



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

Texas Baptists cut funding for SBC seminaries, while in Missouri conservatives sweep that state's Baptist convention elections. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 8

Graham returns to crusade pulpit

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (RNS)—After a long season of medical treatments, evangelist Billy Graham returned to his crusade pulpit Nov. 2, preaching the gospel and adding his voice to the pre-election fervor.

Graham said that during his recent 13-week stay at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., he sometimes thought he would not make it to this crusade, which continued through Nov. 5.

"We began to pray about it and other people began to pray and now I'm certain that God sent us," he said, garnering applause from the estimated crowd of 42,000 at Alltel Stadium.

Earlier in the week, Graham told a news conference he's hopeful he can preach at more crusades.

"I am happy to report that I feel better than I did in Nashville, and am looking forward to many more months and possibly years of crusade ministry, God willing," he said.

Graham, 81, entered Mayo Clinic in June after completing a crusade in Nashville.

His spokesman Larry Ross said Graham will decide after this crusade about his plans for holding two or three crusades next year.

More than once, Graham mentioned his love for "the whole family" of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who welcomed Graham to his state, before adding that he wasn't making a political speech.

"I'm sure there are some Democrats here tonight, of which I am one, but I don't always vote the straight ticket," Graham said, causing a roar from the crowd.

But then he put earthly affairs into the heavenly context for which he is well-known.

"I was asked the other day here in Jacksonville ... what I was running for

□ See Graham back in ..., page 8

So long saloon



HELLO MINISTRY CENTER Harold Pike, pastor of South Side Baptist Church in Covington, sits with Amy Cummins in the former Salty Dog Saloon. The church recently bought the neighboring bar to turn it into a ministry center, which Cummins is leading. (Photo by Joe Munson)

Pastor waited 33 years for church to buy pub

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

COVINGTON—At an age when most people are thinking of retirement, Harold Pike still rides a motorcycle to work, plays basketball and tennis, and works out twice a week.

But it's not just the 65-year-old pastor's energy that keeps him going. He has vision. The kind that persuaded him that his church would acquire the bar next door, even though it took 33 years.

Every few months since 1967, the

pastor of South Side Baptist Church laid hands on the Salty Dog Saloon. He prayed that the congregation would get the building, often saying, "God, I don't know when You're going to do it, but I know You will."

Last spring, those prayers were answered. Today, the church is moving forward with plans to turn the old bar into a ministry center. It will feature a variety of classes, activities, family events, job training and a coffee house.

"God did it," said Pike, whose hopes of acquiring the bar in 1973 fell through when the price went up.

"And He did it in His timing. I'm learning a lot about God's timing."

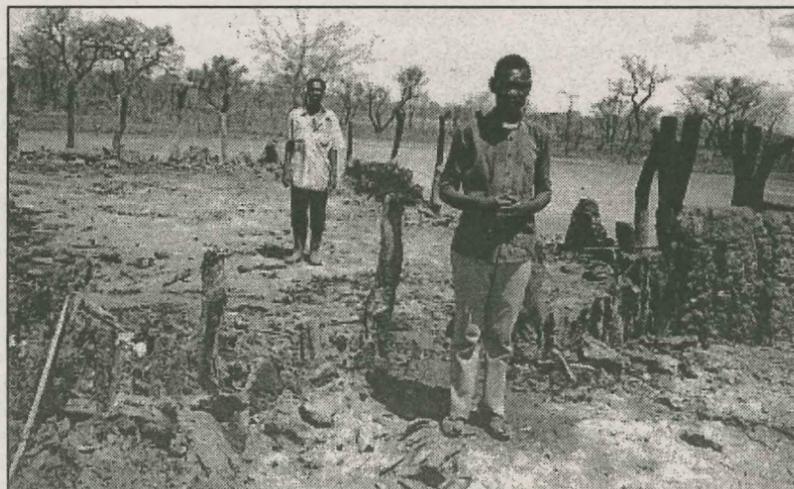
The story dates back a few years, when the Campbellsville native's niece and her husband were visiting from Alabama. Pike joked about how badly he wanted to buy the adjoining bar.

A few weeks later a check arrived from Tuscaloosa. The \$100,000 donation was earmarked for the bar's purchase.

"I almost had a heart attack," he recalled. "I had never seen a check with zeros that big."

□ See Pastor waited ..., page 3

Groups want you to know about persecuted Christians worldwide



BOMBED OUT A Christian pastor stands before the remnants of his church in southern Sudan, bombed earlier this year by the government of Sudan, according to the Christian aid agency Frontline Fellowship. Frontline is one of dozens of organizations helping to highlight the plight of the world's estimated 200 million Christians on Nov. 12, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. (RNS photo courtesy of Frontline Fellowship)

By Shelvia Dancy
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Oswaldo Magdangal gradually had grown accustomed to his 3-by-4-foot prison cell and the constant presence of armed Saudi Arabian prison guards outside.

More than two months had passed since the country's religious police raided his home hunting for Bibles, Christian videotapes and anything else that would link the Filipino federal employee to the Christian ministry, banned in a nation where Islam is the official state religion.

The police found what they wanted. Magdangal had not attempted to hide any traces of his 11-year double life as a missionary in the Muslim nation and minister of a secret Christian church.

Alone in his cell, he steeled himself for the fate decreed by Saudi Ara-

bian officials: death by public hanging.

But then the letters began to arrive. Thousands of them. From the Philippines. England. Malaysia. The Netherlands. Italy. The U.S. Congress.

Letters that convinced Magdangal he was not forgotten.

Letters that persuaded King Fahd to set him free.

The day before his execution.

"Had it not been for appeals from the international community, I would be in heaven right now," said Magdangal, who established Christians in Crisis after he was released in 1992 in an effort to boost awareness about the plight of persecuted Christians. He fled to the West but said he still fears for his personal safety. "I completely believe that appeals made all the difference in my case. I would be dead without it."

Christians worldwide are counting
□ See Groups promote day ..., page 12

Texas Baptist messengers cut SBC funding by \$5.3 million

Texas vote allows Baptist leadership beyond state borders

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (ABP)—Churches outside Texas that affiliate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas now will be allowed to serve on convention committees and boards.

Messengers to the BGCT annual session approved the change Oct. 30 in Corpus Christi. With only scattered opposition, messengers gave the required second affirmation to a constitutional amendment that removes geographical limitations on nominees for Texas convention committees and boards.

The Texas convention has not previously limited churches outside the state from joining the convention and already counts about a half dozen congregations from other states among its cooperating churches. Those churches generally are in border communities.

Speculation has escalated over the past year, however, that the BGCT could become a refuge for moderate Baptist churches nationwide as some state Baptist conventions align more closely with the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention. Critics of the BGCT have charged the Texas convention is transforming itself into a new national convention.

Texas Baptist leaders, however, have said they have no intention of actively recruiting churches from outside the state. If churches from other states desire to seek affiliation with the BGCT, they will be welcome as they always have been, the convention leaders have said.

By Mark Wingfield & Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

CORPUS CHRISTI—Texas Baptist messengers approved the recommendations of a seminary study committee Oct. 30 that will reduce funding for the six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries by more than \$4 million beginning in January. The proposal passed on a show-of-hands vote by an estimated 75 to 80 percent.

In a separate ballot vote, messengers voted 4,194-1,425 to defund the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and cut all but \$10,000 going annually to the SBC Executive Committee—a combined reallocation of more than \$1 million.

The actions mark the most dramatic reallocation of funds by a state Baptist convention since the SBC formed its Cooperative Program giving plan in 1925. Proponents of the funding changes said they were precipitated by theological and political changes in the SBC over the last 21 years.

However, the 6,664 messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting refused to sever all

ties to the SBC. They overwhelmingly defeated a motion from the floor that would have cut all BGCT funding for SBC agencies, including the national convention's two mission boards.

The \$4.3 million in money diverted from the SBC seminaries will be given to three Texas Baptist schools—Truett Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Logdson School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene and Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio.

The \$736,291 diverted from the SBC Executive Committee will go to "Texas priority" projects such as Hispanic ministry and human welfare programs, and the \$364,582 diverted from the ERLC will go to the Texas Christian Life Commission.

Despite the changes, the BGCT still will forward more than \$12 million to the SBC International Mission Board next year and more than \$5.5 million to the SBC North American Mission Board.

Bob Campbell, chairman of the seminary study committee created by the BGCT last year, gave an overview of his committee's six-month study. In

a 15-minute presentation, he highlighted the opportunity the committee believes exists in Texas to train ministers and the need to strengthen ministry among Hispanics.

Meanwhile, the six SBC schools "have changed theologically," Campbell reported. "That is a fact. It is true. Nothing illustrates that better than the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message statement."

For the first time, the Baptist doctrinal statement has been made into an "instrument of doctrinal accountability," he said. "It demands a rigid adherence. You cannot be a professor (at the SBC seminaries) unless you adhere only to the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message."

During the 30-minute period allotted for discussion of the study committee report, messengers soundly defeated two attempts to amend the report.

One of those amendments would have spread the seminary funding changes over a three-year period.

Another amendment would have created a Plan A and Plan B in BGCT giving, with one option embracing the new theological funding plan and the

other retaining the old SBC plan. The BGCT already has five giving plans.

Despite counsel from parliamentarians that the amendment was out of order, President Clyde Glazener allowed messengers to vote on the motion. It was overwhelmingly defeated.

Apart from the attempted amendments, only two messengers spoke directly to the recommendations themselves. Other messengers were waiting at microphones when the allotted time for debate expired. Messengers rejected a request to extend debate.

Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, said he is grieved for Texas Baptists, who no longer will have an opportunity to relate to the ministerial students being trained by the six SBC seminaries.

Russell Dilday, Hemphill's predecessor who was fired by the Southwestern Seminary trustees' new conservative majority in 1994, noted that "the thing that was overlooked were the changes (in SBC seminaries) that have taken place over the last 20 years—tectonic changes. . . . Texas Baptists didn't come to this out of a vacuum."

Conservatives sweep elections at Missouri Baptist Convention

OSAGE BEACH, Mo. (ABP)—Conservatives swept officer elections for the third consecutive year at the Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting Oct. 30-Nov. 1.

A record registration of 3,408 messengers at Tan-Tar-A Resort on the Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach shattered last year's previous high of 2,439 in Liberty. Pre-convention campaigns by the conservative Project 1000 movement and the moderate Mainstream Missouri Baptists helped boost attendance.

Candidates backed by conservatives won all four convention offices. Bob Collins, pastor of Plaza Heights Baptist Church in Blue Springs, won the presidency, defeating Harlan Spurgeon, a former Southern Baptist missionary and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship staff member backed by moderates, 61 percent to 39 percent.

Conservatives also succeeded in replacing committee nominations for the state's Christian Life Commission with a more conservative slate.

The Project 1000 initiative included 3-inch buttons that said "SBC" on the top line and "Missouri Baptist Con-

vention" underneath. The buttons were to help Project 1000 supporters identify each other, one woman explained.

Project 1000 leader Roger Moran said members of the group "define ourselves very narrowly."

He said candidates endorsed by the group should be committed to biblical inerrancy, supportive of the SBC's conservative shift and not be a part of a church that supports or contributes to the CBF.

A conservative-dominated resolutions committee brought resolutions passed by the convention including affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message passed by the Southern Baptist Convention and support for SBC seminaries and other entities.

Other resolutions supported capital punishment, highlighted the importance of "life issues" in the upcoming general election and condemned use of the so-called "abortion pill" RU-486. Another resolution expressed sympathy to the family of Gov. Mel Carnahan, a lifelong Southern Baptist and Democrat who died recently in a plane crash while campaigning for the U.S. Senate.

Resolution: Bible is 'final authority'

JACKSON, Miss. (ABP)—Rather than endorse either the newly revised Baptist Faith and Message statement or an earlier version adopted in 1963, Mississippi Baptist Convention messengers voted to "affirm the Word of God as our final authority for faith and practice."

Several resolutions affirming both versions of the Southern Baptist Convention's official faith statement were proposed by messengers during the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 MBC annual meeting in Jackson. The convention's resolutions committee, however, noted that the state convention has never voted on

any version of the Baptist Faith and Message and traditionally has viewed such decisions as a matter for the local church.

In other business, Mississippi Baptist messengers re-elected President Kermit McGregor to a second term by acclamation. McGregor, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mendenhall, urged messengers in his presidential address to avoid the strife and infighting that has affected many other Southern Baptist groups.

"We are priests, in the pulpit and in the pews," he said. "Lest we forget, His name is Jesus."

Arkansas Baptist effort to affirm 2000 faith statement falls short

By Charlie Warren
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP)—A proposal to make the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement the doctrinal guideline for Arkansas Baptists fell short of a required two-thirds vote at the Oct. 31-Nov. 1 state convention in Little Rock.

As a result, an earlier version of the statement adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963 will remain the state convention's doctrinal guideline—at least for another two years, which is how long it takes to amend the constitution.

By a slim margin, the convention also adopted a resolution supporting Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program unified budget and denouncing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The resolution calls on Arkansas Baptists to "resist" the CBF, which it says "distracts Arkansas Baptists from our joint commitment to the Cooperative Program."

