with no evangelical ministry to help them grow.

His solution: mobilize Romanian churches to multiply their Bible teaching ministries into communities without an evangelical witness.

Davis, a retired Southern Baptist pastor and home missionary, founded "The Church on the March."

The program became the focus of a new organization, Church Starts International, which challenges churches to make disciples of new believers and teach them to disciple others.

The goal of each Church on the March campaign is to teach at least twice as many non-Christians weekly in the community as a congrega-

tion teaches in its Sunday school.

Davis talked to Romanian Baptist pastors and seminary students about the idea of using outreach Bible study classes to start churches in communities in need of Christian witness.

The president of the Romanian Baptist Union gave Davis the names of seven communities in southeastern Romania that had the greatest need of a Baptist church.

Within a year, Baptist congregations had been started in each of the seven cities, plus one more.

Davis then recruited ministry teams from the United States to help them establish more churches. They reached their goal of 28 new churches.

"We found that traditional American evangelistic methods were counterproductive in conservative Orthodox villages where the priest is the maximum authority," said Ted Lindwall, a retired Southern Baptist

missionary to Guatemala who now works with CSI.

As a result, the organization learned how to quietly win and train new believers without attracting opposition from local religious leaders.

Because Church Starts International partners Southern Baptist missionaries with specific Southern Baptist churches and coordinates projects through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, all materials and services are offered without charge.

The organization operates on five basic principles:

■ Every community in the world deserves a New Testament church.

■ Baptist churches overseas and in the United States are called to establish partnerships in planting new churches.

■ CSI and the churches it enlists work exclusively through the IMB.

■ Baptist churches should be able to correctly train and send their own

church-starting teams.

■ IMB missionaries should receive every kind of assistance to help them start Baptist churches in every nation and people group.

Church Starts International has spread beyond Romania. Now it trains pastors in Moldova and church members in Guatemala.

Approximately half of Guatemala's Spanish-speaking churches are in the CSI program, offering discipleship training to thousands of people every week.

"Traditional evangelical practice says, 'Come to church and we will disciple you.' The Church on the March goes out into the community to meet directly in lost homes," Lindwall said.

"We have seen that it is not at all impossible to teach four times as many," Lindwall said.

For information about Church Starts International, write Box 177, Henrietta, TX 76365, or contact Davis at billdavis@churchstarts.com.

**The goal of each "Church on the March" campaign is to teach at least twice as many non-Christians weekly in the community as a congregation teaches in its Sunday school.**

## Tapes help missionaries reach nomadic Africans

By Erin Curry  
SBC International Mission Board

DAKAR, Senegal (BP)—Gospel audio tapes are helping share God's love in parts of West Africa with little or no access to Christian witness.

The "Laawol Peewal," or "Righteous Way," cassette series in the Pulaar language continues to be a vital tool for reaching the Fulbe Jeeri, the largest nomadic group in the world, according to missionaries.

More than 95 percent of the Fulbe Jeeri cannot read, so missionaries Ken and Donna Hills are distributing cassette tapes with the gospel in Pulaar, the Fulbe Jeeri language.

Not only is this method effective in sharing the gospel with those who can't read, it also is an efficient means of spreading God's Word because tapes can go where missionaries can't, the Hillses said.

Nearly 400,000 Fulbe Jeeri live in West Africa and few of them are Christians. Islam is the predominant

religion, though most Fulbe Jeeri practice folk Islam, a combination of orthodox Islam and ancient animistic beliefs and practices.

An open commitment to Christ often results in persecution.

Nevertheless, missionaries continue to hear of Fulbe Jeeri in new areas who are interested in knowing more about the gospel. Even with their traditional beliefs, many are captivated by the truth they hear and are ready to hear more, the Hillses reported.

Most recently, they learned of Fulbe Jeeri in Mali who are listening to "Laawol Peewal" cassettes that have made their way there.

The Hillses have worked to get the Old Testament on cassette, despite many obstacles.

In a non-literate society, "it is challenging to find someone who can read, is a believer, has time for the project and has a mature sounding voice," Mrs. Hills said. "But in spite of these difficulties, the Lord is getting this project accomplished."

