

November 28, 2000
Vol. 174, No. 47

KENTUCKY NOTES



See insert

FOR THE RECORD



Baptists

Christian rodeo spurs Baptist evangelism in Phoenix. *Page 2.*

Winchester

Bible study offers car enthusiasts a heart tune up. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum

When it comes to stuff, how much is enough? *Page 4.*

Editorial

What can we learn from our nation's chaotic presidential election? *Page 5.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 29

Franklin Graham officially named CEO of father's crusade agency

MINNEAPOLIS (RNS)—Fifty years after founding the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the evangelist has turned over the role of chief executive officer to his son Franklin.

At the Nov. 17 annual meeting of the association's board of directors, the elder Graham reiterated he does not plan to retire and intends to lead crusades next year. He chaired the board meeting at which the unanimous decision was made for his son to assume the CEO position the senior Graham previously held.

"I'm not retiring but I now want to turn over the administrative and management burden of running the organization to my son, who has proven to be a great leader in running the Samaritan's Purse ministry and in working closely with our organization," Billy Graham said in a statement.

The 82-year-old evangelist will continue to serve as chairman of the board. Franklin Graham, 48, will continue to work as chairman and CEO of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization based in Boone, N.C.

"My commitment is to see that this organization stands firmly behind my father to ensure that we accomplish all that God has put on his heart," Franklin Graham said in a statement.

"I pledge to keep our focus squarely on the ministry and work of evangelism, using every available means to tell people everywhere the good news that God loves them and that Christ died for them. This is the same message my father has faithfully proclaimed to change it now or ever."

Graham, who attracted an estimated total of 242,000 to a crusade in Jacksonville, Fla., from Nov. 2-5, told the board he hopes to lead two or three crusades in 2001.

Dispelling the darkness

Bengali Hindus among groups Southern Baptists to be praying for

CALCUTTA, India (BP)—William Carey and Mother Teresa lived in very different eras. What they shared—what brought them both to India—was a deep burden of love for the Bengali people, among whom they lived and died.

Carey, the "father of modern missions," shared God's love in countless ways among the Bengalis: evangelism, Bible translation, education, social service, defending the oppressed.

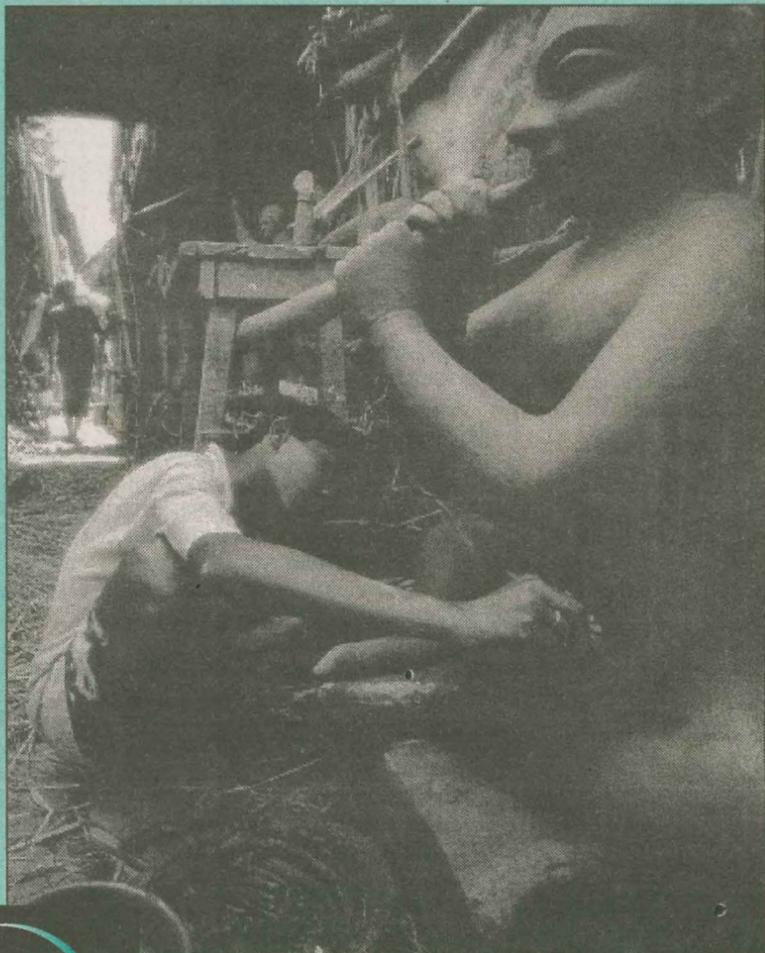
Mother Teresa, probably the 20th century's most famous missionary, rescued the sick, orphaned and dying from the streets of Calcutta.

Many Bengalis received their love—and returned it. But despite these two missionaries' legacies and the labors of many others, the work of sharing today's Bengali Hindus.

The Bengali Hindus are among eight people groups that are the focus during Southern Baptists' Week of Prayer for International Missions, Dec. 3-10.

The week of prayer is one component of Southern Baptists' emphasis this month on international missions. Southern Baptists also will collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which this year has a national goal of \$115 million.

The Indian state of West Bengal is home to most of the 68 million



HINDU IDOL On a side street in Calcutta, India, an apprentice fashions a plaster-and-straw statue for the goddess Divali in preparation for the Hindu festival of lights. The building of Hindu idols is a year-round occupation for workers in the neighborhood. *More stories on pages 6-9. (BP photo)*

the **Unfinished Task** 2000

Dispelling the Darkness

Bengali Hindus in India (another 11 million live next-door in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh) comprise one of the world's largest ethnolinguistic people groups. Yet fewer than 400,000 professing Christians live among them. Born-again evangelical believers may

number as few as 10,000. Reaching all of Hindu Bengal with the gospel seems an impossible task.

For centuries, Bengali Hindus have placed their hope of deliverance, protection and wealth in their many gods and goddesses—especially Kali, fearsome goddess of See *Despite missionary ...*, page 8

Study group hopes to help churches better prepare their leaders

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—A lot of churches can find one way or another to accomplish their many tasks and projects, but if you really want to see a church take off, spend less time on what needs to be done and focus on who's going to be doing the work.

That's the latest important lesson on leadership in the 21st century, according to a team of Kentucky Baptist Convention staff that's been studying how to get the most out of church leaders.

Anyone can define the role: "Here's the job. This is what's expected." The real trick, those who are studying such issues say, is turning the questions around. First find out who thrives at teaching children, visitation or any number of church roles and then provide them with the

resources to be even better.

The shift in leadership philosophy from the job to the person stems from a greater cultural shift, according to Richard Adams, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development department.

"So much of the focus of leader development has been on the leader's role and role definition," said Adams. "The new day has focused leadership questions back to the identity question of 'Who am I?'"

The change in strategy can take time. It's one thing to stay busy and focus on getting a job done, Adams said. But it will take longer to learn about church members' skills, gifts

and motivations and longer still to help them train to be better.

The assessment comes from the findings of the KBC's cluster group, which has been looking at leadership issues for Kentucky churches for more than a year. Eleven KBC staff members make up the cluster group.

This new dimension of leadership development means it is important for churches to focus on developing leaders from the inside out, said Guy Futral, the KBC's leadership development team leader. Leaders must be aware of their gifts, values and goals, and must translate that self-awareness into an appreciation for the gifts, values and

goals of other people, he said.

Futral said the No. 1 reason for the forced termination of a church staff member today is the lack of relational and people skills. Churches that fail to hire or train leaders with such essential leadership skills tend to plateau or decline and face higher staff turnover rates.

The shift in leadership philosophy is representative of America's transition from the "industrial age" to the "innovation age," according to Adams.

Adams said that in the industrial age, people worked through complex machines composed of many parts designed to carry out a particular function. In order for a machine to perform, each piece had to function as it was designed.

Human organizations, such as churches, mirrored machines. In or See *Leadership styles ...*, page 3

The **Big 5**

Issues every church should address

Christian rodeo spurs Baptist evangelism effort in Phoenix

"It's been the most awesome rodeo ever, because I know the Lord is here."

Janet Honeycutt

By Jean Bihn
Baptist Press

CAVE CREEK, Ariz. (BP)—Men and women donned cowboy hats and boots to rope cattle, ride bucking broncos, wrestle steers and hear God's Word in a dusty rodeo arena the weekend of Nov. 10-12.

Billed as the "Champion of Champions" Rodeo, the evangelistic event drew more than 300 participants and about as many spectators to Cave Creek, Ariz., a rural community northeast of Phoenix. It was a part of the Strategic Focus Cities evangelism and church planting emphasis in Phoenix sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in cooperation with the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, local associations and churches.

The unusual gathering resulted in 11 professions of faith in Christ, including several rodeo participants who accepted Christ during a Sunday morning worship service.

"It touched a crowd probably that we wouldn't touch in any other way," said Bill Agee, city coordinator for the Celebrate Jesus 2000/Strategic Focus Cities emphasis in Phoenix.

"It's the first time I've been able to share my testimony at a rodeo," said John Kissel, a cowboy and retired schoolteacher from Penrose, Colo. "It's been really special, and a lot of seeds have been sown."

Janet Honeycutt, whose family supplied livestock for the rodeo, said, "It's



BULL RIDER A bull rider competes in the Nov. 10-12 Champion of Champions Rodeo in Phoenix, part of Southern Baptists' Strategic Focus Cities evangelistic emphasis. (BP photo)

been the most awesome rodeo ever, because I know the Lord is here."

The Christian rodeo was the brainchild of former rodeo cowboy Michael Infanzon, pastor of Spur Cross Cowboy Church in Cave Creek.

Infanzon said the idea began when Agee asked a group of local pastors to think about what kind of ministry they would like to do during the year.

"I told him I'd put on a rodeo," Infanzon said. With years of rodeos under his belt, it was a natural for the cowboy preacher.

After his idea was approved, Infanzon

began to plan the event, which was sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Infanzon began his career in rodeo at age 6. He continued in the sport through high school and college and competed professionally until retiring three years ago. A certified journeyman farrier, or horseshoer, by trade, he was called into the ministry shortly after he retired from rodeo.

"Jesus told us we need to minister to people where we're at, and where they're at," Infanzon said. "That's what we're trying to do, through the rodeo,

through Bible study. The cowboys that are passing through need to be fed."

Infanzon said he gathered all the contestants for prayer on the first day of the event. "We stood in the middle of the arena and prayed for this rodeo, and prayed for all the cowboys that were traveling."

In addition to local volunteers, Infanzon brought in a few old friends to help out. Announcer Coy Huffman, founder of Cowboy Church International, is a preacher who earns his living by working at rodeos.

Huffman "holds church services at every rodeo he goes to," Infanzon said. "He's our evangelist. He preaches the gospel to these cowboys, ministers to them while they're on the road and encourages them to plug in to their local churches."

Ted and Linda Wiese brought their "Cowboy Bistro" ministry to the rodeo. Offering a ministry of hospitality, the Wieses have traveled to 13 rodeos this year, preparing food to make sure cowboys eat nutritiously for free. They hope to minister at 20 rodeos next year.

The Wieses make their home in Likely, Calif., and travel with a converted horse trailer containing a professional kitchen and the couple's living quarters. Next to the couple's trailer, banners proclaiming God's love and salvation in Jesus hang from the canopies that shade tables from the bright sun.

A former rice farmer, Wiese said, "We're still planting seed, just different seeds."

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Virginia WMU adjusts offering.** The Virginia Baptist Woman's Missionary Union has broadened its annual Christmas offering for international missions by adding a "customized" plan that allows churches to give to specific mission projects. WMU leaders said the new plan was requested by churches to foster hands-on involvement and financial support for missions. Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials counter that the plan will erode support for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The three projects include \$4.5 million to build a nursing and hospice facility in Nanjing, China, in conjunction with Amity Foundation; \$100,000 for livestock and poultry production in Liberia; and \$20,000 to support a women's studies program at a new seminary in India.

■ **Arizona Baptists affirm structure plans.** Arizona Baptist messengers approved moving forward with a plan to reorganize the state convention. Messengers voted 324-137 to proceed with implementing a proposal presented by a 14-member Vision Task Force. The plan calls for streamlining the state convention structure and staff, including the dissolution of the Arizona Church Growth Board and state convention Executive Board.

■ **CBF leader urges new structure.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship needs a new organizational structure for the 21st century, according to James Baucom, the group's moderator-elect. "From an organizational perspective, CBF looks an awful lot like the SBC," Baucom said during a recent meeting of the CBF

of Mississippi. Noting that churches "will not be free to become the church of the 21st century until we are willing to give up the traditions of the 20th century," Baucom said any future organizational structure of the moderate CBF should "flow out of our values and beliefs."

■ **Alliance of Baptists joins NCC.** The Alliance of Baptists, a group formed in opposition to the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention, has become the 36th member communion of the National Council of Churches. Delegates to the NCC's General Assembly voted unanimously Nov. 17 to extend membership to the moderate Baptist group which was established in 1987.

■ **IMB seeks nurse volunteers.** The Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center is seeking registered nurses to volunteer in the center's semi-monthly clinics. The center, located in Rockville, Md., provides three shot clinics for each group of Southern Baptist missionaries who come through for orientation. Pam Parker, a staff nurse at the center, said medical volunteers administer several thousand shots each month. For information, call Parker at (804) 219-1893.

■ **Southern hosts Christmas celebration.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host its annual Family Christmas Carol Concert and Hanging of the Green Dec. 5. The program will be at 7 p.m. in the Louisville seminary's Alumni Memorial Chapel. For information, call (502) 897-4115.