The Baptist Faith and Message vote came as a proposal from a charter and bylaws committee, which recommended updating the convention's Articles of Incorporation to reflect revisions to the faith statement approved last summer.

Some messengers said confusion over parliamentary procedure made it unclear what messengers were voting on. While a majority voted for the proposal (53 percent for, 47 percent against), it fell more than 100 votes short of a required two-thirds majority.

In an effort to minimize controversy about the statement, the committee proposal included a phrase affirming "the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of the believer."

"We understand and recognize that there are substantive changes between the 1963 and 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statements," committee chairman Sam Roberts told messengers. "The articles of incorporation (of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention) provide protections and safeguards that prevent any statement of faith from becoming an official creed carrying a mandatory authority."

A messenger offered an amendment to delete the phrase about church autonomy and priesthood. The amendment failed.

Randy Hyde, pastor of Pulaski Heights Baptist Church in Little Rock, spoke against the committee's proposal. "Despite the words of the chairman of the committee," Hyde said, "I fear the statement will become creedal in the life not only of the SBC at large but also Arkansas Baptists."

Glenn Hickey, retired director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association, also spoke against the change. "Anything that threatens local church autonomy is not truly Baptist," he said. "A preamble does not repair a faulty document."

After the question was called for, parliamentarian Tommy Hinson noted that a call for the question requires a two-thirds majority vote. The vote on the question was done by the raising of ballots. That's when parliamentary confusion occurred. The chair ruled that the call for the question had passed, but that point was not made clear to messengers.

Then messengers voted by ballot on the committee's proposal, even though some may have thought they were voting again on the call for the question. Nevertheless, the proposal failed.

Saloon making dreams come true as ministry center

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

COVINGTON—When Amy Cummins was six years old, she sat in her mother's chair at a Girls in Action meeting and said, "Mom, one day I'm going to go to missionary and be an inner-city missionary like you."

But while a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Cummins reasoned she shouldn't return home. "I just don't think it would work out."

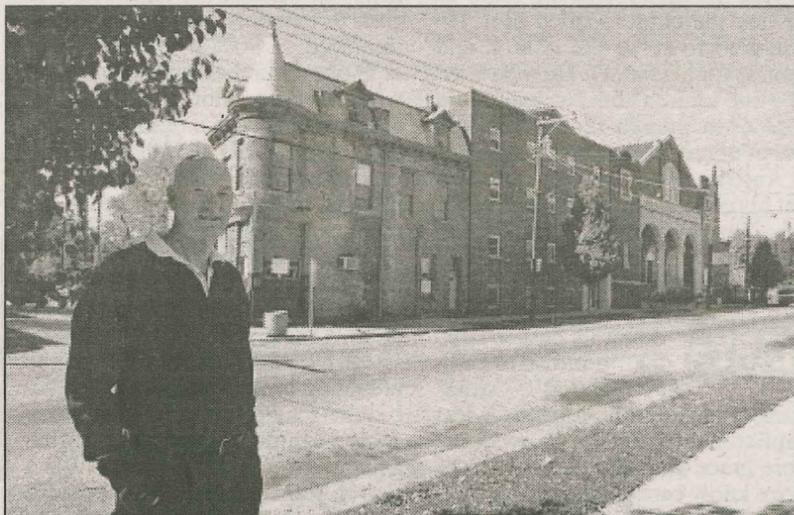
That was before her mother, Helen, called one night and said, "There's nobody in the United States who needs help more than the kids in Covington."

So, two months after her graduation last May, 27-year-old Cummins came back to South Side Baptist Church to become director of the El Ji Moore Activity Center.

"This center was exactly what I was trained to do, finding unique ways of reaching people," she said. "I see this is going to reach a lot of people that aren't being reached."

That includes the prospect of former bar customers. Even though the church took over the old Salty Dog Saloon last April, some people still wander in to ask if they can buy a drink.

Instead, they often encounter an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and the offer of a free cup of coffee.



NEXT DOOR NEIGHBORS Pastor Harold Pike stands in front of South Side Baptist Church and the former Salty Dog Saloon, which the church now owns. The church is turning the former tavern into a community ministry center. "The devil has thrown up some roadblocks. But we're going to get through this because the Lord's in it."

The three AA meetings at the center are just the beginning of what Cummins hopes will be a long list of activities.

Her father, Herbert, is managing a Saturday morning drop-in time, when the church serves up coffee and doughnuts. The building also was used for a back-to-school day Aug. 26, when 13 children lined up for free haircuts.

The director envisions a time when students will be able to stop in regular-

ly for tutoring, game nights, exercise and a soda shop.

Her wish list also includes a coffee house, parenting workshops, job skills training, crafts classes and a monthly event for seniors.

"It's exciting to see how many people are excited about it, even though we haven't really started," Cummins said. "Lots of people are calling asking when computer training is going to start, or when exercise

classes will start."

"The great thing about the center is those who wouldn't come in to the church off the street will come there," added Helen Cummins, a South Side staff member since 1975. "To me, it will be great building on a foundation we've laid over the years."

Like many inner-city churches, South Side's membership has dwindled during the years. A.B. Colvin—later missions director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention for 27 years—said Sunday attendance averaged 400 when he served as pastor from 1947-52. That compares to 175 today.

But pastor Harold Pike points out that through its weekday ministries, the church has boosted its spiritual influence. "Attendance is lower on Sunday than when I started, but we teach the Bible to more people than when the church was in its heyday."

Still, Pike admits the church faces some roadblocks in its bid to make the saloon into a ministry center. One of the largest barriers could be money, he said.

Although Cummins' salary is modest, Pike said the church is scraping to come up with the funds to pay her and renovate the center.

"We called for prayer at a (recent) staff meeting," he said. "The devil has thrown up some roadblocks. But we're going to get through this because the Lord's in it."

The wish list for the ministry center includes a coffee house, parenting workshops, job skills training, crafts classes and a monthly event for seniors.

Pastor waited 33 years for chance to buy nearby saloon

Continued from page 1

But that didn't seal the deal. The owner still refused to sell.

Then, Pike decided to befriend him. Last year, he started stopping in the bar once a week to sip coffee and get to know the man and his wife.

When the relationship didn't change the owner's mind, the pastor gave up. He asked his niece if she minded if they shifted the money to install a long-awaited elevator.

But five days before a special business meeting to vote on shifting the funds' use, the bar owner called.

He explained that the night before, his wife, "who is not a church woman," insisted he close the bar on Sundays. He resisted, saying it was the most lucrative day of the week. She told him that if he couldn't close it, then he should sell it. He offered it to the church for \$111,500.

The earmarked donation had been drawing dividends, but Pike wanted to use the interest for repairs. So he came up with another idea, asking the bar owner to give \$10,000 to the church. He told the man the money would be worth more as a tax deduction than a capital gain.

After consulting a tax advisor, the owner agreed. The congregation raised the remaining \$1,500 the following Sunday. On April 1, the church took title to the property.

"We had a good laugh about it, a good cry about it and praised the Lord," the pastor said. "What's so unique is God's timing. If people had voted to build that elevator, they wouldn't have been near as anxious

to buy a bar."

Although volunteers have put in a drop ceiling and scrubbed away years of smoke damage, one feature will stay. A solid walnut bar remains in place as a reminder of the past.

"I want to serve some right stuff over that bar," Pike said. "The wrong stuff was served over it for too many years."

That idea sits well with Dennis Northcutt, a member of the maintenance staff who has been spearheading the renovation effort.

A former employee before he lapsed back into his longtime bout with alcoholism, he rededicated his life to Christ and rejoined the staff May 11. He joked that it's fitting he works in a bar after spending so many years in one.

"When people walk in the place, it makes me feel good and it makes them feel good," he said. "This is going to be a tremendous ministry. The fulfillment in life is here now."

"You'd have to be here to understand the impact," he added. "I see (former customers) all the time, standing across the street. It's hurt 'em. This was their home, like it was mine."

South Side member Donna Cox lauded Pike's vision, noting that many pastors wouldn't stay with a church in a low-income neighborhood for so long.

"For 33 years he's been here, and that's one of the visions he had," she said. "He held true to these visions. If he hadn't been here, we might have been one of those inner-city churches that closed down."

Greenfield, Ham among KBC VP candidates

Two more Kentucky Baptists have added their names to the list of candidates for Kentucky Baptist Convention office. Harold Greenfield will be nominated as first vice president and Dick Ham will be nominated as second vice president when messengers gather next week in Bowling Green.

There now are five announced candidates for convention office. Kevin Ezell, senior pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, and Jim McKinley, a retired Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh, both announced in June that they will be nominated for KBC president. Rick Hatley, associate pastor for education at Central Baptist Church in Winchester, announced last week that he will be nominated for second vice president. Ezell and Hatley both describe themselves as conservative candidates. McKinley said he considers himself a "middle of the roader" in denominational life.

Robert DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, recently mailed letters to several hundred "middle of the road, moderate kind of people," endorsing McKinley, Greenfield and Ham for convention office.

DeFoor, who has mailed similar letters prior to the KBC annual meeting for several years, wrote that he believes the three men "will represent all Kentucky Baptists in a fair and honorable way."

Citing the efforts of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network and others seeking to elect conservative candidates, DeFoor said his goal is to "keep the KBC free from fundamentalist control or strong influence."

Greenfield, retired director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, said he will be nominated by Bill Tichenor, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Princeton. Greenfield will preach this year's convention sermon prior to the first vice presidential vote.

Greenfield said he is "not campaigning for any office," but that he agreed to be nominated after he was "asked by some friends to let my name be presented."

"I don't have any agenda," he added. "I'm a uniter, not a divider."

Greenfield, who served 29 years as director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association before retiring Jan. 1, previously served 15 years as a Kentucky Baptist pastor. A former president of the Kentucky Directors of Missions Fellowship, he is a graduate of Bethel College in Hopkinsville; Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Ham retired this summer as minister of music at First Baptist Church of Richmond. He continues to work part time with the church's senior adults. Ham said he will be nominated as KBC second vice president by Curtis Warf, retired pastor of First Church of Richmond.

"I am about as conservative as anyone, but I'm very definitely in the moderate camp in denominational life," Ham said. Noting that he has "very good friends on both sides of the controversy," he added, "I hope to be a healer, to help pull both sides together."

A native of Louisville, Ham is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to joining the staff of First Church of Richmond, he was a consultant in the church music department of the former Baptist Sunday School Board. He also has served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference as well as a member of the Executive Council of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference and the Alumni Advisory Board of Georgetown College.

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

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Don't cut your pastor's salary

By Bob Terry

Some reader is bound to ask, "What do you mean, cut the pastor's salary?" in response to the headline of this column. Churches don't cut the salaries of pastors or other staff members. Even in bad times, churches at least keep salaries the same, such a reader will contend.

True. But when salaries stay the same and the costs of necessities increase, doesn't that result in a practical salary reduction? The same amount of money will not go as far, so the family has to do with less.

The recent rapid rise in fuel costs illustrates the point. Cities, school systems, families—almost everyone feels the pinch when prices skyrocket and income stays the same.

The pastor's salary is no different. When prices of family needs increase and income stays stagnant, it is like getting a cut in salary. The pastor or staff member cannot provide the same things possible in the past.

The miles between the church and the hospital did not decrease when gas jumped from \$1 a gallon to \$1.50 a gallon. Members did not suddenly stop going to the hospital just because it cost more to drive there. But how many churches made sure their pastors had extra money for the high gasoline costs for church-related activities?

Personally, we know of no pastor who would stop going to the hospital just because all the travel expense money in the budget has been used up. Pastors would go and pay the money out of their own pockets because they care about their members and want to minister to them in times of need.

A pastor once shared that five years after coming to the church he

served, his salary was the same as the day the church called him. He struggled to serve the church and provide for his family. He wondered why the church did not provide a raise even though the church had grown numerically and financially.

Another pastor jokingly observed that his church prayed for him regularly. The prayer was, "Lord, if You will keep our pastor humble, we will keep him poor." The pastor added that the church was doing its best to keep their promise to God.

Isolated situations? We certainly hope so. Most Baptist churches we know have more grace than that. Most churches we know care about their pastors and staff. Members carefully look after the pastor's needs.

It is a cold-hearted church that tries to see how little they can pay the pastor. Such a church, in all probability, goes through a succession of pastors and wonders why it has such a turnover in staff.

Sometimes pastors and staff members end up taking pay cuts when the cost of church-sponsored benefits change. This year, for example, medical insurance is expected to increase dramatically. The Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board has announced increases as much as 25 percent in some locations. This can result in a cut in the pastor's salary.

If a church gives the pastor a lump sum of money and tells him to divide

it up as he prefers, the pastor's only choice is to reduce his salary in order to pay the increase in health insurance costs or to reduce his family's health insurance.

Some churches adopt a budget with a certain amount specified for health insurance, for example. When costs rise rapidly like they are this year, the church tells the pastor that he must make up the difference between what is in the budget and what the actual costs are.

Again, that is a cold-hearted approach. Such actions demonstrate little love and grace.

A church should be committed to providing health insurance and other benefits for the pastor and staff. When costs go up, they are costs to the church just like the electric bill is a church responsibility. To expect the pastor to pay the cost increases is to cut the pastor's salary.

