



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Kentucky study shows parents' impact on kids going to church

By Mark Wingfield  
*Texas Baptist Standard*

HOUSTON (ABP)—The best way for parents to ensure their children will attend church once they leave home is to make a regular practice of attending church as a family while the kids live at home.

That's the conclusion of a yearlong study in Louisville by Carol Lytch, coordinator of Lilly Endowment programs for strengthening congregational leadership at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

She presented her findings during the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Houston this fall.

"Families who cultivate the collective understanding that 'our family attends church' tend to produce teens who believe they should be there," she said.

Over a year's time, Lytch followed the lives of 41 high school seniors in Louisville. The teens were at least loosely affiliated with Catholic, evangelical Protestant or mainline Protestant churches. She interviewed both the teens and their parents, and she attended school and church functions to observe their lives.

Issues of race, class and social status were largely held constant to focus strictly on the issue of how faith values are transmitted to teens in a particular sample. The sample was almost all white, middle-class and suburban.

The focal question she asked the high school seniors was, "Do you intend to be active in the church after you leave home?"

While admittedly a premature  See Kentucky study ..., page 8

## Lottie's legacy

*Christmas offering helps Kentuckian's work in Zambia*

By Sue Sprenkle  
*SBC International Mission Board*

KALANTA, Zambia—There was no room left in the small, one-room school, but two more people squeezed in.

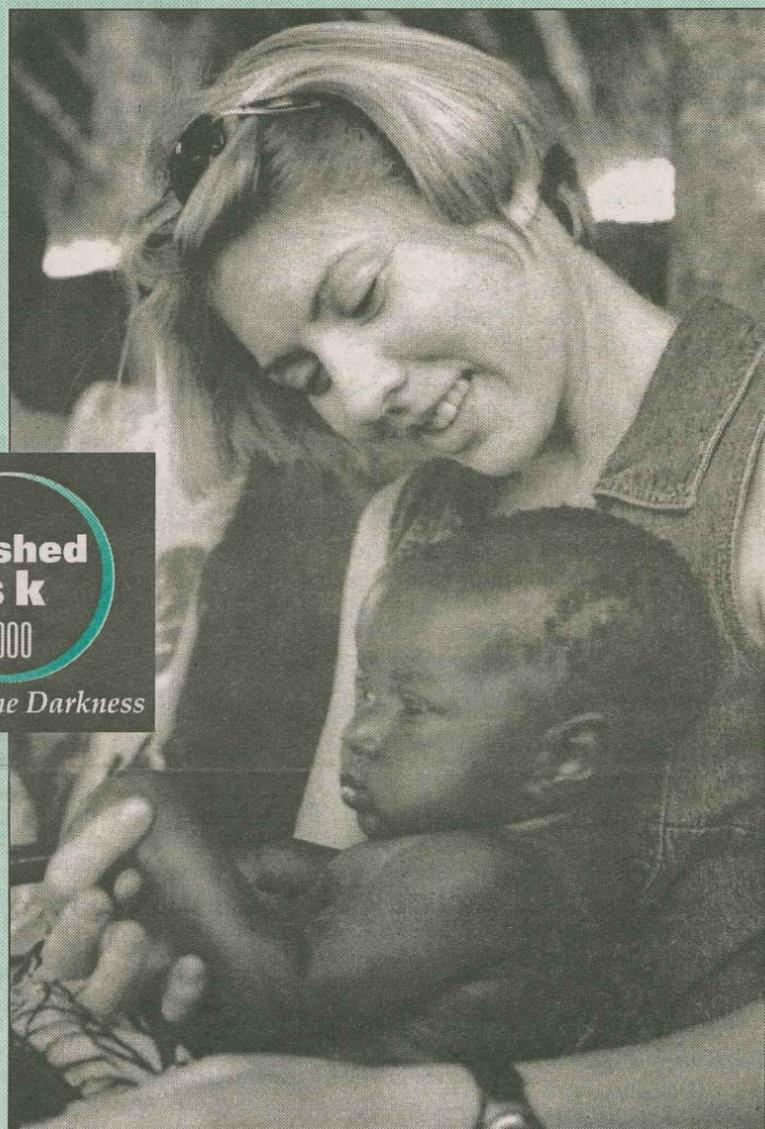
Still more found rocks, stood on them outside the building and poked their heads through the open windows.

It wasn't every day that a movie showed in this Zambian village. In fact, people walked from several villages in the rain just to watch the "Jesus" film brought by Southern Baptist missionaries.

A few weeks earlier, a small group of Christians began meeting in the school and asked for help in starting a church.

A team of missionaries and Zambian Baptist leaders were glad to help out. They've had plenty of practice in starting new churches and preaching points. This year alone more than 100 churches were started throughout Zambia.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board strategy coordinators Mike and Lindy Howard take to the road most weekends with several of their Zambian Baptist leaders. Sometimes the group uses the "Jesus" film as a way to introduce and illustrate the sacrifice Jesus made, while other  See Kentuckian in Zambia ..., page 7



**ZAMBIA MISSIONARY** Southern Baptist missionary Amy Perry from Carlisle County plays with a Zambian baby during a women's Bible study. Perry has been in Zambia for about a month and will work with youth discipleship. She is among the nearly 5,000 missionaries whose work is aided by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's offering goal is \$115 million. (IMB photo by Grace Robinette)

the  
**Unfinished  
Task**  
2000

*Dispelling the Darkness*

## Task force seeking to help churches attract, retain young adults

By Brenda Smith  
*Kentucky Baptist Convention*

LOUISVILLE—Young adults have a message for Kentucky Baptist churches: "Keep it real."

Today's young adults yearn for authenticity, for a real life-changing encounter with God and for genuine, active faith, according to Darryl Wilson.

For the past year, Wilson, a staff member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school department, has led a KBC team that is studying ways to help Kentucky Baptist churches integrate 19- to 33-year-olds into the congregation's life and structure.

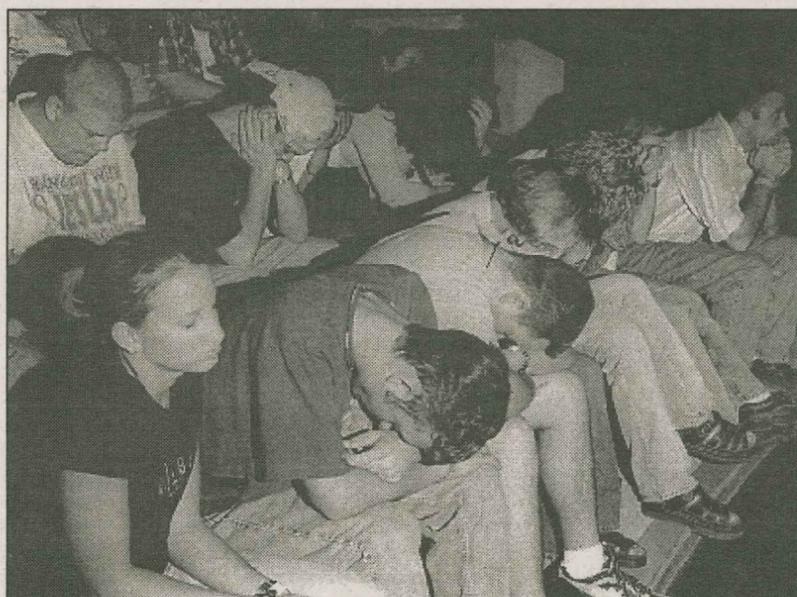
Today's younger adults "see so much that is not authentic," Wilson explained. "Growing up as the children of the divorce culture left many people

in this age group with the sense that even the most intimate and sacred commitments are an illusion," he said. They watched their parents get "downsized" during the corporate restructuring of the 1980s and learned that jobs are not secure.

