

November 14, 2000
Vol. 174, No. 45

KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

A poster for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is drawing cries of racism. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

Bowling Green's Warren Association focuses on fellowship, training and outreach. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Kentucky Baptists are witnesses to history in the making. *Page 5.*

Does your Web site work?

Wet-dry

Kentucky referendums met with mixed results. *Page 9.*

Ballot box

Though overshadowed by flip-flops and recounts, voters in several states decided moral issues on ballot initiatives. *Page 16.*

Youth

Kentucky youth leaders say they see a growing emphasis on missions and ministry. *Page 20.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday November 15

Web specialists: Church Internet sites often lack vision, strategy

By David Winfrey
News Director

As more Kentucky Baptist churches launch Web sites, too few are reaching their potential because church leaders don't define why they want a site or they fail to develop a strategy for what they hope to accomplish.

That's the collective opinion of several Web specialists in Kentucky and throughout the country. They say too many church leaders are enamored by the gee whiz technology of the Internet but aren't considering how to link their Web sites to their overall communications strategy.

"A lot of people just put up something because, 'Oh, I have to have a Web site.' But it doesn't meet any needs," said Lisa McMahon, senior Web administrator at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and a consultant for Web design for the past five years.

Robert Reeves agreed. "Some churches have not thought through their strategy," he said.

As communications director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Reeves gets calls every month from church leaders seeking advice on launching an Internet site.

Often, church Web sites are developed, launched and maintained by just one person, he said.

"It tends to be their vision instead of a really thought-out vision that involves multiple people at the church and involves leadership," he said.

□ See Specialist: Church Web..., page 14

Silent pipes

Could lack of players make organs the next dinosaur?

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Greek engineer Ctesibius created the first pipe organ in the 3rd century, and by the 9th century AD it was being used in Christian churches, on its way toward earning the name "the king of instruments."

But the king could be dethroned as a scarcity of competent organists threatens its place as the heart of worship programs in churches throughout the country.

"There is a definite shortage," said Ron Turner, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "It's been a general problem for several years, but it is reaching a critical point now."

Nina Belle Durr, keyboard consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and keyboard minister for Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, agreed.

"I get a lot of calls from churches looking for organists," she said, adding that she doesn't know enough organists to recommend to churches that need them.

Nevalyn Moore, assistant professor of music at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, said that in West Kentucky, many smaller churches can't find piano players, let alone organists. "They've had to resort to using the 'Baptist Hymnal'



QUIET KEYS A problem for several years is only getting worse for churches in Kentucky and around the country, according to teachers and advocates of organ music.

taped accompaniment for their services."

Dropping enrollment for organ students, the changing face of worship music and poor compensation are reasons both Turner and Durr cite as factors in the musician shortage.

"There are very few organ majors,

and it's affecting schools everywhere," Turner said. Southern Seminary has seven pipe organs and a reputation for owning some of the best instruments in the Southeast, she said, but currently the school has no full-time organ professor on staff.

□ See *Could lack of players...*, page 18

KBC cluster groups studying top five issues facing churches

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

What are the biggest issues facing your church?

Kentucky Baptist Convention staff members have been studying that question intensively for more than two years. The result has focused attention on five issues that KBC leaders say just about every congregation must address.

The KBC staff has been working in "cluster groups" that are tackling each of the five issues, defining what they are, how they affect churches and what resources can help them.

Nearly every KBC staff member, from Executive Director Bill Macky to secretaries, are assigned to a cluster group. The topics being examined are:

- Authentic spirituality.
- Intergenerational issues.
- Leadership development.
- Transitions.
- Young adults.

Consider it a crash course for the 21st century church. The groups aren't offering any silver bullets. What might work best for one church could be inadequate for another congregation in another neighborhood.

But KBC staff are trying to help churches better understand what's going on so they can address the issues head-on with the best response for their individual communities.

The project was spawned by responses from Kentucky Baptists in 44 focus groups when Mackey was newly elected as executive director and touring the commonwealth in 1998.

While the gospel is unchanging, the methods used to evangelize, disciple and worship have changed significantly in the first 2,000 years of

Christianity, said Vernon Cole, the KBC's church growth team leader and coordinator for this project.

The next millennium brings even more changes, Cole added. "We serve as translators of the way God is moving today."

The cluster groups will integrate what they learn into existing programs, recommend resources to churches and develop new resources to address the key issues, Cole said.

In the next five issues, the Western Recorder will offer articles that explore the issues and what's been learned thus far. In a nutshell:

■ The young adult cluster group is working to help Kentucky Baptist churches find ways to reach and integrate young adults into the life and structure of the church.



Issues every church should address

Throughout the history of the church, young adults always have been the generation least involved in church, said Darryl Wilson, leader of the cluster group and director of the KBC Sunday school department.

College, work and family typically distract young adults from involvement in church, and there is a danger that post-modern, pluralistic mindsets could dissuade young adults from ever reconnecting with church.

■ Intergenerational issues already are having a major impact on church life in Kentucky, according to KBC family ministry department director Karl Babb, who is leading the cluster group on that topic.

The typical church has several generations: "Builders," born between 1927-1945; "Boomers," born 1946-1964; and "Busters," born 1964-1977. The church has never before faced this many generations living and leading simultaneously, Babb said.

□ See *KBC cluster groups...*, page 11

Lottie Moon poster generates criticism

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

RICHMOND, Va. (RNS)—A poster promoting Southern Baptists' 2000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is being criticized as racially insensitive.

The picture of a bare-chested African man carries the headline "Dispel the Darkness." It appears on a poster distributed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union.

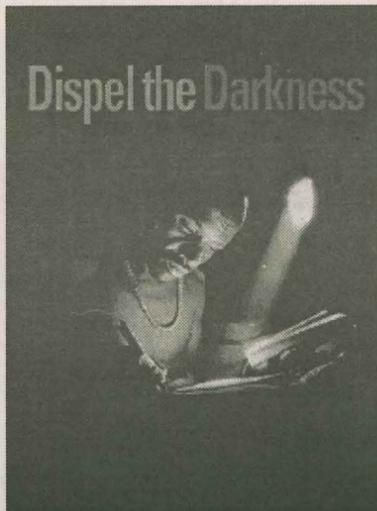
Questions about the poster come five years after SBC messengers adopted a resolution committing themselves "to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry."

"The poster reflects, at best, an unfortunate racial insensitivity at the beginning of the 21st century," said Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, a moderate organization based in Nashville.

"In American culture, light and white are associated with goodness, darkness and blackness are associated with evil and badness. Picturing a black man with the theme 'dispelling the darkness' completely ignores this cultural reality."

Officials of the Southern Baptist agencies responsible for the poster say the word "darkness" refers to sin, not skin color.

"It's hard to see how an evangelical Christian looking at that picture would come up with that interpretation," said IMB spokesman Mark Kelly. "The man in the picture is a Christian member of the Samburu tribe



of East Africa. ... What he's doing is translating the Christian Scripture into his tribal language."

But Parham countered, "Then why didn't they choose a blond Scandinavian?"

WMU spokeswoman Teresa Dickens said WMU leaders regret there was any offense taken. "It was certainly never our intention to be offensive in what we produced," she said.

She estimated about 200,000 posters have been distributed to Southern Baptist churches, with the goal of raising \$115 million for international missions through the annual Christmas offering.

Dickens said the light on the man's desk illuminating him holding a Bible is symbolic of evangelistic mission efforts.

"The way the photograph is, there's

darkness all around him and for us the light represents the gospel of Jesus Christ," she said.

Emmanuel McCall, an Atlanta pastor and vice chairman of the board of directors of the Baptist Center for Ethics, said he chose not to put up the poster in his church, whose membership is predominantly African-American but also includes African members.

"I think it shows an insensitivity to the international people, the mission-receiving people that we're trying to provide services for," said McCall. "Here again is a black man, bare-chested, beads and all of this, and one would get the impression that all Africans look like this, dress like that, act like that."

Willie Simmons, a former director of black church relations for the former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said he had no problem with the poster.

"It has nothing to do with race at all," said Simmons, pastor of a predominantly black church in Los Angeles. "It's unfortunate that when you mention the word 'darkness,' it is associated with race and with blacks in particular, but that's not the intent of the poster."

He said the poster's reference to "darkness" relates to spiritual, not racial matters.

Kelly said the photo is featured on the cover of the IMB's 2000 annual report and also has been featured in the board's Commission magazine. He said there had been no previous reaction suggesting the photo was offensive.

Illinois Baptist messengers endorse SBC's 1998 statement on the family

QUINCY, Ill. (ABP)—A vote to add the Baptist Faith and Message's 1998 family amendment to Illinois Baptists' constitution fell just short of a required two-thirds majority. Despite that, messengers to the Nov. 1-2 Illinois Baptist State Association annual meeting later affirmed in a separate vote the language that says, among other things, that wives should submit to their husbands.

The proposal to amend the state Baptist convention's constitution gained a 65 percent majority. The later vote, which needed only a simple ma-

majority, passed with 70 percent approval in a 224-97 vote.

The IBSA constitution will continue to use the wording of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message, but that could change by 2002. A constitution and bylaws committee next year is expected to review this year's revisions to the Baptist Faith and Message. If committee members recommend its adoption, the first reading would be next year, with a second reading in 2002.

Messengers also approved a resolution opposing recognition of civil unions of homosexual partners.



BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Montana ministry points north.** Closer ties between Baptists in Montana and Canada were underscored during the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship's 2000 annual meeting. A resolution citing a cooperative relationship between Montana Baptists and the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists encouraged all Montana Baptist churches "to actively seek ministry roles in Canada."

■ **Noted theologian dies.** Baptist theologian and educator James William McClendon Jr., died Oct. 30 in Altadena, Calif., at age 76. McClendon, an influential Baptist theologian in the latter half of the 20th century, recently

completed a three-volume study of systematic theology. He taught at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., as well as Stanford, Notre Dame, Temple and Baylor universities. He retired from Fuller Theological Seminary.

■ **Editor accepts teaching post.** Michael Chute, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness since 1995, has resigned effective Feb. 6 to become chairman of the communications department at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss. Chute formerly taught at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee and was a missionary journalist for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ **Rogers to head Pew Forum.** Melissa Rogers, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, has resigned to become executive director of the newly created Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. Rogers, who joined the BJCPA staff in 1994, began serving last year as general counsel for the religious liberty group.

■ **NAMB launches video series.** The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has launched a new video series, "E-ssentials for the On Mission Church." The bimonthly video features segments that challenge viewers to consider how they can be on mission for Christ.

Annuity Board raises benefits, affirms CP role

DALLAS (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board approved a 5 percent increase for most annuitants and adopted a resolution affirming the Cooperative Program during their Nov. 6-7 meeting in Dallas.

Upon recommendation of the trustees' administrative policy committee, a 5 percent increase in benefits was approved effective Jan. 1, 2001, for most annuitants receiving benefits established for periods of 60 months or longer.

Trustees unanimously approved the resolution affirming the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan for supporting national and international missions and ministries.

The resolution stated Annuity Board trustees "stand together with the churches and entities of the Southern Baptist Convention in their affirmation of the Cooperative Program."

The trustees also noted that "we encourage all Southern Baptists to resist any effort that would threaten to diminish the Cooperative Program and call upon the churches to maintain the historic partnership that has existed between the local congregations, associations, state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities."

The trustee action came one week after messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas voted to reduce national CP funding by \$5.3 million.

The board also adopted a response to a motion referred to all SBC agencies from the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June. The motion asked the SBC entities to not require their employees to sign the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement. Trustees responded by affirming the Baptist Faith and Message as the accepted confession governing its work, and acknowledged the responsibility of each SBC entity to utilize the Baptist Faith and Message consistent with its approved mission statement and ministry assignments.

Trustees approved a 2001 budget of \$49.2 million, a 7.95 percent increase over 2000. The Annuity Board receives no Cooperative Program funds for operations, but pays all expenses from an advisory fee on each of the 13 investment funds available to participants in the board's various retirement plans.

All Cooperative Program money received by the board is paid as relief grants to needy retired ministers or denominational workers or their widows.

John Jones, chief operating officer, told trustees that workgroups are involved in "strategic projects that will allow us to add personal investing, IRAs and institutional investing during 2001."

Wilder lauds Kentucky Baptists' unity amid diversity

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

BURLINGTON—After Terry Wilder was elected Kentucky Baptist Convention president last year, he said his primary goal was to represent all Kentucky Baptists.

Citing his desire to "emphasize what we have in common," he added, "Our unity must be found in what we do together to reach Kentucky for Jesus Christ."

He said another goal was to "encourage every Kentucky Baptist to be a part of a mission project in the year 2000, whether locally or overseas."

Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, chose to lead by example to accomplish both goals.

In the area of denominational unity, Wilder appointed his presidential opponent, Paul Badgett, as chairman of the KBC committee on order of business. Wilder said the goal of all of his presidential appointments was "to be as fair as I could be in representing Kentucky Baptists across the state."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey noted that Wilder "reached out across the broad spectrum of Kentucky Baptists" in his role as president. "Terry has brought a positive spirit to all he

has done and to all of our meetings," he added.

In the area of missions, Terry participated earlier this year in a partnership mission trip to Poland. He described the experience as one of the highlights of his year as president.

"A very special moment for me was worshiping in a small Polish church on a Wednesday evening and singing in English as they sang in Polish," he recalled. "There was such a wonderful spirit in the room, celebrating that we were all one in Jesus Christ."

As Wilder concludes his presidential service this week at the KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green, his goal still is to encourage fellow Kentucky Baptists to be actively involved in missions—and to celebrate unity in Christ.

"I would like to see more laypeople participating in our partnerships and churches involved more," he said. "Our pastors and laypeople need to experience the joy and growth of doing missions."

During his travels as president, Wilder said he has "been amazed to see

the diversity of who we are as Kentucky Baptists."

"There's a lot of diversity in the way we're doing church, in worship styles and in organizational structures," he said. "Yet we all have the same purpose of reaching people for Jesus Christ."

Amid such "healthy diversity," he said he believes "Kentucky Baptists have a great desire to work together."

Affirming that "Kentucky Baptists are still a people on mission," Wilder added, "The desire of Kentucky Baptists to reach our state and our world for Jesus Christ is one of our strengths."

He cited record Cooperative Program giving, the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's stand against homosexuality and a spirit of prayer and cooperation among KBC leaders as other major strengths.

"I have not witnessed one evidence of politicizing in a committee meeting or in any meeting that I've been part of with Kentucky Baptists," Wilder said. "The emphasis of all of our Kentucky Baptist leaders has been to work together, pray together and pull together



Wilder

in doing missions and ministry in the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"At heart, Kentucky Baptists are all the same," he said. "They simply want to share the love of Jesus the best way they can in the world in which we live."

In addition to his year as president, Wilder's perspective is based on more than two decades as a Kentucky Baptist pastor. Serving as pastor of Burlington Baptist since 1992, he previously was pastor of Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg and Cecilia Baptist Church.

His years of ministry in Kentucky also have given him a heart for Kentucky Baptists. "Kentucky Baptists are my home and my people," he said.

As he wraps up his year as KBC president, "I want to be remembered as a president who is proud to be a Kentucky Baptist and who has a deep love for this convention," Wilder said.

"I hope Kentucky Baptists come away from this convention on track for where God wants us to go in this new millennium," he said. "We have a great tradition and a proud future as long as we keep missions and evangelism in the center and we focus on reaching Kentucky for Christ and are willing to sit down and pray together and work together to accomplish that goal."

"Our pastors and laypeople need to experience the joy and growth of doing missions."

KBC President Terry Wilder

Warren association promotes fellowship, training & outreach

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—When L.E. Smith became treasurer of Warren Baptist Association in 1950, the Bowling Green group had no budget, just a \$25 allocation to print annual meeting minutes.

But when the Kentucky Baptist Convention gathers here this week, messengers can tour a symbol of the association's progress over the past 50 years. Opened last year, its 19,000-square-foot headquarters bears the name of its most faithful officer.

"That building has been the highlight of our efforts," said Smith, a member of First Baptist Church who today oversees the association's \$243,000 budget. "It's been a boost to small churches to have the facilities available and to fellowship with other churches."

While First Baptist is the primary convention site, the L.E. Smith Baptist Center is hosting the Woman's Missionary Union and church secretaries' meetings. Associational directors of missions held their pre-convention gathering there Monday night.

"We want to welcome people to our city and county," said Executive Director Jerry Oakley, noting that most of the association's churches participated in preparing for, or hosting, the convention. "We also want to be seen as a viable organization that has some life and makes a contribution to the area and the state convention."

Those who tour the building, located on U.S. Highway 231 about 1.5 miles south of U.S. Interstate 65, will quickly notice its centerpiece, a multi-purpose assembly room.

The center also contains a reception area, three offices, kitchen, library and an apartment for visiting evangelists



and conference leaders.

Since it opened, the building has hosted several church staff retreats.

Also meeting there are the foster parent organization of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the local Cornerstone Counseling board of directors, various state agencies and seminary extension classes.

The headquarters was the scene of the association's first "Kids Fest" for children Oct. 28, with a similar celebration planned for teens next spring.

The building sits on about 25 acres that were purchased in 1992 under former director Frank Dorris. The site contains a pair of softball diamonds that opened in 1999.

Long-range plans call for a Christian life center to be built on the property, with such features as a walking track and gymnasium.

While no construction timetable is set, Oakley said the forthcoming classes, recreation leagues and other activities will follow the association's blueprint of fellowship, training and outreach.

"Every activity we have will be under one of those headings," he said. "What we envision is instead of going

out to individual churches we can be a magnet, bringing churches together. We want to provide fellowship and training that will send them back to their churches, able to do outreach."

Composed of 47 churches, Warren association includes some of the state's largest Kentucky Baptist churches.

Larger churches often have difficulties connecting with their local association, said Steve Ayres, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church, which has more than 3,000 worshippers each Sunday.

But Ayres said Oakley has molded a diverse group of rural, urban, traditional and contemporary churches into one body. The new building has helped Hillvue, too, by providing space for quarterly leadership meetings, staff retreats and special events.

"The Warren association is renegotiating what an association means," Ayres said.

The association is also valuable to small congregations, said two-term moderator Joe Causey, pastor of Providence Knob Baptist Church. Though he has served as pastor 20 years, he was bivocational until last July.

The association offers facilities, personnel and ministry outlets that



Providence Church isn't able to provide, such as a Nov. 9 luncheon meeting for senior adults, he said.

The longtime pastor has also found the association's leaders a valuable resource.

"I've been very fortunate with the individuals we've had as associational missionaries," he said. "They have been very good, wise, spiritual individuals. Men I could call and say, 'I need some help. What's the best way to do this?'"

In addition to numerical growth (about 20 churches have joined since 1950), Causey said he believes the association enjoys closer fellowship and spiritual development today.

He points to a community praise service at Providence Oct. 29 that drew half a dozen churches and joint Thanksgiving and Easter services in the area as examples of Baptist churches coming together.

"The last time the Kentucky Baptist Convention met in Bowling Green, we put up posters with the theme, 'Doing Together What We Cannot Do Alone,'" he said. "I think that's a pretty accurate description of what goes on."

KIDS FEST Director of Missions Jerry Oakley said the recent Kids Fest outreach program was the kind of event Warren Baptist Association organizes for all its churches. Smaller churches might not be able to organize or afford such a program, but by having an association-wide event all congregations can benefit, he said.

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253
(ISSN 0043-4132)

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$11.66 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.25 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

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Election 2000: What do we tell the kids?

A few days ago we claimed to be sick of the whole darn thing. We didn't want another debate, another ad or another poll.

Now we can't talk about anything else. In the grocery checkout line, total strangers debate the fine points of the Electoral College. Business meetings include political preambles. Parents and children sit at the dinner table, searching for understanding of our presidential limbo.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of this whole situation is what we tell the kids.

My husband views this like the fall of the Berlin Wall. He continues to remind our children that they are observers during a point in history that may claim an entire chapter in future textbooks. He imagines a constitutional amendment to alter the electoral system.

SBC affirmation

The following resolution was proposed and approved at the annual meeting of the Russell Creek Association of Kentucky Baptists. We wish to publicly affirm our association with the Southern Baptist Convention and its leaders.

"Be it known that the Russell Creek Association of Kentucky Baptists publicly affirm the Southern Baptist Convention and its actions taken during its annual meeting on June 14th of the year 2000. Specifically, we wish to affirm the adoption of the revisions to The Baptist Faith and Message.

"In this day of moral laxness and spiritual immaturity we are proud to be associated with fellow believers willing to stand firm and to 'earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints' (Jude 1:3b).