African theologian emphasizes continent's only hope is Jesus

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

IBADAN, Nigeria—"Hope is the only thing we in Africa can hold on to, hope based on faith in Jesus Christ," declared Baptist World Alliance Vice President Douglas Waruta, a professor at the University of Kenya.

Speaking at the Assembly of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship, Nov. 11-15 in Ibadan, Nigeria, Waruta described Africa as "a continent of paradoxes," a confusing continent searching for its own identity.

The Africa fellowship is one of the six regional bodies of the BWA.

Addressing the assembly theme, "Celebrate Christ the Hope of Africa," Waruta asked, "How do you celebrate in a context of misery? How do you celebrate 500 years of exploitation, humiliation and degradation? How do we celebrate a continent that carries a debt burden that we cannot pay? Do we need celebration or lamentation?"

Violence from tribal and national wars and the continued existence of unjust and repressive regimes are among challenges Africa faces, Waruta noted. He said AIDS and other diseases take a huge toll on lives and unsanitary conditions and diseases plague the people's health.

Amid these challenges, "the time for our comfort has come in Jesus Christ," he said. "The words of Jesus, 'Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted,' have great mean-

ing for the African continent. We do not ignore but confront our predicament in the hope that is grounded in Jesus Christ."

Africa is not a place for "comfortable religiosity," he added. "We must take the God of Jesus Christ seriously. We must confront the forces of evil headlong."

More important than the number of churches in Africa is their ministry role, Waruta emphasized. Noting that more than 18,000 churches in Africa are affiliated with BWA, he said, "It is not enough to have that many churches. We perhaps need 800,000 churches, but each church must become a tree of hope; otherwise it has no business being planted."

Waruta's call for African Baptist churches to help make an economic, political and spiritual impact was affirmed by Baptist leaders from 16 countries who attended the meeting.

"How can I join in the celebration when my people are suffering and they don't understand why?" asked Bokundoa bo-Likabe, leader of Baptists in the Democratic Republic of Congo, who was elected as the new president of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship.

Bokundoa said people in the Congo feel abandoned by the whole world, even Christians, as they cope with the continuing civil war in their country.

"We cling to our hope in Jesus Christ," he said. "The song 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' has become very precious to us."

Under-the-hood gang taking Bible into their hearts

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

WINCHESTER—Tim Watts became a member of Central Baptist Church Oct. 29 through a traditional baptismal ceremony.

But Watts' road to accepting Christ as Savior began in an unconventional classroom filled with cars, a hydraulic lift and the smell of grease.

The 24-year-old utility company lineman is the first convert from a Thursday evening Bible study taught by Frank Johnson. It meets in his 26-by-62-foot garage, a neighborhood hangout for car enthusiasts and racing buffs.

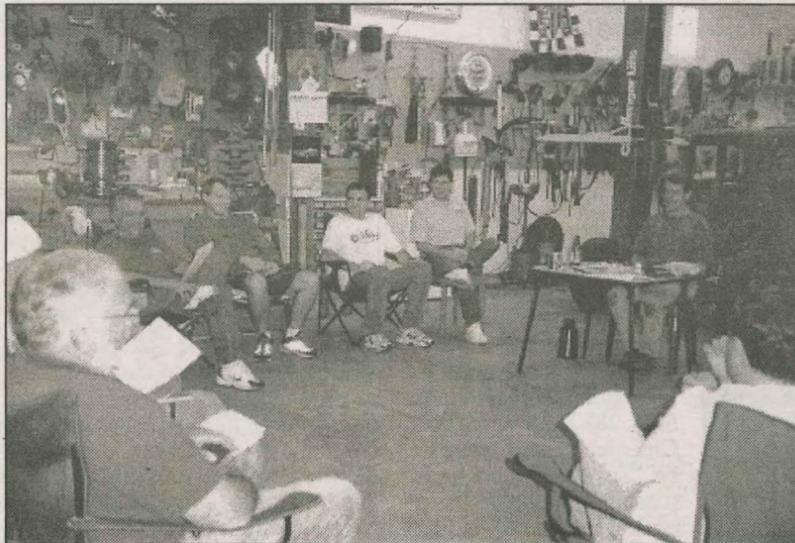
Up to a dozen men gather for an hour-long lecture by the instructor, who uses outlines compiled from Bible commentaries and past Sunday school lessons he taught at Central.

"He made it interesting," said Watts, who lives in nearby Richmond. "Before, I didn't understand what was going on (at church). But he's down to earth. I understood what he was trying to get across and what he was telling us."

"The more I knew him," he added, "the more I wanted to be like him."

"My motivation is to reach and teach unchurched people," Johnson said. "One of the main things in my life and the most important thing Christians have today is evangelism. I couldn't get some of these guys to church."

The longtime Sunday school teach-



GARAGE GANG Men gather for the Thursday evening Bible study taught by Frank Johnson of Central Baptist Church in Winchester. Johnson said the class reaches men who might not attend church.

er organized the class after retiring last January. The son of an auto mechanic, he looked forward to turning a longtime hobby into a daily endeavor.

One day in his garage a friend asked, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could start a study out here and reach people who don't go to church?"

"I started praying about it, but I didn't have to pray very long," Johnson said.

One factor was the rough language he often heard from visitors. It got so bad he threatened to put up a sign pro-

hibiting profanity.

Instead, he invited everyone who walked through the door to attend his new Bible study.

Watts is the only one to join a church since the class started last March. But two other men appear to be close to making a decision to follow Christ, Johnson said.

Terry Craycraft, the friend who suggested starting the sessions, has invited several car enthusiasts.

He said most men who attend would do so even without the lure of refreshments and "car talk" afterwards.

Leadership styles changing, study group finds

Continued from page 1

der for the church to function properly, each person had to function according to his or her assigned role, such as Sunday school teacher, usher or pastor.

The innovation age is much more fluid than the industrial age, however, Adams said. Vast amounts of information are available instantly to nearly anyone with a computer and a modem, accelerating cultural change and connecting the entire globe.

The "management" mindset of the industrial age looked for problems to solve in order to keep the machine running smoothly. In the innovation age, leaders are expected to be more than problem solvers. Leaders are expected to be visionaries, looking into the future and forecasting the direction of the organization.

It is easier to stay in the industrial mindset and only do ministry that maintains the status quo, Adams said, but that is not what Christians are called to do.

"Jesus sends us into the world to transform the world," Adams said. "Churches that don't move to a leadership philosophy will lose effectiveness for the Kingdom."

Visionary leaders cannot afford to totally abandon the management mindset of the industrial age, how-

ever. In the process of charging into the future, leaders must make certain that the care of people takes place, Adams said.

Futral said that "as the cluster group studied the issue, it became obvious that both (training for specific roles and developing leaders from the inside out) needed to be done."

Research conducted by the cluster group revealed that every KBC department offers training to help church leaders perform specific roles. Such development and training opportunities have been offered almost since the KBC was instituted, Futral said.

"I knew there was a lot that (the departments) did, but I was surprised to learn how much," he said.

But in addition to training for specific tasks, many ministry and lay leaders are now asking the convention to provide leadership training, he said.

It is hoped that much of this kind of training can be provided through the leadership development department, which was established in 1998, Futral added. In addition to a host of assessment tools, training guides and other resources, the department has launched the Joshua Project, a leadership training event and process for pastors and their spouses.

The Joshua Project, which involves professional church staff as well as lay

RESOURCES

Books:

- "Growing Spiritual Redwoods" by Bill Easum.
- "Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers" by Bill Easum.
- "Visionary Leadership" by Burt Nanus.
- "Soul Tsunami" by Leonard Sweet.
- "Aqua Church" by Leonard Sweet.

Web sites:

- www.leonardsweet.com
- www.leadershipjournal.net

leadership, includes a weekend of self-exploration through assessment and feedback tests. After the weekend event, Joshua Project alumni are then invited to participate in on-going peer-mentoring groups. The groups also provide pastors a system for constructive feedback.

The cluster group also is considering how the KBC or associations might use the assessment tools, Futral said. One such tool is "SkillTrack." Developed by Belmont University's Moench Center for Church Leadership in Nashville, SkillTrack is a curriculum of 12 workbooks that address topics such as mission-centered leadership, communication skills and interpersonal skills.

One day in his garage a friend asked, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could start a study out here and reach people who don't go to church?"

"I think most of the ones who come are interested in the lessons," Craycraft said. "Several guys hang around the shop and Frank always invites them. They get ribbed by other guys, too, so I think they'll come around."

Associate Pastor Dennis Wainright had never heard of a Bible study meeting in a garage during his 23 years at Central Church. But the recent baptism and word-of-mouth about the study have created excitement among members, he said.

"I think, 'Gosh, why don't we have more of this going on, with woodworkers and others?'" Wainright said. "Someone could do the same thing with another group."

One member has picked up on the idea. Carl Kaiser, already involved in a ministry to juveniles at the county detention center, started a Bible class in his home last summer. The children, ages 5 to 9, heard a Bible story, made crafts and learned to pray.

The weekly class lasted only for the summer; Kaiser couldn't find a mutually agreeable time for everyone after school started. But he intends to resume next spring.

No matter what the results, Johnson said a key to starting a neighborhood Bible study is motivation. If it's aimed at church members, then it should be done at church, he said.

"I don't want to be in conflict with my church, I want to be in concert with it," he said. "We can reach people, get 'em in church and be an extension of the ministry of my own church."

Georgetown to launch center for commerce, language and culture

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown College announced plans Nov. 20 for a Center for Commerce, Language and Culture.

The center will blend the academic programs of business and economics and foreign languages into an integrated academic experience, designed to prepare students for the global and technology-driven economy.

Plans call for the center eventually to be housed in a 42,000-plus-square-foot facility set to open in 2003. The center also will add the college's department of political science and programs focusing on philosophy, politics and economics and interfaith and cross-cultural studies to the center's academic focus.

"Innovative education is the way our young people can accomplish success in today's world," Gov. Paul Patton said. "The idea for the Center for Commerce, Language and Culture is one that will truly make a difference in Kentucky's leaders of tomorrow."

"This dream for Georgetown College will benefit our community and our commonwealth now and in the future," Georgetown President Bill Crouch added. "We want to give our graduates a jump on success."

Founding contributors, including Toyota, have pledged up to \$3.3 million for the project, Crouch said. The center proposal includes several components, including:

- A one-week program for students planning to enter pre-professional college programs such as accounting, religion, law and medicine.

- A summer institute for students to employ interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving and to set a goal of attaining bilingualism.

- Internship programs with domestic and international, corporate and government entities.

For more information, call the office of Martha Lane Collins, Georgetown College's executive scholar in residence, (502) 863-7067.

The Big 5

Issues every church should address

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.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@ntr.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Charles Midkiff, Greenville, chairman; Barry Howard, Corbin, vice chairman; Mike Harmon, Princeton, secretary; Laura Beville, Bowling Green; Mark Boes, Cecilia; David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville; Ken James, London; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; David Proffitt, Salyersville; Bill Thurman, Lexington; Kenneth Wells, Somerset.

Give God control

During the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I couldn't help but think that the nation's presidential election fiasco is God's way of showing us as Baptists the importance of law.

Some involved in the presidential campaign would eagerly ignore the constitution in order to get their way. As Baptists, are we any different? We declare God's Word less than true so that we can have our way. Why should we expect heathens to behave any differently? Could it be that Al Gore and Bill Clinton, both professing Southern Baptists, learned to lie according to the errant Word of God? If we can pick and choose what we believe, what is wrong with choosing to lie, to commit adultery or to divorce?

As members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, I think we all agree that we want God to heal our land as He promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Could it be that God is waiting for Southern Baptists to stand on the Bible as the inerrant Word of God so that He is able to honor His promise to heal our land of the growing commitment to abortion, homosexuality and children killing children?

The issue of adopting the Baptist Faith and Message of the Southern Baptist Convention is not one of conservatives gaining control of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, but one of giving God control and thereby enabling Him to begin to release us from the bondage in which we find ourselves. It is so very important that we learn to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, lean not to our own understanding, in all our ways acknowledge Him and He will direct our paths.

I pray that as Christians we will desire more than anything else to give God control.

Mary Holman
Lexington

Keys to submission

Jesus said, "I am among you as One that serves" (Luke 22:27). Our

Lord "took on Him the form of a servant ... and became obedient unto death" (Phillipians 2:7-8). "The Son of Man came ... to minister and to give His life" (Matthew 20:28).

Peter wrote: "All of you be subject one to another" (1 Peter 5:5). Paul wrote: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God ... submitting yourselves one to another" (Ephesians 5:20-21).

"As the church is to be submissive to Christ, so let the wives be submissive to their own husbands"—husbands who have been told to "love their wives as their own bodies" and that if he "loves his wife he loves himself" (Ephesians 5:24, 28). Peter wrote that Christian "wives" were to be "submissive to their (unsaved) husbands" as a critical means of winning them to Christ, and then

specified the equality of husbands and wives before God as "heirs together of the grace of life"—equal before God in personhood, if not in areas of responsibility (1 Peter 3:1-7).

The Son is submissive to His Father, "obedient (to the extent of) death." Jesus served His creatures. The church is to be submissive to Christ "in all things," and that includes submissive husbands. The New Testament even teaches that employees are to be submissive to management. No argument.

But when the New Testament in several places teaches that wives are to be submissive to husbands, it becomes obsolete, irrelevant and inapplicable because our culture demands that the church conform to society. Submissiveness is appropriate in all other areas except the wife-to-husband relationship.

Please explain how Christians are to discover what parts of the New Testament are authoritative. Baptists reject ecclesiastical authority and creedal authority. Evidently we need an "800 number" at some professorial agency for access to a scholastic authority.