But young adults also are looking for an experience with God, according to Wilson's group. While young adults seem to gravitate toward contemporary music or drama, what they really are seeking is participation in a worship experience. Young adults will even embrace very structured liturgical worship as long as it is driven by a genuine, heartfelt expression, Wilson said.

Churches, meanwhile, need the energy and desire for genuine relationships that young adults bring, Wilson said.

See Task force offers ..., page 3



**PRAYER TIME** Young adults pray during an evangelistic rally in Frankfort earlier this year. A team of Kentucky Baptist Convention employees has been studying ways to help churches attract and retain younger adults. Reaching young adults is one of five issues that KBC "cluster groups" have identified as important to virtually all churches.

The  
Big  
**5**

Issues every church should address

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, December 6

## Kentucky native nominated to lead Midwestern Seminary

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Kentucky native Phil Roberts will be nominated as the fourth president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Presidential search committee chairman Carl Weiser announced Nov. 28 that Roberts is the committee's unanimous choice for the position. He currently is vice president of strategic cities for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Roberts, who spoke in a seminary chapel service Nov. 28, will be voted on by trustees during a called board meeting Jan. 8-9, 2000. If elected, he will succeed Mark Coppenger who was fired last year by trustees. The seminary leaders concluded that Coppenger's repeated expressions of anger toward staff members and others "ir-

reparably damaged his ability to lead this seminary." Michael Whitehead, Midwestern's vice president for business affairs, has served as acting president since Coppenger's dismissal.



Roberts

Weiser described Roberts as "an outstanding Christian leader and theologian." He said the seven-member search committee "believes they are recommending God's man for Midwestern."

Roberts said he accepted the nomination "with a definite sense of God's leading."

The search committee, appointed in October 1999, specified their desire to seek a nominee who will emphasize Midwestern's goal of having "a heart for the Midwest," has strong pastoral leanings and academic credentials and is supportive of the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Roberts has been pastor of international Baptist congregations in Belgium, England and Germany. He has defended conservative theology in a wide range of settings among Catholic, Mormon and secular audiences.

Most recently he coordinated a project in which several Southern Baptists and other evangelical leaders drafted a declaration on religious freedom. The June 2000 document presented a response to those who contend that sharing an evangelistic witness will "undermine a peaceful, pluralistic society and may lead to intolerance, bigotry and even violence." The statement affirmed: "Only a society that permits free discourse within the robust marketplace of ideas envisioned by America's founders can safeguard the true liberty, freedom and human dignity we all pursue."

Roberts led NAMB's partnership plan for reaching Strategic Focus Cities such as Chicago and Phoenix since

his appointment in 1999. He also directed NAMB's ministries at the United Nations in New York City and ministries to government leaders in Washington.

Roberts, a native of Danville, served five years as director of interfaith evangelism for NAMB and the former Home Mission Board. He previously served as missions and evangelism professor at both Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Roberts is the son of the late Ray Roberts, the first executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

The co-author of the books, "Mormonism Unmasked" and "The Counterfeit Gospel of Mormonism," he holds degrees from the Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Southern Seminary and Georgetown College.

### IMB missionary killed in Texas 5-vehicle crash

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary was killed and his wife and two children were seriously injured Nov. 27 in a five-vehicle crash on Interstate 35 south of San Antonio, Texas.

Roger Berno, 48, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board general evangelist in Zacatecas, Mexico, was pronounced dead at the scene by emergency response personnel. His wife, Cynthia, also 48, and their two children, Shaundra and Sean, both 13, were hospitalized with serious injuries.

The family had been visiting relatives following the death of Berno's mother in Dewar, Okla. They were returning to Mexico when the wreck occurred about 4:25 p.m. in a construction zone six miles south of Dilley, Texas. The family's car was crushed against a concrete barricade by a tractor-trailer rig.

The Bernos, natives of Oklahoma, were appointed as missionaries in 1991.

## CBF policy against funding pro-gay groups impacts two schools

ATLANTA (ABP)—An anti-homosexual "organizational value" recently approved by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is putting the funding spotlight on two of the 11 theological education "partners" that receive partial funding from the Atlanta-based moderate organization.

The Fellowship's key leadership council adopted in October a new policy barring financial support of "organizations that condone, advocate or affirm homosexual practice."

The policy, described by a CBF leader as "welcoming but not affirming" of gays, still would allow funding of scholarships for students at schools with an open admissions policy that includes sexual orientation. It could place the future of Baptist studies programs at two Methodist universities at risk, however, because they rely on CBF money for operating support.

Administrators of "Baptist houses

of study" at Duke University in Durham, N.C., and Emory's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta have no power to change open admissions policies that govern the universities to which they are connected. Nor would it be a simple matter to shift CBF funding to scholarships.

Since many churches and individuals would rather give to scholarships than operating funds, making up lost revenue through fund raising could be difficult. Also, both the sponsoring schools and the law frown on scholarships that are "negatively designated" to exclude a certain class of people.

Because of that, questions are being raised about whether a relationship that CBF leaders describe as beneficial will continue.

"I certainly agree that the Baptist houses bring a number of strengths to the process of theological education and to the community of faith that

makes up CBF," said Gary Parker, the Fellowship's coordinator for Baptist principles. However, he said, Fellowship leaders must determine how the new value statement "applies to each organization or institution with which we have a relationship."

Directors of the Baptist houses at Duke and Emory said they hope the relationship continues.

"The CBF Coordinating Council has been very affirming of Candler," said David Key, director of Baptist studies at Emory. "Hopefully the process will work out. The loss of CBF funding would devastate us, perhaps shut down our program."

Duke's Baptist house could survive without the operating money from CBF but "just barely," said Director Furman Hewitt. "We certainly would not be able to expand our program to give students and local churches the assistance they require from us."

A third CBF-supported Baptist house of studies, at Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, uses CBF funding for scholarships and therefore would not be affected by the new policy.

"Candler understands why this (homosexuality) is an issue with Baptists, because it's a big thing for Methodists too," Key said. "The United Methodists have been very clear in forbidding the ordination of homosexuals and same-sex marriages—much clearer than the CBF statement."

"But they also are clear on what is the role of the church and what is the role of the academy. CBF needs to understand that too. The Methodists have taken a clear-cut stand on the gay/lesbian issue, but no one protests Candler working with them as students. Part of the academic process needs to allow open and honest discussion of differing positions."

### BAPTIST DIGEST

#### Investors anticipate payments.

Investors in the defunct Baptist Foundation of Arizona may receive the first checks repaying a portion of their funds by the end of the year. Investors voted to approve the foundation's liquidation plan of reorganization and a bankruptcy judge confirmed the plan. About 12,000 investors are owed \$590 million. If the foundation's assets sell for the amount projected, collateralized investors will recover about 44 cents for every dollar invested and unsecured investors will recoup about 31 cents per dollar.

#### Asian Baptists study worship.

Asia's first Baptists-in-Worship Conference was held recently at Hyderabad Baptist Church in India. The conference was sponsored by Baptist World Alliance and the Asian Baptist Federation. The event affirmed traditional forms of worship while also encouraging newer styles and indigenous features of worship. The conference attracted more than 2,000 participants.

#### Baylor expands program.

Baylor University in Waco, Texas, has established a new graduate-level program in Baptist studies. William Brackney, chairman of Baylor's religion department, will direct the program. It will offer master's and doctoral degrees in religion with a focus on Baptist studies.