"We realize that each new generation brings new and different philosophies and beliefs that cause us to have

I, on the other hand, have identified with one little lady in Palm Beach, Fla., who got all dressed up, went out to vote and, by gum, wants that vote counted. I can get all worked up on behalf of that one woman.

We both share our views openly with our teens. But what we don't talk about is anything that casts a cynical view of the political process.

Whatever the outcome of this election, we want our children to believe that the process is fair and the system is adaptable to the will of the people. We want them

to understand there may be quirks and anomalies, but the bigger picture is amazingly harmonious.

Should our children be out of town or overseas during an election, we want them to always remember to request an absentee ballot. And when they receive a sample ballot, we want them

to restate our beliefs in an effective manner that will address the needs of that generation. We wish to affirm the manner in which the Southern Baptist Convention has risen to the task of addressing this present generation and its needs. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless the Southern Baptist Convention as it provides the light of the gospel to a nation and a world in desperate need."

*Russell Creek Association
of Kentucky Baptists*

Reject control

I am saddened that our convention is being drawn into a major political battle. For the first time we have a strong fundamentalist organization organizing the regions to get out to vote for a particular person at Bowling Green. I don't care which side does this, it is wrong as Baptist Christians.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Pray for the KBC annual meeting

By the time you read this, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 163rd annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green will either be in ses-

sion or will have been completed. We are grateful to First Baptist Church and Warren Baptist Association for their willingness to host the convention. It takes an army of volunteers, many working tirelessly behind the scenes, to make a gathering of this magnitude a success.

Planning for this year's meeting was especially challenging as more than 2,000 messengers were expected to attend. Overflow rooms with TV monitors were assigned, a large contingent of greeters were enlisted to assist messengers, the registration area was enlarged and shuttle buses were engaged to help ease potential traffic and parking logjams.

I want to commend the KBC staff and the local arrangements committee

for their dedicated efforts to meet the needs of the messengers. Writing several days ahead of the meeting, it is my prayer that despite any taxing of facilities brought by having such an outstanding turnout, all messengers will have been served well.

I also have been praying for other aspects of the annual meeting and I ask any who may be reading this column before the session has ended or attending as a messenger to join me in the following:

■ Pray for all messengers to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that our words convey the mind of Christ. Prayer walks were conducted on Monday and a prayer room made available for messengers throughout the convention. Pray for the presiding officers and program participants that God will guide them in all decisions.

■ Glorify your Heavenly Father. Make sure that your words can be

to study it carefully.

However this election is determined, we want our children to be made wide-eyed by the glory of democracy instead of jaundiced by human frailty. We want them to tell their own children about way back at the turn of the century when they saw how important every last vote can be. And we want them to always remember the faces of individuals who are anguished at the thought that their votes were not counted correctly.

There's nothing we can do to influence the final decision in this election. But what we can do is discuss this process in a way that encourages our children to participate in the future.

Our system is not perfect. We know this more than we ever did before. But our system is truly amazing. Perhaps our children will be involved in fine-tuning it or changing it in the future. But whatever the case, we want them to understand how important it is for them to be involved.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

Would this control they are trying to gain mandate the revised Baptist Faith and Message as a requirement for employment in any phase of Kentucky Baptist life? This has taken place in the seminaries and agencies in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Would they seek to mandate that in order to serve on any board or committee that allegiance would be required to the Baptist Faith and Message? This is true in the SBC and has excluded many good, cooperating Baptists.

I can understand why Texas has taken the action limiting the funding that goes to Nashville.

I sincerely hope that responsible Baptists will reject the deliberate takeover effort by an extremist group.

*John Dunaway
Henderson*

blessed by God and guided by the Holy Spirit. Glorify God during the special periods of worship.

■ Respect the right of others to disagree with you and trust the body to be guided by Holy God. Be gracious and kind in relating to others.

■ Build on a cooperative heritage. Kentucky Baptists have worked hard since 1837 to overcome barriers to cooperation. We do not have to give up our distinctive convictions in order to cooperate in sharing the gospel with the world.

■ Remember that we are gathering to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, which is God's gift to Southern Baptists for the support of missions. A great celebration, including a time of commitment and prayer for the future of this great missions tool that was born right here in Kentucky, was planned for Tuesday night.

"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).

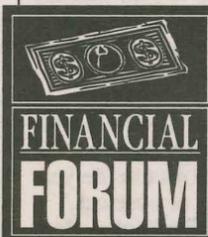
Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Study pros, cons before prepaying home mortgage

By Don Spencer

Paying a traditional 30-year mortgage off early has become



a popular financial strategy. Speeding up principal payments can sometimes save thousands of dollars over the life of a

loan. Sometimes this is a wise decision. In other situations, it might not make sense.

When to pay off early:

■ If you would feel more comfortable psychologically to know the house is "paid for."

■ If savings accounts and certificates of deposit are paying low interest. Paying extra principle on a 7 percent mortgage is comparable to earnings 7 percent elsewhere, with two important differences: There's no risk and money you "earn" will not be taxed.

■ If you lack the discipline to save or are reluctant to invest in higher return assets. Extra payments on your principle in effect creates a form of "forced savings."

■ If the value of your house has decreased and the mortgage is worth more than the house, added principal payments can build up equity.

When not to prepay:

■ If you have better investment alternatives. If you can get a 10 percent return on stocks, it's questionable to pay off a 7 percent mortgage early. (Remember, a positive return from stocks is not guaranteed and the investment return on most investments will fluctuate.)

■ If you are not saving sufficiently for retirement. You probably should maximize your tax-sheltered retirement plan before paying extra on your mortgage.

■ If you are near the end of the loan, the impact of added payments is much less.

■ If you have substantial consumer debt. It is much better to pay off credit cards charging high interest rates than to put money into a lower interest rate mortgage.

■ If you have an assumable mortgage at low interest rates, this may be a major attraction for potential buyers.

Special note to ministers: The question of prepaying a mortgage must include consideration of a minister's unique tax status and ability to designate a portion of compensation as housing allowance. Ministers should seek additional competent guidance on the question of prepaying a mortgage.

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

How can families promote and protect quality time together?

Q: How can we slow the pace of family life?

The breathless pace at which many of us live adds stress to families and often squeezes out the enjoyment relationships and activities are meant to bring. It also encourages and produces a restlessness in children that can make listening and learning difficult. What can we do?

The first step involves realizing the need to slow down. When was the last time you enjoyed a leisurely morning? When was the last time your entire family ate a meal together? When was the last time someone in your family didn't have to be somewhere during evening hours?

Look for ways to relax your family schedule. Decide in advance what blocks of time you need to protect. Remember, children need time for unstructured play and families need freedom from the pressure of having to be somewhere.

Do your best to have a sit-down meal together at least once a day. Don't watch TV or take phone calls while you eat. Keep everyone at the table long enough to talk. Take turns telling about your day, especially funny things that happened.

Set aside regular family times for quiet, reflective activities such as reading, working puzzles, playing games and even family worship. Make these times media-free. Turn off televisions, computers, CD players, etc. Make sure everyone gets adequate rest. Allow extra time to get places.

There always will be days when life seems hectic and everything moves too fast. Simply guard against letting these kinds of days become the norm.—David Garrard

Q: Many single adult ministers seem to be real advocates for single people and the state of singleness. Can there not be a case made for marriage?

Of course, there is a powerful case to be made for marriage. That case is made very strongly in a new book by two marriage researchers, Linda Waite and Maggie Gallagher. The book, "The Case for Marriage: Why Married People are Happier, Healthier and Better Off Financially," describes ways in which these assertions are generally true. Single adult ministries, on the other hand, send out a clarion call against marriage chauvinism, an often unintended or even unspoken "put down" of those who are single.

Church activities and worship often are designed with the assumption that everyone is married. Such an approach can be painful for single adults attending these services. Married people need the occasional reminder, as Harold Ivan Smith has said, that they are only "one heartbeat away from being a single adult." God calls some to singleness and for those people, it is a higher calling than even marriage (see 1 Corinthians 7).

Waite and Gallagher present statistics showing the relative health of married people compared to those who are divorced or divorcing. For those single people who are considering marriage and are "gun shy" due to parental divorce, the book cites the powerful benefits of marital life in general. This is healthy information to get into the marketplace, so that churches and the culture can be more motivated to turn the tide of divorce and encourage a more marriage-sustaining culture. But do not use this information to "hit single adults over the head" that they necessarily should be married or that they are letting society down by being single.

Instead, use this data as a resource to strengthen marriages and prepare single adults more adequately for marital success. May there come a time when we do not debate the superiority of either singleness or marriage, but treat either state as a calling from God, to be used for His glory and dedicated to Him.—James Stillwell

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



FAMILY FORUM

We are witnesses to history in the making

Last week's (attempted) presidential election deteriorated rapidly from the most intriguing night of election coverage in our nation's history to anxious days of political wrangling and legal chaos. Who could have imagined Nov. 7 that the outcome of the election would remain unresolved a week later?

As newspaper headlines declared "President Who?" and "History on Hold," Florida election board member Bob Crawford remarked, "Nobody ever said that democracy was simple or efficient. But this is democracy in action."

One thing is certain: Regardless of the final outcome, Americans are witnessing and experiencing history in the making. Like President Kennedy's assassination and the first lunar landing, people will talk for decades about where they were and what they were thinking on the night of the 2000 presidential election.

On the positive side, Americans have been dramatically reminded that individual votes really do matter. Those who failed to vote forfeited their role in helping determine our nation's future.

As attorneys and politicians wrestle with how to resolve this bizarre turn of events, Christians still have a significant role to play. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 calls on believers to offer "requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving ... for all those in authority." Just as countless Christians bathed the election process in prayer prior to Nov. 7, we should continue to pray fervently for key decision-makers to reach wise, honest, God-honoring decisions in the days ahead.

In the midst of such national turmoil, Kentucky Baptists are gathering this week to conduct kingdom business. We also face a presidential election and other items of business that are equally deserving of careful prayer and attention. Hopefully, Kentucky Baptist messengers can set a clear example of what it means to conduct business in a positive, respectful way. To do otherwise would be tragic.

As the past week's historical events have unfolded,

I was reminded of philosopher George Santayana's famous quote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

We must be careful to avoid ignoring the lessons of history. Americans hopefully will learn valuable lessons from the current political turmoil that can help strengthen our political process in the future.

Similarly, Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity this week to reflect on our history and gain insights for future growth and ministry. A major focus of this week's KBC annual meeting is the Tuesday evening "Partners in the Harvest" Cooperative Program celebration. Even amid convention controversy in recent years that has prompted some Baptists to reduce their CP support, the 75-year-old giving plan remains a vital ministry tool worthy of celebration.

Another significant ministry tool being unveiled this week is a new book chronicling the history of Kentucky Baptists. "Kentucky Baptists 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation" by Duane Bolin recounts state convention history during the years since the birth of the Cooperative Program.

Bolin, associate professor of history at Murray State University, notes in the book's prologue that "even a cursory glance at Baptist history in Kentucky invites a realization of how the past is mirrored in the present."

"The story of Kentucky Baptists in the years of cooperation from 1925 to 2000, in all of its complexity, deserves a serious recounting," he adds. "It is a story that begs to be told."

Whether it's a gathering of Kentucky Baptists or an anxious nation awaiting the results of a presidential election, the significance of history has taken center stage this week.

Kentucky Baptists—and all Americans—would do well to honor the lessons of history. Rather than duplicating past mistakes, our challenge is to learn, grow and cooperate together as we become part of the yet-to-be-written history of the 21st century.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Strategic planning pays spiritual dividends

By Chip Miller

"Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18).

With the reality of rapid change in our culture today, strategic planning is a critical need. What will happen to our churches if they don't begin to think more strategically? Clearly they will become irrelevant, lose momentum and grieve the Lord.

Many observers say we can't work harder, we must work smarter. That means under the Spirit's leading we become more strategic in our thinking and planning. God has a plan and purpose for the church and this plan can be discovered.

So what does strategic planning mean? Put simply, it is a process to determine what the church intends to accomplish and how it will take the necessary steps to reach those goals. Part of this mix will include an understanding of the church's mission, gifts and current opportunities.

Every church has a distinctive style and personality. The context where it

is planted provides dynamics that are unique. Therefore one plan will not fit all. Each congregation must hammer out its own way.

How does a leadership team do strategic planning? There are five basic steps:

■ Put together a team of people who will spend many hours together seeking and praying. This group will need to be able to think critically and feel deeply. Their journey through this process will bring them to new levels

of insight that perhaps they never have experienced before. It can be scary.

■ Search out a clear picture of the current situation. This process of "taking stock" involves looking at records, trends, hopes and dreams of the congregation.

■ With a clear picture of the present, set a new direction. This shared vision is forward-looking and well informed by the current reality. The more precise this preferred future is, the better chance the church will have to reach it. Too often the vision is not clear and not "owned" by key leaders. The visioning process is an important period of soul-searching and buying-in.



■ Divide the big picture into bite-size, achievable segments. What tasks will be done and in what order? These steps have dates, people and times connected to them. The big dreams are now translated into the nitty-gritty of daily, weekly and monthly schedules. One of the common errors in this stage is to try too much too fast. Pacing change and programs is a fine art. Leaders will need to listen carefully and keep in touch with the reaction of the congregation.

■ Launch time begins the rollout process. The best of dreams and planning are of no value unless they are implemented into the life and ministry of the church and community. A vital part of this step includes monitoring progress. Adjustments will need to be made along the way. These updates are part of the reality of strategic planning, for there is no perfect plan. The vision becomes the North Star that keeps the church on track and the mid-course corrections are normal and natural.

Does your church need a strategic plan? Yes. Does your church have a strategic plan? It can. I believe God is calling each congregation into an effective future. Will you raise the issues with key leaders and begin the journey?

Chip Miller is church leadership specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention church growth team

The Joy of Serving and Learning...

As you know, Campbellsville University's 75-acre campus is filled with beautiful landscapes, state-of-the-art facilities, and excellent learning resources. In addition, many intangibles combine to make Campbellsville one of the most unique and inspiring Baptist campuses in the United States. Take a closer look at the many and varied threads which, intricately woven together, make up one of the closest-knit campuses in the nation ... Campbellsville University — your kind of place.

I Felt a Part of the Campus the Second I Set Foot On It

So says Scotty Clenney, a 1964 graduate of Campbellsville and currently a guidance counselor at nearby Taylor County High School. "There's something here that draws people."

Scotty's feelings stem from the mutual cooperation she senses throughout our campus. Like a family, all of our members work together, complement one another, and uniquely allow



us to serve you with an extra measure of attention, encouragement, and excellence.

There's a special excitement and vision at this Kentucky Baptist university. We're building buildings and we're building people. We're moving forward together — all within a warm, welcoming, secure atmosphere that we really do call "home."

Our Faculty and Staff Live as Christian Examples ...

Christianity is the rock on which Campbellsville University was built in 1906, and on which we stand today. "Our faculty and staff live as Christian examples for our students. By caring and sharing, we are involved in students' lives, both inside and outside of class," says Dr. Frank Cheatham, vice president for academic affairs.

Why is Christianity important to us? Because we believe a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is more important than any other lesson in life.

"This is a Christ-centered campus with plenty of avenues to express your faith," says Alicia Graham, a junior marketing major from Bloomington, Illinois. "There's an electricity in the

air. You have friends of like mind and there's a togetherness here you just don't find on many campuses."

According to our president, Dr. Michael V. Carter, "God is using Campbellsville University to prepare servant leaders for the 21st century." Our Campus Ministries program reflects that philosophy by offering far reaching Christian programs, clubs, and activities — from bowling nights to campus-wide cookouts. Many Bible study and discipleship groups meet across campus; and there are prayer sessions, worship services, mission trips, and opportunities for evangelism.

This Is Like a Second Home For Me

The international flavor you'll notice on our campus reflects the real world. We have students from 95 Kentucky counties, 28 states, and 17 foreign countries. Many of our international students are from Brazil, and 14 percent of our global population is comprised of minority students.

"This is like a second home for me," says Luiz Rosa, a freshman communications major from Brazil. "People help me and support me here; they care about me and want to know who I am. It's easy to make friends, to get to know the environment, and to get involved."

Enthusiasm like Luiz's has made Campbellsville one of the fastest-growing institutions in the Southeast, with a 150 percent growth rate in the past 10 years.

A Well-Rounded Education Is Our Top Priority

How many campuses that you know have students rebuilding homes and lives in the name of Christ through Campbellsville's Kentucky Heartland Outreach ministry program, or have their own American Civil War, their own American Civil War Institute where students do historical research and preservation? How many have a 135-acre woodland — ours is called Clay Hill Memorial Forest — where students do field research with faculty?

Campbellsville University

These are just a few of the unique things you'll find at Campbellsville University — where your well-rounded education is our top priority. That's why we offer these and other technologically-advanced facilities that rank among the finest in the region.

For example, the Gosser Fine Arts Center features a recital hall, a choral and handbell rehearsal room, a bandroom, and a computer-enhanced practice room (the only one of its kind in Kentucky) with a state-of-the-art acoustical adjustment system. In addition, our new chemistry and biology addition of the Science Building features modern technology with advanced lab and computer equipment.

When it comes to your comfort, our six modern residence halls — which are carpeted, have central heating and air-conditioning, and access to the Internet — are designed to deliver. Nearby you'll also find our enhanced dining facility and courtyard, and student-operated radio and TV stations ... all built with you in mind.

There Are So Many Opportunities at Campbellsville

Music and athletics play a vibrant role in life at Campbellsville.

"We have one of the finest music programs in the Southeast," says Trent Argo, director of admissions at Campbellsville. "Our School of Music provides outstanding opportunities for performance and quality instruction for developing your music skills."

Numerous music ensembles are active within our nationally-accredited School of Music, as well as other outlets for creative and musical expression, such as recitals, drama productions, performances, and our award-winning Tiger Marching Band.

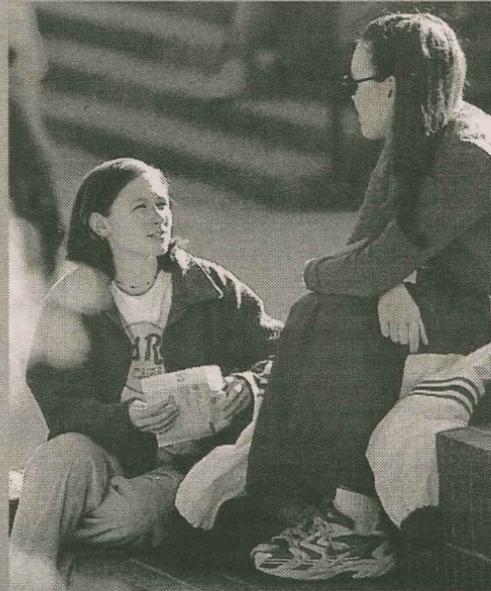
"If you want, you can be involved in activities all day long," says Kuluna Masden, a sophomore biology/pre-med major from Louisville, Kentucky. "There are so many opportunities at Campbellsville — that's what makes this place so special."

Affiliated with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), our intercollegiate

athletic program is a charter member of the Mid-South Conference. We field 11 intercollegiate teams that consistently produce All-Americans. Our teams continually compete in national and regional tournaments.

Intramural competition features softball, volleyball, basketball, flag football, soccer, tennis, foosball, billiards, table tennis, wallyball, racquetball, golf, and badminton.

For more information on Campbellsville University, write or call: Office of Admissions, Campbellsville University, 1 University Drive, Campbellsville, KY 42718-2799; 1.800.264.6014 or 270.789.5220.



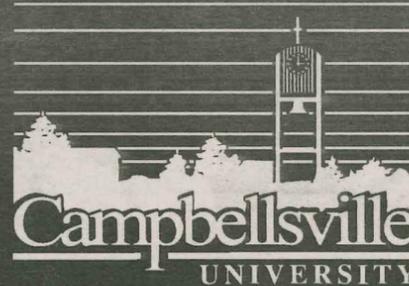
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American Red Cross, NAMB extend disaster relief agreement

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—The American Red Cross signed an agreement with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board Nov. 2 that continues a longstanding disaster relief partnership between the agencies, a partnership that last year resulted in a combined savings of an estimated \$14 million.

The "statement of understanding" is the third since 1986 to address formally a relationship that has existed since 1970. The partnership has allowed Southern Baptist disaster relief units to work closely with the American Red Cross in meal preparation, child care, cleanup and recovery after major storms and in other efforts.

The American Red Cross provides food, supplies and meal delivery while Southern Baptists provide meal preparation and other hands-on disaster relief services.