Most Baptist churches are in the final stages of developing budgets for the coming year. In the process, remember the pastor and staff. Make sure funds for benefits and business expenses are sufficient to cover the actual costs, that the pastor or staff member does not have to pay them out of his or her own pocket.

And make sure the salaries at least reflect the rising costs of goods and services in the community. To do any less is, in reality, cutting the pastor's salary. Hopefully, churches will be able to provide even more than a cost-of-living adjustment.

Bob Terry is editor of the Alabama Baptist

COMMENTARY

What are you thinking?

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

European Baptist Convention partnership

Kay and I recently had the opportunity to go with a group from Kentucky to attend the evangelism conference and annual meeting of the European Baptist Convention in the Netherlands. It was a privilege to share and worship with these Christians with whom Kentucky Baptists begin an official partnership Jan. 1.

The theme of the evangelism conference was "Bring Them Into the Light," based on 1 John 1:7. Guest speakers included Calvin Wilkins, director of the KBC partnership missions department; Kenneth Brown, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Paducah; and me. Kay spoke during the women's dinner and Eric Allen, our KBC Mission Service Corps consultant, led praise and worship for both gatherings.

During our trip, I was pleased to discover that there already are several personal connections between the European Baptist Convention and Kentucky. Let me tell you about a few:

Doyle Searcy served as a minister of music and as a pastor in Kentucky. He is now pastor of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Doyle believes that

God is moving in Western Europe and that is one reason why he is so excited about the partnership with Kentucky Baptists.



Bill Mackey

Glenn Igleheart from Kentucky serves the Dusseldorf International Baptist Church in Germany. His father is the late Chester Igleheart of Elizabethtown.

Charles Smith of North Sea Baptist Church in Stavanger, Norway, has a son who lives in Somerset.

James Heflin, general secretary of the EBC, served for many years as a preaching professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Wilma Heflin coordinates children's ministries among her other volunteer responsibilities.

Most of the 67 English-speaking churches that make up the EBC are very small but have wonderful oppor-

tunities to reach the international corporate communities in 22 countries.

With the close of many military bases and the reduction in personnel at other locations, these former military churches have had to refocus their vision on English-speaking internationals and local residents. It is essential for the churches to reach local residents in order to provide continuity for ministry with a very mobile international community.

I am very impressed with the leadership and the strategic plan of the EBC. They are aware of the challenges and darkness they face with only about 2 percent of the European population attending church. There also are many legal challenges, including the right to be a church in countries with a state church. The leaders are depending on God to open doors of witness and ministry and to provide for their needs.

Please begin to pray for the pastors and churches of the EBC and your involvement in this outstanding missions opportunity.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Changes to state inheritance tax law implemented

By Laurie Valentine

A number of changes in Kentucky's inheritance tax law took effect July 15.



Many of these changes were made as a result of the expansion in the class of 100

percent-exempt beneficiaries to include children, grandchildren, parents, brothers and sisters that took effect July 1, 1998.

The new law clarifies that a Kentucky inheritance and estate tax return must be filed only if the estate is large enough that a federal estate tax return must be filed.

A federal estate tax return must be filed for someone dying in 2000 or 2001 if that person leaves a gross estate that exceeds \$675,000.

If there will be no probate, the new law allows the beneficiaries to file the Kentucky inheritance tax return.

Presumably, this would permit the trustee of a revocable living trust, created and funded during life to avoid probate, to file the inheritance tax return at the trust creator's death.

The new law deletes the provisions that placed a lien for Kentucky inheritance taxes on estate assets. It also removes the provisions that "froze" the assets in a safety deposit box and required an inventory of the box by a bank employee before anyone could have access to the box.

The provision has been repealed that permitted the payment over five years of inheritance taxes due from the inheritance of an interest in a farm or closely held business. This could create financial hardship for those beneficiaries whose inheritance tax liability is not large enough to meet the general installment payment test (inheritance tax liability exceeding \$5,000), but who don't have sufficient cash resources with which to pay the tax.

Also repealed was the provision that permitted payment of an estimated inheritance tax amount without filing of an inheritance tax return. The practice allowed a beneficiary to qualify for the 5 percent discount granted if the tax is paid within nine months after death, even if the return was not ready to be filed.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

How can senior adults avoid being victims of mail fraud?

Q: A friend of mine lost a great deal of money through mail fraud targeted at senior adults. What can be done to help identify these misleading and fraudulent mailings?

What constitutes mail fraud? Generally speaking, the illegality lies in the deception found on the packaging on such mailings as big-prize sweepstakes and charitable requests. The more deceptive the packaging, the more likely it is a scam.

Here are common deceptions found in mail advertising, as well as what to look for:

- Watch for mailings that request money to enter a contest or imply you need to buy something to enter.
- Before sending any money, check the organization to see if you can contact it by telephone. No telephone number is a red flag.
- Watch out for two envelopes or boxes to mark—one for purchase and the other for no purchase. This is illegal.
- Do not send your address, phone number or e-mail address to anyone you do not know. Avoid requests of this nature.
- Official-looking documents are most common. They often are goldenrod in color, "stamped" or "inspected" or "registered" or "awarded." Do not be misled by forfeiture warnings. You can't forfeit something you don't have.
- If it sounds too good to true, it probably is. Most of these mailings try to keep you on the hook. If there is more to do before you receive something then watch out.
- Certificates with your name on them stating that you are a winner usually have small print that says you are not a grand prize winner.
- Foreign lotteries are illegal. Canada is a problem source for this kind of solicitation.

Always read everything carefully, and keep copies of anything you send.

The following resources can help answer questions. Ask them first, before you send anything to anyone:

Better Business Bureau, U.S. district attorney's office, state attorney's office, your pastor or your attorney.

—Jon Rainbow

Q: Our neighbor has invited our three teenagers to a youth rally sponsored by an interfaith youth organization. We prefer for our kids to attend youth functions only at our church. They want to go and claim that I am being too closed-minded. What if they like it and want to participate regularly?

Let them go, but use this as a time to discuss the unique beliefs of your faith. We live in a world with many differences. People of faith are wise to know what they believe and why. If your teens are clear about their faith distinctions, they are no more likely to abandon their faith in this situation than in a discussion at school. Joint rallies build tolerance and understanding of people with different beliefs.

You might also want to attend the rally so you will know what it is like. You can discuss the events with your teens afterwards. Of course, you also can invite your neighbor to attend with you. Understanding needs to go both ways.

Jesus shattered many barriers. Paul taught that "in Christ there is no Jew or Greek, male or female, bond or free."

—Wade Rowatt

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.



Let messengers make up their own minds

As Kentucky Baptist messengers gather next week in Bowling Green for the 2000 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, they will face key votes on KBC officers, Cooperative Program budget goals, resolutions and other business items. The messengers will listen carefully to each item of business, make up their minds about each issue and then vote their consciences. Or will they?

Historic Baptist polity calls for each messenger to vote his or her personal convictions without being instructed or unduly influenced. Yet there are those in Baptist life who would prefer for messengers to be coached on how to vote even before specific issues are introduced on the floor of the convention.

Such political efforts tend to blur the distinction between Baptists convening as messengers rather than delegates. What's the difference between the two terms?

According to James Sullivan in his book, "Baptist Polity as I See It," during the early years of Southern Baptist organizational life, the title of representatives from local churches changed from "delegates" to "brethren" to "messengers."

Sullivan, a former SBC president and long-time president of the former Baptist Sunday School Board, explained that "the idea that the churches would send uninstructed messengers to the convention was a vital decision hammered out after errors were made when it was felt that churches should instruct their representatives before the convention met on how to vote on motions not yet formulated, much less interpreted and discussed."

He noted that the genius of this time-tested Baptist practice is that messengers "come together as Christian fellow-believers, committed but uninstructed, seeking to find and do God's will according to their best judgment as each matter of concern is presented to them and after adequate discussion has been heard from the floor." The obvious benefit is that rather than being told by church leaders how to vote or being influenced by one-sided perspectives in partisan "informational" meetings, true messengers have the opportunity to observe,

interpret and respond firsthand to business items as they unfold on the floor of the convention.

Critics argue that individual Baptists have the right to freely share their opinions with anyone they choose, wherever and whenever they choose. That's true. However, there is a significant difference between sharing objective information in an effort to assist fellow Baptists and seeking to influence votes through partisan politicking.

Even the Western Recorder occasionally is accused of seeking to exercise undue influence on messengers. I can assure any detractors that the Recorder stands confidently on its public record of fair, balanced reporting.

As an example, following last year's KBC annual meeting, I called on those promoting political agendas in Kentucky Baptist life to put their own interests aside. "Rather than scheduling behind-the-scenes strategy sessions and producing statewide mailings," I wrote, "let's trust the majority of Kentucky Baptists to select effective leaders in the years ahead."

Leading up to this year's convention, the Recorder announced in June that two candidates planned to be nominated for KBC president. The article included biographical data and quotes from both men, providing Kentucky Baptists timely, balanced information.

In mid-October, we published detailed question-and-answer interviews with both men. The articles allowed them to share their motivation for seeking the KBC presidency as well as their views on such important issues as presidential appointments and the role of the Baptist Faith and Message in state convention life.

Each of the articles clearly demonstrates the benefits of fair, accurate denominational journalism—to inform Kentucky Baptists without lapsing into biased or manipulative reporting.

For those who prefer to tell just one side of the story, whether in meetings, mailings or casual conversation, it remains time to lay aside partisan political perspectives for the sake of the greater good.

Trust KBC messengers to make up their own minds. It's the best way to conduct Baptist business.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Discovering the power of pageantry

By Doug Crawley

"Then he said to his servants, '... Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests." (Matthew 22:8-10)

Faced with the challenges of reaching an increasingly sophisticated, secular and spiritually ambivalent society, many of today's churches are turning to new and creative methods of evangelism and outreach.

The overwhelming success of pageants and living Christmas trees in some well-known churches has not escaped the notice of a growing number of congregations who are now considering mounting their own large-scale seasonal productions.

Prayerfully seeking God's will for your church is the first important step in making this or any decision. However, there are many practical questions that should be answered before forging ahead:

■ Does the community in which your church ministers truly need this kind of unique ministry?

■ Are there already other pageants, living Christmas trees or similar ministries ongoing in your community?

■ Is your church really seeking God's will or do you just want to compete with other churches?

■ Is your church able and willing to invest the amount of time (planning, rehearsals, promotion, production, etc.), money and people required to ensure the pageant's success?

■ Is your church united in its vision for this type of ministry?

■ Do you logistically have enough time to properly plan, rehearse and promote this event?

When these questions have been successfully answered, your church can begin to plan the details of the production. Components include:

■ **Finances:** What is the projected cost of the production? Do you plan to sell or give away tickets? Do you plan to underwrite the expenses with advance donations or take an offering at the presentations?

■ **Artistic leadership:** Who will give direction in the areas of music, drama, lighting, sound, video, carpenters, set design, seamstresses and other assignments?

■ **Administration:** Who will assist with secretarial needs, enlisting cast, choir, orchestra, food preparation, program design and printing, ticket printing and distribution, budget control, rehearsal schedules, parking, ushers, janitorial duties, etc.?

■ **Spiritual guidance:** Gentle but firm direction from the pastor and staff is needed to help keep everyone "on track," and aware of the ultimate purpose of the event. Ongoing prayer from the congregation, specifically for the success of the pageant (both artistically and evangelistically), also will encourage the cast and keep the church united and involved in the pageant.

It is true that successful pageantry demands an overwhelming amount of time, financial support and volunteer energy and resources. But with proper planning, execution and God's blessing, the results can be rewarding, both now and eternally.