#### Pinson to teach at Dallas school.

William Pinson, retired executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has been appointed distinguished professor at Dallas Baptist University. Pinson will work part time in helping the university develop an emphasis on the integration of Christian faith and learning and the development of "servant leadership."

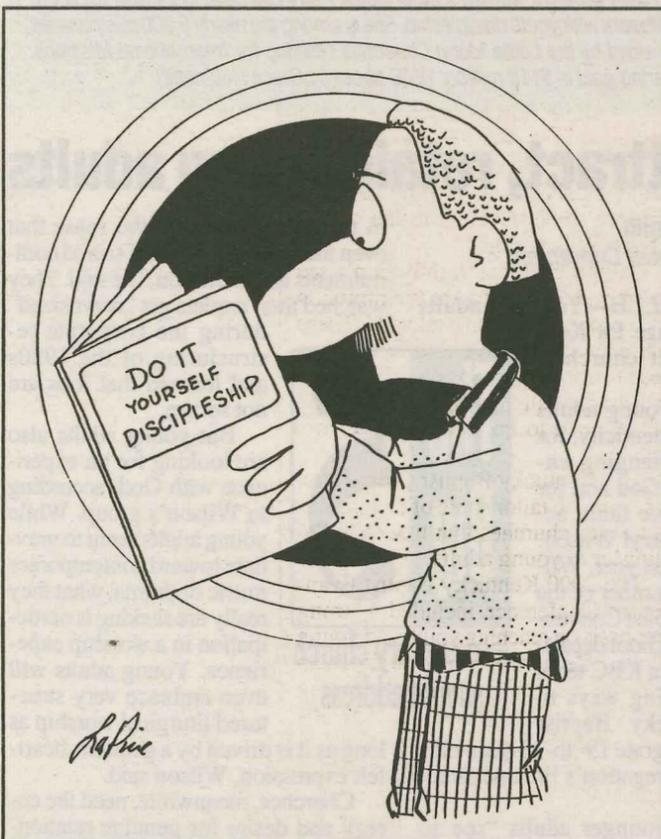
#### BP hires sports writer.

Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's official news service, has hired a full-time sports writer for BP Sports, a new division of Baptist Press. Ashley Michael, 22, is a na-

tive of Louisville and a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. She has held internships with Sports Illustrated, MSNBC Sports and with a professional basketball team during a study abroad program in London. She will write sports features and cover Baptist college sporting events for BP Sports.

#### Study honors woman pastor.

A Georgia Baptist church with a woman pastor has been named one of America's outstanding Protestant congregations by a nationwide study funded by the Lilly Foundation. Fellowship Baptist Church in Edison, Ga., will be among 300 Protestant churches and 300 Catholic parishes featured in an upcoming book. Stacey Simpson, pastor of the 25-member congregation, said the church is not "successful" by numerical standards but has sought to be faithful in preaching and worship, nurturing children across racial lines and reaching out to the community in creative ways.



## Baptist Faith & Message study team has diverse members

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

BURLINGTON—Former Kentucky Baptist Convention President Charles Barnes has been named chairman of a nine-member Baptist Faith and Message study committee.

Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, presented the motion last month to establish the study committee. Messengers to the KBC annual meeting approved the proposal on a divided 879-747 vote.

The plan calls for the committee to study the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement and recommend to the 2001 state convention how the KBC "can best relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as Kentucky Baptists seek to fulfill their purpose and mission in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Barnes' proposal preempted efforts by other messengers to vote this year on affirming the 2000 faith statement. A substitute motion seeking to affirm the statement was ruled out of order by outgoing KBC President Terry Wild-

er. A similar proposal was ruled to be a resolution rather than a motion. The resolutions committee later declined to take action on the proposed resolution, noting that the committee "cannot introduce a resolution contradictory to action the convention has already taken."

The revised Baptist Faith and Message approved in June by Southern Baptist Convention messengers has been a major topic of discussion in Southern Baptist life in recent months. Supporters of the revised statement say it better represents the SBC's conservative direction of the past two decades. Critics claim leaders of SBC agencies and institutions are using the document to exclude from leadership those who disagree with the denomination's conservative shift.

Several state conventions have addressed the faith statement in recent weeks. Actions have varied from Florida Baptists amending their convention bylaws to reference the 2000 statement as the convention's official faith statement to messengers in Arkansas failing to gain a two-thirds majority to

implement similar language. Mississippi Baptists affirmed the Bible as their "final authority for faith and practice," stating that it is up to local churches to determine what faith statement they use.

Amid the diverse views about the revised statement, Barnes told KBC messengers last month that conducting a yearlong study was the most effective way to "thoughtfully and carefully consider how Kentucky Baptists should best respond to this."

Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, said his goal in appointing the nine-member committee was "to be sensitive to the differing opinions in the state and be as fair in representing Kentucky as I can."

Barnes agreed that the committee "should do our best to represent all Kentucky Baptists." He said the committee's primary task is to "clarify the subject in a way that most Kentucky Baptists can be reasonably comfortable with."

In addition to Barnes, the study committee includes two other former KBC presidents: Billy Compton, pas-

tor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, and James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Three other pastors appointed to the committee are Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville and president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference; Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville and immediate past first vice president of the KBC; and Bob Long, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville and chairman of the KBC Executive Board's business and finance committee.

The committee also includes two directors of missions and one layperson. Charles Blair is DOM of West Kentucky Baptist Association and Jerry Oakley is DOM of Warren Baptist Association. Virginia Drake, a member of Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstovon, has served on the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union Executive Board.

The committee is to report to KBC messengers during the 2001 annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in Murray.

**Chairman Charles Barnes said the committee's primary task is to "clarify the subject in a way that most Kentucky Baptists can be reasonably comfortable with."**

### BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **DOM Blair honored.** Charles Blair, director of missions for West Kentucky Baptist Association, was named Director of Missions of the Year by the Kentucky DOM Fellowship during the group's annual meeting Nov. 13. Also during the meeting, state directors of missions elected officers: President Fred Halbrooks of Nelson Baptist Association in Bardstovon, President-Elect Carl Boyd of Pike Baptist Association in Pikeville, Secretary-Treasurer Bob Morrison of Little Bethel Baptist Association in Madisonville and Vit-A-Link Editor Truet Cocanougher of Bracken Baptist Association in Mays Lick.

■ **Mackey honored.** Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey recently was honored by the North Greenville (S.C.) College Alumni Association as Distinguished Alumni of the Year.

■ **Kentucky colleges recognized.** Kentucky Baptists' three liberal arts colleges were recognized in the U.S. News and World Report's 2001 edition of "America's Best Colleges." Georgetown College was listed among the magazine's rankings for national liberal arts colleges; Cumberland College was among the schools ranked for regional universities; and Campbellsville University was among the schools ranked for regional liberal arts colleges.

■ **Correction.** The Western Recorder reported an incorrect enrollment total for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. The school has 198 students, with 51 new students.

## Task force offers ideas to attract young adults

Continued from page 1

Young adults' desire to experience worship is mirrored by their desire to experience ministry, he said. Young adults do not want just to support missions, they want to do missions.

"Young adults love mission projects," Wilson said. "They take seriously Jesus' command to spread the gospel 'to the uttermost parts of the earth.'"

Lay mobilization is key to reaching and retaining young adults, said Wilson, citing Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville as a Kentucky church doing this well. The church uses surveys and interviews to place new members in areas of ministry based on their passions, gifts and abilities, rather than job experience or education.

"There's a tremendous boldness in young people," Pastor Ron Shaver explained. "We try to give people a vision, get them involved in something larger than themselves."