New items addressed in the agreement include a relationship description of the existing relationship between the two organizations in chaplaincy services and "aviation incident response."

John Clizbe, vice president for disaster relief services for the American Red Cross, commended Southern Bap-

tist efforts as a model of how nonprofit organizations can work together synergistically.

"We value this relationship enormously," he said before a public signing of the agreement at NAMB's offices in Alpharetta, Ga. "When I have been asked for an example of a statement of understanding and sympathy for the American Red Cross, I almost always refer to our relationship with you (NAMB). It is the epitome of how a good working relationship should be formed and what it is all about."

Clizbe noted that both agencies share a commitment to donors that makes stewardship of utmost importance, and partnerships such as this demonstrate the value of working together.

"If there are ways in which we can work together and save our organization millions of dollars by doing so, we're serving people effectively and efficiently," he said.

Robert Reccord, president of NAMB, noted that the agency is actually a national "nerve center" for a vast network of Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers in 42 state conventions and 45,000 churches.

"So we just get to symbolize who Southern Baptists are. And as that nerve center we commit to you that



DISASTER RELIEF John Clizbe (left), vice president for disaster relief for the American Red Cross; and Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, sign a "statement of understanding" outlining the disaster relief partnership between the two agencies. (BP photo)

we'll continue to do everything we can to mobilize as many people and as many hearts as possible to stand shoulder to shoulder and soul to soul with you as Red Cross," Reccord said. "Because it is not just, it is the emotional and the psychological and the caring that they need as well."

Savings to the American Red Cross due to the partnership is estimated at more than \$9 million last year, while

savings to Southern Baptist disaster relief in food and supplies is estimated at more than \$5 million.

During 1999 Southern Baptist volunteers, organized in local units and to 97 different events, prepared 1.6 million meals in support of American Red Cross operations. More than 16,000 volunteers were involved in both domestic and international responses.

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Kentucky Baptist history book to debut at annual meeting

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

BOWLING GREEN—A book exploring the past 75 years of Kentucky Baptist life will debut this week at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Bowling Green.

"Kentucky Baptists 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation" by James Duane Bolin will be presented during the convention's Tuesday afternoon session.

The book is the third major history of Kentucky Baptists. John Henderson Spencer's two-volume "A History of Kentucky Baptists from 1769-1885" was published in 1885 and "A History of Baptists in Kentucky" by Frank Masters was published in 1953.

The new book is the culmination of a five-year effort. Doris Yeiser, former Kentucky Baptist archivist, first proposed the book in 1995 to then-Executive Director Bill Marshall.

Facing the turn of the century and a new millennium, another installment

seemed appropriate, said KBC archivist Cheryl Doty.

Bolin, associate professor of history at Murray State University and a member of Murray First Baptist Church, was asked by the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission to write the history. Bolin said he accepted the project as a way to honor Kentucky Baptists and particularly his father, James Wesley Bolin, a bivocational Kentucky pastor and pharmacist who died in 1994.

"I wrote this Baptist history from the perspective of an 'insider,' that is from the perspective of the son of a Baptist minister, from one reared in a Baptist church from the cradle roll on up," Bolin explained.

Bolin's work covers the period following the adoption of the Cooperative Program. Kentucky Baptists adopted a unified budget plan a decade before the SBC, and the Kentucky program mirrored a similar plan initiated by First Baptist Church in Murray.

Bolin's approach is markedly dif-

ferent from that of his predecessors. Rather than an encyclopedic study, he was commissioned to write an interpretive history that would breathe life into Kentucky Baptist history and engage contemporary readers.

Bolin has experience as both a student and professor of history in secular and Baptist institutions. He has published numerous articles in historical journals and earlier this year the University Press of Kentucky published his "Bossism and Reform in a Southern City: Lexington, Kentucky, 1880-1940."

Bolin placed the Kentucky Baptist story in the context of state and national developments, such as the Great Depression, the World Wars and the Cold War.

Addressing the controversy that has dominated Southern Baptist life in the past two decades, Bolin said he worked hard to maintain neutrality when interpreting events.

Bolin noted that he read every issue of the Western Recorder from 1919

to the present and interviewed every living KBC executive director, WMU leader and other influential leaders. Along the way, he made an interesting discovery: similar controversy is not new to Kentucky Baptists.

"At times when I read the issues of the Western Recorder in the 1920s it almost seemed as if I could have been reading about the 1990s or the year 2000," he said. "The names of individuals were different, of course, but there was an eerie similarity in themes and issues."

"We can all learn from the past. We can be inspired by the past," Bolin said. "At the same time we can be shamed by the past, learning from the mistakes of the past. But if we fail to make the connection of our present and future lives with the past, the past becomes useless to us; it becomes mere nostalgia."

A copy of the book will be provided to every Kentucky Baptist church. Personal copies will be available at the annual meeting for \$15 each.

For more information about "Kentucky Baptists 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation" contact the Kentucky Baptist Archives at (502) 245-2401 or toll-free at (800) 266-6477.

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Voters in six Kentucky districts approve restaurant alcohol sales

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

RADCLIFF—Even though he's only been in Radcliff four years, Walter Davis says it's impossible to live there without being touched by the nation's worst drunk-driving accident.

The 1988 crash involving a Radcliff church bus near Carrollton claimed 27 residents' lives.

The memories make the recent landslide vote in favor of alcohol sales that much more painful, said Davis, pastor of Stithon Baptist Church. The local referendum passed 3,258 to 2,185, a margin of 60-40 percent.

"Those people who were survivors of the crash are hurting," Davis said. "It's like the community in effect said, 'We don't care. Get over it.'"

The vote was one of six last week by Kentucky cities or counties approving local alcohol sales. Voters in six other municipalities turned down such measures.

The local option elections were permitted under a state law passed this year that allows for specialized votes on alcohol sales in restaurants. Those eateries must seat at least 100 people and derive at least 70 percent of their income from food sales.

Claude Witt, director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, called the busy election-day slate a sign of things to come, unless the group succeeds with its constitutional challenge to the law.

"There's every opportunity for a tavern to come in and disguise itself as a restaurant," Witt said. "One thing is for sure, if people leave that place after drinking, they're as much a threat to have an accident as if they bought it anywhere else."

Witt expressed confidence in getting the law overturned, saying it leaves Kentucky with two sets of local-option laws.

Temperance League attorney Jeffrey Trapp said he doesn't expect a de-

cision before the middle of next year.

An injunction that had been issued to temporarily stop a vote in Georgetown has since been dissolved. That means that in the areas where voters approved, restaurants can serve alcohol while the appeal is pending, Trapp said.

Concerned Citizens for a Dry Radcliff will be watching the court test closely, Davis said. The group is stunned after organizing the only visible effort for or against the referendum and still losing. Opponents distributed nearly 1,000 yard signs, conducted numerous media interviews and attracted more than 300 people to an Oct. 30 rally.

The home of Georgetown College also approved alcohol sales in this election, although by a narrower 54-46 percent margin.

Coming on the heels of another vote just six months ago, Greg Earwood, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, said the citizens group that opposed the measure had too little time to prepare.

"We knew we had an uphill battle here because people looked at restaurants (serving alcohol) differently. The way they framed the debate, it's not too surprising that people decided this was an option they would take."

In addition to the restaurant sales, residents of two Kentucky counties recently voted to legalize alcohol service at golf courses. That choice was also enabled under a separate state law passed last spring.

Witt said the league decided not to contest the golf course law because it applies to "moist" areas, where alcohol already is sold, and because it doesn't have the resources to fight every issue.

But he termed the situation with alcohol in general a wake-up call to Christians across the commonwealth.

"They can't sit back and say, 'Let the Temperance League do it,'" he said. "We're not going to be able to keep up with all the places anymore."

Wet-dry elections

Local-option referendums to serve alcohol in restaurants (Yes votes in bold)

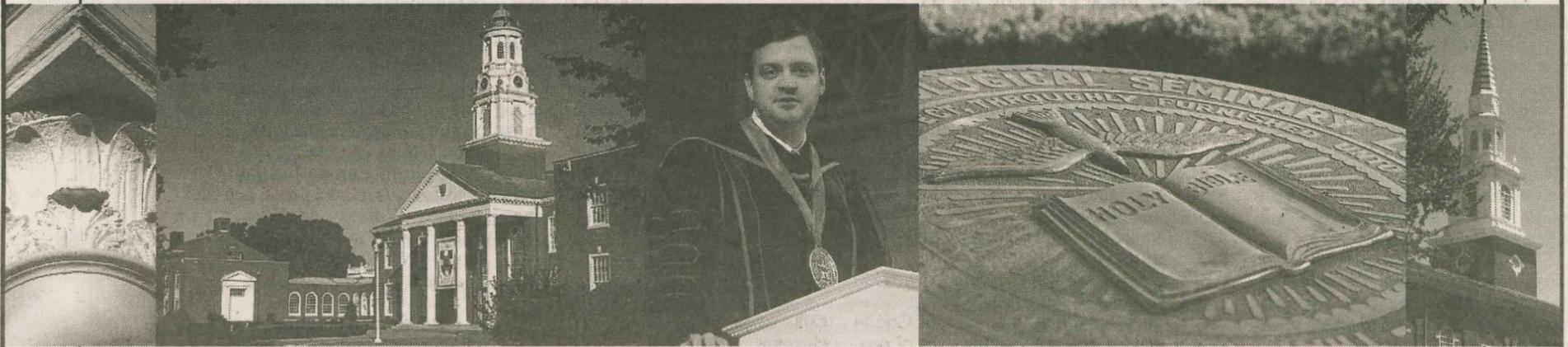
- Berea 1,039-1,940
- Cadiz 316-490
- Crittenden County 1,622-2,314
- Georgetown **3,509-2,925**
- Guthrie 191-165
- Harrodsburg 1,093-1,445
- Hazel 44-90
- Jamestown 242-362
- Kuttawa 154-126
- Murray 2,801-2,533
- Radcliff 3,258-2,185
- Shelby County 6,811-4,077

Precinct votes to allow alcohol sales at golf courses:

- Jessamine County Widow's Watch Golf Club 30-41
- Jessamine County Champions Trace Golf Club 69-65
- Shelby County Persimmon Ridge 114-10



The issue of doctrinal integrity is paramount for a theological seminary.



An age that holds truth in antipathy will look at confessions of faith as antiquarian holdovers from an oppressive past. On the other hand, an institution determined to remain true to biblical truth must be honest about its boundaries.

For nearly 2000 years, Christians have expressed their faith and doctrine through confessions of faith. In many cases, the confession or creed emerged out of the defense of the faith against heresy and error. The believing church said “no” to doctrinal error and “yes” to the truth of the Gospel.

The major revision of the *Baptist Faith and Message* adopted this year by the Southern Baptist Convention demonstrates that Southern Baptists remain serious about their confessional identity. I pray that the experience of this revision process will help us to learn even more about what it means to be a confessional people against anti-confessional pressure of the age.

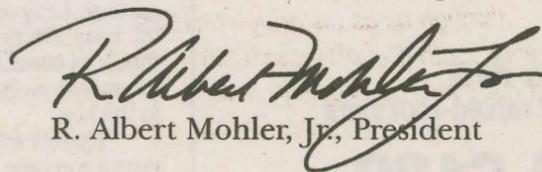
There are few threats more perilous for the evangelical church than theological seminaries set adrift from theological accountability. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is

unembarrassed in our commitment to require all professors to teach “in accordance with and not contrary to” our *Abstract of Principles* and the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

Furthermore, we expect our professors to hold these convictions as personal beliefs and commitments, not merely as contractual obligations for teaching. This model of robust confessionalism is a critical dimension of our accountability to the churches. Our confession represents a living tradition and it is the structure of our theological integrity.

We have the wonderful privilege of introducing a new generation of young Christians to the full rush of biblical truth and to the full power of the authentic Gospel.

In the midst of theological confusion all around us, our prayerful determination is that The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary remain firmly established upon the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ – boundaries we dare not trespass.


R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President

For more information on confessionalism and the Baptist Faith and Message see
The Southern Seminary Magazine online at www.sbts.edu/news/ssmag/ssmag.html

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KBC leaders lay groundwork for European partnership

Laying the groundwork for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's newest international missions partnership, a team of Kentucky Baptist leaders took part in the recent European Baptist Convention annual meeting in the Netherlands.

The three-year partnership with the EBC is set to begin in January. The EBC, a convention of more than 65 English-language churches in 22 nations, will be Kentucky Baptists' third international missions partnership. The KBC also has partnerships under way in Poland and Tanzania.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey; Calvin Wilkins, director of the KBC partnership missions department; and Kenneth Brown, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Paducah, were featured speakers at the EBC Evangelism Conference Oct. 23-24. Mackey also spoke the following day at the EBC annual meeting and Eric Allen, KBC Missions Service Corps director, led music for both meetings. Mackey noted that EBC churches

are "in transition from being more of a military base-related convention to becoming almost totally an international English-speaking ministry." The EBC has churches in such diverse settings as France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Romania and Russia.

Mackey said EBC leaders "have a wonderful strategic plan for their work that I was most impressed with." He said primary goals include strengthening churches, evangelism, starting new work and developing financial resources for the convention and churches.

"Some of them believe God is getting ready to do a tremendous work in Europe," Mackey said. Although "most of the churches are small and struggling and need help," he added, "They know what it means to trust God to move among them and use them. They're willing to be used of God to make a difference in the lives of people."

EBC General Secretary James Hefflin told European Baptists that "Ken-

tucky Baptists are taking this partnership seriously." He said the partnership "can mean great things for churches in the European Baptist Convention."

Mackey said he believes Kentucky Baptist involvement will make a significant impact among EBC churches as volunteers provide "additional hands and feet and bodies to help do ministry."

Describing the partnership as "an exciting opportunity for Kentucky Baptists," he added, "I believe there's going to be a tremendous interest from Kentucky Baptists in this partnership."

He said major goals will include helping European Baptists "carry out their big objectives of strengthening their churches and reaching their communities." He said one specific strategy to help accomplish those goals is for Kentucky churches and associations to partner with specific EBC churches "to provide the leadership and encouragement they need to move forward as a congregation."

Wilkins said other opportunities for

Kentucky Baptist involvement will include evangelism, construction projects, music performances, leadership training and mentoring young pastors.

He said once the partnership officially begins in January, there might be opportunities for volunteer teams to travel to Europe as soon as March.

Citing the diverse international involvement in most EBC churches, Wilkins said Kentucky volunteers "are going to be able to touch the lives of people from more than 100 nations through these churches."

"Overall, Europe has pulled far away from its religious roots and background," Wilkins said. While "it's a real challenge to go to an area where people have left God out of their lives," he added, "One incentive is to go over there and help evangelize."

For information about partnership mission opportunities, contact Wilkins at (502) 244-6462, toll-free at (888) 254-5724 or by e-mail at calvin_wilkins@kybaptist.org

Volunteer opportunities in Europe could be available as soon as March.

KBC cluster groups studying top five issues facing churches

Continued from page 1

"People are living longer and enjoying a better quality of life. As a result, church members may continue in leadership well into their senior years," he said. "At the same time, young adults are looking for ways to exercise their leadership as well."

Each generation has been shaped by different experiences, sometimes resulting in radical differences of opinion about what church should be and do.

"Each generation has different values, but the same calling," Cole said. "All serve Christ, but each has a different way of doing it."

The challenge for churches lies in bridging differences and learning to value generational diversity, Babb added.

■ Leadership development "is, has been and will be a hot issue" among Kentucky Baptist churches, Cole said.

While churches traditionally have focused on training leaders for specific areas of ministry, such as Sunday school or deacon ministry, the focus now is shifting to helping develop leaders from the inside out, accord-

ing to cluster group leader Guy Futral, leader of the KBC leadership development team.

Churches increasingly are interested in helping leaders discover, explore and apply their gifts and talents, he said. Formal training for ministers typically doesn't focus on personal development, he said. Ministers with underdeveloped people skills are more likely to face forced termination, he said.

■ The popularity of such Bible studies as Henry Blackaby's "Experi-

encing God" has heightened awareness of the need to foster authentic spirituality among Christians, Mackey said.

Kentucky Baptists must explore key questions surrounding spirituality, including answering what it means to have a committed relationship with Christ that spins itself out in everyday behavior, according to Cole.

Authentic spirituality is especially important to establishing and maintaining ministry with Busters, he added. Busters, an often cynical group, demand integrity from religious institutions and crave genuine spiritual experiences.

■ As Kentucky Baptists struggle with intergenerational, leadership and spiritual issues, they also must navigate a sea of social and cultural changes that are affecting churches and society, said Chip Miller, leader of the cluster group studying transitions.

Miller said the rise of such issues as post-modern materialism and secularism prove that the church now operates in a post-Christian society that no longer interacts in a familiar or friendly context.

Learning to operate in that post-Christian society will require that churches evaluate everything from how they allocate staff resources to how they worship and communicate the gospel. Failing to successfully operate in a post-modern world will mean increased irrelevance in the culture, resulting in fewer opportunities to witness and minister.

The work of the cluster groups already is impacting KBC events, Mackey said. Organizers of the 2000 Kentucky Baptist evangelism conference and Super Saturday conferences added sessions designed to help churches reach and retain young adults to their programs.

Cole said the cluster groups are producing information that can be helpful to all Kentucky Baptists. "Our hope for the study of these five areas of concern is that local churches will receive information to help them focus ministry in at least one area."

The Big 5

Issues every church should address



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.

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\$150 before March 15,
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KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
Brotherhood Department
10701 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243
502-244-6489 or Toll Free 1-888-254-5720

2000 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Georgetown College: 2000 unexpired term (in-state) – Bob Swift (Mayfield)

KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Jackson County (SE): 2001 unexpired term – Fred Brandenburg, Jr. (Irvine)
Nelson (C): 2000 unexpired term – Ronald Murphy (Shepherdsville)
Russell Creek (SC): 2000 unexpired term – G. Michael O'Neal (Columbia)
Tates Creek (SC): 2000 unexpired term – Dennis Brewer (Richmond)
Upper Cumberland (SE): 2002 unexpired term – John D. Lambert (Loyall)

FALL REPORT

BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

Campbellsville University (trustees): 2001 unexpired term (in-state) – Steve Branscum (Russell Springs); 2002 unexpired terms (in-state) [2] – Ava Reynolds (Louisville); W. D. Feltner (Greensburg); 2004 terms (in-state) [9] – Chester Badgett (Campbellsville); Mike Eastridge (Danville); Ralph Tesseneer (Campbellsville); Ferrill Gardner (Louisville); Donnie Gosser (Elizabethtown); Kyle Hubbard (Louisville); Ron Rafferty (Campbellsville); Norris Priest (Henderson); Mary Frances May (Columbia); 2004 terms (out-of-state) [2] – Jim Fugate (Huntington, WV); Kevin Shrum (Nashville, TN)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (trustees): 2004 terms (in-state) [6] – Neil Barry (Middlesboro); Eugene Brashear (Lexington); Archie Oliver (Madisonville); J. C. Helton (Pineville); John B. Hughes (Danville); Anna White (Versailles)

Cumberland College (trustees): 2004 terms (in-state) [5] – Sam Ballou (Corbin); Richard Knock (Erlanger); Velma Childers (Pikeville); Bill Hacker (Corbin); Herman Leick (Corbin); 2004 terms (out-of-state) [2] – Oranga Stanfill (Knoxville, TN); Phil Armstrong (Stone Mountain, GA)

Georgetown College (trustees): 2004 terms (in-state) [5] – Brent Caldwell (Frankfort); Jackie Gabbard (Lexington); Frank Penn (Lexington); Michael Scanlon (Lexington); Bob Swift (Mayfield)

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (trustees): 2004 terms [2] – Willis Henson (Paducah); Jeff Eaton (Lawrenceburg)

Kentucky Baptist Foundation (directors): 2002 unexpired term – Shirley Spalding (Louisville); 2004 terms [4] – Asa Hord (Louisville); M. A. Winchester (Stearns); William Burch Owen (Lexington); Roy H. Keith, Sr. (Elizabethtown)

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (directors): 2002 unexpired term – Reginald Ayers (Bowling Green); 2004 terms [6] – B. T. Atherton (Owensboro); Kenneth Clawson (Richmond); Larry Ensor (Crestwood); James Jones (Campbellsville); Jimmie Lee (Elizabethtown); Steve Matherly (Lexington)

Oneida Baptist Institute (trustees): 2004 terms [6] – Squire Baker (Manchester); Jerry Bevil (Beaver Dam); Marvin Cress (Manchester); Geneva Muntz (Paris); Kenneth Ray (Leitchfield); Jesse Ward (Whitesburg)