The missionary couple first planned to use a more traditional approach to sharing the gospel, but when Hills received a request from a village chief for some cassette tapes, he knew the door was opening for a different kind of ministry.

Several groups with nearly 100 people gather in villages to listen to one cassette tape.

"The success of the tapes has been phenomenal. The people are thrilled to hear something in their own language. They tell us things like, 'When we are herding our cattle the stories come back to our hearts and speak to us,'" Mrs. Hills said.

They are working on an audio version of the "Jesus" film because in their area few people have electricity or televisions. Cassettes are much more efficient, and they don't need missionaries to play them.

They are also planning to develop cassettes of discipleship studies, leadership training materials and topical Bible studies for the Fulbe Jeeri who are eager to listen, learn and believe.

## Salvation Army changes rules regarding marriage of officers

LONDON (RNS)—The Salvation Army has relaxed the rules for its members to allow officers—including church pastors—to marry non-officers in "exceptional circumstances."

In an Aug. 28 letter to officers worldwide, the Salvation Army's top official, Gen. John Gowans, announced a series of changes to the Army's corps of 25,475 officers.

Officers, who serve as ordained ministers in local churches and service projects, had been required to marry a fellow Army officer in order to serve in the 135-year-old Protestant church. The marriage requirement, along with the distinctive uniforms and military-style structure, had been one of the Army's defining characteristics.

Gowans said that in "exceptional circumstances," officers will be allowed to be married to a non-officer, although Gowans did not say what "exceptional circumstances" might be.

Gowans was presented with a series of recommendations by an Army panel, and he said exceptions to the changes could be made, depending on the needs of local Army territories.

Gowans rejected a proposed short-term commitment of service in the Army. Currently, officers must commit to a lifelong term of service. He did, however, agree to allow Salvationists to serve an agreed-upon term of service with the title of lieutenant.

Traditionally, Army officers take a two-year training program and enter the Army with the rank of lieutenant. After serving for five years, lieutenants are promoted to captain. With the new change, the rank of captain will be the entry-level position.

"God raised up the Salvation Army for a purpose," Gowans said in a press release. "He gave it a mission. As I have reflected on each recommendation, my principal thought has been: Will acceptance of this recommendation help or hinder the Army's fulfillment of its God-given mission—in the world as a whole and in each particular part of it?"

Diane Winston, author of "Red-hot and Righteous: The Urban Religion of the Salvation Army," said the new rules may signal a change in strategy for the Army.

"Historically, the Army wanted officers to marry fellow officers so there would be harmony in the home as far as religious commitment," Winston said. "With two people united in both work and family matters, the Army knew it could count on its officer to remain true. A change in that system would suggest that headquarters believes it could recruit more officers under more relaxed guidelines."

## Church raises eyebrows with special Harry Potter event

GUILDFORD, England (RNS)—Evangelicals in England say a Guilford parish has gone "too far" when it transformed the Church of All Saints Sept. 3 into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for a special family service based on the Harry Potter books.

The church door was labeled Platform 9 1/2, the platform at the Kings Cross station from which the "Hogwarts Express" leaves, and the church's vicar, Brian Coleman, wore a wizard's robe and hat to play the part of Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts.

Coleman said the service followed the pattern laid down for a family service in the Church of England's liturgy and was drawn up by a member of the congregation, Mike Truman, whose 11-year-old son Mark took the part of Harry Potter.

The service ended with a game of "Quidditch"—a Harry Potter version of soccer, or at least as close as one could get without the aid of broomsticks, with worshippers hunting the golden snitch, a small flying ball.

Coleman emphasized that the service was not the usual fare offered at the church; each month the parish holds a family service built around a particular theme, and this time they were using a story very familiar to today's children to convey a Christian message.

"Any impression that we are designing a new thing to become the Hogwarts Church of England is quite false," he said. Magic was "an intrinsic part" of Europe's great storytelling tradition, and it was an invaluable means of stretching children's imaginations.

The service came under fire from

the Evangelical Alliance, whose spokesman, Paul Harris, said the church was "going too far" to use images from the Harry Potter books.

"There is a risk that children are going to be very confused by the use of symbols associated with evil," he said.

In another development related to Harry Potter, Rowling's books were among a list of the 100 titles adults most wanted removed from library shelves in the 1990s.