Participatory missions are very important, and more than 200 Little Flock members fanned out across the globe this year on mission trips. The church pays from 50 to 90 percent of the cost of mission trips, opening up discipleship and missions possibilities for young adults who might not otherwise have the resources.

As a result of intentional efforts to disciple young adults and maintain a good intergenerational mix, the average age at Little Flock Baptist Church is 21-23, according to Shaver. He attributes part of the church's success in reaching young adults to the vision that has been cast to older adults. "The measure of my leadership is to convince older generations to invest in the generations that follow."

Research shows that 70 percent or more of the adults in church became Christians between the ages of 14 and

28, Shaver said. It only makes sense then that resources should be directed toward reaching and discipling people at a point in their lives when they are most spiritually sensitive, he added.

Churches always have been concerned about ministering to young adults. Early adulthood is the time when careers, homes and families are established, often distracting people from spiritual matters, Wilson said. "For every generation, this age group has tended to be less present at church."

In addition to balancing career and family needs, today's young adults also are distracted from church by an unprecedented number of leisure and recreational activities, Wilson said. "Add to that the post-modern mindset in which pluralism is more often the answer to a spiritual question, and the church becomes less relevant because there are so many other answers out there."

According to a 1999 poll conducted by Barna Research, 39 percent of people born between 1965 and 1983 had not attended a Christian church service in the six months prior to the survey, up from 31 percent just 18 months earlier.

At the same time that they are pulled away from church by work, family and activities, young adults also are experiencing a pivotal time for spiritual growth.

"A number of decisions related to work and family are being made at this time," Wilson said. "If God is not a part of those questions, they are getting their answers somewhere else."

Churches that feel a call to minister to young adults often tackle the challenge with a great deal of concern but with little concept of what it will take, Wilson said. Ministering to young adults isn't as easy as adding praise music or injecting the occasional skit into the worship service, he said.

### The Big 5

Issues every church should address

### What are the Big 5?

Kentucky Baptist Convention staff have been studying key issues facing churches in the 21st century.

"Cluster groups" have identified five key issues that will affect practically every group. They are:

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

The KBC's goal is to provide information and resources about these issues to better prepare Kentucky Baptist churches to be effective in their ministry.

Next week's Western Recorder will feature the issue of authentic spirituality. Previous articles from this series are available on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Web site at [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org).

Churches that want to minister to young adults must be as sincere in their approach as they are in the ministries they present. The desire to reach young adults must be motivated by love and a desire to be obedient to the call of Christ, Wilson said.

"Some churches rightly don't see (young adult ministry) as their mission and purpose," Wilson explained. These churches might have a different purpose or focus, perhaps on ministering to senior adults or those in poverty. "They need to be sensitive to God's call."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is seeking to tailor some of its resources toward churches that feel called to minister to young adults.

The 2000 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference included a strong emphasis on reaching youth and young adults. The 2000 Super Saturdays also featured a strong emphasis on young adults, as well as classes that specifically addressed young adult needs.

The young adult cluster group also is planning a conference next year featuring training and worship opportunities for young adults and their leaders.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## The source of truth

I have pastored Southern Baptist churches for 58 years and have always considered myself a conservative, cooperating Southern Baptist.

I have always believed the Bible to be the inspired Word of God. I am proud to pledge allegiance to the Bible. However, I will not pledge allegiance to some man's interpretation of the Bible.

I believe in the priesthood of a believer. I believe that Jesus invited every believer to come directly to the throne of grace for help. Also, I believe that He is now present in the person of the Holy Spirit, providing inspiration and guidance to every believer who studies the Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I believe that Southern Baptists have the greatest mission program in the world. I hope and pray that we don't let the devil divide us, and severely damage our great mission program.

I think all true Baptists believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and will pledge allegiance to the Bible. I believe that most true Baptists agree that the Bible is the only perfect source of spiritual truth. Why don't we forget about adopting some men's interpretation of the Scriptures and pass a resolution stating that we accept the Bible as the only infallible source of divine truth?

*George Gaddie  
Campbellville*

## Don't build walls

As we gathered in November for our Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, I was excited to meet fellow Christian workers from across our state. We came together and worshipped.

I was disturbed, however, by the

convention's partisan atmosphere. At times, our convention resembled a political convention (including distribution of political propaganda at the front doors) instead of a fellowship of believers. My observation led me to think about our purpose as Kentucky Baptists.

What is our purpose? This question is answered simply by the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). God, through His Holy Spirit, gives us power to direct people to Christ. Every action we take should be measured against this charge.

What should our actions include? As the KBC, is it our job to respond with a statement of position on every social issue? Is it our responsibility to choose political candidates and campaign for them? I even have to ask, is it our responsibility to address controversy within the Southern Baptist Convention? Will these actions draw people to Christ?

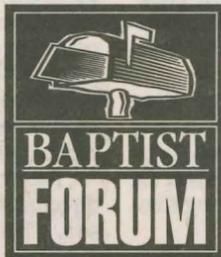
Jesus is the example we should follow. Some who hoped Jesus would favor a political revolution once asked Him about paying taxes. Jesus responded in Matthew 22:21, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." On another occasion Jesus was given the opportunity to condemn a woman caught in adultery (John 8:3-11). Jesus responded by showing her grace and love.

We are to direct people to Jesus Christ. Our purpose and agenda are clear. As a convention, we should stand together for this singular purpose. Let others build walls. When we build walls, we turn people away from Jesus Christ.

*Kirk Greenfield  
Harrodsburg*

## Harmonious spirit

The Kentucky Baptist Convention was a wonderful experience this



## FAMILY

### Follow IRS rules to substantiate charitable gifts

By Laurie Valentine

The federal government encourages charitable giving by allowing the deduction of gifts made to your church and other qualified charities on your income tax return if you itemize. However, you must follow the IRS's reporting and substantiation rules to assure your charitable deduction.

If you make "noncash gifts" (gifts of stock, bonds, mutual fund shares, life insurance or real estate) of more than \$500 to your church or another charity, you must file Form 8283 (Noncash Charitable Contributions).

If the value of your noncash gift is more than \$5,000, you must have your gift appraised. The appraisal cannot be dated more than 60 days prior to the date you complete your gift and must be prepared by a "qualified" appraiser (someone who is presented to the public as an appraiser and who has state credentials showing he or she is qualified to do the appraisal). The appraiser cannot be related to you, work for you or the charity on a regular basis or be a party to the transaction by which you acquired the property. The appraiser's fee cannot be based on a percentage of the property's value.

The appraisal rule also applies if you give "similar items of property" with a total value of more than \$5,000—even if you give the items to different charities (such as gifts to six different charities of six paintings worth \$1,000 each).

You do not have to have an appraisal for gifts of publicly traded securities, even if their total value exceeds \$5,000.

To deduct any single gift (cash or noncash) of \$250 or more, you must have a written receipt from the charity describing (but not valuing) the gift. If any goods or services were given to you in exchange for your gift, the receipt must describe them and give you a good faith estimate of their value. If no goods or services were provided, the receipt must say that. If the only thing you received for your gift of \$250 or more was an "intangible religious benefit," the receipt must say that. You must have the receipt in your possession before you file your income tax return.

Following the rules is key to assuring the deductibility of your gifts.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation*



year. We had excellent attendance, which made our job as convention hosts very trying at times.

The parking was a problem and the registration area could have used more space but overall our facilities worked well. This was due to the faithful service of many volunteers of Warren Association of Baptists, the combined staff members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Warren Association of Baptists and First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

The purpose of this letter is to commend the gracious patience and wonderful Christian spirit of the messengers attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

We had small incidents of frayed patience and minor displays of frustration. However, overall the spirit of our messengers and the convention was one of love and harmony. The graciousness of the messengers made the job of hosting the convention so much easier. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists; you have proven what we have always known, that you are a wonderful group of people.