Donald MacDonald
Louisville

Keep 'umbrella' open

I returned to Georgetown College from my first Kentucky Baptist Convention with feelings of excitement for all Kentucky Baptists are doing.

However, I also was saddened by comments made by several speakers. On more than one occasion the KBC was likened to "an umbrella big enough for everyone." However, not all those who offered the analogy convinced me they genuinely believed what they said.

At the convention, I received a publication of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network. This publication presents the views of the fundamentalists, and in the process tears down and slanders those in opposition. It also outlines differences in the SBC and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

However, the KBLN misleads readers with their blatantly anti-CBF writings. References to CBF support of such things as worship of "Christ-Sophia," universalistic thought and religious institutions that endorse homosexual relationships do not accurately represent the CBF.

This same article condemns the CBF for having leaders who refer to God as "Mother" and call for the ordination of women as senior pastors. They disagree with these things on the basis that they are unbiblical. Last time I checked, though, nowhere in the Bible is it written that women cannot lead churches, or that God is exclusively "Father," and cannot also serve as a mother figure. If we place limits on who God is, we forget about God's power; God is bigger than all of us.

The fundamentalists are clear in what they want: the KBC to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and exclude those who cannot affirm it. In the past, the KBC has kept its "umbrella" wide open and big enough for all Kentucky Baptists. If the convention moves to adopt an exclusive belief statement, I simply ask: Do you honestly believe in an umbrella for all Kentucky Baptists or just your umbrella for your people?

Meredith Holladay
Georgetown

STEWARDSHIP

When it comes to stuff, how much is enough?

By Doug Strader

When I was serving as a pastor, I received an invitation to attend a stewardship workshop provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board staff.



To be honest, I do

not remember a great deal about the workshop contents. However I do remember one statement made by one of the leaders. He said, "Our ability to get is always one step behind our desire to have." I believe that statement is even truer today than when I heard it, because credit card debt and consumer debt are out of control for many people. Many families are continuing to pile up debt, trying to get what they think they want without a sure way to pay for their desires.

For many years, maybe from mankind's earliest days, people have been asking the question, "How much is enough?" When does a person have enough is a legitimate question for 21st century Christians.

Most Americans live in luxury when compared with people in Third World countries. We throw away enough food and clothing in our nation to feed and clothe much of the hurting world. The truth is we have people in our own country who need food and clothing, not to mention medical and dental care.

When do we stop building bigger and better houses when all around us people live in sub-standard housing? When do we stop wasting our food and begin to feed the hungry? When will we be satisfied with our clothing and begin to clothe those who are in need?

Jesus had something to say about these very things. In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus talked about separating the sheep from the goats based upon the way we handle the matters listed above. When I read that story I get a little uncomfortable with some of the things Jesus said. In light of Jesus' words, how much is enough takes on a new understanding.

I recently read an article where the author said, "I do not know how much is enough, but I do know how much is too much. If I hold out my hands with my palms up and say, 'Lord, put in what You want and take out what You want,' that is okay. But if I begin to close my hands and declare, 'This is mine,' that is too much."

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Thanksgiving reflections

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

We have had so much to be grateful for during this Thanksgiving season. I would like to share three experiences with you.

One of the joys of my work is discovering how God is at work among Kentucky Baptists as Kay and I travel across the state. On a recent Sunday night I spoke to about 400 people at the annual community Thanksgiving service sponsored by Gasper River Association at Butler County High School.

C. Dowling Runner, the new director of missions, shared with me over dinner how God has blessed their rural association of 26 smaller membership churches to purchase land, raise funds and build a new associational office, which they hope to enter early next

year. The churches have donated all the funds and members of churches have provided the labor. All of this has happened since late 1999 due to the outstanding cooperation of all 26 churches. May God continue to bless their vision for outreach, missions and ministry.



Bill Mackey

Kay had the opportunity to lead a retreat for 25 women at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg Nov. 17-18. It was gratifying for her to reconnect with friends and to meet new friends in the journey of faith. Longtime friends shared powerful tes-

timonies. One had prayed for more than 30 years for her husband to be saved. During a Promise Keepers event, God did a mighty work in his life. Another woman witnessed God's power to restore her husband and their marriage. Another shared how God had

brought her family through financial disaster. These husbands are serving God faithfully today. We praise God for His power to transform lives.

Many people have prayed for our expecting daughter and her at-risk pregnancy. Her doctors believe that the baby, Lillian Grace, is healthy and could come before Dec. 7. Thank you for your prayers. We also were blessed during Thanksgiving with the first visit of our older daughter, Anonda Kay, with her new husband, A.J. Nepa. I had the privilege of performing their wedding Oct. 7 in a beautiful rose garden in Hendersonville, N.C. I am grateful for how God has brought them together in a mature relationship.

I pray that God will continue to teach me how to be grateful for people who work together in a common mission, for His power to transform lives and for His presence to provide joy in family.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Help children guard language by setting a positive example

Q: How can I teach my child that cursing is wrong?

Sooner or later, children will hear cursing—hopefully not from their parents, but certainly from others, including friends. Without guidance, children may assume cursing is acceptable. Some might even begin using curse words themselves, even though many times they will have no idea what the words mean. What can parents do?

Set a good example. Be careful to control your own tongue. Shield your children from cursing as much as possible. Pay special attention to language content in the entertainment arena, and protect your children from it. Offensive language constitutes a solid and sound reason for not allowing a child to see a movie, listen to a song, watch a TV show or read a book. It may also be a good reason for discouraging certain friendships.

Show children what the Bible says about our language. Boys and girls understand how words can hurt. Read Ephesians 4:29 together and see where Paul says we should speak only words that are helpful and that make people feel good. Look also at Matthew 12:36 where Jesus warned about careless words, and at Matthew 5:34-37, where He taught that oaths were unnecessary. Of course, one of the Ten Commandments warns us not to use God's name carelessly or for evil purposes (Exodus 20:7).

Be prepared to answer questions about what words mean and why they are wrong. Sometimes a simple, "We don't use that word" or "We don't talk like that" will suffice. Other times, greater detail may be necessary. Keep explanations as simple as possible. Finally, establish fair, but firm consequences for use of offensive language.—David Garrard

Q: Our 13-year-old son misbehaves in youth choir. He disrupts the rehearsals and doesn't try during performances. He has an average voice now, but he was great in children's choir. He asks to drop out, but we won't hear of it. Youth choir meant so much to us. We want him to have a similar experience. What can we do?

First, gather more data. Talk to the director to see if your son's voice is still changing. He will settle down vocally over time. There could be other issues. Is this music that he understands? Does he clown around to flirt or to compete with others for attention? Does he have a conflict with the director? Do they need to work on their relationship?

Second, talk with your son. Does he know why he wants to quit? Has someone ridiculed his singing or made fun of his voice? Music performance is not for everyone. If you let him quit choir, insist that he have some other youth activity to take its place. He needs structured activities as well as free time. If he just seems to want out of the responsibility of going, then be firm about his continuing. Those who learn the value of giving service to others find real purpose in life.

Other possibilities are that this could be immaturity, rebellion or a problem paying attention. He might display these actions in any activity. He just could be testing the limits. The authority of the director could be hard for him to accept. Or the director could be too lax.

He might grow out of the immaturity, but rebellion against authority is a different issue. He needs to learn to follow the rules and to stay within general guidelines.

If he has trouble focusing in general, have him evaluated for Attention Deficit Disorder. It might also help to let him engage in some vigorous physical activity just before going to choir. Whatever you do, do not ignore this issue. Your son is telling you something by his behavior. Find out what it is and respond.—Wade Rowatt

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



What can we learn from presidential election?

Are you satisfied with the results of our nation's presidential election? Probably not.

Whether you're a Bush supporter who is relieved that he has maintained a narrow lead in Florida or a Gore supporter who is hopeful that court rulings will alter the race's contested outcome, neither side can take much comfort in the partisan political posturing of the past three weeks.

Hanging chads, butterfly ballots and endless confusion about overseas ballots and hand recounts have made it difficult to determine who's right, who's wrong and who has the standing to protest what. An endless media parade of "expert" political analysts hasn't helped matters much.

With George W. Bush claiming victory Sunday night and Al Gore pledging to challenge election results in at least three Florida counties, the presidential race that refuses to end shifted gears again this week.

Regardless of the outcome of the political and legal battles, the individual who eventually is inaugurated as president will enter office under a cloud of questions and skepticism unmatched in our nation's history.

Among citizens here in Kentucky and elsewhere around the country, the race's final decision clearly is out of our hands. What we can do, however, is support the new president to the best of our ability and seek to minimize the divisive nature of this experience.

Beyond that, are there any lessons we can learn from this unfolding political drama? Certainly. For instance:

■ *Partisan politicking isn't pretty.* While we all know that political races tend to paint candidates and issues in one-dimensional black-and-white terms, the partisan wranglings of recent weeks have magnified the issue. Individuals have every right to support candidates and causes in which they believe, but to blindly affirm every action of one party and castigate every view of the other side quickly grows wearisome. The fact is that both sides have made their share of valid

points as well as inappropriate statements. We should strive to evaluate each point of controversy on its own merits and seek to affirm the best of both sides.

■ *Perfection isn't attainable; fairness is.* One of the most dramatic revelations of the current crisis is how archaic and inaccurate many of our nation's voting procedures are. With a hodgepodge of voting machines, ballot styles and counting guidelines scattered across the country, there's no way for a tally of millions of votes to be 100 percent accurate. However, when the rules are applied consistently and fairly, it is realistic to expect a representative vote that reflects the will of the people. Once the current election turmoil is resolved, the first priority of a new administration and Congress should be meaningful election reform that makes fairness and accuracy top priorities.

■ *Personal involvement is essential.* The easiest thing for many voters to do in the wake of this year's election chaos is to grow disillusioned and drop out of the political process. It also is the worst option available. Both sides consistently have emphasized that this race is a reminder of how significant every citizen's vote is. Rather than giving up on the process, voters should renew their commitment to be personally involved in electing and supporting leaders on the local, state and national levels who represent their views.

■ *Preserving democracy is worth the hassle.* Despite all the negatives associated with this year's presidential election, American democracy remains alive and well. Even in the midst of political uncertainty, there are no tanks in the street, no political coups and no major interruptions of day-to-day life. The American experiment will continue to thrive regardless of who moves into the White House next year.

As we discuss this year's election for months and years to come, Christian citizens should take the lead in seeking hope and healing in our hurting nation. It's our responsibility to be part of the solution.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Student ministry requires intentional plan

By Gene Parr

"Contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3).

What does it take to have a life-changing impact on college students?

It requires earnest intentionality. Bill Glass, former NFL star and prison evangelist wisely said, "If you want to be a Christian casually, you will get knocked on your casual can!"

The same may be said about reaching today's college students. They cannot be reached casually. It requires a vision of impacting young men and women at this most vital time in their lives. It is true that during our college days we build our habits and after college our habits make us.

Kentucky Baptists are making that kind of earnest investment through the collegiate ministry department and Baptist Student Unions all over the state. It is an intentional ministry focused on evangelism, discipleship and missions. It is one of the most successful collegiate ministry programs in the nation. No brag, just fact.

But students need more than BSU. They need exposure to the life of faith

that is transgenerational. That can only happen in church.

How can churches minister intentionally and meaningfully with college students? As with all ministry, it begins with prayer. We need a few church members who are highly motivated and willing to connect students with church. University life is intense. Those who reach students for God must have a passion for them.

We know that this student generation thrives on relationships. A handshake and friendly greeting on Sunday morning is a great beginning and needs to be followed up. Students are open to being drawn into conversation so they can reveal who they are and then be accepted at that level. Unless they are engaged at the personal level, it hasn't happened.

Students enjoy seeing other students. Is there a way to involve them in the worship service? If properly prepared, they can do a good job with the children's sermon, responsive reading, etc. Seeing other college students involved will make students feel that this is something for them and not just for their parents or little children.

High school graduation is an impor-

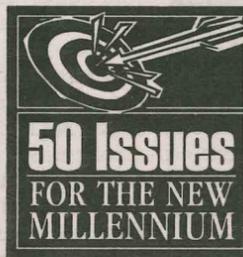
tant time for churches to connect with students. Don't wait for them to enter college. Let their high school graduation be a promotion into the college class or department. Of course, it is always difficult for students to turn down a free meal, especially if it is home cooked or a church potluck. Free food can be a catalyst for engaging conversations that students will remember and look forward to reconnecting.

Believe it or not, Sunday school can be the high point of the week for college students. After being lectured all week, students are overflowing with ideas and the need to share. A good Sunday school teacher will take advantage of this and allow some time for students to unwind and then focus on the Bible.

If college students come away from Sunday school with the feeling they have both contributed to the class and received from the class, chances are they will be back. The best preparation a college Sunday school teacher can make is to develop questions that require students to search the Scripture for answers. As the Holy Spirit uses these questions, God reveals truth and students experience the joy of discovery.

Who of us, having been to a place where God has disclosed Himself to us, would be reluctant to return?

Gene Parr is BSU campus minister at Morehead State University



MISSIONS

Week of prayer focuses on groups around the world

RICHMOND Va.—Southern Baptists throughout America are praying for specific people groups as part of the Season of International Missions.

The Week of Prayer, which begins Sunday, focuses on eight groups:

Dec. 3: The Turks of Turkey. A massive earthquake shook Turkey to its knees in 1999, changing lives both physically and spiritually. Pray that Turks

will see that wealth and possessions give them nothing for eternity. Pray for the eternal light of Christ in their lives.