The book list was compiled and released in advance of the 20th annual Banned Books Week, which runs Sept. 23-30, according to Associated Press.

The American Library Association, the American Booksellers Association and the American Society of Journalists and Authors are among the sponsors.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ A positive adjustment for Missionary Journeymen Katie Schults and Lisa Watson, who arrived in Poland this month to serve for two years.

■ Literacy training programs and women's work across Tanzania.

■ Tanzanian home missionaries Paulo Amosi, Daniel Mahimbo, Boniface Kidede, Cosmas Kanunu and Fanuel Kiroka.

■ Strength and God's power for missionaries David and Diane Gray in Bosnia.

■ Wisdom for Pastor Bill Combs and the members of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Salem, Mass., as the small congregation tries to reach their community.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CALHOUN**—Calhoun Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sept. 24 with a service at 10:30 a.m., potluck lunch at 1 p.m. and concert featuring **Alma Randolph** and **Charlie Flener**. For information, call (502) 273-3645. **Richard Sams** is the pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church called **Troy Dobbs** as pastor. Dobbs was pastor of Main Street Church, Alexandria.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church called **Tim Perdue** as pastor. Perdue formerly was minister of music and youth at Northside Church, Princeton.

■ **FALLS OF ROUGH**—Falls of Rough Church pastor **George Tichenor** and his wife, **Delores**, will return Oct. 1 from a three-month mission trip to Lihue, Hawaii. **Roger Allen** is associate pastor.

■ **HAMPTON**—Hampton and Burna

Community churches voted to consolidate. The new congregation is named North Livingston Church. The first joint service will be held Oct. 1 at Hampton.

■ **LANCASTER**—Freedom Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary with homecoming Oct. 1. Former pastor **W.B. Casey** will preach, followed by an afternoon service at 2 p.m. **Ralph Shepperson** is the pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church called **Hal Lloyd** as associate pastor of music and youth beginning Oct. 15. **Phil Schultz** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—First Church called **Harold Mauney** as associate pastor. **Terry Lester** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Eighteenth Street Church will host **Dottie Rambo** in concert Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 778-3016 or (502) 449-1138. **Randall Constant** is pastor.

Riverside Church will host revival services Sept. 24-29 at 11 a.m. on the 24th and 7 p.m. nightly. **David Livingston** will be the evangelist. **Howard Roberts** is the pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church called **Stephen Rice** as pastor beginning Oct. 1. Rice formerly was pastor at First Church, Belfry.

### 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.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR RENT:** Vacation house, available year-round to Christian families. Weekly and monthly rates available. Four bedroom on Panama City Beach, one-half block from Gulf. For details, call First Baptist Church Panama City Beach, Fla., (850) 234-0488.

**FOR SALE:** 75 church pews in different lengths. Pews will be available Oct. 9 and 16. Please inquire at Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., Rev. Ken Atherton, (314) 739-1525.

**FOR SALE:** Excellent 39-passenger GMC model 4108 motor coach. Like brand-new inside and out—see to appreciate. Asking \$39,500. For photos or information, call (859) 278-7224 and leave message.

**FOR SALE:** Sharp 1986 Eagle model 15 motor coach. This 46-passenger coach is extremely nice and would make an excellent church bus. Asking \$69,500. Call (859) 278-7224.

**FOR SALE:** MCI model MC-7 motor coach. Previously church-owned. Would make excellent motor home conversion or gospel quartet bus. Call (859) 278-7224.

**FOR SALE:** 100-percent renovated house (Highlands). New plumbing, electrical, furnace/AC, windows, roof, tile floor, 3BR/2Bath. \$172,000. Open house Sunday. (502) 899-5353.

**FREE:** Shober electronic recital organ kit (partially assembled) available to a church in need. The kit is a two manual with full foot pedals. Kit includes cabinetry for organ and bench, but not for speakers. The kit is about one-half to two-thirds assembled. All directions and information is included. Any church interested my contact Quint Meek at (502) 863-5229 or mail to 405 E Main St., Georgetown, KY 40324. Letter of donation requested for tax purposes.

**SEEKING:** Pastor/church secretary. Applicants must have proficient computer skills, ability to perform administrative tasks, people skills and be willing to strictly adhere to the confidentiality of such a position. Applicants should send their resumes to Broadway Baptist Church, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207, Attn: Roger Lamb.