*Jerry Oakley  
Executive Director  
Warren Association of Baptists*

## Questions for Carter

As reported in the Oct. 31 issue of the Western Recorder, an article stated that former President Jimmy Carter believed that there was nothing wrong with a homosexual being ordained and that Jesus never singled out homosexuals to be condemned.

May I, with all love and respect, suggest that President Carter read Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27, 32; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; Genesis 1:27, 2:18-15 and 19:4-5; Matthew 19:4-6 and also the Scripture that states that those who practice will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

*Gayle Tackett  
Hazard*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Celebrating the miracle of birth

Kay and I are grateful to God for the safe arrival of Lillian Grace Wooten, our first grandchild, at 1:02 a.m. on Nov. 24. Lilly arrived weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 and a half inches long. She has dark hair and is the most beautiful granddaughter I have ever seen!

There were concerns for Lilly and her mother, Beth, due to the long labor and follow-up medical procedures. We are so grateful that everyone is doing fine at this time. Please accept our thanks for your sincere prayers. We believe they have been answered.

Lilly's Aunt Anonda caught a flight in order to be in Louisville for the birth. The other grandparents, Bill and Judy Wooten, drove all day Thanksgiving and arrived well before delivery. Judy has now been present for the birth of all eight of her grandchildren.

Lilly apparently favors her father's

family. While I was searching for some resemblance to me, her other grandfather revealed that she has two birthmarks just like his. I lost that round but I would not trade her for anything!

It is exciting to be rejoicing over this new life in the season of the year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord. What an occasion that was—complete with a prophetic announcement, angels, a heavenly choir, the manger, a virgin birth, shepherds, wise men and godly parents.

Because Jesus Christ commanded us to share His message of hope with all nations, we observe a Week of Prayer for International Missions and collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions during the Christmas season. This offering, along with the Cooperative Program, supports 4,815 missionaries. These missionaries and national pastors work at 38,363 mission points. Their service to the Lord

resulted in 4,748 new churches and 363,703 baptisms in 1999.

Also in 1999, there were 25,807 volunteers who assisted in international missions. These have included Baptists from all walks of life. We are grateful that Kentucky Baptists are not only praying, giving and learning about missions but are also getting involved in the Tanzanian, Polish and European partnerships. Contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership office to learn how you can participate.

I want to encourage all churches to observe the Week of Prayer for International Missions, promote and collect the offering, pray for all missionaries and get to know international people in your community. Excellent materials have been mailed to churches by Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union to assist in observing the week of prayer and promoting the offering.

Ask God to bless Kentucky Baptists to make sure the light of Jesus Christ shines brightly in Kentucky and around the world.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*



Bill Mackey

## Creative celebration can boost holiday spirit for single adults

**Q: Christmas is a tough time, with all the relatives snuggled together "two by two." Can you share a few suggestions about how single adults can get through the holiday season?**

Between Norman Rockwell paintings and seasonal music about romance, it may seem that every adult in your zip code is married, engaged or at least dating. Ask yourself: What is in my sphere of influence? What can I do something about? Here are some suggestions:

■ **Be assertive.** Plop yourself down by one of your relatives when everyone seems to be snuggling by the fireplace and just make conversation. Chances are, they are not relegating you to the sidelines on purpose and would love to spend time with you. You just might have to take the initiative.

■ **Use humor.** When the question comes up, "So, why aren't you married?" just say something that will catch them off guard, such as, "I just haven't yet met the person who is worthy of all the love I have to give."

■ **Make the season special.** The word "holiday" is really a corruption of the words, "holy day." How can you make this time something that really nourishes your soul? There may be some things best done with family and other things better done solo or with friends. Make choices that work for you.

■ **Be intentional.** Do you really have to get every brother and sister, niece and nephew a separate gift according to a pre-ordained price? Perhaps purchase one gift per family and do so according to meaning rather than price.

■ **Remember the holiday in ways that minister to others.** You can honor the memory of a loved one who has died by donating to his or her favorite charity or by serving that charity in some tangible way.

Put some of these ideas into practice and you may find your married relatives wishing they had your freedom to celebrate the season in loving and creative ways.—*James Stillwell*

**Q: Providing care for older relatives can be a challenging task, especially during the hectic holiday season. How can churches help families cope with the demands and strain of caring for an older family member?**

There are a number of ways churches can help families meet this crucial caregiving need, both during the holidays and year-round. A few examples include:

■ **Take services to the family member and the caregivers.** Providing mobile day care services, rather than asking people to travel to receive the services they need, is an excellent ministry opportunity.

■ **Provide respite and overnight services.** This allows caregivers a much-needed break as well as flexibility to do such basic tasks as shopping and running errands.

■ **Involve caregivers in designing caregiver support programs.** Caregivers can help your church identify the types of problems or concerns they would like addressed and the goals or outcomes for the ministry.

With such tremendous needs in this area, it is difficult to understand why so few churches have family caregiver ministries. Many older people need assistance in order to stay in their homes and maintain some independence. Many family caregivers face emotional, physical and financial problems.

Churches can provide a significant ministry by relieving some of the pressures caregivers face and helping them cope with the responsibilities of caregiving. Hopefully more churches or ministry units within a church will seize the opportunity to respond to this growing need.—*Jon Rainbow*

*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.



## Study committee faces challenging task

True to his word, outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention President Terry Wilder appointed a representative committee to study the Southern Baptist Convention's 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The nine-member study committee, authorized last month by Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers, is responsible for recommending to next year's state convention how the KBC "can best relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as Kentucky Baptists seek to fulfill their purpose and mission in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Successfully accomplishing that one-sentence job description will be no easy task. Revisions to the SBC faith statement approved in June by SBC messengers have generated widespread debate among Southern Baptists. While messengers to the conservative-dominated SBC annual meeting overwhelmingly approved the changes, messengers to state convention meetings have responded with a variety of actions.

In Florida and Louisiana, messengers adopted the 2000 document as their official statement of beliefs and Georgia Baptists voiced "approval and appreciation" for the revised statement. In Texas, by contrast, SBC adoption of the revised statement was among reasons that messengers voted to divert more than \$5 million in Cooperative Program funds away from SBC entities.

Several other state conventions took action somewhere in between. Alabama Baptists affirmed the 2000, 1963 and 1925 versions of the Baptist Faith and Message as non-binding "guides for better understanding doctrinal practices of faith." Mississippi Baptists voted to affirm the Bible as their "final authority for faith and practice," adding that it is up to churches to choose which faith statement they use.

To say that Baptists across the nation are divided on the issue is an obvious understatement. The same is true here in Kentucky.

A year ago, Kentucky Baptist messengers voted 408-374 against a motion to affirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. If approved, that action would have indicated, in effect, that Kentucky Baptists saw no need to revise the historic document.

This year, after the SBC adoption of the 2000 statement, Kentucky Baptists voted 879-747 to study the issue for a year. In between the SBC and KBC annual meetings, at least three Kentucky Baptist churches publicly distanced themselves from the SBC, citing the Baptist Faith and Message changes as a major reason. At the same time, messengers to some associational meetings voted to affirm the 2000 version.

Amid such diverse views, the study committee appointed by Wilder is responsible for proposing how Kentucky Baptists can best relate to the 2000 faith statement. Wilder said his primary goal in appointing committee members was to be "as fair in representing Kentucky as I can."