Temperance League (trustees): 2003 terms [5] – Mitch Bradshaw (Nancy); Don James (Utica); Wilbur Powell (Russellville); Robert C. Litton (Frankfort); Roy S. Faulkner (London)

Western Recorder (directors): 2004 terms [3] – Bill Marshall (Louisville); David Proffitt (Salyersville); Ken James (London)

KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

At-Large North East: 2003 term - June Rice (Paintsville)
At-Large South West: 2003 term - Ricky Cunningham (Dexter)
At-Large Southern: 2002 unexpired term - Floyd Price (Scottsville)
Anderson (C): 2001 unexpired term - Jerry Dedman (Lawrenceburg)
Bell (SE): 2003 term - South Bevins (Pineville)
Bethel (S): 2003 term - Ron G. Wells (Russellville)
Blood River (SW): 2002 unexpired term - David Jaco (Benton); 2003 term - Dewey Dick (Benton)
Boone's Creek (NC): 2001 unexpired term - Joseph T. Rafferty (Paris); 2003 term - Gary Conner (Mt. Sterling)

Booneville (SE): 2003 term - Ken Bolin (Manchester)
Breckinridge (C): 2003 term - Danny Haynes (Hardinsburg)
Caldwell-Lyon (SW): 2003 term - Johnnie Davis (Princeton)
Christian County (SW): 2003 term - Larry Baker (Hopkinsville)
Crittenden (NC): 2001 unexpired term - David Tucker (Dry Ridge)
Daviess-McLean (W): 2003 terms - Grace Bristow (Owensboro); Jack Jenkins (Livermore); 2001 unexpired term - Scott Ford (Maceo)
Elkhorn (NC): 2003 terms - Micki Davis Robison (Lexington); John Brandon (Paris); Ray Van Camp (Lexington)
Franklin (NC): 2003 term - Ruth Ann Shaw (Frankfort)
Graves County (SW): 2003 term - Jeff Van (Mayfield); 2002 unexpired term - Jeff Stewart (Melber)
Green Valley (W): 2003 term - Bob Hardison (Sebree); 2001 unexpired term - Glenn Riggs (Henderson)
Greenup (NE): 2003 term - Mike Routt (Russell)
Knox (SE): 2003 term - Carl McCray (Corbin)
Liberty (S): 2003 term - Scott Mackey (Glasgow)
Lincoln (SC): 2002 unexpired term - Bill Rhodus (Lancaster)
Little Bethel (W): 2003 term - Randall Rogers (Dawson Springs)
Little River (SW): 2003 term - David Culp (Gracey)
Logan (S): 2003 term - Kenny Chyle (Rockfield)
Long Run (C): 2003 terms - Jim Cobban (Middlesboro); Carol Taylor (Louisville); David Scott (Louisville); Jerry Dooley (Louisville)
Lynn (S): 2003 term - Brian Curry (Munfordville)
Mercer (SC): 2003 term - Jack Geurin (Willisburg)
Muhlenberg (W): 2002 unexpired term - Terry Lynn Chaney (Graham); 2003 term - Charles Midkiff (Greenville)
Nelson (C): 2003 term - Ronald Murphy (Shepherdsville)
Northern Ky (NC): 2001 unexpired terms - Wayne Lipscomb (Union); Ken Willoughby (Newport); Calvin Perry (Alexandria); 2003 terms - Velma Clifton (Hebron); French Harmon (Taylor Mill)
Ohio River (SW): 2003 term - Van Yandell (Fredonia)
Ohio Valley (W): 2003 term - Don Phelps (Sturgis)
Pike (NE): 2003 term - Charles Higgins (Pikeville)

Pulaski (SC): 2001 unexpired terms - Chris Platt (Somerset); Ron Shaw (Somerset); 2003 term - John Mark Toby (Somerset)
Red River (NE): 2003 term - Ron Barnett (Campton)
Rockcastle (SC): 2003 term - Roland Mullins (Mt. Vernon)
Russell County (SC): 2003 term - John Wilson (Russell Springs)
Russell Creek (SC): 2003 term - Michael O'Neal (Columbia)
Salem (C): 2003 term - Gary Kasey (Rineyville)
Severns Valley (C): 2003 term - David Stephen Kim (Radcliff)
Shelby County (C): 2003 terms - Lou Bowman (Shelbyville); Hart Montfort (Shelbyville)
Simpson (S): 2003 term - George (Buddy) Crabtree, Jr. (Franklin)
South District (SC): 2003 term - Jerry Lester (Perryville)
South Union-Mt. Zion (SE): 2001 unexpired term - Bennie Bush (Williamsburg); 2003 term - Tim Johnson (Barbourville)
Sulphur Fork (C): 2003 term - Wendall Moore (LaGrange)
Tates Creek (SC): 2003 term - Hurstle Laxton (Berea)
Ten Mile (NC): 2003 term - David Morris (Warsaw)
Warren (S): 2003 term - Jerry Oakley (Bowling Green)
Wayne County (SC): 2003 term - Stanley Stevenson (Monticello)
West Union (SW): 2003 terms - Mike Williams (Paducah); Bettie Wright (Barlow)
Whites Run (C): 2003 term - Christopher White (Carrollton)

Preacher of 2001 Annual Sermon: Chip Miller (Louisville)

Alternate: Jerry Lowrie (Williamsburg)

Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Gerald Sharon (Chairperson); Travis Collins (Vice-Chairperson); Billy Compton; Pat Reaves; Don Mantooth; Jim Craigmyle; Doug Lewis; Michael Blankenship; Stephen Rice; Bill Adcock; John Dean; John Chapman; David Banks; Bennie Bush; Jerry Tracy; George Smith; Ken Goforth; James Doyel; Ricky Cunningham; C. C. Brasher; Tommy Tucker; Jerrell White; Greg Faulls; Mark Galloway; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director – Bill Mackey and Convention President – Terry Wilder.

2000 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

■ **Committee on Arrangements – 2001 unexpired term** – Tom Melvin (Greenup); 2003 terms – Jo Pelham (Gracey) and Randy Holt (Paducah)

■ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws – 2003 terms** – Wayne Lipscomb (Union), Gayle Horn (Harrodsburg), and Ted Sisk (Lexington)

■ **Committee on Credentials – 2003 terms** – Stanley Reid (Paducah), David Nelson (Owensboro), and Bill Tichenor (Princeton)

■ **Committee on Order of Business – 2003 terms** – Pat Howard (Bowling Green) and Doug Crawley (Louisville)

■ **Committee on Nominations – 2002 terms:**

Central Region: Stan Lowery (Shepherdsville) and Kathryn Akridge (Louisville)

North Central: Larry Davis (Cold Spring)

North Eastern: Paul Schmidt (Inez) and June Rice (Paintsville)

South Central: Chris Platt (Somerset)

South Eastern: Wes Roy (Williamsburg) and Shane Nickell (Barbourville)

Southern: Linda Krutza (Bowling Green)

South Western: Tom Hughes (Princeton)

Western: Lena Romans (Beaver Dam) and Farrell Isenberg (Owensboro)

■ **Committee on Public Affairs – 2002 unexpired term** – Bob Hardison (Sebree); 2003 terms – Susan Keith (Elizabethtown), Ava Reynolds (Louisville), and Tim Stonecipher (Paducah)

■ **Committee on Resolutions – 2002 terms** – Dennis Phelps (Elizabethtown) and Mark Hopper (Bowling Green)

■ **Persons to Report – 2001 Cooperative Program:** Wendell Ray (Murray); Alternate - Bill Whitaker (Middlesboro)

International Mission Board: Bill Clark Thomas (Cadiz); Alternate – Betty McKinley (Louisville)

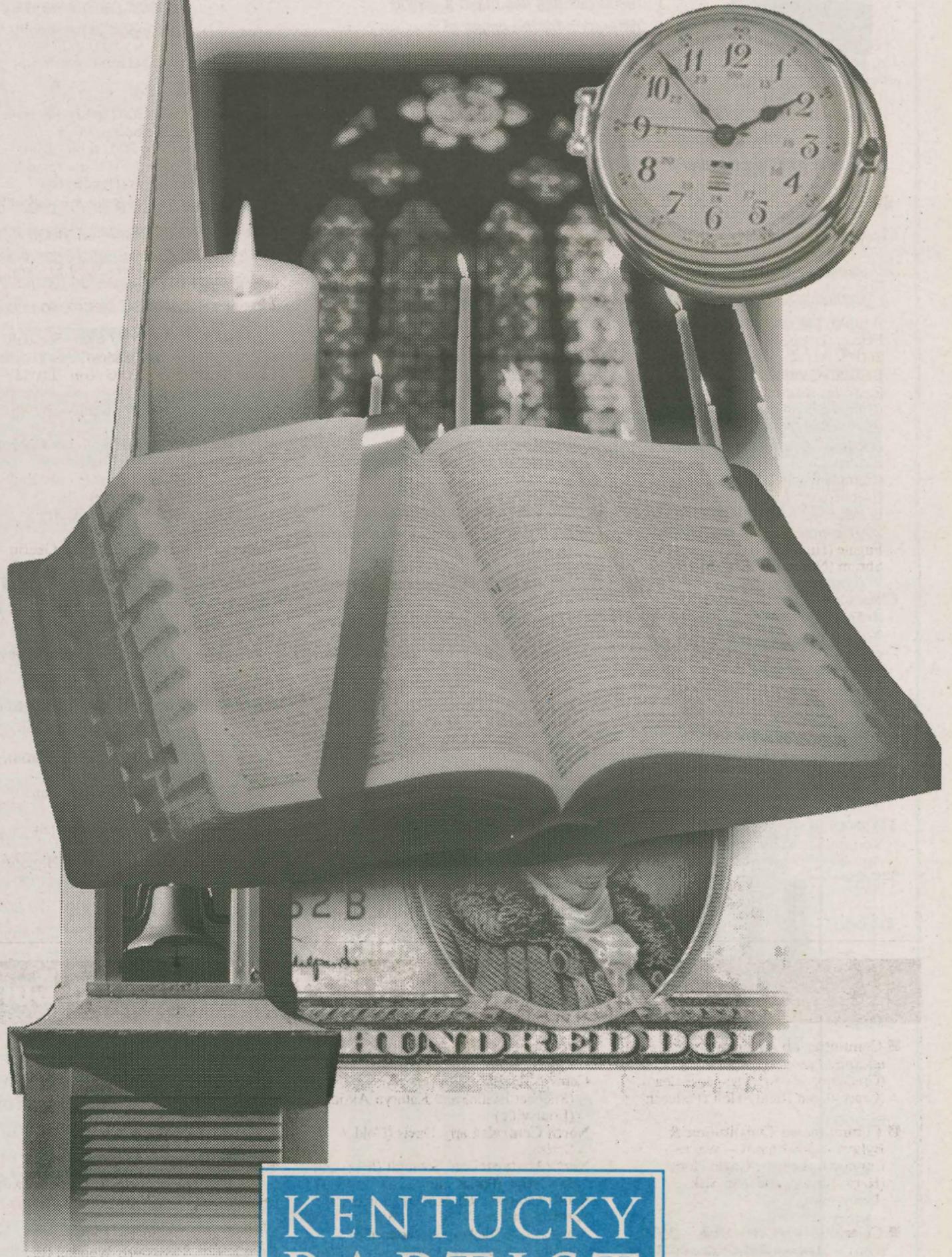
North American Mission Board: Jesus Pacheco (Louisville); Alternate – Lonnie Riley (Lynch)

Obituaries: George Stack (Owenton); Alternate – Gayle Toole (Nicholasville)

Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Willis Henson (Chairperson), Todd Toole (Vice-Chairperson), Quentin Lockwood, Jerry Lowrie, Jim McKenzie, G. Floyd Price, Mike Melloan, Mary Lou Crutcher, and Tyre Denney; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director – Bill Mackey and Convention President – Terry Wilder

FACILITATING CHRISTIAN FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION

LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR FAVORITE BAPTIST CAUSES



Laurie W. Valentine,
Trust Counsel

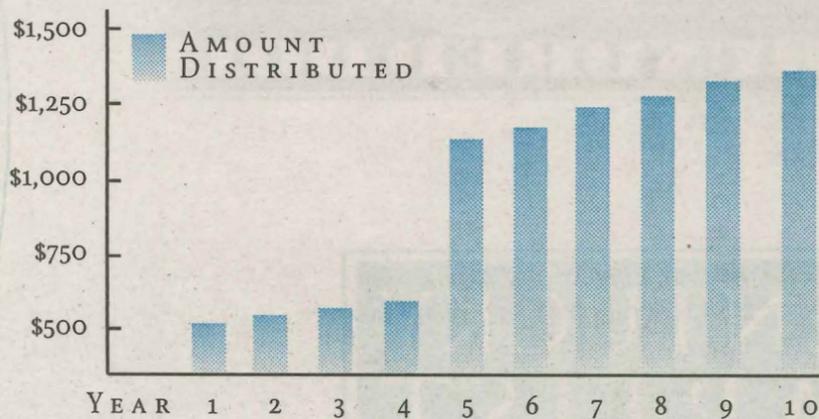
You don't have to be a millionaire to be able to provide financial resources that will make a lasting difference for the cause of Jesus Christ.

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

An endowment fund is a permanent fund created with gifts of capital assets. Only the earnings of an endowment are distributed, the original principal value of an endowment is never spent. For the first 4 years the Kentucky Baptist Foundation distributes only net income from endowment funds it manages. Starting in the fifth year, the Foundation distributes an amount equal to 5% of the average of the previous 16 quarters' market values as of September 1 each year.

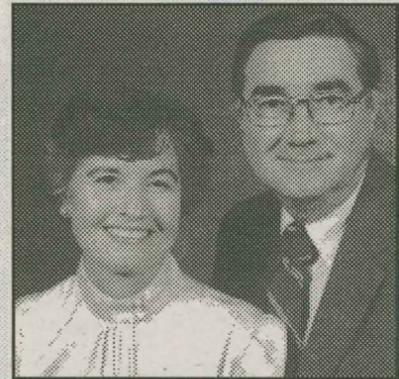
A large gift is not required to establish an endowment fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. An endowment can be started with any amount that can be added to from time to time over your lifetime and/or at your death. This permits even those of modest means to do much more than they ever dreamed possible.

The graphs below illustrate how a \$20,000 endowment fund grows in value and in the amounts it distributes over a 10-year period.*



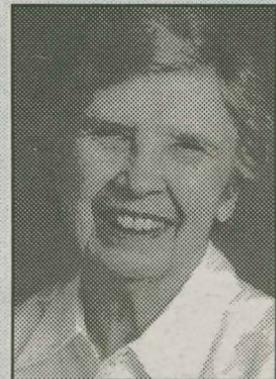
*Assumptions Used: Asset Allocation: 60% Equity Fund/40% Fixed Income Fund
Average Annual Total Return 8.6%**
CPI 2.5%
**Past Performance No Guarantee of Future Results

"The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has made it possible for us to simplify the giving process. The benefits of each gift of cash or appreciated securities we make can be divided among the multiple Kentucky and Southern Baptist causes we want to support in perpetuity."



M. A. & Portia Winchester,
Whitley City

"I thank the Lord for the peace of mind I have had since I decided to leave my estate to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for a cause that I have supported for many years. I know what took me a lifetime to accumulate will be preserved to perpetuate my Christian witness until Christ returns."



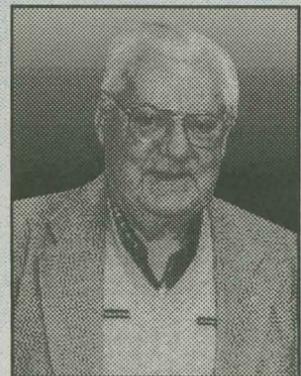
Evelyn Miller,
Frankfort

"While attending the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's 'Christian Estate Planning Basics' seminar at our church, we realized we had not done all the planning we needed to insure that our affairs would be well-managed in the event of incapacity. We also wanted to insure our estates would be distributed as we desired and that our Christian financial stewardship goals would be achieved. Through the assistance of an estate planning attorney and the Foundation's staff, we now have a plan that accomplishes those purposes. We have established a family endowment fund with the Foundation and are experiencing the joy of giving. We anticipate the greater joy that will come from seeing our stewardship at work through the causes we have chosen to benefit through that endowment fund."



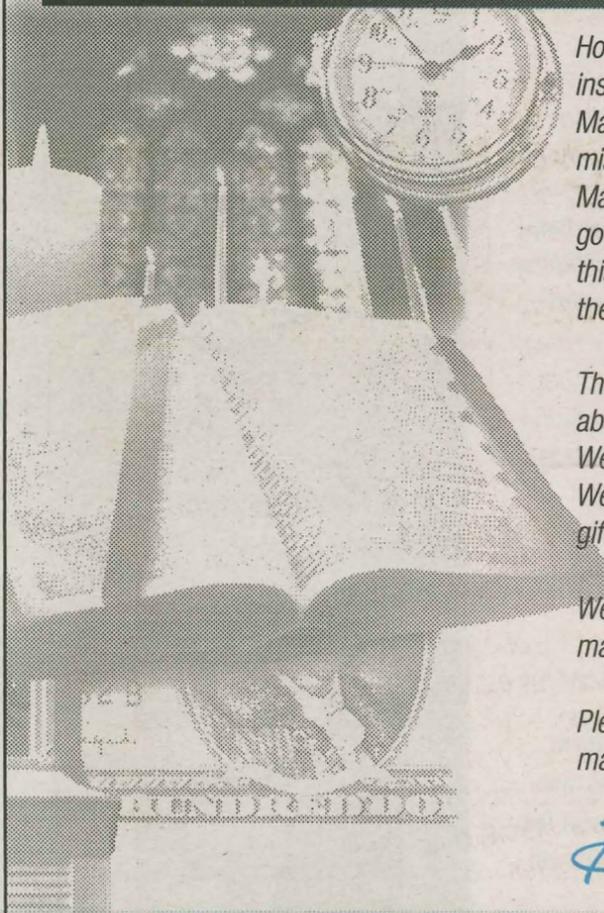
Bruce & Sandis Parks,
Louisville

"I was looking for a way to honor my late wife, Virginia, and benefit a cause that had been dear to us. I needed a plan that would allow me to make a gift now, while retaining an income for my life and that of our two adult sons. I have accomplished my desires through the establishment of two Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. My sons and I will receive income for life and at our deaths an endowment fund named in honor of Virginia will receive the remainder for the benefit of our favorite Baptist cause."



John Porter,
Danville

ENHANCE YOUR MISSION AND MINISTRY



How will the mission of your church, association, educational or benevolent institution be financed in the future in light of the changing trends in giving? Many of those who have faithfully and consistently supported your organization's mission are moving beyond their years of earning and accumulating wealth. Many will die in the next two decades and will transfer trillions of dollars to the government, family or charitable organizations like yours. Those who will follow this generation, the likely recipients of much of this wealth, have not demonstrated the same propensity to save and to give to charitable organizations.

The Foundation exists to assist your church, association and institution in thinking about and preparing for the future in the realm of Christian financial stewardship. We consider ourselves part of your Christian stewardship education ministry. We conduct educational seminars in churches on estate, financial and charitable gift planning. There is no cost for this service.

We also manage the investment of church, association and institutional funds. The hallmarks of our management are top-ranked performance, below market cost and Christian ethical screening.

Please give us the opportunity to facilitate the stewardship discipline of your constituents and the stewardship management of your organization's endowment and trust funds.



Barry G. Allen,
President

HEAR WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT KBF SERVICES

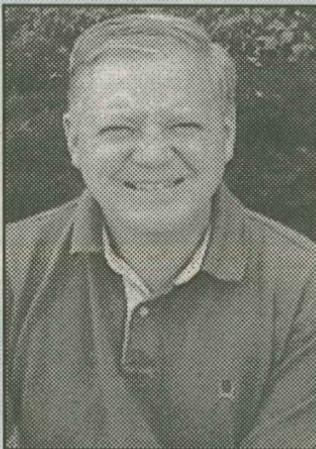


Billy Compton, Pastor, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

"Kentucky Baptist Foundation staff provided helpful information to a special committee in our church about how to develop and implement a planned giving component in the overall stewardship program of our church. Their willingness to meet with the committee on several occasions, participate in the presentation of the program to the church and provide stewardship education materials to our members was key to the success of this effort. The fact that all of this was provided at no cost was an added benefit of utilizing the services of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation."