**SEEKING:** Youth minister. Music background a plus. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 670, Whitley City, KY 42653, Attn: Staff Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time worship/music pastor for urban congregation in Central Kentucky. Ministries include planning and leading blended worship services, directing and/or supervising church choirs, and serving as part of a pastoral team. Interested candidates should send a resumé to Memorial Baptist, 130 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Park Hills, Mo., is seeking a full-time minister of music and education to grow Bible study/discipleship training programs and diverse music ministry, including adult/children's choirs, orchestra, handbells and drama ministries. Send resumé by Oct. 6 to: Search Committee Chairman, First Baptist Church, PO Box 445, Park Hills, MO 63601.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Park Hills, Mo., is seeking a full-time youth/assistant music minister to lead and grow youth activities/ministry programs and assist minister of music and education in a complete and diverse music ministry, including adult/children's choirs, orchestra, handbells and drama programs. Send resumé by Oct. 6 to: Search Committee Chairman, First Baptist Church, PO Box 445, Park Hills, MO 63601.

## Theologian suggests Canada more Christian than America

VANCOUVER, British Columbia—Canadians might be considered more Christian than Americans, according to one of the premier Christian historians in North America.

Mark Noll, a professor at Wheaton College in Illinois who taught about Canadian Christianity this summer at Vancouver's Regent College, said religion is one of the things that most profoundly differentiates the two countries.

"Despite a national history without the ideology of special divine blessing, Canada has an even better objective argument for being considered a 'Christian nation' than does the United States," Noll said.

"The list of comparisons with the United States is striking. Canada didn't tolerate slavery, has not thrown its weight around in foreign adventures, has not done quite so poorly with its native Americans, has not puffed itself up with messianic pride and has tolerated much less social violence.

"Until very recently its (Canada's) rates of church attendance were considerably higher, its churches have had much or considerably more impact on

local public life, it has cared more humanely for the poor and weak members of its society, in part through public health care and its education structures make some provision for teaching religion. In other words, if believers want to find a more convincing history of 'Christian America,' they should look to Canada," he said.

The biggest religious difference, Noll said, is that Canadians never succumbed to the American ideology that they are God's chosen people.

The predominantly Christian settlers who spread out over Canada didn't claim a unique covenant with a Supreme Being even though they were until the 1960s far more devoted church attenders than Americans.

The second major religious contrast is that Catholicism has affected almost every strand of Canadian life, whereas evangelical Protestantism has reigned supreme in the United States, Noll said.

A third key historical difference is that, until the recent rise of the religious right, the connection between religion and the state has been arguably stronger in Canada than in the United States.

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

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

**SEEKING:** Minister of music/youth. Send resumé to Bethlehem Baptist Church, 19360 Alberta St., Oneida, TN 37841, Attn: Tony Duncan. (423) 569-4518. E-mail: duncan\_t@scott county.net.

**SEEKING:** Director for Rainbow Nursery School at West Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. Must meet state requirements for position. Send resumé with two references by Sept. 25 to: RNS Committee, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

**SEEKING:** Human resources assistant for Kentucky Baptist Convention. Attractive compensation package. Contact Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

**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:** Full-time minister of music/children. Looking for a motivated person to serve on a multi-staff, leading the music ministry and children's education and activities. Send resumé to: Lewisport Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Lewisport, KY 42351.

**SEEKING:** Program assistant. After-school program for 5th grade, low-income students at Fairdale Ministries needs a part-time assistant (22 hours). Experience working with children and families. \$9/hour. Call Leslie at (502) 367-9519 for interview.

**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 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:** 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:** 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.

## Bible study in a tattoo parlor? Minister asks, 'Why not?'

By Hillary Wicai  
Religion News Service

ST. LOUIS (RNS)—The cigarette smoke was thick and two electric tattoo needles buzzed in the background as Randy Windham read from the biblical book of Acts to a group of about 12 people.

The needles were surprisingly loud and the soft-spoken Windham had to make an effort to be heard above them during his regular Bible study at Custom Design Tattoo in St. Louis.

"I'd like to talk about false prophets tonight," Windham told the attentive group.