As a result, he enlisted experienced leaders for the task, including three former state convention presidents. Other committee members include the president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, a former KBC first vice president and the chairman of the KBC Executive Board business and finance committee. The study committee also includes two directors of missions and a layperson who has been active in state Woman's Missionary Union leadership.

With Wilder's appointment of a qualified, balanced committee, the plan's first hurdle has been successfully cleared. But more challenging decisions lie ahead.

Some Kentucky Baptists will call for the committee to strongly endorse the 2000 statement; others likely will encourage the convention to take no formal action favoring the statement. The best option probably will be found somewhere in between.

As the committee begins its work, commitment to the cherished Baptist principles of soul competency, priesthood of the believer and local church autonomy should guide its deliberations. The pinnacle of Baptist decision-making must always be the local church operating under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

We also should seek a solution that works to unite our convention rather than magnify differences. The starting point to achieve that goal is prayer. All Kentucky Baptists should faithfully pray for the study committee as members seek God's wisdom and guidance.

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

## Pursuing the priority of prayer

By Walter Davis

*"And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12).*

This passage is one of the most challenging messages on prayer in the Bible. Jesus was without sin. He was never short of confidence or wisdom, never short of power or authority, never short of knowing what He ought to be doing. He knew who He was. Yet He still saw the need to pray all night. If Jesus, without the sin and doubts with which we are plagued, has need to pray with such earnestness, what does that say of our need to pray?

Jesus' prayer life was such that when the disciples saw it, they responded, "Lord, teach us to pray." Could it be that they saw the key to His power was His prayer life? Did they discover that the key to His confidence was the intimacy He maintained with His Heavenly Father? Could it be that they saw the importance of prayer by His example?

Paul noted that prayer is the key to peace of mind as he wrote in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

James emphasized in James 4:2-3 that the key to God's providence is prayer, declaring that "You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. And you are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures."

James not only taught about God's providence through prayer, "you do not have because you do not ask." He also taught us that the way we pray and the reasons we pray are as important as the fact that we pray: "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives."

Is this priority of prayer borne out in other believers' lives?

John Wesley believed that God did not act except in answer to prayer.

R.A. Torrey lamented the average believer's indifference to prayer by writing: "How little time the average Christian spends in prayer! We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little. . . . The power of God is lacking in our lives and in our work. We have not because we ask not."

How should Christians in the 21st century respond to this? We could affirm such teaching and then ignore it, as we often do. Or we could heed what Jesus and His followers have revealed through the centuries. Prayer is not simply something you do before you work. Prayer is the work and the Christian life is the enjoyment of the results.

Charles Finney had a message that our generation needs to hear: "We have had instruction until we are hardened; it is now time for us to pray."

Is it possible that in our churches and personal Christian lives we need to spend less time learning about prayer and more time praying?

Walter Davis is pastor of Stithon Baptist Church in Radcliff.



# MISSIONS

## Kentuckians say work in Costa Rica challenging and rewarding

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

until next June, he still will make several trips during this period.

Considered a "church and home missionary," Mrs. Tufts most recently taught English as a second language two days a week and occasional crafts workshops. But most of her time was devoted to the mission at Concepcion, which met under a tarp in a yard.

Because no one there played musical instruments, she took guitar classes in order to lead worship. She also recruited teachers for Bible study classes. Her husband served as pastor.

The mission started in a two-room shack. The host family of six had two beds and a chair. The host family sat on one bed while the Tufts led Bible study from the other.

Their host, a man named Jorge, invited them to his home. Before accepting Christ, he earned a living protecting visitors' cars from other criminals.

Two years ago, he was jailed for a crime committed prior to his conversion.

"The majority of people who live in these situations are like that," Mrs. Tufts said. "Most aren't married and are on alcohol or drugs. The people have overwhelming physical and spiritual needs. Most of the time they don't have enough to eat."

As they visit churches around the commonwealth, the Tufts explain how the Lottie Moon Christmas offering is so helpful to their mission. Thanks to the annual offering, they have had a home to live in for the past 10 years and a mini-van for transportation. The funds also purchased gospel materials, props such as puppets, and a projector to show the "Jesus" film in villages.

### Blessings come in all shapes & sizes

RINEYVILLE—Leona Tufts said that in addition to seeing new Christians in their work in Costa Rica, she and her husband, Gary, also are seeing other encouraging signs in their ministry to the area.

After one woman received baby clothes from the church, she hid them so her husband couldn't sell them for drug money.

Yet the husband befriended the Tufts. Four months before they returned to Kentucky for a year of stateside assignment, the woman's husband told the Tufts they wouldn't need a guard for their car anymore.

"He told the local drug dealers we were friends of the community," Mrs. Tufts said.

The husband has remained open to the Tufts and let church members witness about their faith to him, she added. "I feel that God's going to reach him."

Mrs. Tufts said they need Kentuckians' prayers. Retirements, transfers and resignations have reduced the mission team in the Central American nation from 15 couples to six.

Another need is for Chinese-speaking workers to help reach an Asian community of 75,000 immigrants that has only three churches. In general, the Tufts said they hope to see Costa Rican Christians commit to reaching others with the gospel.

They also need prayer concerning the pending separation from their oldest sons, who will stay in Kentucky to attend college after the Tufts return to Costa Rica. Finally, they said they need prayer for their own personal renewal: "We both came needing our batteries charged and we're not there yet."

RINEYVILLE—Of Gary and Leona "Sis" Tufts' 17 years in Costa Rica, none have been more challenging than their most recent assignment. It included starting a church in a poor mountain community outside the capital, San Jose.

The former Georgetown College students spent three years planting a mission in Concepcion.

Drugs, especially crack cocaine, and alcohol are prevalent. The neighborhood barrios are so tough a missionary usually went along to guard their car while they led services.

Despite the challenges, the congregation grew from a small Bible study to Sunday attendance of about 80 residents. Twenty people have become Christians.

"It's exciting to see people change and come to know the Lord," said Mrs. Tufts, who with her husband are on stateside assignment in Rineyville. "There's a lot of joy and a lot of frustration. Looking back on people you became close to and seeing how their lives change."

The Tufts, who have four children, are spending a year in Kentucky before returning to Central America. They are staying in a missionary house at Rineyville Baptist Church, just north of Elizabethtown.

A former staff member at Broadway Baptist Church in Lexington, Gary Tufts is field strategy coordinator for Costa Rica. He matches career and volunteer missionaries with needs.

Although on stateside assignment

*First Christmas*  
2000

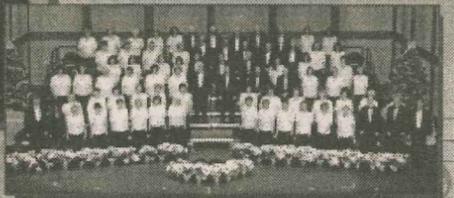
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### Before December 31

It's that time of year traditionally when we review accomplishments and plan for the future.

It's also the time of year we give to others. Whether you are considering gifts to loved ones and friends or to your church and other Baptist causes, let me encourage you to do some careful planning before you decide what and how you are going to give.

Careful planning likely will result in some increased benefits both for you and for the causes to which you give, courtesy of Uncle Sam.

In the United States, acting charitably and tax planning go hand-in-hand. In fact, one enhances the value of the other. Gifts to your church and to other Baptist causes can be made in a number of ways depending on your particular situation. That is why advance planning is the key to maximizing your benefits.

Cash is the most popular way to give, and a cash gift before Dec. 31 could cost you less at tax filing time.