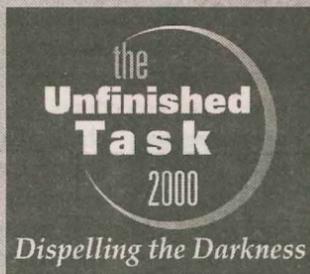


Dec. 4: Refugees in London. Thank God for "Barnabas and Lydia," who work with refugees from 92 unreached people groups seeking a better life in London. Pray for an awakening to come to British believers for the unreached in their midst.

Dec. 5: The Jews of a southern continent. Join "Ruth Johnson" in praying for the thousands of Jews in a southern continent. Pray they will come to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Thank God for Christian workers such as Ruth who shine His light among the Jews.

Dec. 6: The Isaan of Thailand Mark and Helen Caldwell dispel the fear of evil spirits among the Isaan of Thailand with the truth and power of Jesus. Pray for the Caldwells as they minister to

the more than 20 million Buddhist/animist Isaan people.



Dec. 7: The Ayizo of Benin, West Africa. Jeff and Barbara Singerman say that when God called them to Benin they had no idea of the spiritual darkness in the country. Idol worship and voodoo abound. Pray for the Singermans as they work to bring the hope of Jesus to the Ayizo people.

Dec. 8: The Dong of China. Only about 200 of the 3.1 million Chinese Dong are believers. "Terri Ingram" helps the Dong see that God knows their hearts and speaks their language. Pray that the eyes of many more Dong people will see the Light.



Dec. 9: The Mixtecos of Mexico. The Mixtecos of Mexico allow evil spirits to rob them of the joy and light of Jesus, according to Milton and Mary Jane Allred. Pray for the Allreds as they seek to help the Mixtecos walk in the light of God.

Dec. 10: The Bengali Hindus of India. Bengali Hindus pray to the sun to enrich them with its light and power. Pray for Christian workers among these Indian people as they show the power of God through His Son, the true Light of the world.

Our thanksgiving continues

Thanksgiving week brings a time of reflection as I look back over the last year for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc.

Two weeks ago, at the state convention, I was so encouraged as dozens and dozens of you came up to me and offered your appreciation for the progress we have made in our first three years of leading our camp and conference centers.

I would confess that we run pretty hard through much of the year, and it's not my bent or nature to slow down very often. But the Thanksgiving and holiday season brings an opportunity to do so.

During the last three years we have operated under what has been a significant pressure to move in a direction that would allow us to survive at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. I don't have to rehash history for most of you who know the background leading up to our formation as KBA, Inc. But now, our survival is no longer in doubt as we are enjoying constantly increasing attendance at both places, with consistent improvements in the physical plants at both conference centers as well.

This has only happened as a result of so many of your churches

and youth groups coming back to us in record numbers, and for that I am thankful. Our best thought-out plans and intentions don't do any good if nobody shows up. But you have, and I thank you. Three years ago we were hopeful, but not many people would have said our future looked bright. Now I can look ahead and see the means by which

the next five to 10 years will be so exciting as we find ourselves in a position to continue to make updates.

I'm also thankful for the support and confidence Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey has shown us. Through his help and your generous giving through the Cooperative Program, we are able to save Boone

Lodge and Byrdwell Conference Center, both buildings at the very heart of our Cedarmore facility.

So again, thank you, Kentucky Baptists. By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over. But our thanksgiving will continue. 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



A Christmas Gift Idea

Chiles Inspirational Media presents the beautiful sounds of Christmas by Shirley Chiles Humphreys on her Steinway Grand, Allen organ and Kurtzweil keyboard. Fill your holiday space with these albums whether working, traveling or staying at home. Be surrounded by the warmth and glow of "Inspirational Sounds of Christmas" with 21 of our most beloved carols such as "O Holy Night," "Joy to the World," "The First Noel," "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Silent Night." Add "Christmas Fun" to your time by including these 21 all-time favorites such as "Silver Bells," "A White Christmas," "A Marshmallow World," "Winter Wonderland" and "Merry Christmas Waltz."

To purchase these CDs and cassette tapes, please call (888) 348-5558 or (859) 272-2327 or visit us at www.chilesmedia.com

CDs \$14.95; Tapes \$10.95; plus S&H

A Celebration of Cooperation

SEVERNS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH'S

10TH ANNIVERSARY

of

The Living Christmas Tree Program

"Behold the King"

Friday, December 8 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 9 – 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 10 – 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Friday, December 15 – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 16 – 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 17 – 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.

Approximately 100,000 people have attended
Severns Valley's The Living Christmas Tree

- 18 Years of *The Living Christmas Tree*
- 10 Years of *Behold the King*
- 65 Voice Living Christmas Tree Choir
- 125 Member Drama Cast

A limited number of tickets are available.

Severns Valley Baptist Church
(270) 765-7822



KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 244-6485 • Toll-free: (888) 254-5726
Supplement to Western Recorder

Dispel the
Darkness

Week of Prayer
for International
Missions
Dec. 3-10, 2000

Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
for International
Missions

National Goal:
\$115,000,000

Winter 2000

Show Them Jesus: A Bluegrass Missions Celebration Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington March 30-31, 2001

Sessions:

Friday—9:45 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Saturday—9:15 a.m.

Speakers:

Janet Hoffman, President, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC
Earl & Robin Pinkston, International Missions, Western Europe
Pedro Sayago, North American Missions, Elkhorn Baptist Association
Larry Martin and a panel of Kentucky missionaries

Special Features:

- Disaster Relief Luncheon—Friday, noon, pre-registration requested
- Associational Missions Fair & KY Missions Exchange—Friday afternoon following lunch
- Olympic prayer ministry launch—Friday afternoon session
- Georgetown College Choir Concert—Friday, 6:30 p.m.
- From Kentucky to the World: Parade of Flags & International Missions emphasis—Saturday morning session
- Girls in Action/Children in Action Missions Event, gym—Saturday, March 31, 9:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Special Dinners: Acteens/Youth on Mission & Baptist Nursing Fellowship, 5 p.m, Friday—pre-registration required

Annual meeting promotional materials and meal registration information will be mailed to WMU directors and WMU contact persons in January.

A Personal Word

In this season of celebration, we rejoice in the reports of our International Mission Board: record missionary appointments, giving and short-term volunteers. God's Spirit is at work, prompting people to respond to the call and challenge of missions.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

What prepares people to respond to God's missions calling? For some, it is utter gratitude for God's amazing grace. For others, beginnings were prepared in childhood as they learned of God's love for boys and girls around the world. They were exposed to the needs and cultures and peoples of

the world through learning about missions. This learning was reinforced through personal involvement—praying, giving and doing missions. This process which takes place over time, often several years, is what WMU does best. We call it missions education.

Most people do not just suddenly respond to God's missions call. They are nurtured and encouraged. Their lives are shaped by the hand of God through committed teachers, pastors and missions leaders. The preschoolers, children and youth you are teaching now will be the church leaders, pray-ers, givers, deacons, pastors and missionaries of tomorrow. Impact world evangelization tomorrow—teach today!

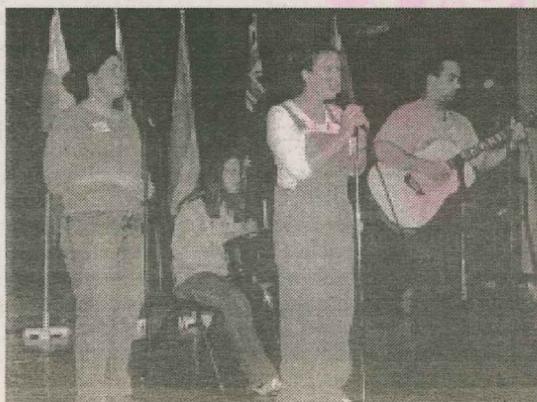
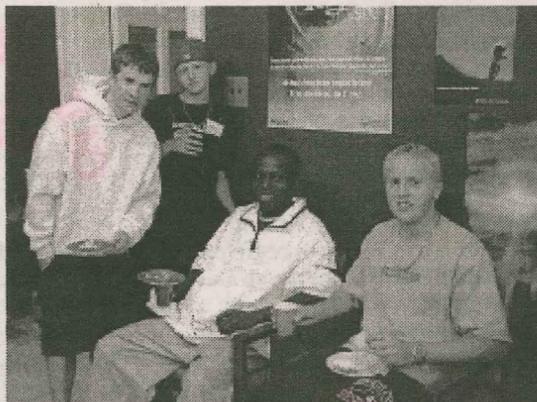
"Show Them Jesus: A Kentucky Bluegrass Missions Celebration" is the theme of our 2001 Kentucky WMU annual meeting. Think of the annual meeting as The Gathering Place for People Who Care About Missions. Plan now to join us, March 30-31, at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Janet Hoffman, our new national WMU president, will be speaking on Friday morning and in the Saturday closing. Missions speakers will highlight associational, state and international missions. There will be an associational missions fair on Friday afternoon and we will launch the Kentucky Missions Exchange. The Friday evening session will focus on missions here in the Bluegrass State. On Saturday morning, following our business session and election of officers, we will close with a parade of flags and a session called "From Kentucky to the World"

Get a carload, vanload or busload of folks and come to Lexington for "Show Them Jesus." Bring some men along, too. And don't forget that children and youth also are encouraged to attend. There's a dinner on Friday night for Acteens and Youth on Mission groups and a special children's event on Saturday morning. The Kentucky WMU annual meeting. It's the gathering place for people who care about missions! See you there!

YOUTH ON MISSION

Youth from across Kentucky attended Youth on Mission Night on Sept. 15-16 at Georgetown College. Georgetown College students Ashley Gill, Susan Reed, Emily Heckman and Cody Davidson led the music. See report on page 2.



KY WMU Annual Meeting Lodging March 30-31, 2001

Best Western Regency
2241 Elkhorn Road
(Exit 110, I-75)
Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 293-2202
(800) 528-1234
Cut off date: 2/15/01
Rate: \$83.48 includes tax

Microtel Inn
2240 Buena Vista
(Exit 110, I-75)
Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 299-9600
(888) 771-7171
Cut off date: 3/17/01
Rate: \$40.95 + tax (Single);
\$49.95 + tax (Double)

Fairfield Inn
3050 Lakecrest Circle
(New Circle Road, Exit 2)
Lexington, KY 40513
(859) 224-3338
(800) 228-2800
Cut off date: 2/28/01
Rate: \$74 +tax

Country Inns & Suites
2297 Executive Drive
(Exit 110, I-75)
Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 299-8844
Cut off date: 3/23/01
Rate: \$74.95 +tax

Holiday Inn, Express
2241 Elkhorn Road
(Exit 110, I-75)
Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 293-2598
Cut off date: 2/15/01
Rate: \$94.61 includes tax

Hampton Inn
2251 Elkhorn Road
(Exit 110, I-75)
Lexington, KY 40505
(859) 299-2613
Rate: \$59.00 +tax

Hampton Inn, South
3060 Lakecrest Circle
(New Circle Road, Exit 2)
Lexington, KY 40513
(859) 223-0088
Cut off date: 3/1/01
Rate: \$72 +tax



Information for WMU Directors

What has been your *Beyond Belief* experience? My latest one was losing my 'brain'—a small, loose-leaf binder containing my calendar, appointments, addresses and phone numbers. I laid it on top of a van. The Lord laid it by the front yard of a thoughtful and caring couple who gathered up all the pieces, found my phone number and called me. I could have lived without this tool, but getting it back is a reminder that God cares for the small things in our lives. *He* made it possible for me to recover all of my calendar and address pages. It's *Beyond Belief!*

Do you have missions-centered plans for your church that are *Beyond Belief*? As you go into the fourth month of your church WMU calendar what are your greatest concerns as WMU director?

→Did you meet or exceed your Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering goal?

→Do you have leaders for Mission Friends, GAs and Acteens (or the co-ed organizations) in your church?

→Have you started any new age level organizations this year? Can you reach additional people by starting a new group?

→Have you spent time in prayer, asking God to reveal what He wants from you and your church in missions participation?

→Are all plans in place as you enter the Season of Prayer for International Missions?

→Is the goal for your Lottie Moon Christmas Offering a challenge for your church?

Thinking Ahead—

Your pastor will receive a small box of materials to use in promoting the Season of Prayer for North American Missions. You will receive the sample poster, prayer guide, envelope and order card. Plan early; order materials. See pages 54-56 in the *2000-2001 WMU Year Book* and the winter *Dimension* for ideas.

Make reservations now for **A Bluegrass Missions Celebration**, the 2001 Kentucky WMU annual meeting at Porter Memorial in Lexington, March 30-31.

Do your Acteens leaders need encouragement from you to make plans to take your girls to Exalt? This event in Bowling Green can be life changing for your girls.

Encourage GA and Acteens leaders to plan for their girls to go to Cedar Crest for camp in the summer. They will receive promotion materials in January.

Start talking now to your leaders about going to **World Missions Unlimited** in July.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults

The fall Women on Mission/Adults on Mission retreats were a great success. More than 550 ladies from across the state attended one of the four retreats.



Rhonda Kelley, Dawn Phillips and Sarah Groves shared God's Word. There were missionary conferences as well as conferences on

many topics that pertained to women. A time of fellowship and fun was also a part of the weekend. If you missed out this year, don't fret; 2001 will be here before we know it! The dates for next year's retreats will be Oct. 5-6 at Jonathan Creek and Oct. 12-13 at Cedarmore. Make plans to join us!

Global Celebration for Women—Make your plans now to join a group of Kentucky women who will attend this event in Houston, Texas, on Sept. 19-21, 2001. Stay tuned for more details about the cost of the group tour.