The image was a bit incongruous: Windham holding a Bible, surrounded by thousands of tattoo designs that covered the walls, floor to ceiling. A few Christian designs like crosses and a laughing Jesus could be seen. But there were many more naked women, skulls, fire-breathing evil creatures, even a Nazi swastika fashioned out of octopus legs.

Windham is director of education at Cross Keys Baptist Church in nearby Florissant, Mo. He has a bachelor's degree in psychology and sold jewelry for eight years before going to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for a master's degree in counseling.

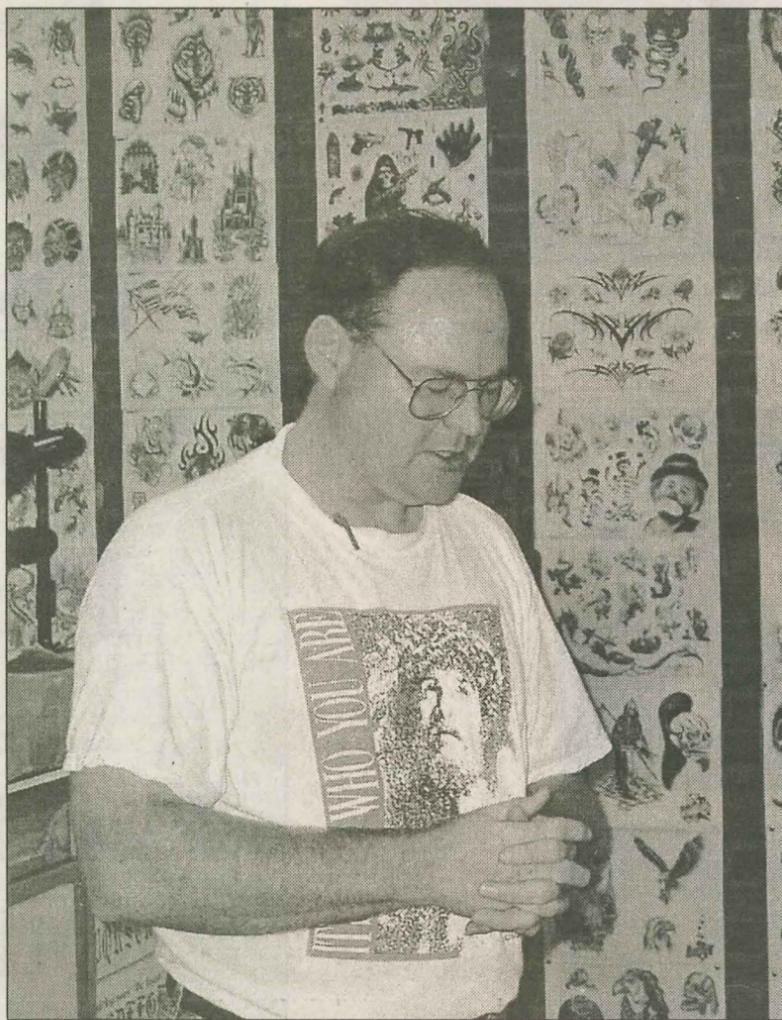
In addition to a full-time position at his church, Windham visits the tattoo shop about once a week and since 1998 has been conducting a Bible study there once a month. He calls his ministry "Have Bible, Will Travel."

"This isn't my background," Windham said. He doesn't drink or smoke; he never has. He doesn't have a tattoo, nor does he plan to get one any time soon.

"It seems strange to me that God would call me to do this, but He's given me a passion for these people," Windham said. And the smoking, drinking, tattoo-sporting folks seem to have a soft spot for him and a passion for the Bible teaching.

It began with Jim Davis, a biker who has several tattoos, long hair and a patch that covers the eye he lost during an accident while in the Marines. Davis joined Cross Keys Church but felt tremendously let down by its members after his fiancée was murdered four years ago.

Davis held a benefit for her children.



**INDELLIBLE PRESENCE** Randy Windham leads a prayer during his Bible study session at the Custom Design Tattoo shop in St. Louis. Windham has developed a ministry to bikers, tattooists and other denizens of the rough-and-tumble subculture. (RNS photo)

All his biking buddies came and helped raise \$17,000, but no one from the church showed.