For example, if you make a \$2,500 gift before Dec. 31 and are in the 28 percent marginal tax bracket, your gift could save you \$700 in taxes. As a result, your \$2,500 gift will cost you only \$1,800. You may deduct cash gifts

totaling up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Gifts of appreciated securities, stock or real estate can be among the most advantageous ways of giving. If you have owned the security or real estate for more than one year, you may deduct as a charitable contribution the fair market value of the security or real estate, while bypassing capital gains taxes.

The deduction limit for gifts of appreciated assets generally is 30 percent of adjusted gross income.

Giving through life insurance is a unique way to give. To qualify, your church or Baptist cause must become the owner and beneficiary of the policy. If it is a paid-up policy, your deduction generally is the replacement value or cost basis of the policy, whichever is less. Ongoing premiums paid also qualify for deductions.

Let us assist you without cost or obligation as you consider the possibilities for gifts before Dec. 31.

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION**



Barry Allen

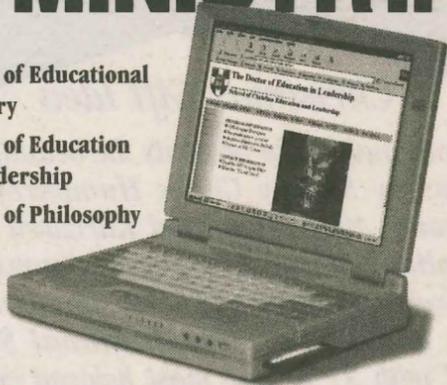
Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701

# MISSIONS

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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## Kentuckian in Zambia wowed by receptiveness to gospel

Continued from page 1  
times they use Bible studies.

The Howards are among the nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist international missionaries whose work is supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's goal is \$115 million.

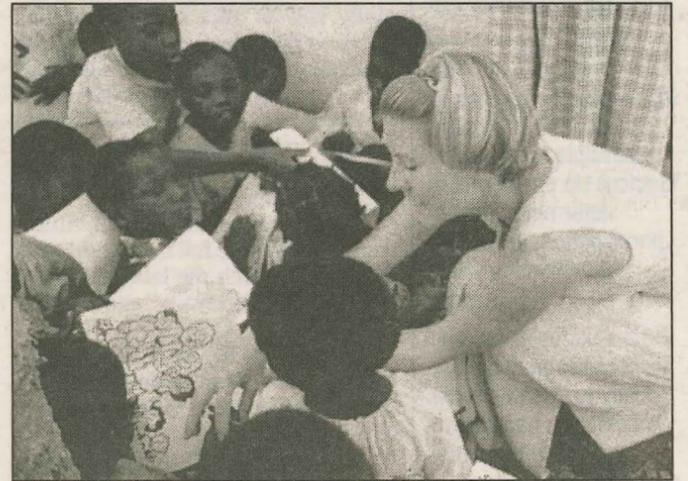
"We don't really do a lot," Howard said regarding the church starting work. "The Zambian leaders know how to start churches, so they do it. They just tell us what they need."

A normal weekend for the team consists of showing the "Jesus" film on Friday and Saturday night. The film is divided into two parts by a short sermon. All day Saturday is spent in various counseling and Bible study sessions with Sunday including a morning Bible study and worship service.

Missionary Amy Perry, from Carlisle County, helped lead children's Bible study. So many children gathered during the day that the Howards held an impromptu children's time. Perry told the children of God's love and invited them back to see the "Jesus" film that night.

"I can't get over how excited they are about learning the Bible," said Perry, who has been on the field about a month. "This is great. The joy on their (Zambians') faces is amazing. They have nothing, but they are joyful in the Lord."

Response to the weekend trip was exceptional as many people decided to



watch the "Jesus" film both nights.

As the film showed Jesus on the cross, a chorus of disapproval rang throughout the crowd of Zambians. When Jesus rose from the grave it was met with whoops and hollers from the audience.

More than 100 people made a commitment to follow Christ. Howard said that after the initial start of a church like this, church leaders continue to travel to the new start to help disciple new believers.

"It won't take long before this new church starts another one just down the road," Howard said. "That's how the Zambians are—when they hear the truth, they feel that it is important to keep spreading it."

**CARLISLE COUNTY CONNECTION** Amy Perry, a Southern Baptist missionary from Carlisle County, teaches a children's Bible lesson in Kalanta, Zambia. "I can't get over how excited they are about learning the Bible. This is great—the joy on their faces is amazing. They have nothing, but they are joyful in the Lord." (IMB photo by Grace Robinette)

## Peace

By Robert Dunston

Jessica Margrave, the daughter of Ed and Carol Margrave of Union, wrote this week's advent devotional on peace, based on Romans 5:1-2. Margrave is a junior at Cumberland College with a major in biology. She plans to serve in missions as a midwife.

"During the summer of 1996, I went with a church group to a Navajo Indian reservation in Dilcon, Ariz. My uncle, the team leader for the trip, required us to memorize Romans 5:1-5. My teammates and I practiced memorizing our verses, yet we didn't know how they would affect our trip.

"Part of our mission experience included leading Bible schools in small communities on the reservation. Many of the children came from families where 12-15 people lived in a two-room house, so they did not receive much personal attention.

"One Wednesday we took the children to a park with a swimming lake. My teammates rushed into the water with the older children and began splashing around. I noticed there was a group of about seven children standing on the bank of the lake. I asked them why they weren't

swimming. They said they couldn't swim that well and were afraid.

"I took them to a small cove of the lake, far from the others, and began playing with them in the shallow water. It didn't take long for them to trust me. It wasn't long before they were laughing and splashing. It brought joy to my life to see them go from being so afraid to having fun with reckless abandon.

"Afterward, I replayed the day in my mind and realized I had felt unwavering peace that afternoon. I said Romans 5:1-2 in my head and knew the peace I have in Christ poured over onto those children and they made peace with their fears. Perhaps

the kindness and trust they received from me has changed their lives just as the peace that comes from knowing Christ as Savior has changed mine.

"I encourage you to share the peace you have with every person you know. Perhaps Christ's peace mediated through you will revolutionize a heart forever."

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

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## Kentucky study: Parents key to kids attending church

### Money matters in church attendance

HOUSTON (ABP)—Despite the best intentions of churches to make their programs accessible to all, family finances do play a role in determining teens' participation, according to researcher Carol Lytch.

Parents in lower-income families may be less likely to attend church themselves because of work commitments, which in turn produces a lower attendance rate among teens, she said.

Church leaders also should understand the monetary factor behind extra church activities has a bearing on church attendance as well, Lytch added.

"Lower- and middle-income families have fewer resources to spend on church ski trips and church camps, as much as churches try to keep all activities affordable," she said.

*Continued from page 1*

indicator of what the young adults actually will do after high school, this question provides a window into the motivation they carry, Lytch said. And it is a question she cross-tabulated with responses from teens and parents alike to create a picture of what factors most influence teens toward a lifestyle of church attendance.

Teen responses about future church attendance fell into three broad categories, which she labeled "loyalty," "provisional loyalty" and "unlikely loyalty."

Lytch found the No. 1 factor influencing older teens' commitment to church attendance is the personal behavior of their parents.

This is true for church attendance while living at home and predicted church attendance after leaving home.

Regarding current church attendance, nearly 93 percent of the teens she studied replicated the pattern of church attendance lived out by one or both parents. "If parental frequencies differed, in all cases the teen replicated the pattern of the less-frequently attending parent," she noted.

Likewise, "if parents living in the teens' household both attended church weekly, teens tended to predict they would be active in the church after they left home. If just one of the parents attended less than weekly, teen religious loyalty plummeted."

Parenting style also plays a predictable role in this finding, she reported. Teens from families with the most per-

missive parenting styles were less likely to attend church as regularly as teenagers and said they would be unlikely to attend church regularly once they left home.