Tonya's Tip—Plan a service project that your group can participate in for the winter months. There are numerous things to do that will show others you care: work on a quilt and donate it to a family in your community; bake some of your famous "goodies" to give to any new visitors to your church; spend time at your local community center tutoring children; or hold a book drive and donate the books to a library or literacy center to promote Project Help: Literacy. The possibilities are endless! Remember that part of learning about missions is getting involved doing missions. Join the fun. The rewards will be great!

—Tonya Williams



Youth

The second annual Youth on Mission Night was held at Georgetown College Sept. 15-16. This year's theme was "Pass the Torch." Following a flag processional to Olympic Fanfare, Georgetown



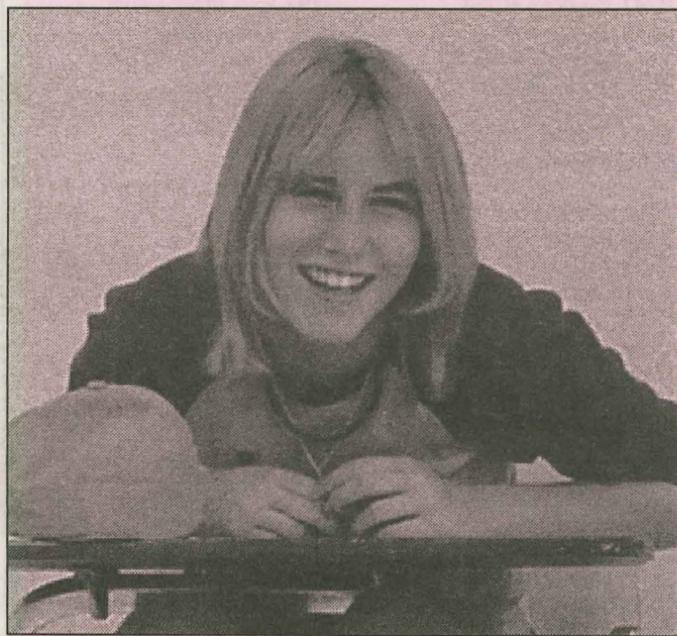
students led the worship service and Gary and Sis Tufts, missionaries to Costa Rica, told about their ministry. Youth then participated in an "Olympic Village" and heard testimonies of mission work in five countries. On Saturday, youth continued to worship and also participated in

workshops on witnessing, creative ministries and college issues. The date for the next Youth on Mission Night is Nov. 9-10, 2001. Look for information in the spring.

Before you know it, Exalt 2001 will be here. The state Acteens conference is open to all young ladies in grades 7-12. See the ad on page 3 of this insert for more information. A list of hotels has been sent to all Acteens advisors with the activator team mailing.

Kentucky WMU will be sending a state activators team to Salt Lake City June 9-15 in preparation for the 2002 winter games. This is a great opportunity for Acteens whose groups are too small to form an activator team. Information has been sent to all Acteens advisors. If you haven't received information or have questions, please call LaRaine Dail at (888) 254-5726.

—LaRaine Dail



Preschool

Mission Friends are happy, Mission Friends have fun. During this quarter:

- Involve preschoolers in the **International Mission Study** in December. Help them learn more about Lottie Moon and the people in Turkey who are learning about Jesus.

- Become involved in **Project HELP: Literacy**. See pages 6 and 7 in the winter issue of *Start* for ideas.

- Observe **Focus on WMU**, Feb. 12-18, to help your church recognize Mission Friends as a part of WMU. Plan with the church WMU director for Focus on WMU. Ideas for this emphasis are in the winter issue of *Start* and the *2000-2001 WMU Year Book*, pages 57-58.

- Begin preparing for the **North American Mission Study** coming up in March! The teaching guide for this special study is available from WMU, SBC, (800) 968-7301. It is designed to take place during the churchwide study. If your church does not have a churchwide study, use the study material during any regular Mission Friends class.



Children

December marks the emphasis for International Missions. Provide the opportunity for the children in your church

to participate in the **2000 International Mission Study for Children**. Children will

learn about Turkey and what God is doing to bring salvation to the Turks. Encourage members of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors and Children in Action to attend. Use this special time to invite boys and girls who are not involved in missions education.

It is not too early to begin preparation for the **2001 North American Mission Study** coming up in March. The emphasis will be on being "On Mission Christians" with a focus on children being "Act 1:8 Kids."

Girls and boys in Girls in Action and Children in Action are invited to the **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** on Saturday, March 31 during the WMU annual meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington. This is a special time for children and leaders to meet missionaries, make new friends, sing and have lots of other fun. The cost is \$2 per person attending. No pre-registration for the event is required.

Children attending the event can get involved in a ministry project for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to be held in Salt Lake City in February and March 2002. Those attending are encouraged to bring one of the following items: lip balm, pocket Kleenex, lotion, Band-Aids or a roll of breath mints. The items will be sent to Salt Lake City and put into hospitality bags to be distributed to internationals and visitors at the Games.

—Brenda Price





President's Perspective

Watching seemingly vain efforts for peace in the Middle East and speaking with a young single mother whose critically ill infant I am caring for seem worlds apart. But actually they are very close. In the Middle East, we see the consequences of people who do not know a Savior Who can bring them peace. We can see the horrific results beamed into our homes in living color. This young mother also does not know a Savior Who can bring peace to her life. As she looked at me with fear in her eyes and said, "I have no one," it was beamed into my heart in living color.



Sara Billups
Kentucky
WMU
president

Southern Baptists have the opportunity to impact lives like these, so far apart geographically yet so close in their need for Christ. The Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering gives us the opportunity to impact lives in Kentucky. Soon, the Season of Prayer for International Missions will give us the opportunity to touch the world and in the spring, the Week of Prayer for North American Missions allows to reach those in North America.

The fall retreats at Cedarmore encouraged us to look "With New Eyes." How timely this theme was! As missions educators and promoters, we must realize that the world will most likely not come to us; therefore we must look at the world "with new eyes" and discover new and unique ways to reach people. It may mean stepping outside our comfort zones in reaching them and then in educating them. One of the seminars focused on the modern parable "Who Moved My Cheese?" Inhabitants of a maze were shocked one morning to find their cheese was missing without a trace. As we watch each inhabitant decide what to do about this problem, we realize change is going to happen. It's our response that makes the difference. We can sit and wait for things to go back to the way they were or we can step out and search for a new and better "cheese." We cannot sit and wait!

Opportunities abound for you to be a part of missions in Kentucky! On March 30-31, 2001, you can be a part of the Kentucky WMU annual meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. We will have a Bluegrass celebration as we focus on the associational work in Kentucky and how Kentucky Baptists are impacting our state, country and world. Janet Hoffman, our new national WMU president also will be with us. You cannot miss a single session! Mark your calendar now.

Serving as your president for six months has been exciting. I have been in many of your churches. I have enjoyed making many new friends and have been amazed at what you are doing. How exciting to meet some of our Campus Women on Mission as they attended one of the retreats on scholarships provided by a Heritage Fund grant! I look forward to meeting many more of you in the next months. Your commitment to missions in Kentucky is evident as the first calculations of the Eliza Broadus Offering show the "Beyond Belief" results of your sacrificial giving. What exciting times are ahead as we serve together!

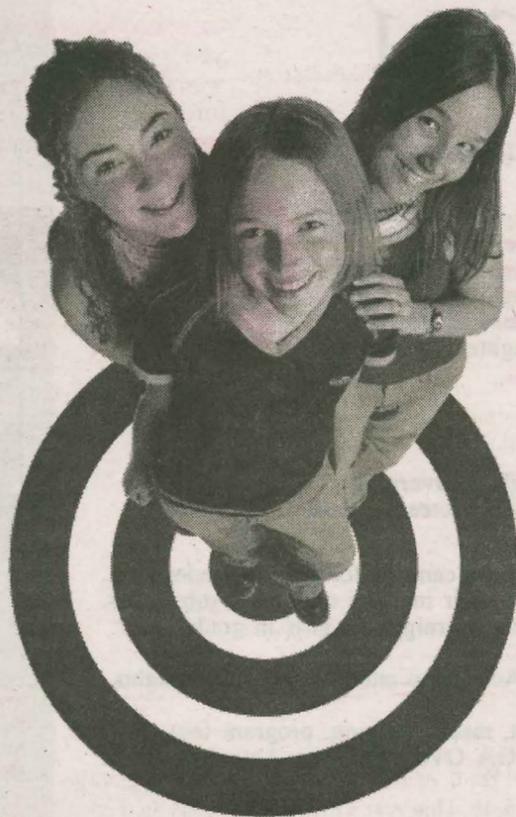
In His Love,
Sara Billups

Ky. Acteens Advisory Panel Named

Kentucky WMU is pleased to announce the 2000-01 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel:

- Rachel Butler
Falls of Rough Baptist, Falls of Rough.
- Jackie Grace
New Hope Baptist, Cadiz.

- Jessica Hopkins
Rose Hill Baptist, Catlettsburg.
- Ashley Hopper
Calvary Baptist, Central City.
- Julie Pegram
Bellview Baptist, Paducah.
- Lynae Shull
Kento-Boo Baptist, Florence.



Here I Am.

Exalt 2001 The State Acteens Conference for all young ladies in grades 7-12

Missionaries:

- ⇒ Lisa Hoffman, Israel & Boston
- ⇒ Susan Peugh, World Changers

Friday Night Concert:

- ⇒ ZOEGirl

Worship Leaders:

- ⇒ Living Hope Praise Band

Cost: \$20. Includes t-shirt, gift and concert.

- ⇒ Living Hope Baptist Church
Bowling Green
April 20-21

⇒ Be there!

Be a part of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Join the Kentucky Activator Team!

Who: Acteens who are 15 years old or have completed 9th grade

What: State Activator Team

When: June 9-15, 2001

Where: Salt Lake City, Utah

Why: The Olympics are coming!

How: By plane

Information and applications have been sent to all Acteens Advisors.



Scholarship Applications Due Feb. 1, 2001

Senior Acteens, state missionaries children, women or men preparing for a career in missions or women preparing for other full-time, church related vocations should contact us for a scholarship brochure and application.

Phone (888) 254-5726 or (502) 244-6485; E-mail: Anna_Mary_Byrdwell@kybaptist.org

Twenty-seven million adult Americans can't read well enough to read the Bible.

Learn how to teach someone to read and write as an outreach ministry of your church.

Teach Them the Meaning of the Word.
Project Help: Literacy



CAMP 2001

Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore)

- June 18-22 GA Camp
- June 22-23 Mother/ Daughter Overnight
- June 25-29 GA and Acteens Camp
- July 2-3 Mother/ Daughter Overnight
- July 6-7 Mother/ Daughter Overnight
- July 9-13 GA and Acteens Camp
- July 13-14 Mother/ Daughter Overnight
- July 16-20 GA Camp



Jonathan Creek

- June 15-16 Mother/Daughter Overnight
- June 22-23 GA Overnight & Acteens Splash



Girls in Action (GA) camp is for girls in grades 4-6. Acteens camp is for girls in grades 7-12. Mother/ Daughter Overnights are for girls in grades 1-3 and their mothers or mother substitutes. GA Overnight is for girls in grades 4-6. Acteens Splash is an overnight for girls in grades 7-12.

Girls do not have to be a member of Girls in Action or Acteens to attend camp or overnights.

COST: \$125 for week-long camp (includes t-shirt, meals, lodging, program fee)
\$30 for Mother/Daughter Overnights, GA Overnight and Acteens Splash (includes meals, lodging, program fee)

The 2001 camp information, including poster and registration form, will be available in early January and will be mailed to church GA leaders and Acteens advisors. For further information, contact the Kentucky WMU office (888) 254-5726.

Adopt one of 150 summer missionaries from Kentucky!



Calling all WMU organizations: Sign up now for your summer missionary.

What's involved?

1. Contact LaRaine Dail to reserve your summer missionary today.
2. You'll be matched with a summer missionary in March.



3. Send KY WMU \$10 for a commissioning gift in the spring.

4. Pray for and write your summer missionary throughout the summer.

Calendar

December

- 1 Acteens Activator applications due
- 3-10 Season of International Missions, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal: \$115,000,000

February

- 12-18 Focus on WMU
- 25 Volunteers in Missions Day
- 26-27 KBC Evangelism Conference, Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church

March

- 2-3 Youth Missions Workshop/ Creative Ministries Festival, Louisville, SBTS
- 4-11 On Mission in North America Week, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Goal: \$50,000,000
- 29 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Lexington
- 30-31 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church
- 30 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner, Lexington
- Acteens/ Youth on Mission Dinner, Lexington
- 31 GA/Children in Action Missions Event, Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church

April

- 20-21 Exalt (State Acteens Conference), Bowling Green, Living Hope Baptist
- 28 KBC SALT, FBC Madisonville

Be a Summer Missionary! Be a Cedar Crest Camp Staffer!

POSITIONS	LENGTH OF SERVICE	QUALIFICATIONS	APPLICATION DEADLINE
Unit Leader	6 weeks	College age	Feb. 17
Lifeguard			
Cabin Leader			
Kitchen Coordinator			
Assistant Cabin Leader	5-6 weeks	High School Junior or Senior	Feb. 17
Volunteer Nurse	1 or more weeks	Certified	May 1

For applications and more information about camp positions, contact Kentucky WMU office at (888) 245-5726; P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569; e-mail: kywmucamp@kybaptist.org

Heritage Society

An endowment fund for the purpose of developing, strengthening and sustaining the work of Kentucky WMU was established on April 21, 1990, at the Kentucky WMU annual meeting at Florence Baptist Church. The official name of this endowment fund is Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund. This fund was established through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation as an endowed fund with interest to be received annually by Kentucky WMU. Use of the earnings is determined annual by the development committee of Kentucky WMU following the guidelines established for the Heritage Fund.