"I told them, 'I think all you people are hypocrites. I think you need to go to the biker bars and tattoo parlors with me,'" Davis said. Windham took the challenge to heart.

They began with a Bible study for a handful of bikers at Davis' home. That led to a biker rally. To advertise the rally Davis and Windham went to bars, Harley-Davidson dealers and Custom Design Tattoos to pass out fliers.

Just distributing the fliers opened doors. The tattoo shop's manager had a crisis and called on Windham for help. Windham began visiting the shop weekly and eventually asked if he could lead

a Bible study there. The manager was skeptical, but Davis was all for it.

"Anyone can go to a church and try to save people and talk to Christians; that's easy," Davis said. "But not everyone can go to a tattoo parlor or a biker bar."

Windham agreed. "No. 1, they won't step foot in a church," he said. "And No. 2, no one's ever reached out to them on their turf."

Occasionally Windham gets laughed at while he's on their turf. Windham always asks the tattoo shop customers if they'd like to join the Bible study. Windham recalled one woman who shrugged and said, "No, I've had enough of that shoved down my throat." Another woman laughed heartily and

said, "I've never heard of a Bible study at a tattoo shop before." But she stayed.

Windham has a core group that attends most monthly sessions. Some come when they want only a tattoo. Some, like Vicky Rankin, bring their children.

Rankin's 8-year-old daughter, Raquel, sat quietly and listened most of the time. "I hope she realizes she needs God and Jesus in her life," Rankin said. "Otherwise she's going to have a rough one, like I did."

Rankin and her husband were married in June after living together for more than 14 years. Together they drank and did drugs. Pat, her husband, was hanging out with Jim Davis. "Jim would say, 'I can't go out, I've got to go to Bible study.'" Vicky and Pat decided to check it out too. They now consider Windham their pastor, and he's the one who married them.

Windham and Davis have begun setting up a Bible quiz booth at "Strongman" competitions. The competitions generally take place outside bars or casinos and involve competitors challenging one another to feats of strength like pulling an 18,000-pound dump truck.

"He goes with me to the roughest places there are," Davis said of Windham.

Windham wears bluejeans and T-shirts, but other than dressing casually he doesn't pretend to be someone he's not just to fit in. Yet he admits he feels very comfortable with what appears to be a pretty rough crowd.

"I love my position at the church, but these folks are so genuine and real," he said. "Sometimes people in a church are afraid to let their hair down. For example, you might ask someone at church how they're doing and they say 'fine,' and later you learn they're getting a divorce or having financial trouble," Windham explained. He feels bikers are often more open about their problems.

Windham said he sees no end to this ministry. In fact, he'd like to expand it so he could reach more bars. Owners of two more tattoo shops are mulling over offers for Windham to lead similar Bible studies in their shops.

"Some day I see this turning into a church," Windham said. "It will be a very untraditional church and much less structured."

The group might eventually meet in a gym or bar, he said; the tattoo shop is too small.

The ministry began with Jim Davis, a biker who has several tattoos, long hair and a patch that covers the eye he lost during an accident while in the Marines.

## Veggie Tales creator & Jakes among spiritual leaders to watch

NEW YORK (RNS)—An African Methodist Episcopal bishop and the creator of "Veggie Tales" are among the up-and-coming leaders in American spiritual life, according to Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly.

The Public Broadcasting Service newsmagazine recently released its choices for the "Top 10 People to Watch" on the spiritual landscape.

In alphabetical order, here are the up-and-coming spiritual leaders chosen by the program:

■ Dr. Laila Al-Marayati, 38, a founding member and past president of the Muslim Women's League, which formed the Women's Coalition against Ethnic Cleansing.

■ Catherine Brekus, 36, religion

historian at the University of Chicago Divinity School and author of the academic history of women preachers titled "Strangers and Pilgrims: Female Preaching in America, 1740-1845."

■ Makoto Fujimura, 39, a Japanese-American artist based in New York City who uses ancient Japanese painting techniques to create modern abstract artwork conveying religious themes.

■ Adam Hamilton, 36, founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, which with more than 6,000 members, is the fastest-growing Methodist church in America.