Doug Crawley is minister of music and worship at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville and adjunct professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting 2000

Tuesday & Wednesday, November 14-15, 2000

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Convention Officers

J. Terry Wilder, President
Daniel L. Ferguson, First Vice President
Scott Kilgore, Second Vice President
Wilma Simmons, Secretary
Joe Priest Williams, Assistant Secretary
Bill F. Mackey, Executive Director

Others Serving the Convention

Calvin Taylor, Song Leader & Pianist
Eldred Taylor, A. B. Colvin,
 Parliamentarians
Jim Cordell, Convention Music Coord.
Steve Thompson, Robert Reeves,
Denise Withers, Convention
 Arrangements Coordinators



Calvin Taylor

Tuesday Morning, November 14 Terry Wilder, President, presiding

- 8:30 Call to Order**
Prayer Rick Trumbo
- 8:40 Welcome** Jerry Oakley
Organization of the 163rd Convention
 Wilma Simmons
Committee on Order of Business
 Paul Badgett
Appointment of Committees
 Terry Wilder
Appointment of Tellers Terry Wilder
Committee on Credentials
 Jim Abernathy
Recognition of Fraternal Org.
 Terry Wilder
- 8:55 Hymn: At the Cross**
9:00 Theme Interpretation Chuck Neighbors
9:10 Cooperative Program Testimony
 Ralph and Vivian Boyle
**9:15 Motions/Resolutions/Miscellaneous
 Business**
9:30 Georgetown College Report
 William H. Crouch, Jr.
9:40 Georgetown College Chorale
 Sue Ellen Ballard, conductor
9:50 Executive Board Staff Report
 Bill F. Mackey
10:15 Hymn: My Jesus, I Love Thee
10:20 Executive Board Recommendations
 Terry Wilder
10:40 "Operation Cooperation" Recognition
 James Jones
10:45 Introduction of Speaker
10:50 Special Music
 Tapestry Ladies Ensemble
 Jim Casson, minister of music
11:00 President's Address Terry Wilder
11:30 Chorus: God Has Called Us
 Prayer Nell Bruce



Terry Wilder

Tuesday Afternoon, November 14

- 1:10 Pre-session Music** Wind Orchestra
 Ken Goforth, conductor
- 1:20 Call to Order**
Prayer Carl Boyd
- 1:30 Theme Interpretation**
 Chuck Neighbors
- 1:40 Archives Advisory Board
 History Presentation**
 Jim Hawkins,
 Stan Williams
- 1:50 Baptist Healthcare System**
 Tommy Smith
- 2:00 Introduction of Speaker**
2:05 Special Music Kentucky Baptist Chorale
 Carl Stam, conductor
- 2:15 Convention Sermon** Harold Greenfield
2:45 Hymn: The Servant Song
2:50 Temperance League Report
 Claude Witt
- 2:55 Committee on Public Affairs**
 Terry Lester
- 3:05 Election of President**
3:20 Kentucky Baptist Foundation
 Barry G. Allen
- 3:30 Kentucky Baptist Assemblies**
 Rusty Ellison
- 3:40 Hymn: Amazing Grace**
3:45 Special Music Doug Crawley
3:50 Oneida Baptist Institute
 W. F. Underwood
- 4:00 Run-off for President (if needed)**
**4:05 Miscellaneous Business and Election
 of First Vice President**
4:30 Chorus: God Has Called Us
 Prayer Marilyn Johnson



Chuck Neighbors

Tuesday Evening, November 14

- 6:30 Call to Order**
Prayer Eric Allen
- 6:40 Theme Interpretation** Chuck Neighbors
6:50 Miscellaneous Business
 (Runoff for First Vice President, if needed)
 Election of Second Vice President
7:15 Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy
7:20 Special Music
 Southern Kentucky Combined Choirs
 Richard Suggs, coordinator
- 7:35 Clear Creek Baptist Bible College Report**
 Bill D. Whittaker
- 7:45 Western Recorder** Trennis Henderson
7:55 Campbellsville University
 Michael V. Carter
- 8:05 Runoff for Second Vice President**
 (if needed)
- 8:10 Hymn: Here I Am, Lord**
8:15 Cooperative Program
"Partners in the Harvest" Celebration
 featuring Clay Crosse
- 9:15 Introduction of Special Prayer Time**
 Terry Wilder
- Chorus: God Has Called Us**
Special Time of Prayer

Wednesday Morning, November 15

- 8:45 Call to Order**
Prayer Shawn Madden
- 8:55 Theme Interpretation** Chuck Neighbors
9:05 Hymn: I Surrender All
9:10 Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
 William Smithwick
- 9:20 Obituaries/Memorial** G. Allen West
9:25 Special Music - Solo Handbells
 Phoebe Parks
- 9:30 Cooperative Program Testimony**
 Calvin Wilkins
- 9:35 Recognition of Convention Officers**
**9:45 Recommendations from Committee on
 Constitution and Bylaws** Steve Hussung
Committees Willis Henson
Nominations Travis Collins
Resolutions Gayle Toole
Arrangements Rick Robbins
- 10:00 Miscellaneous Business/Election of
 Secretaries**
- 10:15 Seminary Extension 50th Anniversary
 Recognition** Ed Thiele
- 10:20 Hymn: Perfect Peace**
10:25 Cumberland College Report
 James H. Taylor
- 10:35 North American Missions** James Pinkley
10:40 Special Music Alma Randolph
10:45 International Missions Charles Hedolph
10:50 Woman's Missionary Union Joy L. Bolton
11:00 Hymn: Let Your Heart Be Broken
11:05 Introduction of Speaker
11:10 Special Music
 Alma Randolph
- 11:15 Message**
 Charles Lowery
- 11:50 Recognition of New Officers/
 Passing the Gavel**
- 12:00 Closing Chorus:
 God Has Called Us**
 Prayer Shelly Hill



Charles Lowery

PARTNERS IN THE HARVEST

A Multi-Media Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Cooperative Program

Featuring drama, video and a mini-
concert by Dove Award-winning
recording artist **Clay Crosse!**

Written by Robin Burke, Louisville
 Directed by Tom Smoot, Director, KBC Creative Ministries
 Boyce Taylor portrayed by Tim Gooch, Goshen
 Video production by Larry Brannin, KBC Media
 Production Associate



WHEN: Tuesday & Wednesday, November 14-15, 2000

WHERE: First Baptist Church, 621 E. 12th Avenue
 Bowling Green, Kentucky

For more information call the Kentucky
 Baptist Convention at 502-254-4731 or
 1-888-254-5713 or visit our website at
<http://www.kybaptist.org>



Breakfast



In support of Campbellsville University, alumni and friends are cordially invited to attend the Annual Convention Breakfast Wednesday, Nov. 15, at 7:00 a.m. (cr) at the University Plaza Hotel. The breakfast is free, but reservations are required and may be made by calling (270) 789-5216 or via e-mail at jfoster@campbellsvil.edu.



The Joy of Serving and Learning

Dean: Campbellsville theology school ahead of expectations

By David Winfrey
News Director

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Walter Jackson said that when he became dean of Campbellsville University's new school of theology early last year, his goal was to have 60 graduate students enrolled by the end of its third year.

"We're about a year ahead of ourselves," Jackson said last week. "It looks like we will do that at the conclusion of the second year."

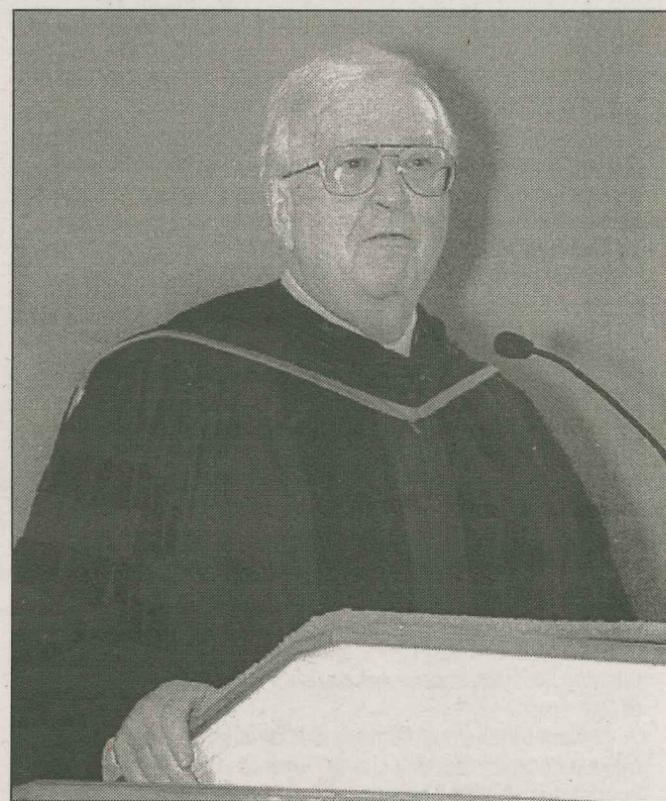
Last week, Campbellsville officials held a dedication ceremony for the school. Among the speakers was Roy Honeycutt, who compared the school's offerings to the needs of the characters in "The Wizard of Oz."

"For many who enroll in the school of theology, their primary need will be brainpower," said Honeycutt, a Campbellsville trustee and former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"Others may be brilliant, but need a heart," he added. "Some students will arrive with bluster to cover their insecurity. Yet, like the cowardly lion, they need most of all to discover courage to equip them for successful living. Like Dorothy, ... some need to find their way home again, to experience once again the security and stability for which most of us long."

Honeycutt urged the leaders to observe four guideposts in the establishment of the school: focus, faith, freedom and future.

"If (you) care deeply about the future of this school and its role within the Kingdom of God, then (you) should define its destination with precision, follow that dream with devotion and commit resources adequate to fulfill the vision of the dream," he said.



At the ceremony, Jackson told the audience, "Wherever God is, we plan to be."

"We promise to study theology and ministry in all ages, but we will not attempt to educate tomorrow's ministers only with yesterday's traditions and doctrines," he said. "Our goals include the generation of dreams and visions for the near future."

In an interview, Jackson credited the school's growing enrollment to students' need and desire.

"There was more need than we anticipated and more capacity," he said. "That is to say, we knew how many did not have masters' degrees. ... But we did not know about their will and desire to enter a master's program."

About 80 percent of the school's graduate students are classified as "non-traditional" or over age 25, he said. In addition to graduate students, another 90 undergraduate students at Campbellsville are pursuing bachelor's or associate degrees from the school, he said.

And the sports ministry degree is also attracting a lot of attention, Jackson added. Some countries are closed to missionaries, he said, but "they will come and beg your sports minister to come and teach them how to play basketball."

With five fulltime faculty and 19 adjunct professors, the school also is offering graduate courses at its satellite location at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

"We have requests from two other areas that we have not been able to fulfil," he said: Lexington and Northern Kentucky.

"Quite frankly, we don't have the funds to move in that direction right now," Jackson said, citing library resources as one challenge to adding more satellite locations.

"As soon as it is at all feasible, we will move in that direction," he added.

With additional reporting by Campbellsville writer Susan Wheeldon

ROY HONEYCUTT
Speaking at a dedication ceremony, the former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville urged Campbellsville officials to observe four guideposts in its new theology school: focus, faith, freedom and future. (Campbellsville University photo by Kenda Shugart)

BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridging the Gap between God and Humanity is only done through the power of the Holy Spirit working through us as his bridge builders. **Kentucky Changers 2001** is your youth group's opportunity to have a God-sized mission experience and discover how they can make a difference in the lives of families in the high-need areas of Covington and Frankfort, Kentucky.



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(High School Youth Only)

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(All Youth Grades 7-12)

\$150 before March 15,
\$165 after this date

Register Online:
www.kybaptist.org/kychangers.htm

Graham back in crusade pulpit

Continued from page 1

because they saw my name somewhere," he said. "I told them I'd quit running, that I'd already arrived. I ran for a place in the kingdom of God and I went by the way of the cross and the resurrection and because of the cross and the resurrection I'm going to be there forever and so can you be."

Although Graham sat down after his 40-minute sermon and initial invitation for Christian converts to come forward, the evangelist stood again twice to make sure people knew he wanted to see them at the foot of the stage in the football stadium converted for the crusade's use.

"Many people are coming," he said. "We're going to wait on them. You join them."

Graham, who turned 82 last week, spoke freely about the effects of his treatments for Parkinson's disease and a buildup of fluid on the brain known as normal pressure hydrocephalus.

"After my third operation, I think it was, that lasted about 5-1/2 hours, I didn't think I was going to live and down deep in my subconscious somewhere—I'd been put to sleep—I came face to face with God, I came face to face with my sin, things that I had done years ago," Graham revealed.

"I thought about Jesus on that cross, dying and shedding His blood for me and the bed became wet with my tears ... and I had the greatest peace come over me that hasn't left 'til this day because I knew that my sins were forgiven because of that cross.

"I want to tell you tonight in this beautiful arena, you can make a decision that will change your life here and change your status yonder," he said, pointing heavenward.

*You are invited to an evening of praise and worship
before the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

**Hillvue Heights Church
Sunday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. (CST)**

Power House

Worship will be led by Michael Higdon and the
Hope Community Church praise and worship team

**Hillvue Heights Church
3219 Nashville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42101**

For directions call (270) 842-0012 or visit us at www.hillvue.com

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The success of the Annuity Board and GuideOne relationship also benefits hundreds of retired ministers, missionaries and their widows in financial need. The Annuity Board's *Adopt An Annuitant* ministry has been the beneficiary of more than \$2 million over the past eight years.

To find out how the relationship between the Annuity Board and GuideOne can benefit your congregation, visit the Annuity Board's booth during the Kentucky Baptist Convention, or call GuideOne at 1-888-218-8561.



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benefit Southern Baptist
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Clinton: Homosexual partners should have same rights as married couples

WASHINGTON (BP)—Same-sex partners with a "genuine commitment" should have rights and benefits equal to those of married couples, President Clinton said in an interview with a magazine for homosexuals.

In addition, Clinton said homosexuals should have adoption rights.

The president made the comments for publication in the Nov. 7 issue of *The Advocate*.

Clinton told *The Advocate's* Chris Bull he did not know if Americans would reach the point where they accept same-sex marriage.

Homosexual "couples who have manifested a genuine commitment should have all the legal options that others do, whether it's how they leave their estates or cover their partners with health insurance on the job or such simple things as the right to visit hospital

beds during family visiting hours," Clinton said, according to a transcript of the interview.

People "will put their own words to whatever the relationship is," he said.

"People who have a relationship ought to be able to call it whatever they want," Clinton said. "And insofar as it's sanctified by a religious ceremony, that's up to the churches involved."

The debate about adoption by homosexuals might affect the issue of same-sex unions, the president added.