French Harmon, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Fort Mitchell

"When our stewardship committee began to plan a major stewardship emphasis they decided we should do something different. We invited the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to present three of its stewardship education seminars during the Sunday School hour. We gave our adults the opportunity to choose which seminar they would attend. This experience resulted in raising the awareness of our people about their Biblical stewardship responsibilities and introduced them to ways to make gifts other than out of income or cash resources."



David Morris, Treasurer, Paint Lick Baptist Church, Warsaw

"The outstanding performance of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's investment of our cemetery fund made it possible for us to purchase a new piece of equipment for the care of our cemetery without encroaching on the original principal of our fund. The Foundation's investment program is well-suited to provide perpetual funding for perpetual care of a church cemetery."

Rick Reeder, Director of Missions,
Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists, Princeton

"The ministry of Caldwell-Lyon Association of Missionary Baptists can be summed-up in two words, Vision and Faith. To enhance our ministry we established a Missions Endowment Fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. As this fund grows and grows, we shall be able to go and go in keeping with our Vision and Faith."



SVER WISH YOU COULD FIND AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY THAT IS GOOD FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THAT IS ALSO GOOD FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

SVER WISH YOU COULD FIND AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY WHERE YOU COULD HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE A PART OF EVERY INVESTMENT DECISION?

SVER WISH YOU COULD BE A PART OF STARTING NEW MINISTRIES AND REACHING PEOPLE GROUPS WITH THE GOSPEL?



NATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT – the same organization that manages the funds of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation – has created the new **National Asset Management Core Equity Mutual Fund** for individuals. The investment guidelines for this mutual fund are the same as the guidelines used in managing the large capitalization equity portion of the Foundation's Equity Fund, including the Christian ethical restrictions.

AN INVESTMENT, NOT A DONATION

An investment in The National Asset Management Core Equity Mutual Fund is not a charitable donation. It is an investment opportunity for a high quality equity mutual fund that is designed to put your money to work for you and your family! A \$10,000 minimum investment is needed to open an account with this mutual fund.

The mutual fund is managed by National Asset Management, a Louisville-based firm founded in 1979. National Asset Management currently has \$13.4 billion in assets under management. Their portfolio managers have an average of 15 years of investment experience.

The National Asset Management Core Equity Mutual Fund is distributed by First Fund Distributors, Inc., 4455 East Camelback Road, Suite 261, Phoenix, Arizona 85018.

REACHING KENTUCKY FOR CHRIST FUND

A unique side benefit of this investment opportunity is that National Asset Management has agreed that for every account opened through this arrangement, 20 percent of its management fee will be paid to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. None of the management fees received by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation will be retained by the Foundation, 100% will go to the Reaching Kentucky for Christ Fund administered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The management fee is not being increased to make this possible.

The Reaching Kentucky for Christ Fund will be used to reach people groups for Christ as the world comes to Kentucky. Kentucky currently has growing Hispanic and Asian populations and many of the countries of the world are now represented in the international students attending Kentucky's colleges and universities.

In addition, the Fund will be used to help churches and associations start new ministries in Kentucky. The Convention will partner with the associations and churches as they identify and implement new ways of sharing the Gospel in an increasingly secular culture.

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FROM NATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

WANT TO KNOW MORE? CALL TOLL FREE FOR A PROSPECTUS AT
1-877-626-3863.

DISCLOSURES

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has been engaged by National Asset Management (NAM) to announce to Kentucky Baptists the availability of a personal investment opportunity in the NAM Core Equity Mutual Fund (Mutual Fund).

NAM, the Mutual Fund's investment advisor, is a registered investment advisor under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, as amended. NAM currently serves as the institutional investment manager for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation will be compensated by NAM for the activities it undertakes to introduce this investment opportunity. However, the Foundation will direct 100% of its compensation to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the Reaching Kentucky for Christ Fund. The annual compensation, 0.10% of the market value of the combined units owned by participating Kentucky Baptists, will not be charged as an additional fee to any person investing in the Mutual Fund.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation does not endorse or otherwise recommend investment in the Mutual Fund. It will perform no services with respect to the actual investment by Kentucky Baptists in the Mutual Fund and has no role in advising the Mutual Fund. Neither the Kentucky Baptist Foundation nor any employee of the Foundation is a registered broker-dealer or registered investment advisor.

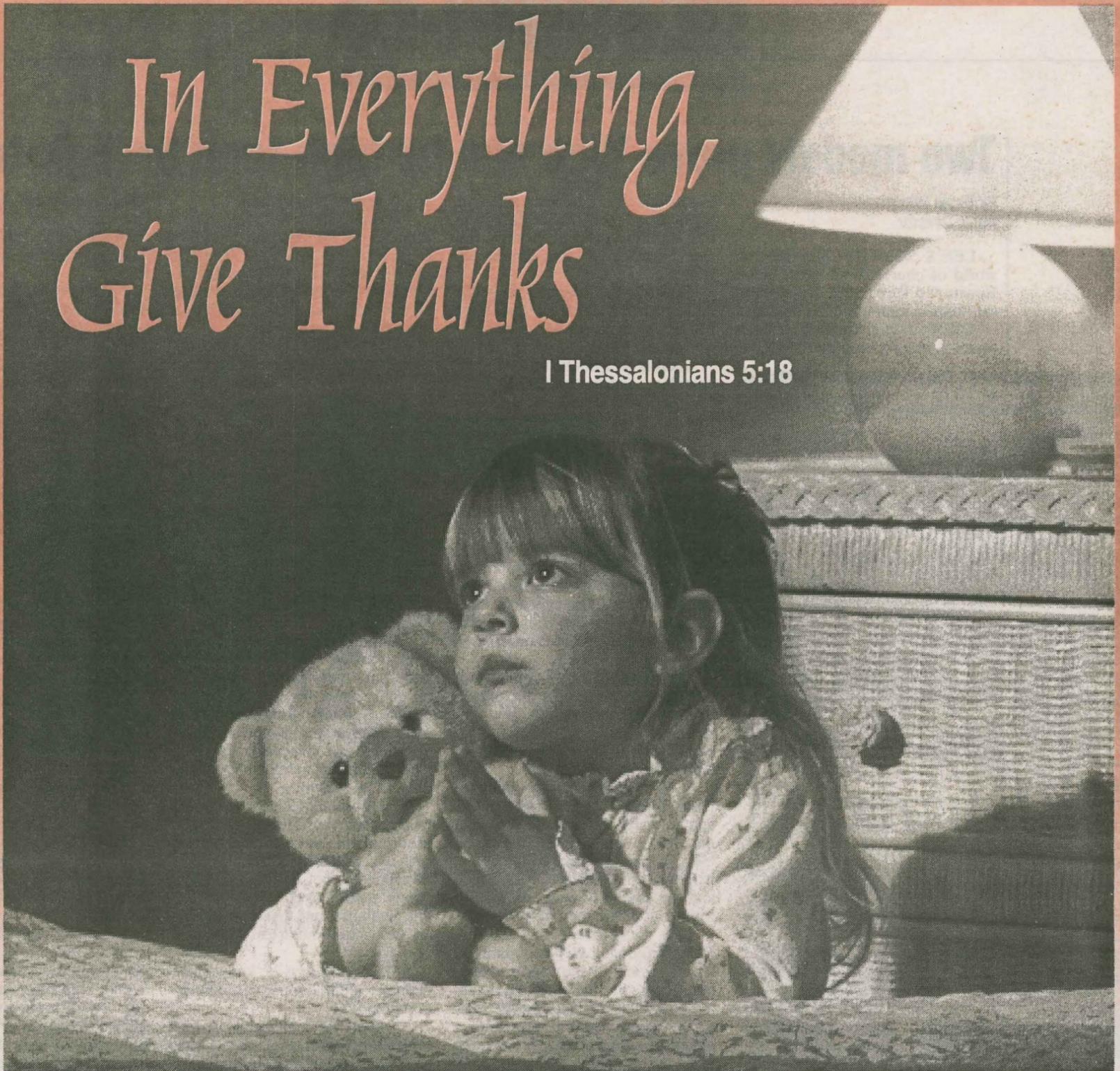
Now comes a very special opportunity to do all of these things. For the first time, individuals can invest in the same large capitalization equity portfolio used by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation – complete with all of the Christian ethical restrictions used by the Foundation – and can see part of their management fees directed to a new special fund to be used to win our state for Christ!

**KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION**

10605 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40223-3101
(502) 244-6466 or (888) 254-5701

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

Two models prove Web can be high-tech or high-touch

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—In the world of church Web sites, Steve Hewitt and Dave Stahl are at polar extremes in their use of technology. Call it a case of high tech vs. high touch. One proposes that churches

should get ready to jump onto the World Wide Web with reckless abandon. The other is leading a large, creative church to take a minimalist approach.

Hewitt is the Internet evangelist. As publisher of Christian Computing Magazine, he says all road signs point to the future of a wired church.

Stahl is far from being a computer recluse. As communications director for Willow Creek Community Church, however, he'd rather use the

Web to get people into his metro-Chicago mega-church; not necessarily take the whole church to them.

Hewitt quotes Barna, the Christian research group. Its polls say one out of six teens expect within three years to be using the Web as a substitute for their current church-based religious experience.

The rapid growth of online communities, linking people of common interests or backgrounds, only emboldens Hewitt's opinion that churches are ignoring the new technology at their own peril.

"Some people are developing relationships across the nation online and are meeting for the first time at the altar to get married," he notes. "Whether we think that's right or not, it makes no difference. It is a fact, and the church is going to have to figure out where they fit in all that."

Lest you think Hewitt is some techie wanting churches to jump on his magazine's bandwagon, recognize he also has the heart of a minister. In 1986 he was one of many Missouri Baptist pastors attending a gathering to learn how to make the most of computer technology. "I went to the meeting and talked too much and got elected president."

Hewitt says he felt God calling him to start a magazine. Today it has a paid circulation of 25,000 subscribers as well as a Web site, www.ccmag.com.

Hewitt recognizes many church leaders are entering uncharted waters when it comes to the Internet, but he insists it is no different than their need to stay current with any other

component of their church.

"In some places, it's going to take a matter of commitment, just like anything else," he admits. "The first time the church began to use air conditioning in their building instead of cardboard fans, I'm sure it was a huge financial investment."

Many churches simply fail to recognizing the Internet's potential, he says. "They think, 'Aw, people aren't really online.' Well, you might be surprised. Over 50 percent of people (in America) are online now," he says. "Really open your eyes and realize where this is going."

A first step for many churches, he says, is taking existing church ministries and putting them online. Set up chat rooms for Sunday school classes. Build an online calendar and message board for members and visitors to get announcements. Post next week's Sunday school lesson and discussion questions.

Such possibilities are not limited to larger churches, Hewitt adds. "The beauty of it is the mediums before, such as radio and TV, that took a big investment, a lot of time, very few people pulled it off," he says. "But this medium is one that each and every individual church can participate in every way."

Still, Hewitt says he knows he's facing an uphill climb to get churches on the Web.

"I expect most people to listen to my message when I talk about what can be done and walk away and shake their head or get excited for a week and give it up because it's a lot of work," he says. "It takes a lot of commitment to really utilize this, but I think that's where we need to be."

On the other end of this spectrum is Stahl.

Willow Creek Community Church is heralded for its creativity and ability to reach unchurched baby boomers.

You won't find many bells or whistles, however when you visit

www.willowcreek.org. There are no chat rooms. There isn't even a message from the pastor. Willow Creek's no-frills approach is intentional, Stahl says.

"We know that we aren't necessarily leaps and bounds in front of everybody from a technology standpoint," Stahl says. "But in terms of the strategy behind what we do, we feel very good that we have a very solid strategy."

That's because the Web site, like everything else at Willow Creek, is designed around the church's mission statement. Stahl says that was key in developing a Web strategy.

"We went through a process that we do with pretty much every decision that we have around here and that is: Is it consistent with the mission of the church?"

Willow Creek defines as its mission turning irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ, with its emphasis on the South Barrington community, Stahl says.

"We are trying to reach people who live near the church," he says. "Part of the whole process that happens is being in community with other believers."

The Web site is designed to supplement the goal of members inviting friends and coworkers.

That is why you'll find a map on their site and directions to get to the church but won't be able to download a recording of a Willow Creek worship service.

"If we broadcast our midweek service on the Web, does that remain consistent with you wanting to be in community with other believers?" Stahl asks. "Well, no it isn't. It keeps you sitting there at your terminal. It doesn't get you out of your chair and get you over into a seat here to be in community with other people at our services. We want people face-to-face talking."

Stahl doesn't suggest Willow Creek's method is the only way. He does, however, recommend that churches have a clear vision for what they want to accomplish on the Web.

"Each church can take a look at their Web site and determine in five minutes whether it's consistent with the mission and strategy of the church," he says.

Is this the future of Christian Web?

By David Winfrey
News Director

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—Welcome to www.zchurch.com, one congregation's attempt to put practically everything it does on the Internet.

Log on to the Web site and you'll find a cartoon Mayberry, where every building represents a different ministry for Bethel Temple, an interdenominational church in Evansville, Ind.

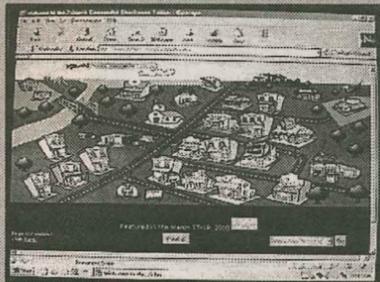
Click onto the video building and you can watch a Sunday worship service, complete with an online Bible, a form for submitting prayer requests and an online donation process.

Pastor Steve Schwambach says everything was designed with non-Christians in mind.

"This gives them a way to kick the tires without having a salesman hang on them," says Schwambach, pastor of Bethel Temple since 1980.

"Unchurched people take incremental steps toward God," he adds. "If you can give them a smaller step, they're more likely to take it than if you ask them to make a huge leap."

zchurch was designed with the help of unchurched people. In fact, he adds, on the Sunday he outlined his vision for a Web site to the congregation, a third-time visitor who had been away from church 15 years asked if he could help.



That visitor

recruited a non-Christian from work who had the technological skills to get zchurch off the ground, Schwambach says. The helper prayed to accept Jesus as her personal Savior after reading on the Web pages how to become a Christian, he says.

"This is just another hook in the water, it's trot line fishing," Schwambach says. "Use every means you have."

With 4,000 visits each week, Schwambach predicts zchurch membership could one day dwarf Bethel Temple, which has a regular attendance of about 1,300.

Another growing project is zgroups. More than 400 people from every state and a dozen countries participate in e-mail Bible studies.

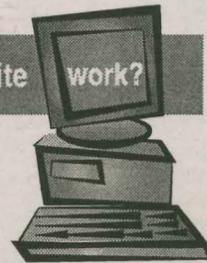
Jonathan Sieg, who attends college in Lanham, Md., says he is involved in a local church but enjoys the weekly encouragement he gets from zgroup members.

"It offers one thing different: the opportunity to interact with people all over the country, believers and unbelievers, with a great diversity of denominations, views and experiences," he adds. "It's eye-opening sometimes."

Schwambach says building a Web presence has taught him about the creativity of God. zchurch opened up a whole new ministry opportunity for church members who previously thought they had nothing to offer, he adds.

"We had all these techies who were just sitting there thinking to themselves, 'I can't preach a sermon, I can't teach a Sunday school class, I can't sing a solo,'" he says. "They just were sitting there thinking, 'Well, there's nothing I can do.' And all of a sudden there's this whole pocket of people in our church who are shaking the world for Christ just because we gave them one more way to do so."

Does your Web site work?



Specialists: Church Web sites often lack strategy, vision

Continued from page 1

"Once the fun wears out, that's the point to where a Web site begins to get stale."

A church's vision for its Web site can be incredibly complex, including recordings of church services, chat rooms for Bible studies or multimedia presentations explaining the Christian faith to nonbelievers. Or it can be as simple as a page that lists a church's worship schedule and phone number.

The key, many consultants insist, is planning.

Rather than being distracted by all the possibilities posed by the Internet, Dave Stahl recommends that churches design their Web site to match their mission statement.

"I always encourage churches to forget about tools," said Stahl, com-

munications director for Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill. "Do your strategy, because tools are going to change, and you don't want your strategy to change over time."

Ryan Bradley, Web manager for Beuchel Park Baptist Church in Louisville, said another common pitfall is trying to do too much too soon.

"Instead, start small then slowly build," said Bradley, who has led workshops on how to build a church Web site.

McMahon suggests most church Web sites should be classified according to one of two goals: helping keep members informed or advertising to people outside the church.

Web sites targeting church members will require more constant updates for such services as membership direc-

tories or online newsletters, she said.

McMahon also recommends that Web designers for such sites make sure they are offering information and services that church members truly want.

"What's the user expecting to find?" she asked. Web managers should monitor the traffic to their sites to see if their work is being valued, she added. "If you put up the church newsletter and no one ever goes there, you're wasting your time."

On the other hand, churches that use their Web sites for outreach are going to want to avoid "churchy" language that might confuse non-Christians, according to McMahon and others.

"People are used to being entertained," she added. "You might have to have more of the cutting edge technology."

Consultant: Your church can reach non-Christians through the Internet

By Todd Deaton
South Carolina Baptist Courier

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Christians have an unprecedented opportunity to reach unbelievers through the World Wide Web, according to Thomas Wright, Internet evangelism coordinator for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

With more than 1,700 different religions in the United States, Wright said it's apparent that humans are working hard to find God, and the Internet is a primary place where people are searching.

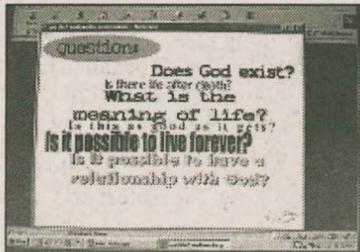
He cited a couple of anecdotes to show how online evangelistic efforts can make a difference.

A medical doctor went on-line to research a treatment for a patient in desperation, typed in "pray," Wright recounted. "A site popped up that challenged him to pray. That site led the doctor, an unbeliever, to link to another site about how you can know God and he accepted Christ online."

In another case, an Egyptian found the site thegoodnews.org, Wright said. "He read through the material there and found a link to a testimony of a former Muslim (who had converted to Christianity). He wrote to NAMB that he was filled with sin and wanted help to find forgiveness."

Wherever there are non-Christians, the church should be there to share the gospel, Wright said.

The best Internet evangelism pages, Wright said, provide interactive elements in four key areas: information, communication, evangelistic resources and intentional evangelism presentations.



GOT LIFE? Several Web sites have multimedia presentations like this one at www.gotlife.org that explain the Christian faith.

"Our church or association pages should provide all four, but most of our time and money is spent on providing information when it ought to be on evangelism," he said.

A woman once e-mailed NAMB to say she had learned a lot about churches, their staffs and directions to buildings, but no one told her how to meet Jesus, Wright recalled. "As a lost person, if people want me to get found, it seems like they should give me a map," the woman wrote.

Among the resources Wright recommended are interactive gospel presentations, such as namb.net, jesusfilm.org, thegoodnews.org and needhim.org.

"The Internet gives us a chance to find a spot where we hone our skills to share Jesus," Wright said. "Use your gift to invade the Internet for the kingdom of God, and help people to get online and be ambassadors for Christ."

Designer has 17 questions to ask of your church Web site

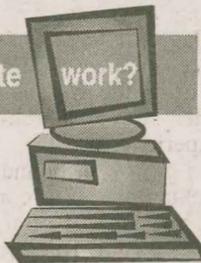
RICHMOND—Lisa McMahon is convinced she can improve your church Web site with two questions:

Who is your target audience and what is your goal for the site?

"If they don't know who their primary audience is, they really don't know what their purpose is," said McMahon, who has been designing Web sites for five years.

That might sound basic, but McMahon said surprisingly few churches have thought through these simple questions. After you address audience and goals, McMahon has a few more issues to consider:

- Who is your secondary audience?
- How will your site serve your primary audience?
- What type of information will your primary audience expect to find on your Web site?
- What information do you have readily available to provide to your audience?



you have readily available to provide to your audience?

■ What types of information do you expect to put on your Web site: calendar, newsletters, staff profiles?

■ Who will serve as the Web manager for the site? The Web manager is the primary contact person for a site, McMahon said. He or she also monitors access privileges to the Web site account for page editing purposes.

■ Who will be the maintainers for the site? Page maintainers can be the Web manager or someone else. Page maintainers perform much of the technical duties, such as actually building the Web pages within the site, convert-



ing content to Web format and making updates to the pages.

■ How often do you expect to update the content on your site?

■ How much time per week or per month will you dedicate to updating your site?

■ Who will be responsible for answering e-mail that comes via a link on each page of the Web site?