One way to give to the Kentucky

WMU Heritage Fund is through a planned gift. At the 2000 WMU Heritage Fund dinner in Bowling Green, Kentucky WMU announced the creation of the Heritage Society to recognize those people who have chosen to make a planned gift to Kentucky WMU. Any person who names Kentucky WMU as beneficiary of any one of the following may be named as a member of the Heritage Society:

- Will.
- Life insurance policy.
- Charitable remainder trust.
- Charitable annuity trust.
- Charitable gift annuity.
- Retirement plan death benefits.
- Other bequests.

Charter membership in the Heritage Society will be open through April 30, 2002. To become a member of the Heritage Society, send a note to Kentucky WMU letting us know that you have included Kentucky WMU in your will or other planned gift. A list of Heritage Society members will be included in Kentucky Notes next summer.

Note: If you indicated on your annual meeting registration (April 2000) that you had included Kentucky WMU in your will, please re-send that information.

For up-to-date information, visit our web site: www.kybaptist.org/kywmu

MISSIONS

Fourth Annual Family Christmas Carol Concert and Hanging of the Green

The Gifts of Christmas

featuring choirs from Hurstbourne,
Valley View (Vine Grove), and
Walnut Street Baptist Churches

along with Southern's Church Music Drama
Theatre, Seminary Oratorio Chorus and
Orchestra, soloists, ensembles and actors.

Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

Alumni Memorial Chapel
2825 Lexington Road

Free Admission
and Parking



Call 897-4115
for information

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Missionaries take message of Jesus to poorest Thai

By Dawn Phillips
SBC International Mission Board

BANGKOK, Thailand (BP)—
Singing. Laughter. The most hilarious
revelers during the Thai New Year cele-
bration. Poverty. Constantly moving
to find work. Despair.

These two extremes reflect one peo-
ple: the 20 million Isaan of northeast-
ern Thailand, a people
group lost in spiritual
darkness.

Four Southern
Baptist missionary
couples and a few na-
tional Christians are
working to bring the
message of Jesus to
the Isaan.

Buddhism teaches
the Isaan that good works and count-
less reincarnations will release them
from this world's suffering, according
to missionary Mark Caldwell. Ani-
mism leads them to make offerings to
spirits for protection from evil or in
gratitude for blessing.

The Isaan region is the poorest in
Thailand. Historically, the Isaan are
poor rice farmers, but in the last two
decades many have migrated to
Bangkok and other cities for work.

Caldwell, his wife, Helen, and their
missionary colleagues attempt to help
meet employment needs through a
ministry known as Thai Country Trim.
Local handcrafts made by village

women are sold overseas. The min-
istry provides income and an oppor-
tunity for the women to hear the gos-
pel from co-workers.

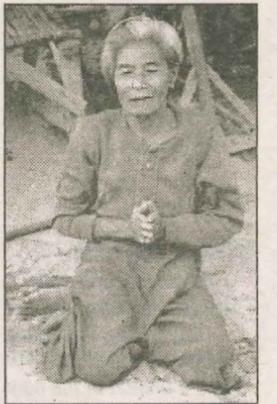
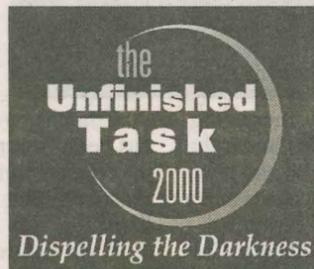
Mobile medical clinics provide
opportunities to meet local govern-
ment authorities, police, and citizens.
Always the good news of Jesus is
shared with patients.

AIDS victims typically are cut
off from family and
friends, so ministry
to them is especial-
ly meaningful.

Traditionally,
the Isaan response
to the gospel has
been very slow.
Fewer than 1 per-
cent claim to be
Christian. Bible
portions have been translated into
Isaan, as well as a few songs and
teaching materials.

Pressure from family and friends
is a problem for Isaan believers. Be-
coming a Christian might be per-
ceived as disrespectful to parents and
instrumental in bringing retribution
from evil spirits to the family.

"If you were able to know an
Isaan well enough that they began
to share their heart, they would also
begin to share of their strong desire
to be free of the power of ambigu-
ous evil spirits and the suffering of
virtually endless reincarnations in
this world," Caldwell said.



THAILAND Southern
Baptists have four
missionaries working to
share the Christian
message with the 20
million Isaan of
northeastern Thailand. The
Isaan are one of eight
people groups that are the
focus during the Week of
Prayer for International
Missions, Dec. 3-10. The
national goal for the Lottie
Moon Christmas Offering
for International Missions
is \$115 million.

The gift of hope

By Robert Dunston

For the past few years, we have
provided devotionals for the Ad-
vent season from the devotional
book the Cumberland College reli-
gion and philosophy department
provides annually for Cumberland
students and faculty. Cumberland
College students and staff mem-
bers wrote the devotion-
al for this year's book.

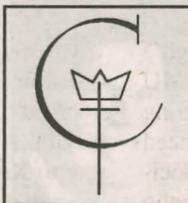
Annette Reynolds,
the daughter of Glenn
and Shelby Reynolds of
Manchester, wrote this
week's devotional on
hope. She is a Cumber-
land College freshman
and a member of our
tennis team. She enjoys
music, art and writing
stories, poetry and
songs.

"With the Christmas season
quickly approaching, we can't
help but have gifts on our minds,
but during this precious season, let
us not forget the greatest gift of
all—the gift of hope. When Jesus
gave His life, He gave everyone
hope and a future. The hope that
He brings us is a beautiful thing.
It cures the soul of what ailed it
yesterday and what it fears tomor-
row; it is the medicine for disease,
disaster and sin. It doesn't disap-
point or break or fade.

"So, when you find yourself

frantically searching for that 'per-
fect gift,' remember that the per-
fect gift cannot be bought. This
Christmas and every Christmas,
give gifts that cannot be lost. Give
the gift that will live on—share
God's message of hope with
someone. Share God's Word with
a child or close friend who may
not know Christ. This gift is great-

**CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE**



er than all the money in
the world, more enjoy-
able than any toy and
more satisfying than
any Christmas treat.
Let hope inspire you
this Christmas season.
Worldly hopes will dis-
appoint. The world and
all its shiny Christmas
bows will pass away; it
has no hope. The safest
and best hope is in

Jesus.

"Thank Jesus for that hope this
Christmas season and share it with
others, for it truly is the greatest
gift of all, not to mention the eas-
iest to wrap."

May your Christmas season be
filled with the true hope that only
comes in Christ.

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

While you were out

I come into my office and there
they are waiting for me: a neat stack
of pink squares with the words
"While You Were Out" at the top.

Many of you know exactly what
I'm visualizing. Those little notes are
harbingers of things missed—some
good, some bad and all of them to
be addressed in some way before I
can move on to other things.

Those little pink notes
really don't tell you much.
Someone's name, a time
and date, a phone number,
then the subjective cate-
gorizing of how important
the message is. Does it
merit a check in the
"rush" box, or does it just
belong in "please call"?
Sometimes my assistant,
Sharon, might come to the
door and give me her take
on the caller's state of
mind. "She said there was
no hurry," or, "He sound-
ed stressed out." But, I've still
missed out. A few words on a sheet
of paper convey little about that en-
counter.

What's my point? At the recent
annual meeting of the Kentucky
Baptist Convention, I was blessed
tremendously by the kind and en-
couraging words many of you gave
to me in Bowling Green. So many
of you thanked me, our board and
our staff for standing firm on tradi-
tional family values. My fellow mes-

sengers passed a resolution of com-
mendation to Kentucky Baptist
Homes for Children for pursuing our
mission with high standards and
treating it like the calling it is. But
so many of the KBHC family missed
out on those encounters. Yes, several
staff attended the convention, but
there were hundreds more who
didn't.

I could send them all a
little pink paper that says:
"While You Were Out,
fulfilling our mission, car-
ing for our kids, Kentucky
Baptists sent you a word
of encouragement and ap-
preciation." I'd mark the
message "urgent" because
I know Kentucky Baptists
want our staff to know
that they are making a dif-
ference in the lives of the
children and families they
serve.

A pink piece of paper
doesn't convey the wishes behind
the resolution. All I can do is prom-
ise you, Kentucky Baptists, that I'll
do my best to let our staff know they
are appreciated by you for their part
in our mission. Thank you for your
encouragement and support.

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

**HOMES FOR
CHILDREN**



Bill Smithwick

MISSIONS

Despite missionary legacy, Bengalis still search for God

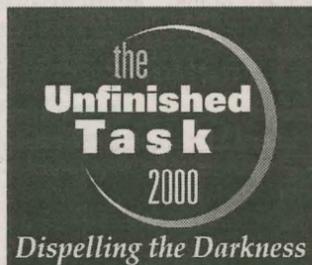
Continued from page 1

power and destruction. Her 300-year-old temple looms in the heart of sprawling Calcutta (the city itself is named for her), which in turn is the heart of the Hindu Bengali world.

In the passage-ways riddling the temple complex, pilgrims mingle with beggars, sleeping homeless, families on holiday, priests, tourists, merchants. It's a microcosm of Calcutta itself, a crumbling giant dominated by a bewildering, exhausting, energizing, terrifying blend of darkness and light, hunger and abundance, filth and luxury, violence and kindness, chaos and a distinctly Bengali kind of order.

For all its poverty and misery, Calcutta still calls itself the "City of Joy."

SEARCH FOR REST For all its poverty and misery, Calcutta still calls itself the "City of Joy." Its many festivals end at the river Hugli, a branch of the holy Ganges, where goddess idols, flowers and the bodies of departed loved ones all float out to their final resting place. (BP photo)



The metropolis of more than 11 million people is nearly always celebrating one festival or another. They all end at the banks of the river Hugli, branch of holy Ganges, where goddess idols, flowers and the bodies of departed loved ones all float out to their final resting place.

Two centuries after Carey began his missionary work in Bengal, "official" Christianity totals less than half of 1 percent of the population.

Church growth, said one observer, has been "marred by divisions within the believers and a non-evangelical atmosphere that has thwarted evangelism."

Poor missions methodology and Western paternalism also have contributed to building a Christian "ghetto" along with periodic hostility from state and national governments, religious persecution and the strong cultural identity of Bengali Hindus.

The Christian movement began promisingly among tribal peoples, untouchables and low-caste groups, but never expanded to reach Hindus in middle and upper castes.

Family opposition, negative social or economic consequences, Hinduism's radical different worldview and many other factors also work to prevent any Indian Hindu from embracing Christ.

Tentative signs indicate things

might be changing in West Bengal:

■ The 11 million Bengali Hindus of Bangladesh, an oppressed minority in a Muslim society, have shown increasing openness to the gospel.

■ Hundreds of groups pray for Calcutta regularly in fervent, specific prayer. New ministries have been launched; new churches have been planted.

■ Several Calcutta Christian leaders report advances among middle- and upper-caste Hindus, white-collar workers, even bankers and lawyers.

■ Works of power, including healings and other miracles, are occurring with increasing frequency in some villages where the gospel is spreading,

says a Bengali Baptist leader.

■ Younger Christians are showing greater boldness and love in sharing Christ with others.

What's it going to take to reach India?

"It's going to take praying for a movement of God over the land," one worker responded.

"It's going to take people who can look beyond the poverty and filth and see people God loves as much as us, and pay the price for seeing Him fulfill His purpose for these people," the worker continued. "It's going to take sacrifice and obedience. It might even take a few giving their lives for the sake of the gospel."

New Heights Baptist Church Choir and Congregation present ...



One Bethlehem Night

Join us for this Broadway-style musical dinner theater experience Dec. 7, 8, 9 and 10—6:30 nightly. 7315 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY 40214.

Call (502) 367-1987 for reservations (Group seating available). Tickets now available: Adults: \$15; Children: \$5

Who were those kids?

Kay and I had a wonderful week at the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Bowling Green. Messengers were able to hear from two of our seniors, Matt and Liza. I used most of my 10-minute allotment of time to allow each of them to tell a little about themselves and what Oneida Baptist Institute has meant to them.

Liza was first, and the most nervous. I had warned them there would be a lot of people. That reality became more obvious as the time for their speeches drew near. Matt did not appear to be terribly anxious, but Liza was getting a little shaky. I could see the fear in her eyes. I had written about Liza earlier this year in the July 11 edition of the Western Recorder:

"Nearly half of our students enroll with failing grades. We were delighted this year when about 45 percent of our students were on the A or B honor roll. Three of our juniors earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

"One of those students, Liza, came to (OBI) three years ago from Missouri with failing grades. She did not go from failing to honor roll status overnight.

While her grades did begin to improve soon after coming to OBI, it took three years to earn the 4.0.

"Liza was also voted by the faculty and deans to receive the Most Improved Junior Girl Award. While she knew she had earned the highest GPA award, neither she nor the staff knew she had earned the Most Improved Award until it was presented.

"The biggest surprise was yet to come. Liza also received the Brad Dorrough Friendship Award. This is the only award voted on by the students and includes a 'full' one-year scholarship to OBI. What a wonderful treat it was to see a student make so much progress in just three years."

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Liza noted in her speech that she did not have the best attitude during her first year and a half at OBI. In fact, when she went home at Christmas during her sophomore year, she decided not to return. While we did not believe this was a wise decision, we were somewhat relieved that she would not be here with her negative attitude. After being home for three weeks, she called to see if she could return. The conversation was short and to the point. "Liza," I said, "if you want to come back and do

what you have been doing for the past year and a half, which is nothing, just stay home. But if you want to return so you can make better grades and have a better attitude, we would love for you to come." The next week, Liza returned with a new attitude and a desire to learn.