"Because you see more and more gay couples adopting kids," Clinton said. "Very often, they're children who wouldn't be taken by other people or who haven't been. And I think that's going to have an impact on people. I've always felt that all those anti-adoption laws were wrong."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Clinton, Gore appearances challenged.** Americans United for Separation of Church and State have asked the Internal Revenue Service to launch an inquiry into whether churches in Michigan and Virginia violated a federal tax law that prohibits churches from active participation in politics by allowing President Clinton and Vice President Gore to speak from their pulpits. Americans United said by allowing Gore's appearances during church services Oct. 29 at Greater Grace Temple of the Apostolic Faith in Detroit, Mich., and Clinton's appearance at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., the churches violated the law by supporting political candidates.

■ **Clinton asked to talk religious liberty.** The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom wrote to President Clinton Oct. 26 urging that he raise religious-freedom issues with Russia's President Vladimir Putin at their upcoming meeting. Clinton is scheduled to meet with Putin in mid-November at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Brunei. The commission, which formed last year under a new U.S. law, is concerned about a Dec. 31 deadline for religious groups in Russia to register or be "liquidated." To date nearly half the groups have been unable to register.

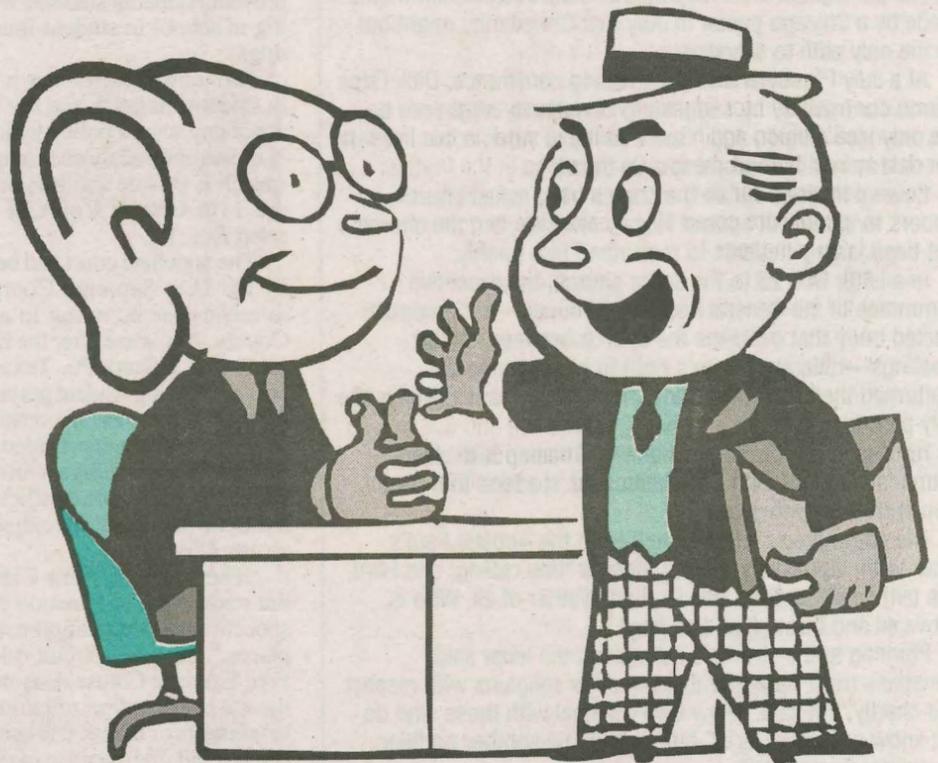
■ **Foursquare Gospel leader dead.** Howard Courtney, a patriarch of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, died Oct. 29 after a lengthy illness, the Los Angeles-based church announced. Courtney, 88, of Glendale, Calif., served as general supervisor of the denomination in the 1940s and from 1953 to 1974. He was vice president for 30 years, beginning in 1950. Courtney also was known for his contribution to the modern Pentecostal movement across the globe. The denomination has 3.3 million members worldwide, including more than 238,000 in the United States.

■ **Bible society works with Nelson.** The International Bible Society has announced an agreement with Thomas Nelson Publishers to distribute Bibles featuring the Nashville publishing company's New King James Version. More than 110 million copies of the NKJV, introduced in 1982, have been distributed by Nelson Bibles, a division of Thomas Nelson. The Bible society, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., will begin its production of the NKJV Bibles with the scheduled January 2001 release of a paperback Bible, New Testament and Gospel of John.

■ **Number of M.Div. students up.** The Association of Theological Schools is reporting an increase in the number of students seeking a master of divinity degree, but churches still desire more leaders from among the most talented young people who opt for other professions. In its annual report, the Pittsburgh-based association reports that the number of students seeking the basic degree for Protestant or Catholic ordination has grown by about 2,000 in the past five years. About 70,000 students are enrolled in the 237 American theological schools accredited by the ATS, but only 30,000 seek the M.Div. degree often achieved by preaching ministers.

■ **Lutheran foundation sued.** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Foundation faces a class action lawsuit as a result of a \$40 million investment loss suffered by the foundation in 1998. In the suit, 15 plaintiffs charge that the foundation knowingly made "unauthorized and reckless" investments that led to the loss. Established in 1958 as a stewardship ministry, the LCMS Foundation has grown to \$700 million in assets. The suit stems from a \$40 million loss incurred from 1994 to 1998. The foundation has filed its own suit against the investment company, Vining Sparks, in an effort to recover some of the money.

We're all ears!



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1-2 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m.
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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

Presbyterians issue response to controversial pastor's address

LOUISVILLE (RNS)—The Presbyterian Church (USA) has issued the highest-level response to controversial comments made by a Chicago pastor in July that Christianity might not be the only path to salvation.

At a July Presbyterian Peacemaking conference, Dick Ficca stirred controversy by suggesting Christianity might not be the only true religion and "God's ability to work in our lives is not determined by becoming a Christian."

Several factions within the church have asked church leaders to speak out against Ficca's remarks, but the church has been largely hesitant to reprimand him openly.

In a letter Oct. 25 to the entire church, the executive committee of the General Assembly Council—a 93-member elected body that oversees the church between annual meetings—reiterated Ficca's right to his opinions but reaffirmed the historic teaching that faith in Jesus Christ is the only path to salvation.

"Biblical faith continues to be the Christian faith, the church's faith, our faith," the letter said. It added that "our own faith is unambiguous."

The committee's letter quoted from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, saying there is "one calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all and through all and in all."

Pointing to the church's catechism, the letter said Christians must treat members of other religions with respect and charity, but said, "How God will deal with those who do not know or follow Christ, but who follow another tradition, we cannot finally say."

While reaffirming Ficca's "right to his own views," the letter called for unity in the church and said a central tenet of Presbyterian theology is the role of individual conscience. "There are truths and forms of truth with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ," the letter said, quoting from the church's Book of Order.

Appeals court OKs student-initiated prayer

ATLANTA (RNS)—A federal appellate court says a recent Supreme Court ruling on school prayer does not prevent Alabama students from praying in school in student-initiated settings.

"So long as the prayer is genuinely student-initiated, and not the product of any school policy which actively or surreptitiously encourages it, the speech is private and it is protected," the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Oct. 19.

The appellate court had been asked by the U.S. Supreme Court justices to reconsider its ruling in a DeKalb County, Ala., case after the high court ruled that a Santa Fe, Texas, school policy allowing student prayers before football games was unconstitutional.

The appellate court ruled that permitting student prayers in the Alabama case does not conflict with the Santa Fe decision, upholding its previous ruling.

"The Establishment Clause does not require the elimination of private speech endorsing religion in public places," the 11th Circuit ruled. "The Free Exercise Clause does not permit the state to confine religious speech to whispers or banish it to broom closets. If it did, the exercise of one's religion would not be free at all."

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, challenged a federal court order by an Alabama federal judge, saying it unconstitutionally restricted students' religious expression.

"This decision by the 11th Circuit

Judge approves moment of silence

RICHMOND, Va. (RNS)—A federal court has affirmed the constitutionality of a Virginia law requiring public school students to observe a minute of silence in class each day.

In a 15-page opinion, U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton rejected the American Civil Liberties Union's contention the law violated the constitutional separation of church and state because it allowed for prayer during the moment of silence.

But Virginia insisted the four-month-old law had a secular purpose and did not favor religion.

"The court finds that the Commonwealth's daily observance of the one minute of silence act is constitutional, the act was enacted for a secular purpose, does not advance or

inhibit religion, nor is there excessive entanglement with religion," wrote Hilton, the Washington Post reported.

"The momentary silence neither advances nor inhibits religion," he went on to write. "Students may think as they wish—and this thinking can be purely religious in nature or purely secular in nature. All that is required is that they sit silently."

ACLU officials plan to appeal the ruling.

Under the law, all public schools in Virginia must observe a daily minute of silence allowing students to "meditate, pray or engage in any other silent activity."

While previous state law did permit a minute of silence in Virginia public schools, schools were not required to do so.

puts to rest this issue and safeguards the First Amendment rights of students," Sekulow said in a statement. "The decision also sends a strong signal that student-led, student-initiated prayer is still constitutionally protected in this country."

The America Civil Liberties Union of Alabama sued on behalf of a De-

Kalb County educator and his son, a student in the county system.

"We're extremely disappointed with the 11th Circuit's decision," said Jeanne Locicero, a law fellow with the ACLU of Alabama. "We don't believe that they applied the principles or the spirit of the Supreme Court's decision in Santa Fe."

Solutions

Did you know: (a) More than 60 percent of those who died last year did not have a will? (b) The Commonwealth of Kentucky's plan for asset distribution at death does not include your church or other Baptist causes? (c) Planning for the management of your personal and financial affairs in the event of incapacity is as important as planning for asset distribution at death?

Solution: (a) Schedule a Kentucky Baptist Foundation "Christian Estate Planning Basics" seminar in your church, and (b) schedule a private consultation with our trust counsel, Laurie Valentine. There is no cost for these services.

Did you know: (a) Most church members are not aware of the difference between probate estates and taxable estates? (b) Many have no idea of what is involved in probating an estate? (c) Most are not aware of the potential advantages of a revocable living trust?

Solution: Schedule a Kentucky Baptist Foundation "Truth About Probate and Living Trusts" seminar for the older adults in your church.

Did you know: (a) More than \$47 trillion in wealth will be passed from one generation to the next during the next 15 to 20 years? (b) Traditional sources of giving to your

church will diminish even as the need for its ministry increases? (c) Many church members are not aware they can make gifts to their church of appreciated securities and real estate?

Solution: Schedule a Kentucky Baptist Foundation "Charitable Giving Ideas" seminar in your church.

Did you know: (a) Most adults do not set financial goals early enough in life to achieve them. (b) Getting and staying out of debt is an achievable goal. (c) The Bible contains more than 2,200 verses that deal with money and possessions?

Solution: Schedule a Kentucky Baptist Foundation "Christian Financial Planning" seminar for the young adults in your church.

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

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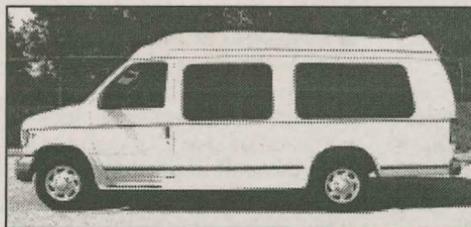


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Activists: Debt relief shows impact of people in the pews

By Kenny Byrd
Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—People in the pews can make a difference, say supporters of an international religious movement for debt relief that won a major victory in Congress Oct. 25.

Many people doubt that letters, phone calls and visits from constituents can tip the scales in a bid to get congressional support for legislation. But that is just what happened, observers say, when Congress passed a foreign-operations spending bill that includes \$435 million toward debt relief for the world's poorest nations.

The win surprised even supporters

of the bill, who were convinced that lawmakers would approve only a portion of their request. Congress, however, provided all the funds necessary this year to fund the United States' share of an agreement among the leading industrialized nations to forgive debts facing poor countries.

The spending bill cleared the House on a 307-101 vote. The Senate followed with a 65-27 vote. The bill now heads to President Clinton, who is expected to sign it into law.

"We are heartened by the show of bipartisan support in the Congress," said Dan Driscoll-Shaw, national coordinator for Jubilee 2000/USA. "Now that Congress has acted, it is up to the

countries to make sure that the money freed as a result of debt cancellation is spent in a transparent way for the betterment of people."

The Jubilee 2000 campaign is religiously based and inspired by the Old Testament concept of "jubilee," the idea that every 50 years debts should be forgiven and slaves set free.

Two years ago, Congress barely knew about the movement. Prompted by reports of children in poor countries dying because their governments were spending more in interest payments than on health and education, an international religious and human-rights movement mobilized.

Bread for the World, one of dozens of supporting organizations, said the real story behind the movement's success "is the important role churches and individuals have played in bringing the debt-relief issue into the national arena."

The measure passed with broad bipartisan support. And that bipartisanship stemmed from the broad group of religious figures backing the initiative, including Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Jesse Jackson, Tony Campolo and others.

When the movement started, supporters had only one Democrat as sponsor—Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. But momentum gained as people of faith across the country became active.

An early victory for the movement came when a conservative Republican came on board and became a passionate advocate for debt relief.

Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., a

Southern Baptist, was approached by a group of Presbyterians in his district.

Bachus was approached by Pat Pelham, a Bread for the World member from Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. Pelham and friends visited Bachus and told him that 30,000 children die every day from hunger and other preventable causes.

According to a column in Sojourners magazine written by Bread for the World's David Beckmann, one member of Pelham's group told Bachus, "If I had to choose between paying debt that I had inherited from my parents and buying food for my children, the choice would be clear."

Against the recommendation of his staff, the meeting led Bachus to become an original sponsor of the measure and its most passionate congressional advocate.

The White House recently called a bipartisan meeting attended by Pat Robertson and other supporters to work on an agreement. But standing in the way of the package until recently was Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas.

Observers say Texas constituents got Gramm to support the initiative after Pat Robertson told "700 Club" viewers to call Gramm, and Marv Knox, editor of the Texas Baptist Standard, wrote an editorial asking Texas Baptists to do the same.

The U.S. commitment on debt relief will again be tested next year as the G-8 agreement calls for more money from the United States. But this year's \$435 million was the largest installment in the three-year package.

Campus Crusade's Bill Bright has cancer

ROCHESTER, Minn. (RNS)—Campus Crusade for Christ President Bill Bright is suffering from pulmonary fibrosis and prostate cancer.

Bright, 79, underwent medical testing at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and received confirmation from his doctor he has pulmonary fibrosis of the lung. His wife, Vonette, announced her husband's condition in a letter to Campus Crusade staff on Oct. 27, the ministry said.

Earlier in the month, Bill Bright told his staff of his cancer condition and of the initial diagnosis of the lung disease.

He has been treated for four years for prostate cancer and doctors think he developed pulmonary fibrosis during that time. Pulmonary fibrosis is a buildup of scar tissue in the lung that results in the tissue permanently losing its ability to transport oxygen. The average life expectancy for those suffering from the condition is three to five years, and there is no known cure.

Bright plans to turn over the presidency of Campus Crusade on Aug. 1, 2001, and continue as chairman of the board of directors.

In recent weeks he has traveled to Amsterdam, San Francisco and Philadelphia, but he said he plans to slow down soon.

Bill Bright, the winner of the 1996 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, and Vonette Bright co-founded Campus Crusade in 1951. It began as a ministry to college students, but now also includes more than 60 ministries involving families, inner cities, athletes, prisons, executives and the military.

You are Invited to our 10th Anniversary Celebration

Parkway Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky., will celebrate its 10th anniversary Sunday, Nov. 19. Lunch will be served at noon.

Rev. Michael D. Sharp, pastor of Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville will be the guest speaker at the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Rev. Sharp was the past minister at Parkway for several years. The Heartland Quartet will be singing at 1:30 p.m.

Members, former members and friends of Parkway are cordially invited to join us for this 10th anniversary celebration.

Margrave serves in Africa

By Robert Dunston

Jessica Margrave, the daughter of Ed and Carol Margrave of Union, was one of two Cumberland College students serving in Ghana for several weeks this summer.

Our two students joined nine other college students and a campus minister to teach the True Love Waits sexual abstinence program in churches and schools.

Margrave and her team members spent the first few days in Accra, the capital, and then moved on to Kamas. Their final destination was Mamerigu in northern Ghana.

Typically their day began with breakfast and group devotions. They then traveled to one of the local schools and led a seminar or rally for the True Love Waits program. Usually they had free time in the afternoon before they led another rally in an area church.

Margrave, a double major in biology and religion, spent many of her afternoons in the local hospital. Some other afternoons she walked through the town with young students she had met.

The highest point of the trip was the relationship she built with a 19-year-old student named Zak. He was in the process of applying to and

gathering the funds needed to attend college. He served as president of the Concerned Students of Mamerigu, an organization of Christian and Muslim students trying to make a difference in their community.

Zak was a Muslim, but the Christians he had met through his work with the Concerned Students of Mamerigu had introduced him to Christianity and made him think about becoming a Christian. Margrave had several opportunities to talk with him and share her faith.

On her last Thursday in Mamerigu, Margrave spoke at the evening rally. Zak sat in the audience. After the program, Zak came to her and said, "I liked what you said.

You made a whole lot of sense. I am going to think seriously about what you said."

The next day, Zak prayed to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. He has since written team members to tell them of the difference they made in his community.

Margrave's testimony and life made an eternal difference in Zak's life. We at Cumberland College rejoice with her.

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

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Groups promote day of prayer for persecuted church

Survey: Religious freedom restricted in most of world

WASHINGTON (RNS)—About 75 percent of the world's population is subjected to restrictions and violations of their religious freedom, according to a survey released Oct. 26 by the Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom.

About 36 percent of people live in countries in which religious liberties are "fundamentally violated," while 39 percent practice their faith under constraints, the survey stated.

Religious freedom is rapidly deteriorating in many parts of the world, the report concluded, citing Myanmar (formerly Burma), Turkmenistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, North Korea and Tibet as countries with the broadest and most systematic violations of religious liberties.

Continued from page 1

on the strength of such appeals and similar efforts to push the issue of Christian oppression center stage on Nov. 12, the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

An estimated 200 million Christians around the world face persecution. A report released by the U.S. State Department in September paints a dreary portrait of their plight: Imprisonment in Greece. Forcible conversions to Buddhism in Burma. Abductions in Sudan. Their churches bombed in India.

"A lot of churches in America don't know about all the persecution Christians face, so when I talk to them it's a real eye-opener," said Magdangal, who said he endured brutal beatings and torture while in prison. "Seeing me in person brings home the message that there is a need out there that is more real than they thought."

Now in its fifth year, the International Day of Prayer is observed each November by about 300,000 Christians in 130 countries, including the United States.

"We need to be aware that America is not the only place where people are trying to honor the name of Christ," said Doug Christgau, pastor of cross-cultural ministries at Wheaton Bible Church in Wheaton, Ill. "It's very easy for us to forget what's going on in the rest of the world."

Which is why Christgau marks the day at his church by inviting persecuted Christians to tell their stories to his 2,000-member congregation, as do

dozens of other congregations.

Bibles are prized commodities in many of the countries from which speakers arrive, said Connie Reitsma, associate director of project development at the Bible League. The organization is one of many observing the day by distributing Bibles to oppressed Christians.

"People have no idea how precious the Word is to an individual who has never had their own copy before," said Reitsma. "Putting Bibles in their hands is a big part of helping people sustain their faith."

On behalf of oppressed Christians in Indonesia, members of New Life Community Church in Arizona have launched a letter-writing campaign to Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid. The congregation hopes the 200 signatures collected will help persuade Wahid to put an end to more than a year of fighting between Christians and Muslims in the country's eastern Maluku islands. About 4,000 people—both Christians and Muslims—have been killed in the violence.

"We're doing this to say to the president that people halfway around the world have heard about this and want him to go help the people who share our faith," said John Tuitele, chairman of the church's ministry for the persecuted church and a board member of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. His organization is among several agencies, including Voice of the Martyrs and International Christian Concern, which are helping promote the day. New Life Community Church also

is giving members prayer cards. Each card features the name and picture of a persecuted Christian and describes his or her challenges. A similar effort, in calendar format, is being conducted by the aid agency Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

"Each date lists the name of a persecuted Christian and the details of his or her situation," said Diana Lengkeek, executive director of Christian Solidarity Worldwide (USA). "One of the requests we get from people who are being persecuted in their home country is that they don't want to be forgotten. This way they are being remembered and prayed for. That means a lot."

In youth groups and across college campuses, the Christian aid agency Open Doors With Brother Andrew is encouraging young people to mark the day by simulating the experiences of a persecuted Christian.

"Students get to role-play what it's like to be a Christian trying to get to a

church meeting in a country like Cuba or Vietnam," said Terry Madison, president of the organization, which also helped create Day of Prayer resource manuals for Christian bookstores and college campuses. "The students have to sneak to a Bible study class somewhere on campus without getting caught by students pretending to be security forces trying to stop them."

Often denied legal representation or a fair trial, Christians in many countries find themselves with nowhere to turn when persecuted for their faith, said Samuel Ericsson, president of Advocates International.

That's where his organization, a global network of lawyers who help defend people persecuted for their beliefs, steps in.

"A lot of Christians are put in jail on trumped-up charges, so they need somebody there who knows how to protect them in those situations," said Ericsson. "That's what we're there for."

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Skill plus hard play equals success

By Denise Spencer
OBI Publications

Our Oneida Baptist Institute soccer team just ended its season by coming in second place in regional competition. They were this year's district champions.

It was coach Scott Self's best season so far. He attributed the team's success to "a mixture of kids with good attitudes and the luck of the draw."

Self is a 1993 Oneida alumnus, and a graduate of Union College. He came to OBI in the sixth grade and attended for seven years. This is his third year to coach soccer at Oneida. Self also coaches swimming and teaches world history and sociology.

Though we didn't make it to state competition, our students enjoyed many victories. Of the teams that beat us in regular season play, we beat all but one in tournament play.

This was particularly remarkable considering that about half of our players were new OBI students this year and approximately one-fourth had never been on a soccer team before. "When we've lacked in skill, we've been able to make it up in hard play," Self noted.

Cliff, a freshman, was one of those brand new players. He became a regular starter later in the season. He admitted he was surprised to advance so quickly. He had played soccer before in physical education class and with friends. "I knew I liked it, but I'd never really played enough to see if I was any good," Cliff explained.

Self saw potential in his team early on. When asked if he expected them to do as well as they did, he replied, "I thought we could, but I didn't really

expect them to do it." The coach was happy to bring home a second-place regional trophy. "I'm satisfied to make it to regional finals," he said.

Once an Oneida soccer player himself, Self said his favorite thing about coaching is "being around the game. It's like a second childhood, I guess."

The OBI soccer team has been coed for three years now. Self described the situation as "pretty unusual," but added that "it works out fine." The 2000 team included two girls.

Hope is a sophomore who enrolled at Oneida this summer. An avid soccer player, Hope has participated in the sport since she was in the first grade.

Coed soccer is not new to Hope. She has played on all-girls' teams and coed teams in the past. Hope finds coed playing more competitive, and she likes it. "I love the competition," she said.

What does she enjoy most about the sport? "The physical activity and the contact. I'm a contact person." Hope also likes the special challenge of playing on a coed team. "I like to be with the guys and not be treated differently," she said. "I like to actually play up to their level,

which is hard."

Matt is a senior who has played soccer three years for Oneida. He said this season "exceeded my expectations, big time. It would have been nice to go further, but I'm very pleased with what we did." Matt was glad to end his OBI soccer career with success. "It was a good way to go out," he said, smiling. "We couldn't have ended much better than we did."

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

The foundation still holds

Clear Creek started with the desire to help older men in the ministry who lacked educational opportunity. Younger men who could attend college were usually not admitted.

Under that policy Hugh Davidson first went to a liberal arts college. As a young ministerial student he was surprised and disappointed when his faculty advisor told him he didn't need to take any Bible courses. His call was to preach the Bible and at age 23 he transferred to Clear Creek. The year was 1951 and his expenses were covered by the GI Bill.

The influences of those days remain strong; the memories are quickly stirred.

Davidson remembered his teachers: "Through the years I probably should have forgotten what Professor Sloan said about talking with a pulpit committee: 'You ought not to talk about finances. Accept what they offer and trust God.'

"T.D. Brown was absolutely one of the best men I've ever known. He was a scholar but a good preacher. He could use the stage whisper very effectively.

"Dean Bill Smith became a

personal friend of so many students. Dr. Kelly had a distinctive way he pronounced love and it was always his theme in chapel.

"L.G. Kee, a prince of a man, taught English and music. My music lessons with Mr. Kee were 50 cents a session; our lessons were in the old stone building next to the creek. The male chorus he

directed was a wonderful experience. We visited local churches, sang at Campbellsville College and took tours. We were the first group to sing at Bellevue Baptist Church where R.G. Lee was pastor. The building was under construction and while walking through the building we sang a capella in the sanctuary."

Davidson completed the diploma program in 1953 and went on to secure a degree at Carson-Newman College. In 40 years he was pastor of six churches. He served Nance's Grove in New Market, Tenn., on two occasions totaling more than 15 years.

"The foundation I gained at Clear Creek has meant the most to me," Davidson stated.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

Pastoral Care Emergencies. David Switzer. Fortress Press, 2000. 191 pages. \$18. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

For years, Fortress Press has offered some of the best pastoral care books on the market. The current series, Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling, maintains the high standards that helping professionals have come to expect from Fortress Press.

Switzer's subject matter covers the wide range of situations that are properly called "emergencies," including sudden illness, death and bereavement, suicide, family violence, divorce, psychiatric emergencies and substance abuse.

Having been familiar with Switzer's work before, I'm not surprised at his clear and thorough treatment of these emergencies.

Switzer provides good descriptions of the emergencies and then takes the reader on a step-by-step consideration of the individual's viewpoint, as well as points of intervention for the caregiver.

Switzer also highlights the theological considerations of each of these emergencies. The last chapter discusses the important subject of when and how to refer people in emergency situations to long-term care.

Those who are seasoned in pastoral care will find much in this book that will help them be even more effective. Those who are beginning ministry as caregivers will find this book's practical approach indispensable.