■ What words do you hope will describe your site: professional, friendly, cutting edge?

■ What materials do you have on hand that you would like to adapt and publish on the Web?

■ Is your preferred domain name available? What will your web address be if your preferred address is taken?

■ Have you chosen a web-hosting provider?

■ What look and feel do you want your Web site to have? For those starting out, McMahon recommends having at least five favorite sites so you can tell a designer what you like about each one.

WEB DESIGNER Lisa McMahon says churches could improve their sites by asking just two questions: Who is your target audience and what is your goal for the site? She has built a site full of Web design tips for churches: www.imb.org/medianow.

Partnering with churches

Throughout the commonwealth, churches are saving time, money and frustration by printing their newsletters on the back of the Western Recorder.

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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERNRECORDER

Christian site iBelieve.com folds

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (RNS)—The Christian Web site iBelieve.com has announced that it is shutting down due to lack of funding.

"Despite a tremendous launch and site traffic that ranks as the leading Christian community on the Internet, iBelieve.com has not been able to secure additional funding to continue to keep the site up, and we are forced to close our virtual doors effective immediately," says a note to members posted on the site.

The site was launched in January to be an online spiritual and social outlet for Internet-savvy Christians.

Jeff Fite, president of the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based company, told Associated Press Oct. 20 that its 35 employees will be laid off within two weeks.

The company said on the Web site that it had exceeded business objectives, with 550,000 members and 2 million visitors, but found funding to be a challenge.

"Like many Internet companies, we were unable to raise capital given the current market conditions, and we are left without options," read the statement from "The iBelieve.com Family."

iBelieve.com was a sister company of Family Christian Stores, a chain of more than 300 Christian retail stores in 39 states.

It had received a \$30 million first-year investment, primarily funded by the private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners in Chicago.

Many states tackle moral concerns on election day

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

Nevada voters amended their state constitution to ban gay marriages, while in Mendocino County, Calif., adults now can grow 25 pot plants each.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Though overshadowed by flip-flops and recounts in the presidential election Nov. 7, a number of states also left it up to voters to decide moral issues on ballot initiatives.

They included:

■ **School vouchers.** Voucher proposals, opposed by teachers' unions and governors in both states, lost soundly in Michigan and California.

California voters overwhelmingly rejected a school-voucher referendum that would have offered parents \$4,000 to send their child to a private school, regardless of income.

Michigan voters rejected more than 2-1 a proposal that would have required school districts with poor graduation rates to offer \$3,100 vouchers for students to attend a private, parochial or public school of their choice.

■ **Homosexual rights.** Four states considered ballot votes on gay rights in response to Vermont's recent law recognizing civil unions of homosexuals.

Maine defeated a referendum to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation 51 percent to 49 percent.

Nebraska voters overwhelmingly passed a ban on gay marriages by amending the state constitution to approve of heterosexual marriages only.

Nevada voters also amended their state constitution to ban gay marriages by a wide margin.

Oregon voters narrowly rejected a ban on instruction in public schools that encourages, promotes or sanctions homosexual or bisexual behavior.

■ **Drugs.** Colorado and Nevada approved the medical use of marijuana, while Alaska rejected a referendum to decriminalize marijuana.

Californians approved a referendum providing treatment and probation instead of prison for first- or second-time non-violent drug offenses, and Mendocino County, Calif., voted to allow adults to grow 25 pot plants each.

■ **Abortion.** Colorado rejected a law requiring a 24-hour waiting period for abortions.

■ **Doctor-assisted suicide.** Maine voters rejected 51 percent-49 percent a referendum to join Oregon as the second state to allow doctor-assisted suicide for adults who are terminally ill.

Gambling gets mixed results in seven states

NASHVILLE (BP)—Maine, West Virginia and Arkansas dealt organized gambling stinging defeats in their states Nov. 7, while state lottery and pari-mutuel betting proponents prevailed in South Carolina, South Dakota, Colorado and Massachusetts.

"In states where governors opposed gambling we won, and in states where the governors did not oppose it we lost," said Tom Grey, director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling.

Grey was particularly critical of Govs. William Janklow of South Dakota and Jim Hodges of South Carolina where voters by a 55-45 margin lifted the ban on a state lottery. Both governors supported lotteries as a means of funding education and other government programs.

"We now have a product (gambling) that the government once criminalized but is now using to fund government services," Grey said. "This is extremely dangerous. Gambling is an illegal product that

government licenses."

He predicted that lotteries soon would become major issues in Tennessee and North Carolina and again in Arkansas in the near future.

"The government has become a predator and is now asking churches to care for the broken bodies it throws on the churches' doorsteps," Grey said. "It will be interesting to see if the church will remain in the battle or limp off."

Elsewhere:

Maine voters, by a margin of 60-40 percent, rejected a measure that would have allowed 1,500 video gambling machines at the Scarborough Downs racetrack, where pari-mutuel betting on horses is already allowed.

In West Virginia, a local ballot initiative in Greenbrier County to allow casino-type gambling at the historic Greenbrier Resort was defeated by a 2-1 margin.

South Dakotans, by a 54-46 percent margin, voted against abolishing video lottery. And by a 52-48 percent margin, voters agreed to

raise the betting limits at casinos in the tourist town of Deadwood and at nine Indian reservation casinos.

In Colorado, voters by a 51-49 percent margin approved joining multi-state lottery games such as Powerball, joining at least 20 other states in the process.

In Maine, voters by a 60-40 percent margin defeated adding video gambling at Scarborough Downs race track.

In Arkansas casino gambling was rejected by a 63-37 margin.

In Massachusetts, voters narrowly defeated a ballot initiative banning greyhound racing. Animal rights activists were among the supporters of the ban, saying greyhounds are being abused, abandoned or put to death when they stop winning.

Track owners denied abuse and said shutting down the states' two tracks would put 1,200 employees out of work. Grey said owners of the greyhound tracks are losing money and want to add video poker at their tracks.

■ **Gun control.** Two states required background checks for gun shows.

In the shadow of last year's Columbine High School slayings, Colorado voters overwhelmingly approved a law requiring criminal background checks for the sale of firearms at gun shows.

A similar law in Oregon requiring background checks for gun-show purchases also passed easily.

■ **English as official language.** Two states established English-only laws.

Arizona voted 70 percent-30 percent to end bilingual education programs in favor of English-only instruction.

Utah voted 2-1 to declare English the official language of the state and requiring the state to establish rules for public and higher education institutions to assist non-English speakers to learn the language.

■ **Interracial marriage.** Alabama repealed a century-old ban on interracial marriage and became the last state in the union to add language to its constitution guaranteeing equal protection under the law regardless of race, color, religion, national origin or gender.

Alabama's 'Ten Commandments judge' wins state chief justice seat

MONTGOMERY (RNS)—Judge Roy Moore, the Alabama judge who gained prominence with his crusade to keep the Ten Commandments posted in his courtroom, was elected Nov. 7 as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Moore, a Republican, defeated Sharon Yates, a Democrat, to rise to the post of the state's highest-ranking judge.

He had pledged to take his handmade plaque of the Ten Commandments with him to the Supreme Court building in Montgomery if he was elected. "I believe God is looking down on these efforts of those people who wish to acknowledge His sovereignty over the affairs of men," Moore

told his supporters. "I think it's time in this state and nation that we did just that."

Some voters worried that a Moore win would reduce church-state separation in the courts.

"I'm a Christian and I believe in the Ten Commandments, but I don't believe they should be in a courtroom," said Montgomery retiree Joy O'Brian. "I can't see forcing that issue like that."

But the majority of voters chose Moore, with some saying they liked the judge's stance on his faith. "I like somebody who stands up for what he believes," said Michael Dillaber, an adviser to a Methodist student ministry at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, who voted for Moore.

We listened.

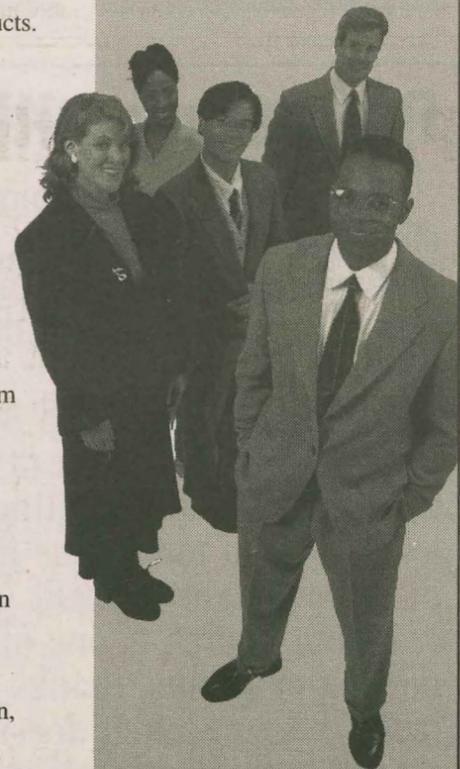
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Was Christian Coalition missing in action last week?

By David Gibson
Religion News Service

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (RNS)—He might be the prime suspect in the death of the religious right, but Pat Robertson isn't about to let all the accusations—much less a guilty conscience—keep him up at night.

"The Bible says, 'If a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him,'" the televangelist says, quoting Proverbs and flashing a smile that somehow manages to project "aw shucks" and ambition at the same time.

Robertson is sitting in a wingback chair in his office, a tastefully appointed room that is the command center of an empire consisting of equal parts gospel, big business and Republican politics.

On the walls are photos of Robertson with pols and potentates, plus framed tabloid headlines from Robertson's 1988 run for the GOP nomination.

That campaign flamed out, but from its ashes Robertson raised up the Christian Coalition, a grassroots lobby that for nearly a decade harnessed the rage and frustration of the Christian right and made Robertson one of the most feared—and loathed—figures in American politics.

"I try my best to please other people," the preacher insists. "But," he adds, "that is secondary."

At this point, that is probably a smart strategy for Robertson. During the recently ended presidential election, the Christian Coalition was missing in political action, and it couldn't have come at a worse time.

In the past, the coalition could mobilize thousands of voters to provide critical margins in key swing states. Indeed, until two years ago, the Chris-

tian Coalition had been the main organizing force behind the religious right, the most important conservative political movement of the last generation.

Its failure at this juncture is a bitter pill for Christian conservatives who waited eight long years to put an end to the era of the despised Bill Clinton and his proxy, Al Gore.

The target of their outrage is clear. "Pat, in my eyes, is the Jim Bakker of the religious political scene," says Paul Nagy, a former Robertson aide and moral conservative who recently worked as a political consultant for Steve Forbes. "He's about power and ego. I think there is a lot of guilt in Pat Robertson because he's not the man he thinks he is."

"I wouldn't go so far as to say he's not a Christian, but he's not my kind of Christian. And that really bothers me."

If such judgments sound harsh, consider that they are coming not from Robertson's usual critics on the left.

In reality, several of the factors behind the decline of the religious right as a cohesive force, and of the Christian Coalition as its mouthpiece, were beyond Robertson's control.

For one thing, the evangelical political movement is a bit long in the tooth, in sociological terms.

"The Christian right as a social movement lasted two decades—they're old," says John Green of the University of Akron and a leading expert on the religious right.

Green and others say the white evangelicals who are the core of the Christian right are making more sophisticated political choices today.

Having been led from their self-imposed exile in the political wilderness, these conservative Christians are now more experienced in public life, more independent and less willing to

vote the way Robertson, or anyone else, says.

In another sense, Robertson and others like him are victims of their own impressive successes over the past decade, especially their critical role in the stunning Republican takeover of Capitol Hill in 1994, forming the first all-GOP majority Congress in 40 years.

With that victory came a measure of complacency among evangelical voters. At the same time, Christian right operatives, once outsiders, were being integrated into the political establishment. "When you are entrenched in the institutions, who needs the Christian Coalition?" Green asks.

With that political evolution, however, came a sobering dose of political reality. Christian conservatives did not see the payoff that Robertson had been holding out to them in exchange for their efforts.

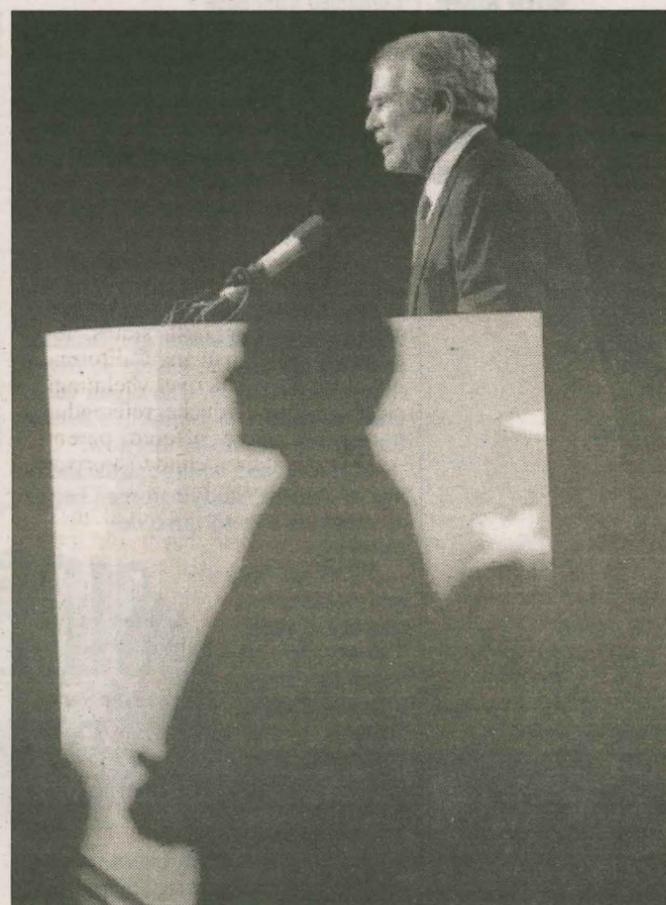
"All of the stated objectives of the religious right—from ending abortion to cleaning up television to restoring family life—have not been advanced one iota," says Cal Thomas, the columnist whose 1999 book, "Blinded by Might," criticized his fellow religious conservatives for selling their souls for political influence.

Robertson, who this year turned 70, appears as fit as ever.

If Bush eventually wins the contested election, many people think Robertson can simply declare victory and ride off into the sunset.

"Assuming that Mr. Bush wins, with his testimony of faith, I think we can say we've done what we set out to do," Robertson says before the election. He speaks with manifest satisfaction, but also softly and plainly; he has no need to boast. To him, the record speaks loud and clear.

Then again, he also knows that a Bush loss could work out just as well,



at least for Pat Robertson.

"Sometimes it's more difficult to have a friendly administration than to have an administration with which you are fighting," he says. "Because people go to sleep when they have their friends in office. They figure they've done their job and they can get a little lax."

"Whereas if there's a perceived adversary, then they wake up."

Pat Robertson pauses at the prospect and smiles.

WHERE WAS PAT?
Pat Robertson speaking at a Christian Coalition meeting in Philadelphia in August. His discussion of taxes and education was not exactly the kind of red-meat moral sloganeering he has been known for. (RNS photo by John O'Boyle)

Partnering with other Baptists

We enjoy telling the story about a friend who called asking if we knew another state newspaper had "stolen" our design.

Actually, that state Baptist convention was one of five we've partnered with to lay out and print their newspapers.

In most of these newer state Baptist conventions, the newspaper editors wear many hats and have many responsibilities. Now, with the help of the Western Recorder, they have a few less details to focus on.

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PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

Muslim political influence growing

WASHINGTON (BP)—Muslim voters—though relatively few in number—are playing a greater role in American politics, observers say.

American Muslims are concentrated in cities such as Detroit and Youngstown, Ohio, considered swing states in last week's presidential election.

Experts say there are as many as 6 million Muslims in the United States.

More Muslims were expected to vote last week than ever before. There has been a big change of attitude in the Muslim community to get more politically involved, Salam Al-Marayati of the Muslim Public Affairs Council told Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, a public television program.

Some Muslims still have religious objections to political involvement, arguing that the Koran forbids it, or they have felt it wouldn't do any good to vote. But many others interpret the Muslim sacred text as encouraging voting, and they were going to the polls, according to news reports.

American Muslims said they think they can influence U.S. policy on the Middle East, which they regard as too pro-Israel. Other common concerns are school vouchers and charter schools, sanctions on Iraq, Muslim civil rights and abortion, a national survey in February found, according to the Dallas Morning News.

Leaders of several Muslim organizations recently banded together to promote voter registration within their communities, according to Religion & Ethics Newsweekly, although most did not offer guidance on who to vote for.

Could lack of players make organs the next dinosaur?

With more churches moving toward using praise teams and worship bands, the organ is used less as the central instrument of worship.

Continued from page 1

According to the National Association of the Schools of Music, 1,003 people were enrolled in organ programs during the 1982-83 school year at the schools they track. In 1999-2000, the number dropped to 652. The number of organ degrees granted dropped from 243 in 1982-83 to 160 in 1999-2000.

"There's a dropping enrollment in organ especially, but also in music studies in general," Durr added. "We live in a society of instant gratification, and kids are used to having so many things immediately. The organ takes time to master, so I think it's harder for them to want to do that now."

Moore agreed, noting that the shortage of students studying organ began as much as two to three decades ago.

"This has been a real problem for a number of years. Twenty to 30 years ago, most kids took piano lessons, and there were more piano students. Now, there are simply more choices and kids might just as easily choose to play soccer, or something else. There are not as many kids choosing to take piano now, so the percentage of students going into organ is also smaller."

The shifts in church worship styles are having an effect as well. With more churches moving toward using praise teams and worship bands, the organ is used less as the central instrument of worship.

"The organ doesn't fit in with the changing styles of worship," Durr said. "The music tends to be more suited to keyboards or piano."

According to Turner, churches also use their keyboardists less and less, as the shift from traditional to more contemporary services continues.

"This shortage comes from seeds the church has sown," he said. "When many organists were growing up, we started by playing the piano for Sunday school assemblies. Now there are no Sunday school assemblies in most



KEYBOARD LESSONS Sandra Turner (left), associate professor of church music for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, gives an organ lesson to Yoolmi Lee.

SILENT PIPES

churches, and as a result, young keyboard players are not being developed and encouraged to learn the organ. Many piano teachers are not even assigning hymns to their students now because so many churches are not encouraging that style of music anymore."

Jim Miller, president of Miller Pipe Organ Company in Louisville and a longtime organist, said he has seen the same trend toward contemporary worship move full circle with some of his Catholic clients.

"Catholic churches are standing in line to get to get organs now," he said. "When it comes to contemporary worship, they've 'been there, done that' and found it didn't work. So now they're putting away their guitars and returning to more traditional styles of worship just as many Protestant churches are moving into more contemporary worship."

Poor compensation is another factor in the dearth of organists today.

The American Guild of Organists, the national professional organization started in 1896, recently published a

salary guide for musicians employed by religious institutions. According to the guide, salaries for full-time organists should range from \$31,521 to \$73,731, salaries for organists employed 20-30 hours a week should range from \$16,915 to \$40,511, and those employed less than 20 hours a week should range from \$8,880 to \$24,490. The salary ranges are dependent on the organist's skill and education level as well as the number of hours worked per week, and include the cost of benefits.

Most churches aren't paying such

salaries, Turner and Durr said.

"There's no money in a career as an organist," Turner said. "It costs a lot to learn the organ due to years of piano lessons, and then more years of study mastering the organ. And after all that, there's no possibility of making a living at it."

"Churches are just not paying people enough," Durr added. "It takes a lot of time and skill to master the organ, and then organists are expected to give of the talent God gave them and not be paid for it. It is still not as accepted as it should be for organists to be paid, especially in smaller communities. Nevertheless, the organist is still expected to be at all the church's music rehearsals. Most organists are forced to have several different sources of income just to make ends meet."

Moore noted that Baptist churches have a reputation of not paying their organists and other music musicians as well as other denominations. "I am a Baptist through and through, and I know I've taken a job at a Methodist or Presbyterian church because of the salary," she said.

"I think part of the complication comes from the old Baptist tradition of volunteering, and giving of yourself and your talents to the Lord, like most of our Sunday school teachers," Moore said. "But pretty much anyone who has gotten a general education and can read and understand the Bible can teach Sunday school, while organists require special training that costs money. There's a big distinction there."

ORGAN TUNER Jim Miller, president of Miller Pipe Organ, tests a trumpet pipe in his Louisville shop. His company has clients with more than 300 organs in nine states.



Come by and see us

It's convention week for Kentucky Baptists. This is a time during which a significant number of our supporters come to the annual gathering, which is taking place in Bowling Green probably as you read this.