Matt always has been a good student for us. His brother, Ben, was also a wonderful student and graduated from OBI in 1995. When we heard that Matt was coming, we expected another fine young man like Ben. We have not been disappointed. In addition to being an honor roll student, Matt is an outstanding Christian leader on our campus. Faculty, staff and students respect this quiet but committed leader and student. Matt's passion is basketball. In fact, he warned me that he would rather not speak at the convention if he had to miss the opening basketball game of the season.

Kentucky Baptists can be very satisfied with the investment they have made in the lives of these two outstanding young people.

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

New dimensions for a distinguished career

Bill and Glenda Tichenor have a retirement experience with three annual seasons. They teach at Clear Creek August through December, enjoy Florida January through March, and he supply preaches or holds an interim pastorate in Western Kentucky April through July. "It is an excellent combination," Tichenor said.

In 1997 Tichenor retired as pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton and joined our faculty as distinguished professor of pastoral ministries in August 1998. "This is our third semester at Clear Creek, and I am convinced it was the right decision. I've never done anything in ministry that is more fulfilling than right now," Tichenor stated. He hasn't lacked for preaching opportunities,

"Last year I preached from Kings Mountain, Ky., to New Tazewell, Tenn."

Tichenor, 1995-96 KBC president, teaches two classes each fall—introduction to ministry and winter Bible study, the book of the Bible that is featured among Southern Baptist churches. Mrs. Tichenor usually teaches an English composition class and sometimes teaches fine arts and humanities.

"Mrs. Tichenor challenges us to

reach our highest potential in written communication," student Christina Gatlin said.

Tichenor noted, "Some of the students, when they come, have great difficulty with academic discipline, but their desire to learn and grow overcomes the problem and it is so encouraging to see them blossom and develop in ministry skills."

Their experience has been so positive that Mrs. Tichenor even raised the option of teaching both semesters.

The first semester the Tichenors were on campus, they lived in Kelly Hall. "We had a wonderful time visiting with students as we sat in the front porch rocking chairs," Mrs. Tichenor said. Tichenor added, "Relationships and interaction with students are the most

meaningful part of our experience. They are the reason we're here."

They now bring their RV and park it in the Harmony Heights student housing area. Tichenor commutes to class in a golf cart.

"They have a very special relationship with each other and are great role models for students," student neighbor Greg Harris remarked.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Baptist mission study highlights spiritual needs in Turkey

By Sammie Jo Barstow
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)— Things change; things stay the same.

Perhaps there is no country where this is more true than modern-day Turkey. Contrasts in culture, government and religion during the past two centuries are readily apparent in this country which is the focus of "Dispelling the Darkness in Turkey," the 2000 International Mission Study published by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

The study is part of Southern Baptists' international missions emphasis, set for Dec. 3-10.

WMU published the material in cooperation with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. The emphasis also includes the Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The study is designed to be a churchwide event with study material available for adults, teens, children and preschoolers. Students of all ages will learn about the history of Christianity in Turkey; the rise of Islam, with a description of its beliefs; and the modern culture and religious climate of the country. Emphasis also will be placed on how Christians in the United States can be directly involved in missions in Turkey through individual and corporate prayer; strategic partnerships; and unique ministries such as Pen Friends who write

gospel letters each month to Turkish families.

Mary Lou Serratt of Beeville, Texas, wrote the adult study book, "Dispelling the Darkness in Turkey," and the study guide to accompany it. Serratt outlines the country's history, geography, culture, people and Southern Baptist efforts in the country today.

Present-day Turkey includes the territory of Paul's three missionary journeys almost 2,000 years ago. He and other believers planted churches and witnessed the conversion to Christianity of thousands of citizens in cities such as Ephesus and Antioch. The seven

churches named in the New Testament book of Revelation were in the area known today as Turkey.

While Turkey has no state religion and religious freedom is a constitutional guarantee, Islam is the predominant religion in the nation today. Muslims constitute 99.5 percent of the country's religious affiliation, with Christians and Jews claiming only 0.2 percent of the population.

How could an area boasting such strong early Christians in the time of Paul, Barnabas and John Mark evolve into a country where Christians now comprise such a minority? The answer spans centuries and many cultural changes, beginning primarily with the overthrow of the government in 1071 by the Seljuks, a Muslim people from Central Asia, Serratt writes.

The Crusades waged by Christians in Western Europe left a trail of death and destruction and a negative image of Christians that still prevails today, she explains. During the Ottoman reign, beginning in the 1300s, Christians were at least treated, but in the late 1800s a dictatorship was established by Sultan Abdul-Hamid II, and religious persecution became common. Many Turkish Christians died for their beliefs.

For much of the 20th century, Serratt notes, unrest was prevalent through government overthrows, terrorist acts by radical groups, bombings and kidnappings. Battles with Kurdish rebels began in the 1980s. Today, however, Turkey has a parliamentary democracy. The current constitution, adopted in 1982, has ushered in improvements in many areas including free elections and religious freedom.

The nation's history of turmoil contrasts drastically with the general characteristics of the Turkish people. Serratt describes them as sensitive, contemplative, courteous, hospitable and proud of their nation and heritage.

Parental respect is highly valued, and gender roles are traditional, she explains. The oldest male is the authority figure for the family, and women are responsible for homemaking and child care.

The contrast between the past and present is clearly seen in the people. For example, many women still wear modest, traditional long skirts and long-sleeved blouses, while others

work as teachers, industrial laborers and journalists. It is not unusual to see a woman riding in a luxurious automobile on the same street with a woman riding in a horse-drawn cart.

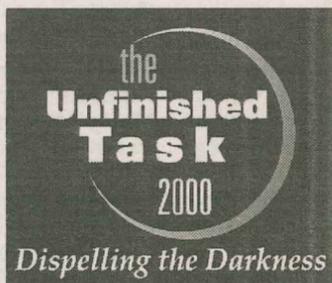
But what about Christian mission efforts today in Turkey? How will the Turks be reached with the gospel? What is the climate for Turkish Christians? Serratt dedicates two chapters to answering these questions, noting that the Southern Baptist response to the country's August 1999 earthquake has opened many doors for witness.

"Many Turks are in a time of cultural transition," Serratt writes. "They are open to new ideas about life in general, including religion. God's power is at work in this atmosphere."

"It is not our job to moan about ... darkness," Serratt concludes in the book's introduction. "No! It is our responsibility to be transmitters of God's light so the entire world will be drawn to our light source."

In addition to the age-level materials, a promotion kit for the study also is available from WMU. The IMB 2000 International Missions Emphasis Video also is available to enhance the study. Videos were mailed to all Southern Baptist churches. Additional videos may be ordered by e-mail at resource.center@imb.org or by phone toll-free at (800) 866-3621.

To purchase or learn more about the study materials, call WMU's customer service at (800) 968-7301 or visit WMU's Web site at www.wmu.com.



Present-day Turkey includes the territory of the apostle Paul's three missionary journeys almost 2,000 years ago.

WORLD VIEW

■ Kazaks get first New Testament.

For the first time in history Kazaks can read the entire New Testament in their own language. Bible League officials recently completed the second edition of the Kazak Holy Book, which contains the entire New Testament and 16 Old Testament books. It took scholars 10 years to translate the New Testament into Kazak. About half of the 44,000 first-run Kazak Scriptures already have been distributed to churches and mission agencies. Wally Kulakoff, the Bible League's director of Central Asia ministries, said the number of known Kazak Christians has increased from six to 6,000 during the past decade.

■ REAP to aid "micro" groups.

Southern Baptist missionaries have developed a "Rapid Entry and Advance Plan" to start and rapidly multiply churches among the sparsely populated "micro" people groups of western South America. Most of the indigenous tribes, consisting of 5,000 to 25,000 people each, have no evangelical church and no opportunity to hear the gospel in their language. There are more than 90 such groups scattered throughout Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru. REAP is designed for churches or associations to make a long-term commitment to help reach peo-

ple in areas where missionaries currently are not serving. For information about REAP, contact Doug Floyd at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board at (800) 999-3113, ext. 1358.

■ Honduras ponders Bible reading.

The fate of a law that would require schools in Honduras to start the school day with a 10-minute reading from the Bible is now in the hands of the nation's president. If President Carlos Flores follows the lead of the Central American nation's Congress, required Bible reading would begin next year. Church leaders in the nation are divided on the issue. Supporters say the practice will help combat social ills, while critics contend the law would violate the nation's constitutional separation between church and state.

■ Probe of attacks in India urged.

Christian church leaders in India are asking the Indian government to investigate any link between Hindu fundamentalist groups and anti-Christian attacks across India with the "same zeal" it has shown toward Muslim involvement in the attacks. Indian police have claimed recent bomb attacks were carried out by Muslim groups in an effort to discredit Hindu groups. Christians in

India have suffered approximately 50 attacks this year and more than 300 attacks since 1998.

■ Methodists target land minds.

United Methodist leaders have committed \$1 million for a land mine removal project in Mozambique, according to officials of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The project will seek to return agricultural land, transportation routes and the grounds of social institutions to full productivity. Mozambique, which concluded a long civil war in 1992, is considered one of the most mined nations in the world, with an estimated 1 million land mines strewn throughout the country.

■ North Korea seeks support.

North Korea needs long-term economic development just as much as food to rebound from famine, according to an official with the World Vision humanitarian agency. Wattanapong Santatiwat, vice president of the agency's Asia Pacific regional office, said aid workers "are trying to help them to help themselves in the long run." A recent typhoon and months of dry weather could lead to a loss of about 1.4 million tons of grain, according to North Korean officials.

French communists turn to Jesus for support—sort of

PARIS (RNS)—What do you do when your finances are shaky, your popularity is sliding and your boss faces charges of influence peddling?

If you're the French Communist Party, you turn to Jesus.

In a move that may send Karl Marx spinning in his grave, the embattled party recently launched an extravagant art show featuring French paintings and sculptures with Jesus as the theme.

Billed as a bow to the millennium, "Jesus and Humanity" has drawn skepticism and praise from religious observers.

"The point is, we are in France—not anywhere else," said Jean Marc Bouchez, part of the party's art show team. "You can be a Communist and still believe in God. This is quite possible, you know. The main thing is we can agree about the forces that limit the possibilities of human development."

Running until December and free to the public, the latest exhibition features works by 30 French artists. Most are contemporary, a few from centuries past. They include an array of crosses and abstract portraits of Jesus, and a dominating theme of red, black and white.

These days, the French Communist Party needs all the support it can muster. Over the past few years, the party's ranks have plummeted from 500,000 to fewer than 200,000 members, and it is struggling to remain in the black. During the 1997 legislative elections, Communists secured only 9.9 percent of the vote.

Perhaps of greater concern, the party's leader, Robert Hue, is implicated in charges the party offered municipal water concessions to a French company that poured \$2.6 million into its coffers during the early 1990s. If convicted, Hue faces up to 15 months in prison.

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:

■ Endurance for the students in the three-year program at the Bible School in Shinyanga, Tanzania, and the four teachers who instruct them.

■ The Arusha International Church in Tanzania.

■ The English language school at First Baptist Church of Wroclaw, Poland, which is in need of teachers.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ BRONSTON—Quinton Church called **Roy Helm** as pastor beginning Nov. 5.

■ CARROLLTON—Whites Run Church called **Robert Phalen** of North Vernon, Ind., as pastor.

■ ENGLISH—English Church called **Tavis Laney**, a student at Southern Seminary, as pastor.

■ GHENT—Ghent Church called **Bob Whitter** as pastor. Whitter previously was a physical trainer for the Cincinnati Reds.

■ HENDERSON—Community Church will host **Cameron Mills** Dec. 3 at 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. For information, call (270) 830-9057. **John Dunaway** is pastor.

■ LONDON—**Phillip Rosebaum**, former director of missions for Russell County Association, died Oct. 28. The burial was Oct. 30 at Calvary Church. He is survived by his wife, Reba, a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren.

■ LOUISVILLE—Gethsemane Church called **George Cavanah** as minister of music. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

■ WADDY—Graefenburg Church called **Fred Moffatt** as interim pastor, beginning Nov. 16.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

West Region

■ MADISONVILLE—First Church will present "Return to Bethlehem," a living walk-through drama Dec. 9, 11 and 12 at 5-8 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 2-4 p.m. For reservations, call (270) 821-3611.

Western Region

■ BOWLING GREEN—Greenwood Church adult choir will present the musical "Mary, Did You Know?" Dec. 9 and 10 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call (270) 781-2378. **Doug Boyles** is minister of music and **James Doyel** is pastor.

■ MORGANFIELD—Morganfield

First Church's children will present the musical "The Plane Truth About Christmas" Dec. 2 and 3 at 6 p.m. The youth will present the musical "Come, Emmanuel" Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. **Mark Galloway** is pastor.

■ OWENSBORO—Zion Church will host a "Hanging of the Green" service Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. The adult choir will present "An Evening in December" accompanied by pianist **Huntley Brown** Dec. 10 at 6:30. For information, call (270) 826-4952. **Eddie Davis** is pastor.

Central Region

■ LOUISVILLE—Beechmont Church's youth, college and career choir will present "Extreme Christmas: Not a Silent Night" Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m.; and the children's choir will present "The Little Drummer Boy Behind the Music" Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 368-5806. **Ken Bryan** is minister of music and **James Ward** is pastor.

West Broadway Church will host a "Hanging of the Green" service Dec. 3 at 6 p.m.; the youth will present a Christmas drama Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. **Brian Jones** is minister of youth and

Skip Alexander is pastor.