Switzer's ample footnotes in each chapter provide helpful suggestions of other works to consult if one feels the need for a fuller discussion about a particular pastoral care emergency.

Although intended for the professional caregiver, this book is an excellent resource for laypeople seeking additional training for their ministries in such roles as deacon or yokefellow. *Wayne Hager*

A Baptist's Theology. Edited by Wayne Stacy. Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2000. 212 pages. \$20. ♦♦

This book is mistitled. Picking it off the shelf, the potential reader might expect a particular Baptist's outlook on the issues of God, humankind, sin, salvation, the Bible, etc.

What he or she would find is a collection of 12 essays by 12 authors dealing with revelation, God, people, sin, Scripture, salvation, the church, ministry, baptism, communion and eschatology with no attempt to tie them together with a central organizing principle.



If our hypothetical reader actually bought the book, took it home and began to read, he or she might be frustrated that the authors were limited to 20 pages or less to deal with such broad themes. This limitation often leads to less than fully developed, patchwork approaches to the assigned topic, such as William Hendrick's opening essay on revelation.

Our reader might find himself wanting to explore further how Molly Marshall's view of Imago Dei/Imago Trinitas relates to her understanding of sin and salvation, only to run into Michael Codgill's contradictory understanding of the human condition in the next chapter.

Lest one think this is due to sloppy editing, Wayne Stacy wants us to know that this approach was quite intentional. This effort is Stacy's response to a Roman Catholic priest's desire to find a book in which the "Baptist way of doing theology, in which each Baptist may (and must) articulate his/her own individual Baptist's theology" is demonstrated. In one respect, this book would fill that bill. On the other hand, the reader would see only snippets of each Baptist's theology.

Though some of the essays were stimulating and potentially useful,

overall, I found the book lacked coherence. (Of course that might have been the point.) Perhaps a better title may be "Pieces of Baptists' Theologies." *Jim Holladay*

A New Call To Mission: Help for Perplexed Churches. Alan Neely. Smyth & Helwys, 2000. 120 pages. \$16. ♦♦

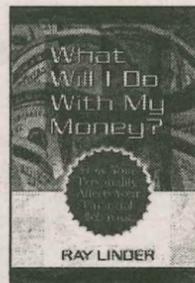
This book is designed as a study guide for churches trying to decide how to allot their missions money.

To accomplish this task, the book is divided into three parts. Part one provides an overview of the current context in which churches do world missions, a brief history of the world missions movement and a model for doing missions.

Part two compares the missions strategies of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists. Part three addresses the missions philosophy and strategy of the local church.

The most interesting aspect of the book was the comparison of the missions philosophy and strategies of the IMB and the CBF. Recognizing that a significant difference lies in the economy of scale, Alan Neely nonetheless provides a fair-minded and candid look at the strengths and weaknesses of the two groups' approaches to world missions. Because the CBF mission strategy combines world and domestic missions under one strategy, a look at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board would have been helpful in the comparison of SBC and CBF mission strategy.

Neely and Smyth & Helwys should be applauded for attempting to help congregations with their missions funding decisions. Unfortunately, I think this book will be more confusing than helpful. Part one is choppy and too brief to be much help. I had a hard time connecting part three with



the rest of the book. It would have made the book a much more useful and comprehensive tool if Neely had included the mission work of the American and National Baptist bodies. *Jim Holladay*

What Will I Do With My Money? How Your Personality Affects Your Financial Behavior. Ray Linder. Northfield Publishing, 2000. 211 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦

Written in an easy-to-understand style with lots of questions and examples along the way, Linder successfully guides readers through the minefield of our emotional link to money.

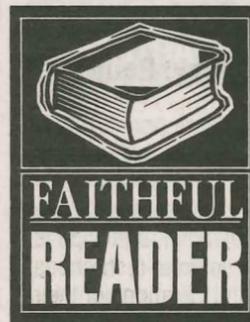
Linder works from the premise that our problems with money spring less from our lack of it or our lack of understanding about it than from our personal reaction to it.

He spends the first half of the book explaining the relationship of personality to money and helping readers get a quick sketch of their personality types through two personality indicator tests: a much-abbreviated version of Meyers-Briggs and the generalized temperament study often used in Christian circles.

In the second half of the book, Linder applies those personality types to four financial behavior types he defines as protectors, players, pleasers and planners.

The book is detail-oriented with a heavy emphasis on statistics and diagrams that help readers plow through the massive amounts of information and feel less intimidated by it.

While it would be impossible to get a fully developed idea of one's personality through the few questions Linder asks, his research is sound, and the practical advice good. This would be an effective tool to help many Christians get a handle on their financial situations. *Victoria Moon*



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

Christian music songwriters say theirs can be a lonely calling

By Stacey Hamby
Missouri Word & Way

LOUISVILLE (ABP)—Songwriters put the pen to the lyrics that people love.

But with their names only in small print on the inside of CD covers, songwriters often take a back seat to the performers who make their songs popular. Even in the music industry, it takes years to become a sought-after songwriter.

Dove Award-winning songwriter Joel Lindsey said few people focus on writing Christian songs as their sole career. Like him, most have other jobs or ministries, often within the music industry. Lindsey is manager for recording artist Janet Paschal.

Because of the high volume of songs and the limited number of cuts on albums, competition can be stiff and even discouraging for new songwriters.

"I was told there is so much competition out there," Margene Betts recalled from her start in songwriting five years ago. "But I could feel the call on my life to write songs. It's a ministry, like preaching or singing is."

Betts has had several Southern gospel groups record her songs, including The Ruppes, who did "Mine Eyes Have Seen His Glory." But she said it's not easy to get a song recorded.

"I find out when they're recording and try to determine if my songs match their music style—traditional, country, progressive, contemporary," she said. "I ask them to listen to a demo tape, and I give them my lyrics to look over. "And I pray about it every step of the way."

Hundreds of songwriters take Betts' approach of presenting songs to groups for consideration. Then they wait.

Some writers, however, sign with publishers to write exclusively for them. Then publishers market the songs.

Others belong to groups that record their songs. That's an advantage, said Rodney Griffin of the gospel group Greater Vision. He was voted Songwriter of the Year at the 2000 Singing News Fan Awards during the recent National Quartet Convention in Louisville.

"There are so many tremendously gifted songwriters who are here this week who will never be known be-

cause they don't sing in a group, or their songs don't get recorded," he said.

"By winning this award, it doesn't mean my songs are any better than anyone else's; it just means mine are more exposed," Griffin added. "Others with the same opportunity will get the same result."

His song, "Just One More Soul," recorded by Greater Vision, was named Song of the Year at the fan awards.

Writing songs takes time and patience. Great songs rarely happen as a sudden revelation in the middle of the night.

"That's a common idea, that we just wake up in the night and write a whole song," said Lindsey, who has written such popular songs as "He Made a Change," recorded by The Cathedrals, and "Shall We Gather at the River," recorded by Point of Grace. "But usually if that happens, we wake up with an idea for a song."

Then comes the hard work, penning just the right lyrics. Then writers must "pitch" their work to artists, or wait while their publishers market the songs.

Griffin advised aspiring songwriters

Pioneer Bob MacKenzie dead

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (RNS)—Gospel music industry pioneer Bob MacKenzie died Oct. 20, a week and a half before he was inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame.

MacKenzie, 62, of Brentwood, Tenn., died of apparent heart failure, the association said.

He was inducted posthumously at the hall of fame ceremony Oct. 30 in Nashville.

A multiple Grammy winner, MacKenzie was creative director of the John T. Benson Publishing Company and produced almost every album released by the company in the 1960s and 1970s, including those by such artists as the Oak Ridge Boys, the Cathedrals and the Imperials. He later became president of the Benson Company and was known as a mentor for many in the gospel industry.

"Bob was the most eclectic musician and producer I've ever known," said Frank Breeden, president of the GMA, in a statement. "He was a tremendous force in so many people's lives."

ers that the only way to sharpen their craft is by getting advice from veteran songwriters.

"That's the only way to reach the next level," Griffin said. "It will not happen by itself any more than a board can become a birdhouse on its own."

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:

■ Missionaries and nationals in Mwanza, Tanzania, as they work to have one church in each of the 16 suburbs of Mwanza. To date, there are five churches.

■ A national pastor for a group of 25 adult believers among the Makonde people in Tanzania.

■ Rejoice with Pastor Philip Laver, his wife Valerie and the congregation of Javea International Baptist Church in Javea/Denia, Spain, as Sunday worship, prayer meetings and Bible studies continue to be well-attended.

■ David Baamonde, youth minister at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Paris, France, as he seeks to reach teens at the American School of Paris.

■ The annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of New England, Nov. 9-10, at Grace Baptist Church in Hudson, Mass.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Lowell Avenue Church will host revival services Nov. 12-15 with **Thomas Hammonds** as evangelist. **David Walters** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Laurel Lake Camp will have groundbreaking services for a new dormitory Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. For information, call (606) 528-3522. **Robert Ballou** is chairman of the camp board.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Hopewell Church will host revival services Nov.

12 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. **David Livingston** will be the evangelist. **Richard Easterling** is pastor.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church will host revival services Nov. 12-15; Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., evening services at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be **Wyman Copass**. For information, call (270) 259-4076. **Harold Barnes** is interim pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Hillcrest Church will host a fall festival Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. For information, call (859) 252-

Eager Mongolian Christians quickly snatch up 10,000 Bibles

ULAANBAATAR, Mongolia (BP)—Within a day of hitting the market, all 10,000 copies of the newly translated Mongolian Bible were bought recently by eager churches and Christian organizations.

One missionary, looking at the empty storage site that had been full of Bibles the day before, said, "I felt like Peter at Jesus' tomb."

Great Commission Christians worked for eight years to translate the Bible into the Mongol language.

Translation of the New Testament began in 1991, and the Old Testament was finished last year. The completed Bible went on sale in August.

The Mongolian church has experienced explosive growth during the last 10 years despite governmental persecution. In 1991, missions experts estimated Mongolia had fewer than 50 Christians. Today Mongolian Christians may number as many as 10,000.

8820. **Tony Hancock** is pastor.

Immanuel Church will host **Harold Ivan Smith** Nov. 17-20 for a series of conferences for singles and for Nov. 18 morning worship services. For information, call (859) 266-3174. **Craig Loscalzo** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—West Broadway Church will host the **Campbellsville University chorale** Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 491-1920. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Shelby Association will host a dedication service and open house Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. for the Hispanic church mission, parsonage and new association office. For information, call (502) 633-1198. **Amaury**

Dittz is the Hispanic minister. **William Hartung** is director of missions.

■ **SYMSONIA**—Symsonia Church called **Rick Miller** as pastor. Miller is a graduate of Mid-Continent College and has been pastor of several Kentucky churches.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Kings Church will host the **Oneida Choir** Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. For information, call (502) 538-6902.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church celebrated its 90th anniversary Oct. 22 and set three church records: 945 people in Sunday school, 1,233 people in worship and more than \$85,000 contributed to the debt-reduction offering. **Art Beasley** is pastor.

Missionary update

■ **Wayne and Gayle Gullion**, missionaries to West Africa are in the States. They may be reached until Jan. 28 at Trinity Baptist Mission House, 110 Glass Ave., Lexington, KY 40505.

■ **Mark and Susan Hatfield**, missionaries to Southern Africa, are in the States. They may be reached until Jan. 10 at 2761 First Ave., Huntington, WV. 25702.

■ **David and Linda Jackson**, missionaries to West Africa are in the States. They may be reached until July 10 at 7508 S. Watterson Trail, Louisville, KY 40291.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Vero Beach, Fla. 3-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath townhouse for winter season rental (January-April). Monthly minimum. Clubhouse, heated pool, tennis, screened walk-out porch, private beach access. Senior activities available. No smoking, no pets. Call (859) 272-3087.

FOR SALE: 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch, finished basement, deck. 7104 Lydgate, Forest Retreat (Lyndon/St. Matthews area, Louisville). 100 percent financing, make offer. Homebase (502) 421-8987 or (502) 558-4757.

FOR SALE: Samsonite folding chairs and tables. Steel chairs: \$18.99 each. 36"x72" tables: \$187 each. Phone: (888) 679-4699; fax: (615) 446-1018.

FOR SALE: 33 Christian skits and plays. \$5.95, \$2 book postage, Kentucky 6 percent tax. Kaye Quisenberry, Box 19, Pellville, KY 42364. (270) 233-4376.

SEEKING: First Baptist, Cookeville, Tenn., seeks applications for minister of administration. Applicants need experience in developing, overseeing financial and personnel administration in church or secular environment; strong sense of Christian calling; strong computer skills. SS attendance: 600-700 with budget of \$1.2 million. Send resumé: First Baptist Church, 18 S Walnut, Cookeville, TN 38501, Attn: Dr. Randall Adkisson. Info and job description available upon request. www.fbccookeville.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Hurricane Memorial Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, 505 S 22nd St., St. Herrin, IL 62948, or by e-mail to: otisrl@midwest.net.

SEEKING: Blackjack Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Interested candidates send resumé: Blackjack Baptist Church, PO Box 555, Franklin, KY 42135.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students with additional administrative responsibilities for a multi-staff church. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumé to: Search Committee, South County Baptist Church, 5115 Butler Spur Road, St. Louis, MO 63128. (314) 843-5558 or socobaptist@aol.com. Pastor is John L. Hessel.