I always enjoy this time in which we come together in celebration. And this year we have so much good news to report. I enjoy seeing familiar faces. I enjoy making new friends. It's a blessing to be a part of all that's going on across this state that is making a difference in the Kingdom as God works through us.

It's truly an exciting time for those of us involved with Kentucky Baptist work. I am so thankful for the overwhelming support we have received from you through Cooperative Program giving, through your attendance at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, through the work that many of you have done at our places to make our ministry prosper. As many of you know, we just finished a record year as well. We have miles to go, but we have made great progress during our first three years as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.

If you're at the convention, stop by our booth and see us. We're going to show off pictures of our Cedarmore renovation project. You'll

see photos of Byrdwell Conference Center and Boone Lodge, both of which are works in progress. The work we are doing on both of these very important facilities will allow us to continue our ministry for decades to come.

We are so thankful for the support of KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and many of you who have encouraged us to press on in these first three years. We pray that you will be pleased when you see these improvements for the first time. We're not through with this work, but it will be completed long before spring 2001 gets here.

If you're not at the convention, you'll just have to come to Cedarmore and see the improvements for yourself.

One way or another, pray for us as we continue dealing with the day-to-day challenges of leading Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek to become the premier Christian conference facilities in this part of the country. We're not there, but we're heading in the right direction. To God be the glory.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Enthusiasts offer ideas to revive 'king of instruments'

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—As churches struggle to find organists in Kentucky and across the nation, those who love and play the instrument are coming up with creative solutions to keep the "king of instruments" alive and well in modern worship services.

One such solution is the recent "Pipes Spectacular!" hosted by the American Guild of Organists. Touted as the "world's largest organ concert," the guild organized more than 200 organ concerts worldwide and sought to introduce the instrument to younger people in an effort to interest them in playing keyboards.

Instead of the traditional settings people normally associate with organs, organists accompanied dance companies, brass and other instrumental ensembles, choral groups, soloists and marching bands.

Events such as this and "keyboard encounters" or organ "crawls" (which often include pizza parties) offer young people a hands-on tour of the organ as well as a chance to play it.

Many organists and educators feel that if churches want to find a solution to the organist shortage they face, they must start with the young people of their own congregations.

"If churches don't develop their own organists, it will be increasingly hard to find organists to play their services," warned Ron Turner, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Turner and other organists suggest that churches allow their youth to become more involved in the worship service and give budding musicians more opportunities to play and involve themselves in the worship experience.

"If more churches could stand a few wrong notes, it would encourage their young players," Turner said. "Churches need to let their youth play for Sunday and Wednesday evening services. There's a lot of music available at their level, and it will encourage young piano students to consider the organ."

"Give students access to the instrument," added Nevalyn Moore, assistant professor of music at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville. "Organists need to encourage the children in their churches to come turn pages for them, pull out a stop or play an offertory or a prelude. It's absolutely OK to do this during a worship service, and it gives the kids a chance to see what goes on and become comfortable with participating in the worship service."

Turner and Moore also said promotion of the organ within music programs at schools is important.

"At Campbellsville, all keyboard majors are required to have two semesters of organ," said Moore, who

noted that even non-keyboard majors in the church music program are required to take a semester of organ. "So that even if they are not pianists or organists, they can relate to the instrument when planning a worship service."

At Southern Seminary, piano students are being encouraged to learn organ as well. "Right now, anyone who wants a church organist position could get one," said Turner. "Knowing the organ is a good way for piano students to supplement their income and add to their ministry."

Some church pianists also are trying to bridge the gap and learn the organ as they can. Jim Miller, president of Miller Pipe Organ Company of Louisville, said his employees are teaching organ as often as they are repairing and retuning them.

"Very often in the small towns out in the state, the church's piano player is being pressed into service as the organist," Miller said. "We find we're almost giving organ lessons when we go out to service those organs."

Miller added that churches that take the time and expense to properly maintain their organs are often in a better position to get organists.

"Churches with pipe organs get players more often and more quickly than those with electronic organs, and

churches with the better organs get the first pick of players," he said.

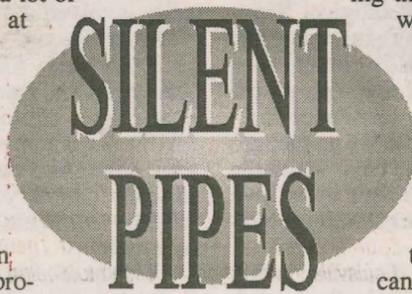
Other suggestions include promoting churches to explore blended worship services rather than moving to a strictly contemporary worship.

"Churches need to remember that they have a large percentage of members who remember the organ as the main worship instrument. To remove the organ from their worship experience cuts them off from their heritage," said Turner. "Certainly churches should create new styles of worship, but they shouldn't throw out traditional worship as well. There's a place for both."

Respect for keyboard players' time and abilities also will help churches keep organists, several keyboard instructors said.

"Often organists drive from long distances to play, and churches expect them to be there for all the rehearsals as well as the performances. A place needs to be made in the church budget for its organist, and they need to be compensated according to their time, education and ability," said Nina Belle Durr, keyboard consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Moore noted that when she first arrived at Campbellsville in 1980, no Baptist churches in the area were paying organists. "Some of the smaller churches eventually began to pay their organists because they couldn't find anyone otherwise, and some of the larger churches are following suit now, but there has to be better compensation."



20,000 European organs may soon be beyond repair

ZAGREB, Croatia (RNS)—More than 20,000 European church organs, especially those in poor Eastern European countries, are on the brink of extinction unless expensive repairs are made, according to a recent congress of organ experts.

Meeting recently in Croatia, the gathering of organists and organ builders said more than half of these priceless "musical works of art" are virtually beyond repair and soon may be unsalvageable.

"Churches and their contents, including church organs, are important elements of civilization and form part of Europe's cultural heritage," said Wolfgang Braun, a master German organ builder. "European countries should not remain indifferent to the gradual disappearance of these beautiful historic monuments."

The organs in the grand cathedrals and small churches of Europe served as the springboard for classical musicians such as Bach and Beethoven, and sacred and classical musical arts flourished under church sponsorship.

The costs for repairing a historic organ are staggering; labor and materials cost at least \$66,000 per organ, and repair specialists need seven to eight years of experience to qualify as organ restorers, according to Ecumenical News International.

The situation is especially desperate in Eastern Europe, where churches and governments have never been able to pay for upkeep and routine maintenance.

"Unfortunately, these countries currently find themselves in an economic downturn and cannot contribute to the upkeep of these instruments," Braun said.

Margraves and medical missions

By Robert Dunston

Last week I introduced you to Jessica Margrave, daughter of Ed and Carol Margrave of Union, and wrote about her summer missions experience in Ghana.

Margrave, a Cumberland College senior with a double major in biology and religion, is committed to medical missions. While she was in Ghana, she had the opportunity to confirm her call as she served.

Each day Margrave visited the maternity ward and then the pediatric ward in the local hospital. She got to know the medical staff and they asked if she wanted to be present at a delivery. Since she wants to be a missionary midwife, she was thrilled.

On her last Thursday in Ghana, she stopped by the hospital to visit a young mother whom she had befriended. The doctor had just spoken with the mother and tried to explain that her baby was dying and nothing could be done. The mother had not understood, so Margrave sat with her and explained the situation. She called it the hardest thing she has ever done.

She sat and cried with the mother. The mother, who is a Christian, never became angry with God but

grieved for her child. When Margrave discovered the woman was too poor to pay her hospital bill, Margrave paid it for her.

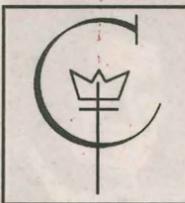
That evening she and one of her teammates stopped by the hospital on their way back from the rally. The nurses and doctor invited her to observe a woman who was in the process of delivering twins.

The first twin was born in serious condition and died before morning. As the next twin prepared to come into the world, the doctor and nurses moved aside, moved Margrave into position and showed her how to hold her hands. In a moment, she was holding a perfectly healthy infant. She was ecstatic!

Margrave can hardly wait to return to Africa. She suffers from bouts now not of homesickness but of "Africa-sickness." God used her in a great way this summer, and we know He will use her in the future in providing healthcare and spiritual nourishment to people overseas.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



You all have done your jobs

The following letter came across my computer screen a few weeks ago. I thought it appropriate to share as we are in another Thanksgiving offering season for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Annually we come to you reminding you of the great needs that are out there among our children and families. That hasn't changed. The most recent figures from the Child Welfare League of America indicate that Kentucky is ranked second in the nation for the number of confirmed cases of abuse and neglect against children. That is a badge of dishonor that should shame us and move us to action.

But, Kentucky Baptists, it is important to note that you are making a profound and eternal difference in the lives of children and teenagers like Christopher, who wrote this to his staff. He is also writing to you.

"I came into Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to the Wilderness Program on April 19, 2000. At first, I didn't understand why I was sent here until God began to reveal His plan to me. See, since I have been here, I have led three guys to Christ, led a Bible Study, sang and shared my testimony at seven churches across the state.

"I have graduated high school since I have been at KBHC, and I start college in the summer of 2001. I have found a family that is really interested in me and who loves me dearly. I was told if just one client succeeds here, then you all have done your job. Well, you all have done your job!

"See, many placements are based around the state and what the state wants. But KBHC is based around the Bible and cares about what God wants and that means a lot to me as a Christian. I have also gotten baptized since my stay here at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. This place has helped many people (teens, children and families) out.

"Lots of times, you all don't get credit for things you all do. Well, this is just my own little way to say thanks to all of KBHC and the sponsors that make this placement possible. Thanks for everything, God bless."

For all that you have done for Christopher, and for all you are going to do for the children, thank you.

Bill Smithwick is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. KBHC's Internet address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Church youth groups are hungry for ministry, leaders say

"Now everything is focused on being passionate about Christ in worship, and then going out in our mission field."

Andy McDonald, youth minister at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

FRANKFORT (BP)—The "youth group" of Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort made a strategic shift in 1998 when leaders emphasized being a "youth ministry."

Everything now is focused on making disciples, with campus clubs serving as the evangelistic "front door," according to Rick Long, minister of youth and evangelism at Crestwood.

Passionate worship defines mid-week meetings, Long said. Newcomers who are Christians immediately are plugged into ministry teams where they can start serving. Spiritual highs and lows that traditionally plague youth ministry have largely disappeared, he added.

"What I came to realize is I am not the youth minister as much as I am the youth pastor. They are the ministers," Long said. "The pastor's role is to shepherd and guide. The minister's role is in the one-on-one relationships."

The transition at Crestwood is typical of what youth leaders say they are experiencing in churches across the country.

A passion for prayer, worship and a desire to see those around them become Christians is a movement of God, leaders say.

Evangelistic growth and increasing commitment to short- and long-term volunteer missions service is

the tangible result in many youth programs.

"To me it started about five years ago when there just seemed to be a real groundswell of spiritual awareness—a revival among students—starting to break out in different pockets around the country," said Len Taylor, director of youth evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Wesley Black, professor of youth/student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, traced the modern youth ministry climate back to the early 1990s. See You At the Pole prayer rallies on school campuses and True Love Waits pledges of sexual abstinence gave youth the opportunity of staking their own claims for their Christian faith publicly.

The concept of discipling youth by allowing them to take the leadership in their own youth ministries is not new—dating back to the '60s and '70s, he said. But it increasingly has become the norm as churches have moved from an entertainment-based model of youth ministry to ministry and training with greater spiritual depth, Black said.

"We used to think of adolescence as a fun-filled, goofing-off time," he said. "Nowadays there's a real hunger for the spiritual things."

Richard Ross, founder of the True Love Waits movement and currently a professor of youth/stu-

dent ministry at Southwestern Seminary, said he once felt that the campaign of asking students to pledge sexual abstinence before marriage was "an end in itself" in order to "bring glory to God and to avoid the human tragedies that always accompany immorality."

"But I now sense that True Love Waits was simply a prelude to coming revival," he said. "It is difficult to imagine teenagers leading the church into revival while being sexually involved at the same time."

Randy Record, a campus evangelism missionary for the North American Mission Board and a youth evangelism strategies coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, contrasted the current climate in many church youth groups with what he saw in his own youth group as a teen.

"I went to church every Sunday, and to every youth camp and retreat that you could be at," he said. "But there was an element missing there. Nobody was equipping us to go and be Great Commission students for Christ."

Baptism statistics actually indicate a plateau in youth baptisms during the '90s, but Taylor and others attributed that to a modern mindset among teens that tends to reject formal affiliation with denominations, or even particular churches.

One milestone leaders cite in the development of youth ministry has been the Supreme Court decision in

1990 to uphold the Equal Access Act. That act specified the parameters of school-based Christian clubs. The leeway was broad, the court said, as long as all activities were student-initiated.

Youth groups also have become more focused in their purpose, leaders said. Many organizations in recent years have adopted a four-week cycle for their meetings centered not on fellowship, prayer or Bible study—but on evangelism and making disciples.

Such a strategy in Henderson helped a new club in one school grow from about a dozen students at the first meeting to as many as 70 students some weeks later, according to Andy McDonald, youth minister at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson. About 20 professions of faith were recorded during the year.

"I watched several Christian kids who initially were skeptical or leery of what we were doing who by the end of the year were excited," he said.

The church also is commissioning campus missionaries to encourage students who are sharing Christ, he said.

"We are tired of youth ministry that is us-focused and focused on fun. There is nothing wrong with that; you invite a friend and if they get saved, great," he said. "But now everything is focused on being passionate about Christ in worship, and then going out in our mission field."

Searching for dreams

By Ken Martin
Oneida Farm Manager

It was the largest youth convention in the country, and we were there: the 73rd National Future Farmers of America Convention in Louisville.

Fifty thousand agriculture students from all over our nation were searching for a dream, competing in contests and enjoying the company of other teenagers. If you have made this journey before, I hope this article brings back fond memories. It is also a chance to highlight the good work our nation's agriculture teachers are doing in training young people to be leaders of tomorrow.

Imagine being in Freedom Hall, packed at 8 a.m., and basketball season hasn't even started. It was still dark when we got off the bus to walk into the arena. I was reminded that people in agriculture always have started early and worked late. There was a lump in my throat as I listened to the national officers proceed with the opening ceremony. It was the same ceremony we use to open each monthly meeting at Oneida Baptist Institute, and the same that was used when I was an FFA student in the '60s. Tradition is good, and the responsibilities of agriculture always will be transferred to the next generation. I wondered as I listened to the officers recite their parts how many students were dreaming at that moment of being regional, state or national officers. Maybe even an Oneida student.

Debbie Norville, anchorwoman for the TV show, "Inside Edition," gave the keynote address. Many of our students said this was the most memorable part of the day. She challenged the kids to look for opportunities, remember that manners

matter and to trust themselves. I knew we had a successful trip as I watched one of my students taking notes during the presentation.

Most of our day was spent in the huge career show. Representatives from agricultural universities and vocational programs from all over the U.S. were there to challenge the students to dream about the future and make plans for their post-secondary education. I am convinced that we must get students out of our classrooms and into environments that let dreams become real visions of what the future can be. These trips take a lot of work, but young people can't set goals without a vision.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

The rest of the day was filled with leadership seminars, shopping and judging contests. (Boys judged girls and girls judged boys.) By mid-afternoon, after many miles of walking, we were exhausted. Our students were loaded down with goodies from the career show. Two girls were carrying their shoes to relieve their aching feet. I was proud of these two because they didn't ask to stop. They recognized there was too much to see and not enough time. These girls learned a lesson in perseverance. I hope next year they will listen when I tell them to wear comfortable shoes and not high heels! We finished the day with a concert.

Few of our students will be full-time farmers. Our farm program and the FFA provide tremendous opportunities for young people to learn to be useful, productive adults in whatever walk of life they choose to follow. Again, I thank all of you who support our ministry.

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

School mechanic Todd Davis

Cadiz student Todd Davis came to Christ at age 25 when his life "reached a dead-end street without any peace or hope."

His search took him to a country church and exposure to God's word. Todd started reading the Bible for himself. When he understood what Christ did for him, he knelt beside his bed and prayed, "Jesus, I want you as my guide."

"Christ's leading has become the greatest part of my life," Todd said. A church member named Becky also had some influence on Todd. "Her Christian life helped me see what it meant to be a Christian. God used her to draw me unto Himself," Todd acknowledged. They were married in 1995.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

The Davis home now includes three sons: Luke, 4; Noah, 2; and Caleb, 1. At Clear Creek, family, study and work find a supportive blend. The children love the expansive campus with lots of room to romp, go for walks, ride bikes, watch the ducks and play at the family life center.

Single student Lisa Collins provides needed child care so Becky can take a few courses or Todd and Becky can have a date.

The family attends Silver Leaf Baptist Church in Rose Hill, Va., a strong country church that has drawn them closer together as a family.

It was in a World Missions Conference that Todd heard about so many people in the world without Christ. The pastor said, "Anybody here who knows God is calling, but you don't have all the answers, come and talk about it." Todd knew that word was for him. Several months later they moved to Clear Creek.

With certification as a General Motors mechanic, Todd secured a campus "workshop" as chief automobile mechanic. "This job helps us pay the bills, and I can help keep the school vehicles in good service," Todd said.

He also keeps my 1964 Chevrolet running smoothly. Todd is open to a bivocational ministry that would use his mechanical skills. "Our priority is to be the best parents for our boys and encourage them to fulfill their potential for Christ. I just want to be obedient to Christ wherever He sends us."

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

Director says Hollywood needs missionaries too

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Christian writers are needed to bring the arts back to the church and to send missionaries to Hollywood, Barbara Nicolosi told participants at a Christian writers' conference.

Nicolosi is director of "Act One," a Hollywood-based organization that encourages and trains Christian writers to impact contemporary culture.

"The 20th century was unique in human history because it was the only century in which the arts and faith were separated and antagonistic," she said.

Bringing the arts back to the church, she said, will benefit congregations. "A beautiful piece of art can stir people inside for something they don't even know. It can make them lonely for heaven."

The church needs the arts, she continued, but the arts also need the church.

"Art without faith can only talk in certainty about one thing: darkness," Nicolosi said. "Twentieth-century art had an obsession with the dark side of human nature." The church can correct the dark tendencies of art because faith will bring hope to the arts, she said.

To become missionaries to Hollywood, Nicolosi said Christians should begin with prayer. "We have to reach people in Hollywood with our prayers first; then we can reach them with our witness and our actions."

She urged Christians to study Hollywood's culture instead of just criticizing it.

"Missions begins when we go to them and listen," she said. "We go, we look and we see how the Spirit of God is preparing the way for the Word. We affirm what is good, we build on it and then we share what we have."

"The media got too big too fast, and the church got too afraid because it couldn't control them. The easiest thing to do is condemn," Nicolosi said.

Because of the church's constant criticism, Hollywood will "perceive us as brain-numb naysayers. They don't get us," she said. "When all they hear us say is 'no,' 'bad' and 'don't,' they react."

Instead of being disgusted by what comes out of Hollywood, Nicolosi suggested that Christians pray for the culture and for missionaries to Hollywood.

Nicolosi urged conference participants to encourage young people to pursue the arts and become missionaries.

"Beg them to be writers, artists, poets and filmmakers," she urged. "If we don't get good Christian kids in the acting profession, we'll never have good Christian role models in Hollywood."

Author says he was left behind in film deal

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—One of the most surprising publishing stories of the last five years has been the phenomenal success of the "Left Behind" books.

The series of seven evangelical novels about the biblically prophesied end times has racked up sales of nearly 20 million copies.

But back in 1997, when co-authors Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins were negotiating the sale of rights for a "Left Behind" movie, the initial books in the series had sold fewer than 100,000 copies.

The books' eventual success has helped spur disputes and legal battles between people involved in "Left Behind: The Movie," which went on sale in video stores Oct. 31. And some of these behind-the-scenes tensions pack more dramatic wallop than the film itself.

There have been long-running disputes between the authors and Namesake Entertainment, a Louisville-based company that originally bought the film rights, and Cloud Ten Pictures, a Christian film production company based in Toronto.

These disputes cover the typical industry issues—script, budget, stars, technical quality and sequels—as well as a controversial marketing plan that will see the movie being sold on video and DVD three months before its scheduled theatrical release.