■ MT. WASHINGTON—Mt. Washington First Church senior adult choir will present "Memories of a Merry Christmas" Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 538-7361. **Steve Florence** is minister of music and **Travis Collins** is pastor.

North Central Region

■ VERSAILLES—Versailles Church will host a "Hanging of the Green" service Dec. 3 at 7 p.m.; the sanctuary choir will present "Christmas Celebration" Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. **Greg Brewton** is minister of music and **John Brandon** is pastor.

The Hispanic mission of Versailles Church will present "Christmas of the Americas" concert featuring **Jorge and Marly Moreno** Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at Versailles Church. For information, call (859) 254-7747.

Southern Region

■ LEITCHFIELD—Leitchfield First Church children's ministry will present "Christmas in Egypt" Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., Dec. 2 at 2 and 6 p.m., Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. **Kenneth Sexton** is minister of music and children and **Harold Barnes** is interim pastor.

Historic lawn now battleground for church-state fight

LEXINGTON, Mass. (RNS)—The first battlefield of the American Revolution has become the latest battleground in the fight for religious expression in the public square.

A group is suing the town of Lexington, Mass., for the right to continue displaying its Nativity scene on the historic Lexington Green, where Colonial minutemen fired the famous shot heard 'round the world to begin the War for Independence in 1775.

The manger scene with Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the town green has a history of its own, dating back more than 70 years. That tradition could end this year, however, if a federal district court upholds a new town ordinance that bans "unattended structures" on the green.

Members of the Lexington Board of Selectmen have said the green could become a "circus" if any religious group can erect a display. But a local chapter of the Knights of Columbus says the town is instead violating every group's constitutional rights.

"It's religious expression. Under the Constitution, you can't deny it," Grand Knight Michael O'Sullivan said.

The Knights of Columbus, a Roman Catholic fraternal group, chose to bring the case to federal rather than state court because the right to religious expression is based primarily on the U.S. Constitution, O'Sullivan said. Critics of the suit have suggested moving the manger scene to a nearby church lawn, but the Knights say that would miss the point.

Church property "is not a public forum," O'Sullivan said. A federal court in Boston will hear arguments in the case Nov. 29.

Report: Schools' studies of faith have mixed results

By Shelvia Dancy
Religion News Service

ROSSLYN, Va. (RNS)—State mandates are increasingly requiring public schools to integrate religion into the curriculum for social studies classes, but those mandates are not without flaws themselves, a joint report from the First Amendment Center and the Council on Islamic Education has concluded.

"Language framing the study of religion in U.S. history is generally fair and neutral," the report concluded, but noted: "In most states, however, the language is too general to provide a clear indication of how accurate instruction on each tradition will be."

Before the start of their senior year, most students in public schools in the nation "will have been exposed to the

basic outlines of the major world religions," the report found.

And though students also will have been exposed to religion's role in U.S. society and the origins of the U.S. government, most exposure to religion occurs between the sixth and ninth grades, "and relatively little is found elsewhere."

Students often are given an incomplete picture of religion in world history, the report states.

"With some exceptions, very little content on religion is written into state world history standards for the period after 1800 in European history, and after 1500 in non-Western cultures," the report said. "All students will have been exposed to information about the role of religion in American history before 1800, but they will receive little additional information during their

studies of 19th and 20th century U.S. history."

The inclusion of religion in state educational guidelines offers no real guarantee those guidelines will be adopted in the classroom, the report concluded. To help achieve that goal, schools should make sure teachers are trained to teach about religion, and textbook manufacturers should produce textbooks that are more inclusive of different faiths, the report suggested.

Failure to do so is a disservice to students, said Charles Haynes, a senior scholar at the First Amendment Center.

"We're not advocating one religion over another," Haynes said. "But to move from that model to another model where religion is completely left out of school, where schools are seen as religion-free zones, is wrong."

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Scottsville Road Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Call (270) 843-6645 if interested.

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: Salvisa Baptist Church is presently searching for a part-time minister of youth. Please send resume to: Personnel Committee, Salvisa Baptist Church, PO Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372.

SEEKING: Mount Olivet Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of youth and children. Ideal candidate is responsible for coordinating ministries to youth and assisting Children's Ministry Council in ministry to children. Send biographical sketch to: Search Committee, 15583 Coatesville Road, Beaverdam, VA 23015.

SEEKING: Immediate need for full-time administrative assistant for growing church. Experience preferred with emphasis on Word, Excel and desktop publishing. Send resume to: Personnel Chairman, West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

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: First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resumes for minister to families with children. This position is an opportunity for a high-energy individual, preferably seminary trained, to minister with preschoolers and children, their parents and leaders. Inclusive in theology and creative in ministry, FBC is supportive of both SBC and CBF. Resumes should be mailed to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402.

SEEKING: Immediate need for full-time administrative assistant for growing church. Experience necessary with emphasis on Microsoft Word and Excel as well as desktop publishing. Please forward resume to: Personnel Chairman, Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, 4695 Hardinsburg Road, Cecilia, KY 42724.

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: 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: 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.

PEOPLE

Seminary students help high schoolers defend their faith

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Seven generations ago, Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species" challenged Christianity as a viable worldview.

Several months ago, Darwin's seventh great-grandson began challenging Christian students at Seneca High School in Louisville with similar questions.

Darwin's descendant and other members of a newly formed "Secular Club" at the school began to raise questions that Seneca's Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter could not answer.

The FCA members turned to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students Jeremy Blythe and Tim Boyce for apologetic aid.

"The Christian students were getting a lot of challenges," said Boyce, a master of divinity student from Owenton. "Evidently, about all they (the Secular Club members) did was come up with theories about how they could knock down Christianity."

Boyce, who was on the FCA speakers' list, was invited to give apologetic presentations at the school. He called Blythe, an advanced master of divinity student, for assistance. In

three FCA meetings in October, the two tackled three questions in particular which the Secular Club had raised: Are all religions equal? Is Darwinism correct? Does God exist?

Each 30-minute presentation included an audience of both Secular Club and FCA members. A time of questions and answers followed each session.

"We covered almost anything you can think of in Q&A—all the way down to biblical authority, authorial intent," Boyce said. Discussions sometimes lasted more than two hours. But, the 30 students in attendance—divided evenly among atheists and Christians—stayed the duration.

"The atheists were by far the most vocal," Blythe said.

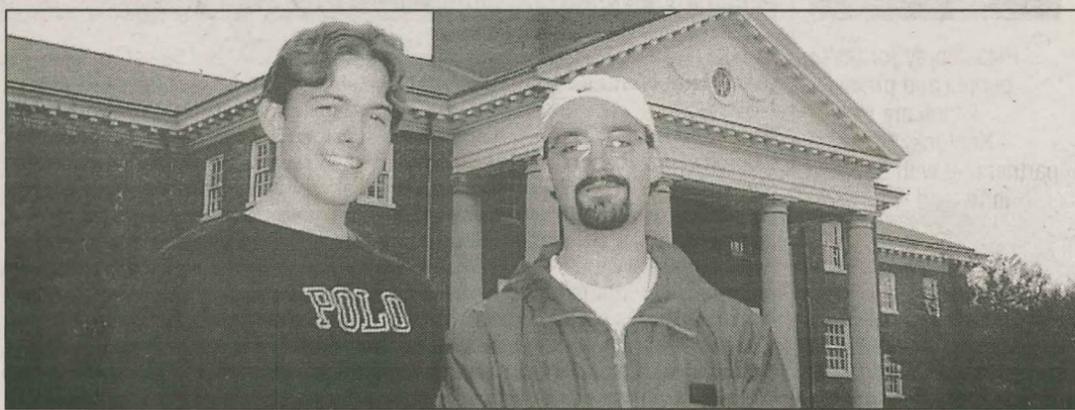
The Secular Club members "paid closer attention too," Boyce added.

The two apologists said the students' reactions during the presentations varied.

"When I was presenting any argument, all the Christians would smile," Blythe said.

The atheists just looked contemplative.

"For the atheists, I think it really caused them to think more analytically," Blythe said. "But for the Chris-



tians, I think it really buttressed their faith."

Blythe and Boyce said the Christians probably benefited the most.

"They're just wanting to grow in grace and grow in being able to be a witness," Blythe said. "They want more information, and they really want to be a bolder witness."

Both students said they plan to continue working with local schools to share apologetic tools with youth. Boyce already has made plans to begin a youth apologetics and evangelistic ministry.

And the two Southern students said they hope they shifted opinions of some of the secular students at

Seneca.

In fact, Boyce said they already have. Darwin's seventh great-grandson has begun to weigh the Christian worldview carefully, Boyce said.

"I'm going to work with him during Christmas break and set up a Web site," he said. The site will seek to encourage interfaith discussion of worldviews.

"Really the best thing that we can do for high school students is to let them see that Christianity coheres with reality and that every other worldview is ultimately not science," Blythe said. "It is simply a suppression of the (Christian) worldview and a desire to erect another god in its place."

APOLOGISTS Jeremy Blythe (left) and Tim Boyce, students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, recently helped a high school Fellowship of Christian Athletes group explain their faith to a "Secular Club" of atheists and skeptics. (BP photo)

Florida college turns election crisis into ministry opportunity

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (BP)—When hundreds of journalists and politicians descended upon this coastal Florida city in search of the nation's next president, the president of Palm Beach Atlantic College saw a unique ministry opportunity for his Christian students.

Better known for its sandy white beaches and extravagant seaside mansions, Palm Beach County, with its small Baptist college, quickly became ground-zero in the battle over the Nov. 7 presidential election.

After an unprecedented debate over the future of the U.S. presidency, Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, the state's chief monitor of elections, certified results from all the state's counties Nov. 26, including Palm Beach County, giving Texas gov-

ernor George W. Bush a 537-vote margin over Vice President Al Gore.

Democrats and Republicans have levied charges of voting irregularities after some Democratic voters in Palm Beach County complained they misread the punch-card ballots and cast their vote for Reform Party candidate Patrick Buchanan instead of Gore.

Located in downtown West Palm Beach, the Baptist college found itself in the nation's spotlight on Nov. 11 when CNN broadcast three programs from the school's campus, using students and faculty as audience members.

For Palm Beach Atlantic President Paul Corts, the presence of CNN on campus turned out to be a ministry opportunity of global proportions.

"When we were asked to host CNN by our local convention and visitors'

bureau, we looked at the very first line of our purpose statement," Corts said. "It says, 'We exist to serve.'"

So while some schools might have shied away from inviting a secular television organization onto their campuses, Corts said he saw it as an opportunity to implement lifestyle evangelism.

"Christ's persona was all about service," he said. "And that's our fundamental message here at the college. And with the current situation involving the presidency, we saw an opportunity to serve not only the country, but also the world."

In other words, Corts said, the national election crisis provides a chance for evangelical Christians to share the love of Jesus.

"We had a staff liaison who stayed with the CNN people for 72 hours dur-

ing that weekend," Corts said. "And they were very impressed with the attitude of our students and faculty."

"One of the CNN crew related a story to me that a student even apologized after one of the programs for being a bit rowdy," he said. "But I can't say enough wonderful things about our students. They maintained a Christlike spirit during the programs."

As for the CNN crew, Corts said he was pleasantly surprised by their kindness and thoughtfulness during the weekend tapings. "The CNN family urged their staff to be respectful and they were," he said.

And the news crews, sometimes given to expressing themselves with "colorful metaphors," managed to guard their tongues during their visit, Corts noted.

Billy Graham crusade director ready to load up his family and move to another town

By Kristi Hodge
Florida Baptist Convention

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The Billy Graham Crusade in Jacksonville, Fla., is history, but for crusade director Scott Lenning it's time to move on to the next crusade, destination yet unknown.

Lenning's family soon will move for the 17th time in 17 years to lay groundwork a year in advance of Billy Graham's next crusade.

Moving has become such a way of life for Scott and Tami Lenning and their three children that they've placed a specialty license plate on their van that reads, "MOVNAGN."

"Moving again" would make it hard for many families to make new friends, but the

Lennings say one benefit of their travels is the friendships they have established across the United States.

The family seeks out a newly started church in each crusade city, where they find it easier to make friends than in a larger and established congregation.

In Jacksonville, the Lennings worshipped at The Church at Chet's Creek, a Baptist church formed in 1998 in a rapidly growing area of town. Lenning said they were drawn to the contemporary services held at an elementary school and to the home Bible studies that allowed them to get to know people quickly.

Referring to his family as "professional newcomers," Lenning said, "new churches are easier for us to plug into, because everyone is new."

"I like the freshness of a new church," he said. "Trying to become established as a church is a lot of work, but it's also exciting. We always take this freshness with us to our next location."

Bible study leader Christy Mobley said the Lennings have been prayer partners with her and her husband, David, who also leads the small group.

"They've been such an encouragement to us," she said. "They are always upbeat, even though they have the strain of moving every year."

There are both benefits and tradeoffs to having an integral part in Billy Graham crusades. The Lennings have scrapbooks filled with pictures of friends they've gained over the years and memories of seeing thousands come to know Christ.

But they've also never had a Christmas tree, since they are usually in the process of moving during the holiday season. Born in three different U.S. cities, children Jonathan, 12, Brittany, 9, and Scottie Marie, 7, go to a different school every year.

But spending family time in a closely-knit congregation has drawn the family closer, Lenning said.

"The Lennings have become part of our family," said Stephen Hogan, pastor of The Church at Chet's Creek. "They've never made a big deal of their roles in the crusade, other than to ask for our prayers that God would work in a mighty way through it. So, we know them as our friends. We hate to lose them when they leave, but we know that they will also be a blessing to their next church family."

Dispel the Darkness

Week of Prayer for International Missions

December 3-10, 2000

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

National Goal: \$115,000,000