■ Bishop T.D. Jakes, 43, an African-American Pentecostal minister

based in Dallas who is known for his message of empowerment, especially for women, and whose ministry reaches out to prison inmates and victims of AIDS and domestic abuse.

■ Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, 39, a Tibetan incarnate-lama who directed the first Tibetan-language feature film, "The Cup," and leads Siddhartha's Intent, an international organization that teaches Tibetan Buddhism.

■ Rabbi Irwin Kula, 42, president of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL) in New York, who seeks to make ancient Jewish teaching spiritually relevant to younger generations and works to expand the definition of what it means

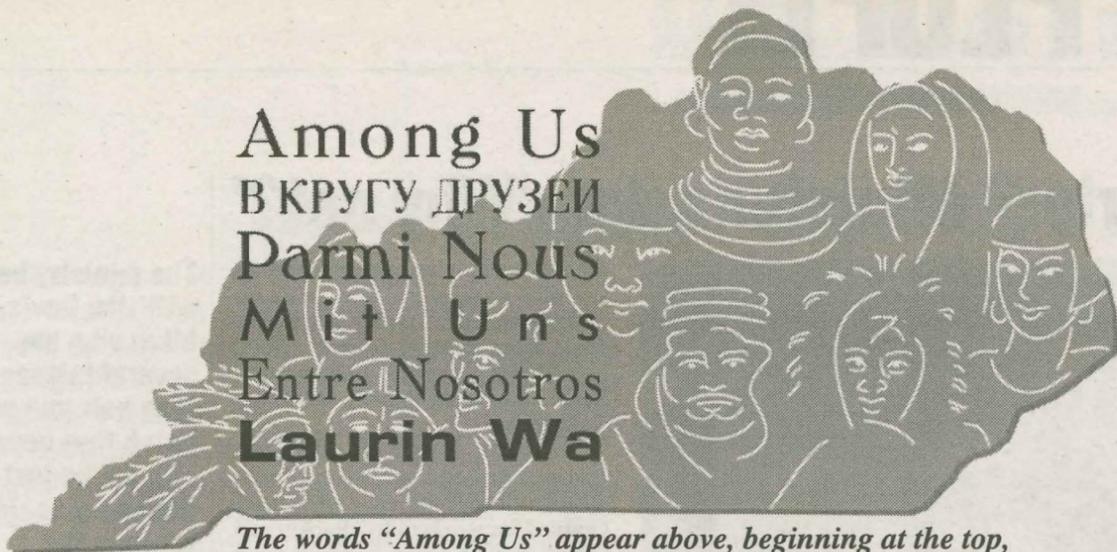
to be Jewish.

■ Bishop Vashti McKenzie, 53, first woman bishop to be elected in the African Methodist Episcopal Church's 213-year history and author of the 1996 book "Not Without a Struggle" that challenged all-male church hierarchies.

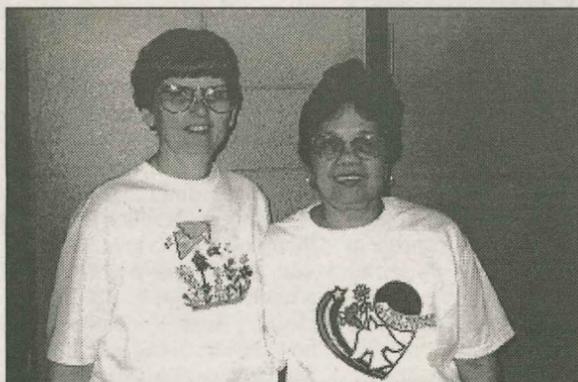
■ Phil Vischer, 34, a computer-animator and president of Big Idea Productions in Chicago that created "Veggie-Tales," a best-selling videotape series for children that tells Bible stories through animated vegetable characters.

■ Bishop Gabino Zavala, 48, the Hispanic Roman Catholic auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, who served as subcommittee chairman for "Encuentro 2000," a national event celebrating cultural and racial diversity.

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.



**2000  
Kentucky  
State  
Missions  
Season of  
Prayer  
and  
Eliza Broadus  
Offering  
for State Missions,  
Special Ministries,  
and Missions  
Education**

**Goal:  
\$1,000,000**

*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)*

***A Million Dollar Goal for the New Millennium***