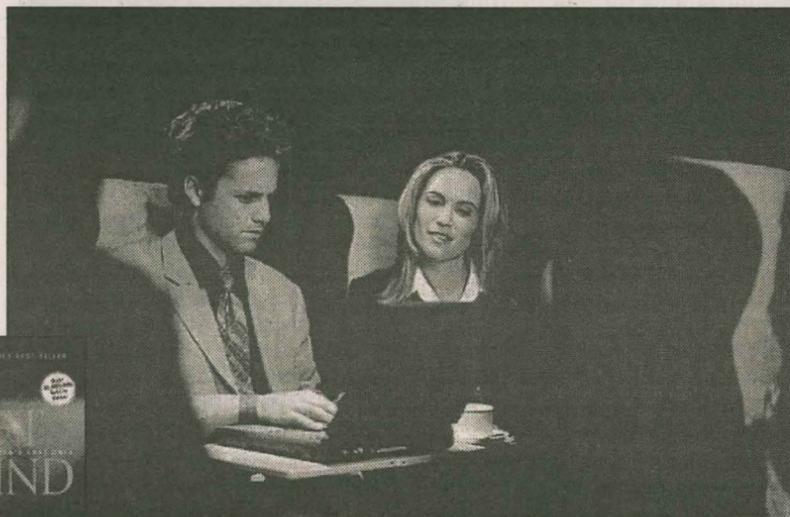
The authors have asked that their names not appear on the video or any related promotional materials. And things escalated in July, when LaHaye filed suit in the Los Angeles County superior court against Namesake and Cloud Ten, charging breach of contract and demanding unspecified damages.

"If you were talking about something that wasn't worth anything, people wouldn't worry about disagreements and fuzziness in the contract," said Los Angeles entertainment and intellectual property attorney Christopher Rudd, who represents LaHaye, "but now every comma and period take on real significance."

The behind-the-scenes disputes don't diminish the fact that "Left Behind: The Movie" is, as its producers maintain, the most ambitious and accomplished evangelical film in history. But that's not really saying very much, because over the last quarter-century, evangelicals have spent more energy hollering about the evils of Hollywood than they have creating quality Christian films.

"We have been conspicuous by our absence," said Cloud Ten President Peter Lalonde, who along with his brother Paul produced "Left Behind: The Movie."

"When the Christian community in the '70s saw what was going on in Hollywood, they believed it was so dark that no light could penetrate



LEFT BEHIND A movie based on the best-selling novel by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins (left) is causing a legal stir. The film, starring Kirk Cameron and Chelsea Noble, is being released this month but LaHaye is suing the movie's makers, claiming they have not fulfilled their promises.

the theaters," he added.

Lalonde said he became a Christian in the early 1980s shortly after going to a Toronto church to see "The Prodigal Planet," an earlier and much more primitive Christian end-times film. And he remains convinced that "prophecy and film are two of the best tools" evangelicals have to reach the world.

But many people who have seen advance copies of "Left Behind: The Movie" acknowledge that while the film is a significant step in the right direction, it still fails to deliver on the producers' goal of creating a movie that is on par with anything Hollywood can offer.

Officially, various parties involved in "Left Behind" express sorrow about the disputes and lawsuits and say they hope for the best with the film.

These include representatives of Alive Communications, the Colorado Springs, Colo., literary agency that originally teamed LaHaye and Jenkins; Nashville-based Reunion Records, which has released a soundtrack featuring Christian artists; Tulsa, Okla.-based Impact Entertainment, which is marketing the video; and the "Left Behind" books' Wheaton, Ill.-based Tyndale House Publishers.

But off the record, numerous insiders predict this film won't match the books' stunning mainstream success.

"I got involved in this project because I was hoping we could take this book and make a movie that would spill over into the secular market," said Ralph Winter, a Hollywood veteran who has worked on successful projects like this past summer's hit movie "X-Men" and who helped produce "Left Behind: The Movie."

"Unfortunately, I don't think we're going to be able to pull that off with this movie," he added.

According to LaHaye's suit, Namesake representatives originally promised to spend \$40 million on a major, star-studded theatrical film that would be released in theaters before Jan. 1, 2000, so it could take advantage of the public's interest in the millennium.

But Namesake was unable to generate interest for the project among major Hollywood studios, one of which dismissed the initial "Left Behind" novel as "far-right propaganda masquerading as an action potboiler."

With its option for the film rights due to expire, Namesake contracted with Cloud Ten, a producer of three previous end-times films for the Christian market.

Cloud Ten's Lalonde says his company budgeted \$17.4 million for production, distribution and marketing—an unprecedented sum for an evangelical film—and lined up "Growing Pains" star Kirk Cameron as intrepid reporter Buck Williams.

Ironically, the fact that "Left Behind: The Movie" is big enough to generate a complex and possibly lengthy lawsuit may indicate that evangelicals are poised to be a presence in the world of film. They have previously achieved significant success in the music and book publishing industries.

"Disputes like this are a part of the industry," said Ted Baehr, who praised the film in his publication Movieguide magazine.

Baehr has long argued that Christians need to have a greater presence in Hollywood. "Every major movie generates a flurry of suits, so this is normal."

Meanwhile, the "Left Behind" publishing phenomenon rolls on undiminished.

Tyndale House released "The Mark," the eighth book in the series, this month. With an initial printing of 2.5 million hardback copies, the book will set another milestone for the series, which Tyndale publicist Beverly Rykerd calls "the fastest selling adult fiction series in publishing history."

The previous volume in the series, "The Indwelling," was published in March and debuted atop the best-selling fiction charts in the New York Times and other publications. A ninth volume is scheduled to be published next fall, to be followed by three more books.

Rykerd said that "Left Behind: The Movie" has "played very little role" in the release of "The Mark."

There have been long-running disputes between the authors and Namesake Entertainment, a Louisville-based company that originally bought the film rights, and Cloud Ten Pictures, a Christian film production company based in Toronto.

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:
- Christians among the Maasai people of Tanzania who will be willing to develop leadership skills in evangelism and discipleship.
 - The 10 men in the Kilombero district of Tanzania who have been selected and trained to teach Theological Education by Extension.
 - A Romanian church planter who has indicated an interest in planting a Romanian church in Boston.
 - Members of a weekly Bible study group in Silesia, Poland, who have not made professions of faith in Jesus as Savior.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

- AUBURN—Cave Spring Church will host revival services Nov. 26-29 with **Carl Freudenthal** as evangelist.
- BAGDAD—**Mark Cloys** resigned as pastor of Indian Fork Church to accept a position with a church in Philadelphia, Miss.
- BETSY LAYNE—Calvary Church called **Doug Lewis** as pastor. Lewis previously was pastor of Stanton Church.
- BROADHEAD—Ottawa Church ordained **Mike French**, **Dennis Harris**, **Jeff Laswell**, and **Terry Burton** as deacons. **Pete Lamon** is pastor.

Christmas plans?

The Western Recorder is assembling a special listing of Christmas programs throughout Kentucky. Please send information about cantatas, nativity scenes and other happenings to Shirley Wooton by Nov. 27. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6470. E-mail: shirley_wooton@kybaptist.org

- BURLINGTON—Burlington Church will host **Daniel Trusiewicz** of Poland, Nov. 19 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. For information, call (859) 586-6529. **Terry Wilder** is pastor.
- CROMWELL—Green River Church called **Greg Cain** as youth minister. **Kelly Harris** is pastor.
- DANVILLE—Lexington Avenue Church called **Keith Stillwell** as minister of education. Stillwell previously served at First Church, Hopkinsville. **Thomas Valentine** is pastor.
- DRY RIDGE—Dry Ridge Church ordained **Mike Lockwood** and **Ron Kinmon** as deacons Nov. 5. **Willie Ailstock** is pastor.
- HARTFORD—Adaburg called **Gary Upchurch** as pastor.
- HENDERSON—Immanuel Church hosted a reception to honor **Pat Ligion's** 40th anniversary as church secretary. **Joseph Tricquet** is pastor.
- HOPKINSVILLE—First Church called **Rodney Travis** as pastor beginning Dec. 3.
- La GRANGE—DeHaven Church

ordained **Greg Rowe**, **Allen Watts** and **Troy Winters** as deacons. **Anthony Rose** is pastor.

- LEWISBURG—Beechland Church called **Mike Dukes** as pastor.
- LOUISVILLE—Bethany Church will host a Body and Soul community workshop promoting physical and spiritual health Nov. 18 at 9:30 a.m. For information, call (502) 452-2681. **Todd Robertson** is pastor.

Broadway Church recognized Pastor **Ron Higdon** and his wife, **Pat**, during the Nov. 5 service celebrating their 25th anniversary with the church.

Cloverleaf Church will host **The Crossmen** from Morgantown, in concert Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

■ MILTON—Corn Creek Church called **A.B. Colvin** as pulpit supply.

■ OWENSBORO—Buena Vista Church called **Jeff Hughes** as youth director. **Michael Rust** is pastor.

Yellow Creek Church called **James Wedding** as pastor.

■ PADUCAH—**Tony Price** resigned as minister of music at First Church to become minister of worship at The Heights Church, Richardson, Texas. **Kevin McCallon** is pastor of First Church.

■ REYNOLDS STATION—Zion Church celebrated its 150th anniversary Nov. 5. **Jon Settlemoir** is pastor.

■ RICHMOND—Tates Creek Church called **Kenny Queener** as pastor.

White Hall Church hosted a revival recently with **Timothy Beard** of St. Louis as evangelist. **Bill Carter** is interim pastor.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—Post Oak Church called **Nick Stamps** as minister of youth. **Wilbur Powell** is pastor.

■ SHELBYVILLE—Buffalo Lick called **Steve White** of Shelbyville as pastor.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Calvary Missionary Church will host **David Livingston** in concert Nov. 19 at 11 a.m.

■ SOMERSET—First Church celebrated service anniversaries for **Nancy Taylor**, secretary/printer, 25 years and **Coy Dunnington**, custodian, 10 years. **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

■ TURNER RIDGE—Turner Ridge Church will host revival services Nov. 26-29. **Don Davidson**, director of missions of Union Association, will be the evangelist. **Norman Workman** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

SEEKING: Kings Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky., is currently accepting resumes for a full-time, experienced pastor—a pastor who is highly motivated and spiritually driven—for a growing church involved in a building program. Send resumes to: Kings Baptist Church, 989 Kings Church Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071, Attn: Lou Cornell.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister. Primary responsibilities include: sharing in worship planning and leadership; conducting sanctuary choir; and overseeing volunteer-staffed children's music ministry. Please send resume to: Albany First Baptist Church, 110 W Cumberland St., Albany, KY 42602, Attn: Music Committee, or call (606) 387-5909.

SEEKING: Local Christian social service agency seeks part-time office assistant. Involves working with clients and a core of volunteers. A real mission ministry. Interested? Call Kim Griggs at (502) 584-0774.

SEEKING: Part-time (less than 20 hours per week) worker to perform copying, mail room and routine maintenance services at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Building in Louisville. Contact Administrative Services at (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Associational director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association of Churches, located in Northeastern Kentucky. Candidate should be a leader, evangelistic, organized, with mission experience and an undergraduate degree—seminary a plus. Compensation is commensurate with education and experience. Contact Annette at (606) 928-2063 (phone/fax) or greenup@dragg.net to request an application.

SEEKING: Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Congregation small, but lots of potential for growth; large, well-maintained building. Compensation package includes full benefits. Prayerfully submit to: Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church, 400 Crabtree Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301. cab@juno.com.

SEEKING: Accompanist for Sunday morning and evening worship services, Wednesday evening prayer service and choir rehearsal. Send resume to: Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

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 resume to: 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 minister to students with additional administrative responsibilities for a multi-staff church. Seminary degree preferred. Send resume 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: Food service director for medium-sized church. Send resume to: West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Jeffersonton, KY 40220.

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 resume to church in care of Personnel Committee.

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 resumes 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 resume to Larry Perkins, Search Chairman, 105 Moon Ave., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Organist for east-end (Louisville) church. Two Sunday morning services. Blended service. May also play keyboard for worship team occasionally. Contact: Gary Vido, 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 resume to: M/Y Search Committee, East Cadiz Baptist Church, 407 Third St., Cadiz, KY 42211.

WANTED: 15-passenger van for small church in southern Kentucky. Please call (606) 376-9679.



Pinkstons lead missions focus at Georgetown

GEORGETOWN—Earl and Robin Pinkston have been named missionaries-in-residence at Georgetown College for the 2000-2001 academic year.

The Pinkstons recently completed a two-year missions assignment with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, serving the island nation of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea. They lived in the city of Mosta and served at Evangelical Baptist Church.

"Our stay in Malta was a special time for us and we would like to return," Mrs. Pinkston said.

The Pinkstons said a highlight of their mission work was establishing "Ministries to Malta," an effort that helped bring other missionaries to Malta.

In their work at Georgetown College, they will assist the campus ministry team in conducting fellowship meetings, speaking to classes, informing students about missions and visiting churches.

Pinkston, a native of Harrodsburg, is a graduate of Georgetown College. He plans to enroll next spring at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Mrs. Pinkston is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

PEOPLE

Christian workers train to cope with attacks, captivity

By Shelvia Dancy
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In 14 years helping humanitarian aid workers in some of the world's most battle-scarred countries, John Schenk had never faced this ordeal.

The nonstop interrogation by his masked captors. The hood blocking sunlight and fresh air from his face and lungs. The handcuffs that gripped his wrists.

"I felt claustrophobic, like I had no control," said Schenk, a communications specialist with the Christian humanitarian aid agency World Vision. "A lot of us had nightmares that night."

Schenk's nightmare was a fictional one, part of a five-day World Vision safety training workshop intended to teach humanitarian aid workers how to cope with violent attacks and similar crises they could encounter while working abroad.

But for many of Schenk's colleagues in conflict zones around the globe, the nightmare is no illusion. Often dispatched to the world's most volatile regions, humanitarian aid workers increasingly have found themselves prey for attack—a plight underscored by the stabbing deaths of three U.N. aid workers in West Timor early in September.

Their deaths followed violent attacks on dozens of their counterparts at faith-based humanitarian and development groups in countries from Colombia to Kosovo to Sierra Leone. In January, two relief workers for Catholic Relief Services came under fire when rebels in Sudan peppered their vehicle with 19 bullets.

No one was injured in that attack, but in the following months aid workers at Catholic Relief Services, World Relief and other agencies faced abduction, robbery, bombings and evacuations—each attack a grim reminder that

sometimes those who feel called to help and protect others might need protection themselves.

"More and more aid workers are being deliberately targeted," said Charles Rogers, who led the training course Schenk attended and is one of the few full-time security directors at a humanitarian relief group.

"There was a time when international aid workers were protected by their symbols—like the red cross. If people saw that cross then they wouldn't bother the workers. But that's no longer the case," Rogers said. "Instead of looking upon aid workers as neutral deliverers of humanitarian aid, some groups in conflict areas are looking at them as just another faction in the fighting. And if aid workers have something they want, they will take it, and kill if they have to."

Which is why three times a year Rogers directs World Vision's safety training courses, driving home through lectures and role-playing the safety skills that could mean the difference between life or death: Avoid traveling alone. Let colleagues know when and where and with whom you travel. Follow well-traveled paths to avoid landmines.

"In this line of work you're always taking chances," said Schenk. "You never know where an attack is going to come from, so it's good to have pointers like these before you go. The more you're prepared for anything that could happen the better off you'll be."

Those same lessons are taught during orientation for new relief workers at CARE (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere), a private humanitarian agency that saw two relief workers killed in Sudan earlier this year and two others held hostage for two months.

"As a humanitarian worker, you really don't have anything to defend yourself with," said Bob Macpherson,



a security analyst who is the organization's assistant director of emergency. "So we take them through all the possible scenarios. We show them what they should do if there is a bombing, how to react to a holdup or being taken hostage. The key is knowing in advance what options they have in a crisis situation."

Knowing those options came in handy for World Vision staffer Talmage Payne when he coordinated the evacuation of World Vision staff from the Solomon Islands in June after civil unrest erupted. He attended Rogers' class twice.

"I was a lot more self-confident and trusted my own judgment more," said Payne, remembering the first evacuation effort he helped organize three years before in Cambodia. "So much of good security is making the right judgments at the right time, and the course definitely sharpened my own judgment—I didn't have to rely on calling people all the time for help."

Security can be a delicate matter for aid workers, who don't rely upon the protective gear and equipment soldiers often have, said Ken Hackett, execu-



tive director of Catholic Relief Services.

"If you're going to reach out to the people who are most helpless you can't block yourself behind a barricade," said Hackett, noting one of the agency's aid workers in West Timor was recently saved from harm because local people warned the group that armed men were searching for him. "You have to go out into the community, and that does put you in harm's way a lot of the time. But we definitely don't want to alarm the community by arming ourselves."

One of the relief worker's best protections against attack is the respect and trust of the communities they serve, said Rogers.

"Our first line of defense is the local people we work with," he said. "The more that local people know and respect the aid workers serving them, the better off they'll be."

Humanitarian work is never without some degree of risk, said Hackett, but that threat of danger can't be allowed to undermine relief efforts for those facing grim circumstances.

"The key is to make sure everyone is prepared for whatever situation they may have to face," said Hackett. "You have to stand with the people against the violence; you can't just run away. That would be letting the bad guys win."

HAZARDOUS DUTY

■ Above: John Schenk (wearing cap), a communications specialist with the Christian humanitarian group World Vision, discusses how to locate land mines with explosives expert and former Green Beret Paul Higgason. The two were participating in a safety training course to teach humanitarian aid workers how to cope with the dangers they could face while working abroad.

■ Left: A "terrorist" pretends to threaten a World Vision staff member during the course. (RNS photo by Robert Coronado)

Church seeking to handle wealth responsibly after member wills \$60 million

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

ST. MARYS, Ga. (RNS)—Warren Bailey was the first of the recently departed members of St. Marys United Methodist Church to be remembered in its All Saints observances Nov. 5.

But that was only because his name came first alphabetically among the dozen members who had died in the past year, not because he had bequeathed his congregation \$60 million.

"Our virtue before God has to do with being God's children and, last I heard, God loves all His children equally," explained Derek McAleer, pastor of the 201-year-old church.

After Bailey, a two-time mayor of St. Marys, died at age 88 on July 14, McAleer learned the church would be the recipient of some of his wealth. But the fact that it would be \$60 million was not announced to the congregation until Oct. 29.

McAleer said the will listed eight heirs, with seven receiving between \$20,000 and \$100,000 each and the church inheriting

the bulk of the estate. Bailey, a private man who divorced decades ago after a brief marriage, did not have any children.

Although he had nieces and nephews and a stepmother, it was the church that took care of cleaning out Bailey's house after his death, passing on sentimental items to his relatives.

"We gave the clothes to a men's shelter," said McAleer. "We did all the family stuff."

The primary chunk of the inheritance will come from the sale by Bailey's executor of his 49 percent share in Camden Telephone Co., which Bailey owned and managed with his now-deceased brothers. The church also inherited Bailey's "very ordinary" house and plans to use it as a rectory for its associate pastor.

"His only extravagance was a 46-inch-screen TV," the pastor said.

They don't know for sure, but church leaders say Bailey's gift might be the largest single bequest to a local congregation. Members of a new advisory committee have met and talked with other

church leaders who are knowledgeable about large church donations as they determine the best way to deal with the huge offering.

The church's trustee board has decided Bailey's money will not be used for the regular operations of the church but rather for still-to-be-determined mission and ministry purposes.

"When you talk to churches that have other people paying their bills, it weakens a church spiritually," said McAleer.

"Something happens to your commitment when you hold your pocketbook from it."

In general, the church is trying not to dwell on its newfound wealth, especially during the worship service. On Sunday, Bailey's name was only mentioned in the list of saints and in a brief announcement that an advisory board is seeking the nominations for members of a proposed foundation to handle the "Bailey Bequest."

The list of qualifications for the board, inserted in the church's bulletin, included a love for God, church membership and the ability to maintain confidentiality. But advisory board members said one of the

leadership skills cited—"able to say 'no'"—also is paramount.

"I got 24 letters in the mail yesterday," McAleer said. He's heard from churches across the country seeking funding for their building projects and even an inebriated caller from the Washington, D.C., area, hoping for help with his rent.

"We see ourselves as custodians of this estate and the question is, 'How are we going to be wise custodians?'" McAleer said.

Bailey joined the church at age 9 and fondly recalled his time in Sunday school.

In recent years, he had donated about \$100,000 annually to the church. But not all of his gifts were in cash. Bailey also bought groceries for the church's food pantry.

Carl Barnhardt, a member of the advisory committee and a lay leader of the church, said he hopes people will pray for the congregation, which is trying to focus on God and not money.

"Our mission is not to take care of \$60 million and baby-sit it," Barnhardt said. "Our main focus is still to worship God. That's what we do."

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