SEEKING: Maryhurst, an expanding mission-driven child welfare agency, seeks applicants for youth minister. The youth minister is responsible for assessing the needs, coordinating the spiritual care of youth as part of clients' treatment. This includes developing and implementing programs based on Judeo-Christian values, coordinating the appropriate services for non-Christian residents, and orienting and supervising volunteers for youth ministry programs and activities. Masters in theological studies preferred; experience working with adolescents; positive affiliation with local church; at least one year experience and training in youth ministry; must be sensitive to cultural diversity. Please view our Web site for additional information: www.maryhurst.org. Applications available online. Send resumé or apply in person: Maryhurst, Human Resources, 1015 Dorsey Lane, Louisville, KY 40223.

SEEKING: Food service director for medium-sized church. Send resumé to: West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Jeffersontown, KY 40220.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Collinsville, Va., located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, has an opening for a minister to youth, children and their families. FBC is a multi-staff church affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the SBC. Please send any inquiries and/or resúmes to: Dr. Rob Edwards, FBC Collinsville, PO Box 36, Collinsville, VA 24078.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, Ky., seeks as its pastor a visionary who is called by God to minister to people of all ages. This position requires strong communication and leadership skills, including the willingness to empower others to lead and work with other ministers on staff. This energetic, dynamic man will have a passion for community evangelism and soul-winning as well as a loving, caring heart for guiding the spiritual development of others. Because he has a strong, disciplined prayer life, he will know when God calls him to this purpose-driven ministry. If you feel led to join God working through this church and ministries such as a new family life center, a mission church, a new Christian academy, a preschool program and children, youth, senior and music ministries, please submit a resumé to Larry Perkins, Search Chairman, 105 Moon Ave., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: First Southern Baptist Church of Clarksville, Ind., is seeking a team player who has a heartbeat for evangelism and discipleship to serve as full-time minister to youth and families. Send resumé to the pastor, Russell Lievers, 215 E Ettels Lane, Clarksville, IN 47129. (812) 288-8217. fsbc@protegra.net.

SEEKING: Anchor Church, located in Erlanger (Northern), Ky., is in need of a youth minister. This is currently a part-time position (20-25 hours/week) with considerable potential with the right leadership. Send resumé to: Anchor Church, PO Box 18195, Erlanger, KY 41018; e-mail to: Anchorchurch@anchorchurch.net; or fax to: (859) 727-4329.

SEEKING: Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky., is seeking three part-time positions: children's minister, youth minister and organist. Send resumé to church in care of Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College seeks an adjunct instructor in English for the Spring 2001 semester. This person would teach two courses in English grammar. Must be qualified to teach English at the college level. Housing and small (adjunct) salary provided. Excellent place of mission service for semi-retired English teacher. Please call (606) 337-3196 and ask for Dr. Malcolm Hester.

SEEKING: Hillsdale Baptist Church in Ohio seeks part-time youth pastor. Send resumé to: hbc@bright.net.

SEEKING: Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of education. Candidates are expected to have an undergraduate or seminary degree in religious education or related field. Prior experience is required—full-time or part-time experience is acceptable. Compensation package includes full benefits. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Central Baptist Church, 201 W 4th St., Corbin, KY 40701.

SEEKING: Organist for east-end (Louisville) church. Two Sunday morning services. Blended service. May also play keyboard for worship team occasionally. Contact: Gary Vidito, West Broadway Baptist Church, (502) 491-1920.

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.

SERVICES: Use the power of the Internet in your minister search. On ministrypositions.com churches can post job openings or search for candidates online. Ministerial candidates can post resúmes and search job openings. An easy-to-use, confidential service to help ministers and churches connect. Visit www.ministrypositions.com or call (800) 417-2123.

Seminary couple's witness impacts inner-city residents

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Police knew the 550 Apartments complex in downtown Louisville as a place of prostitution, gangs, violence and drugs. Residents knew it as a place of broken glass and glass ceilings.

But Michael Puskar and his wife, Netta, saw the subsidized housing complex as a mission field.

Now, nearly three years after they began working at the 550, the Puskars say God has produced much fruit from their labor and love.

Mrs. Puskar started managing the apartments shortly after her husband brought the family to Louisville to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Puskar soon joined his wife as the maintenance supervisor.

"When we entered that property, it was unsafe—a lot of drugs and alcohol and prostitution," said Puskar, a master of church music student from Parachute, Colo. He said police "recommended everybody leave by 5 p.m."

The Puskars initially considered leaving their jobs and seeking a safer setting.

"We were wanting to leave the property, but God had big plans for this property," Puskar explained.

And even as police officers served arrest warrants in the area—sometimes six a day—the Puskars stayed to minister and serve.

"In this kind of ministry, what we've learned is this: You can go out and tell words to folks. But people have

heard enough words," Puskar noted. "They want to see Christ. Man is selfish and people are used to selfishness. They want to see sacrifice."

Enduring fear, intimidation and spiritual attacks, the Puskars prayer walked the complex as they continued to serve residents.

"We just kept ministering to and loving the people for a year," he said. "After the first summer, God started cleaning house."

Also during that first summer, the Puskars began to reach out to residents by organizing neighborhood "foods." Sponsoring music and speakers, they raised money to buy meals for the tenants. The fellowships provided the residents a few hours of fun and safety.

"This was new for the residents because they were afraid to come out—especially the widows," Puskar said.

After several more similar events and continued service, the Puskars have seen a change in the tenants. Many of them have become Christians.

"There were tenants who used to cuss me," he said. "Now they pray with me."

Police even contacted the apartment office to find out what was happening. The officers hadn't issued an arrest warrant in six months.

But even amid initial success, the long-term work continues for the Puskars. In July, the couple hosted an all-day carnival. Clowns, choirs,

booths and burgers were brought in for residents, as more than 150 people were fed spiritually and physically. Four people made professions of faith that day.

"God wanted to do a God-sized thing," Puskar said. "The beautiful picture was to see the widows come out and have a meal and watch children laugh and play."

The Puskars' ministry is fueled by what God has done in their own lives.

Raised in the music industry and saved at age 15, Puskar said he began his Christian life as a "Jesus freak." Yet, several years later, he "got prodigal"—playing in bands and drifting from his Christian commitment.

When he and his wife got married in 1991, Puskar renewed his commitment to Christ. Leaving the nightclub business and looking for a new start, he moved his family to Colorado.

"We had a thorn in our nest, and a hunger in our heart," Puskar said.

While in Colorado, the Puskars were disciples, and their hunger for God grew.

"We didn't know anything about anything," Puskar said of their spiritual knowledge. "We didn't know Job from job or palms from Psalms. It was all brand new again, a new faith and trust."

An "Experiencing God" Bible study class and a pastor who took time

to mentor Puskar helped prepare him for ministry.

"Within six months I got my call," Puskar said. He and his family sold everything and moved to Graceville, Fla., to attend Baptist Bible Institute, now Baptist College of Florida.

"The Lord was doing a lot of speaking, and we were doing a lot of, 'Yes, Lord,'" he recalled.

The Puskars started working in a drug and alcohol rehab center in Florida, leading in Sunday morning worship. Mrs. Puskar also began managing a subsidized housing complex—a ministry that continued when Puskar enrolled at Southern.

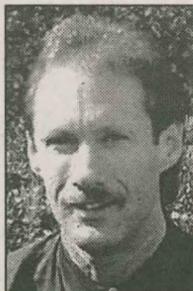
Since coming to Southern, the couple's ministry has not been limited to the 550 Apartments. They have begun an outreach, worship and revival ministry called "River of Life Ministries."

Puskar recently resigned his position at the apartments in order to take a job teaching adult education to help people coming off welfare break the cycle of destitution.

But their ministry in the inner city continues. Mrs. Puskar continues to manage the apartments, and the couple held a children's fair Oct. 28 in Louisville.

Puskar said their motivation for ministry is simple—spreading the gospel in love.

"We have a passion for the lost. We have a passion for those in the street and those who don't know Christ," he explained. "It is such an awesome thing to be in the midst of what our awesome God is doing."



Puskar

Missionary helps Girls in Action make quilts as reminders to pray

By Shawn Hendricks
Missouri Baptist Word & Way

BERNIE, Mo. (BP)—The quilt in 13-year-old Alicia Fralick's bedroom is no ordinary quilt.

When she sees the bright colors of the various pieces of cloth that she stitched onto her quilt, she remembers to pray for missionaries.

"The one with the golden dragon is my favorite," Fralick said, referring to the patch sent from Japan.

Alicia, along with several of her fellow Girls in Action members from First Baptist Church of Bernie, Mo., made quilts with cloth sent to them from 29 missionaries around the world. Now with the quilts completed, the girls are praying for missionaries and sharing their stories with others. GA leader Daphne Briles said she believes the quilts will have a lasting impact on the way the girls view mission work.

"This is something they can have for their whole lives," said Briles, who also is director of Women on Mission for the church. "If someone doesn't tell them about WMU and missions, it is going to die out."

The project began last fall, shortly after the girls finished making a GA quilt for a young missionary girl in South Africa. Soon after the quilt was completed, the girls wanted quilts for themselves.

Briles came up with the idea of

"prayer quilts." She began to contact missionaries about sending material.

As each piece of cloth came in, the girls would talk about the missionaries who had sent the material. Each piece of cloth was accompanied by the name of the missionary and where he or she served.

"We would learn about the missionary, find out where the country they were from was on the map and talk about the area," Briles said. "We would talk about the customs and food."

Fabric was sent from missionaries in Japan, England, Africa, South America and elsewhere. "They were just thrilled to send them," she said. Pieces of cloth from Japan, Poland and Russia were particularly popular among the GAs.

The group still receives prayer requests from about five missionaries almost every week.

After completing their quilts, the girls decided to use material left over to make a quilt for a church member who had been sick.

Helen Cox, who was ill and confined to bed in a nursing home at the time, was glad to receive the special gift. "It was quite a conversation piece," she said. "I would tell people what this was, and I got to witness to quite a few people. When people are in the hospital, they want comfort."

Orlando church pledges \$3.2 million in one day

By Debbie Salamone Wickham
Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—A miracle happened last week at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla. At least that's what pastor Jim Henry called it.

Church members pledged more than \$3.2 million during morning worship services Oct. 30 to help fund the church's proposed expansion.

"It's an awesome experience," said Henry, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "It's God-sized. We saw God do something only He can do in people's hearts. That much money in that short a time, God had to do it."

Church leaders wanted the money to buy 8.2 acres of land that is adjacent to existing church property. The land is critical because it will give the church a visible presence on a busy road and add important space to the 130-acre campus. It was put up for sale recently, and Henry told church members in August about the opportunity to buy it.

Henry said he sensed from God in January 1999 that he should move to acquire that land when the time seemed right. In years past, it was too expensive. But at a negotiated \$3.2 million, it was possible.

Henry said he asked the congregation to join him in his mission. He asked everyone to donate at least one week's salary. The church sent out a colorful six-page brochure outlining the possibilities for the site—a retirement community for seniors, a counseling center or expansion of the church's crisis pregnancy center.

Church leaders also sent out a series of seven postcards over seven weeks, asking the 10,000-member congregation to pray and consider their contributions.

That was all. Henry said he didn't use his clout to twist arms or shake down businesses. He said it would be up to God to make the miracle come true.

"I did not ask any person for a dollar bill. This time I just felt God wanted to show Himself in a unique way," he explained. "God wanted us to tell the people ... and He would provide it."

Church spokesman Steve Smith said there was "a lot of consternation" among church leaders about whether they could raise enough money. Even if everyone followed the one-week-salary guideline, the amount would reach only about \$2.5 million.

But Henry said he kept the faith. On Sunday, church workers tallied the pledge cards as members ate a barbecue lunch. The amount came in at slightly more than \$3.2 million. At least one person made a substantial donation, but Henry said he didn't know the amount. The total doesn't include property, jewelry and stocks that some people donated.

"I knew before I knew it was going to happen," Henry said of his faith in the congregation's response.

The closing on the property was set for the week of Oct. 30. If the money couldn't be raised, the contract allowed the church to back out of the purchase. Henry didn't think God would let that happen.

God "pushed people's hearts," Henry said.

In Everything, Give Thanks

I Thessalonians 5:18



"In everything, give thanks." You notice this verse doesn't say everything is good, but in all circumstances, find something to be thankful for. At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we have so much for which to be thankful. For over 130 years, we've provided the best possible care for Kentucky's hurting families and children. We've been able to do this because of the generosity of thousands of Kentucky Baptists like you.

Recently, KBHC has been criticized for standing firm for traditional family values. The values we hold now put us at

odds with some who feel we are out of touch with modern society. They withhold referrals, gifts and other support. That is why your dollars, gifts and prayers are so essential.

And you have supported us, Kentucky Baptists, in so many ways.... with your gifts, your prayers, your cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails. Through this difficult time, you've increased your support for the children, and for that, we give thanks. **"In everything, give thanks." And, Kentucky Baptists, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do for Kentucky's children and teens.**



KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN

2000 THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Statewide Goal: \$1,200,000