Teen commitment to church attendance was shaped more positively by every other style of parenting along the continuum, except the most permissive style.

More than half the families in Lytch's study maintained a rule that "in our family, we attend church." Among these families, all but one teen predicted she would attend church after she left home. None of these teens predicted they would be unlikely to attend church.

In contrast, only two teens from homes where one or both parents did not attend church regularly were in the habit of attending church regularly themselves now.

"Teens, in and of themselves, cannot be expected to have the inner strength to keep participating in church on their own unless their parents urge them to do so," Lytch reported. "After young teens are confirmed and/or baptized and become active members of the church, they still are not mature enough to be committed to their community of faith.

"If they are going to continue in their religious tradition in the late teen years, they benefit from the help of their parents or other adults who are close to them. The religious individualist stance that emphasizes choice actually hinders the teens' choice for religious participation unless the adults

in the family have exercised their choice in favor of regular church participation."

Further, teens living in families

where church attendance is required told Lytch this rule is a supportive push rather than a dreaded requirement.



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### Thanksgiving dinner and then some

We were blessed once again to provide a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for our students who were not able to travel home for the holiday or who simply chose to spend the long weekend with us.

Most of the students who stayed here simply live too far away to travel home. With the congested airways, it would have been very difficult for most of them to make timely travel plans. For our many international students, traveling home was totally out of the question. Since Thanksgiving is an American holiday, most of our international students don't understand or appreciate its significance. But as I often have written before, it does not take them long to enjoy the benefits of the day.

Many of our faculty and staff and their families also joined us for the feast. It is often difficult for our faculty and staff to travel hundreds of miles to be with family, so the family members often choose to join us.

There were 30 large trays of turkey and dressing served with mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, tossed salad, fruit salad and all the pumpkin and pecan pies we could eat. It takes some effort to set the table for 200. Getting everyone seated on time is a challenge in itself. After a special prayer of thanks, everyone started passing the food. It is amusing to see so many hungry souls at noon and then to see the same poor souls in agony just 45 minutes later. Everyone ate until they simply could not eat another bit.

After the noon meal, the students were given sack suppers to be eaten later so the cooks could spend the afternoon and evening with their families. Our cooks had arrived very early Thursday morning in order to have a delicious meal for us.

As they were making their way home to be with their families, most of our students retired to their rooms to spend two or three hours sleeping.

Our students normally clean the buildings on Friday and help with other campus chores. Since most of that work was completed on Wednesday afternoon, they were given Friday off. Some students did have to help with farm chores on Friday, but those on work details were made as short as possible.

Saturday our students went skating. We rented the rink early enough in the day that we had the entire place to ourselves. Since most of the students who were here for Thanksgiving had not been off campus for several weeks, it was a real treat for them to get away. They boarded the buses for the skating rink at 11 a.m. and took sack lunches to eat at the nearby park after they skated. It was a delightful day for them.

Our students returned Sunday. They now face final exams in three weeks and then Christmas break. All of the students who spent Thanksgiving with us will be able to spend the Christmas holidays off

campus with family or friends. Making travel plans for hundreds of middle and high school students is no simple task. Erma Smith, our student coordinator now in her 27th year of service at Oneida, is responsible for all of those arrangements. If the weather cooperates, if parents arrive on time and if bus and plane tickets arrive on time, our students will be home before Christmas to enjoy the holiday with their families.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### Dean of Administrative Affairs

Shortly before Randall Pressnell celebrated his fifth anniversary at Clear Creek, he accepted a new position as dean of administrative affairs. As the college's chief financial officer he administers a staff of 12 people responsible for the business office, bookstore, financial aid, food services and institutional effectiveness.

"This new assignment is the result of a process that began with my background in operating a retail business with my family. I had several years of bivocational ministry and also served on the Tennessee Baptist Convention budget and program committee," Pressnell stated. "We recently completed the audit and found it less of a chore than anticipated, thanks to an excellent staff."

From 1978-88, Pressnell was a bivocational pastor in the Cumberland Gap Association in Tennessee. In 1988 he became full-time pastor of Haynes Flat Baptist Church in Speedwell, Tenn., serving until 1995 when he joined Clear Creek's staff. The following year he became bivocational pastor of First Baptist Church of Harrogate, Tenn., a position he held for four years. Pressnell feels bi-vocational ministry "puts the pastor in the marketplace. ... The

hills of Eastern Kentucky and East Tennessee are full of churches that need trained leaders, but they can't provide adequate financial support."

Pressnell and his wife, Debbi, recently celebrated 25 years of marriage. They are thankful for two children who know Christ. Kristen is an RN in the neo-natal unit of East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Andrew is a senior at Powell Valley High and plays football, basketball and baseball.

As assistant professor of preaching and pastoral ministries, Pressnell teaches sermon preparation and delivery. He holds a doctor of ministry in preaching degree from Samford University. "Teaching is what charges my batteries. I find much fulfillment from the growth I see in students and the potential they will realize."

Recent graduate Ralph Reagan said, "Dr. Pressnell gave me a lot of personal attention and encouraged me so much. I shall always be grateful for Clear Creek." Pressnell exemplifies the Clear Creek faculty and staff: love for God's people, solid ministry experience and strong professional training.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# BOOKS/VIDEOS

**Silent Conversations: Reading the Bible in Good Company.** William Apel. Judson Press, 2000. 174 pages. \$15. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

As a professor of religion at Linfield College, William Apel often hears students complaining that they do not get anything out of reading the Bible.

When he asks how many times they have read the assigned passage, the most frequent response is "only once." Believing that the Bible is a "demanding book," that we must "attempt to read more with the heart than the head," Apel challenges his students to learn to engage in "creative brooding" over the Scriptures, looking for ever more wisdom.

"Silent Conversations" is Apel's attempt to help us engage in this "creative brooding" or "spiritual reading" of Scripture. Organized using the three theological virtues of faith, hope and love as major sections, "Silent Conversations" matches particular scriptures with contemporary people who embody the heart of the Scripture passage. This matching of the ancient with the modern encourages the reader to allow the familiar to sound a bit strange, so that the truth can have a chance of being heard.

The first chapter invites us to meditate on the "sign of Jonah." Apel speculates that "Jonah's dilemma is our dilemma: how to cope with life when things don't go our way and God doesn't seem at all helpful." Thomas Merton serves as a contemporary Jonah, who was called out of the world to the Benedictine Order, and then, paradoxically, back into the world as a writer and activist.

His reflection on Noah and Bishop Desmond Tutu as representatives of God's rainbow people is equally engaging. Particularly stirring was

Apel's observation that the rainbow is a sign that God's promised future "differs from our projections forward from the present. This rainbow hope is the inbreaking of God's future." Jim Holladay

**Let Me Tell You a Story: Life Lessons from Unexpected Places and Unlikely People.** Tony Campolo. Word Publishing, 2000. 223 pages. \$12.99 ♦♦♦♦

Most anyone who has ever read a Tony Campolo book or heard him speak will agree that some of the most memorable parts of the experience are Campolo's stories.

Campolo is a master at taking his everyday experiences and weaving them into his thoughts. Here in this book, Campolo shares some of his favorite stories.

Campolo believes that telling stories allows a person to overhear truth. Campolo tells stories in this book to help us "overhear" truth about several topics: God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, becoming a Christian, living the Christian life, the church, ourselves, the future and more. Most of Campolo's stories are short and frequently exhibit Campolo's trademark humor. While the stories usually are entertaining, they also are thought provoking.

I have used my share of Campolo stories in sermons, some of them in more than one sermon. Campolo did not include an index of the stories because his purpose is not to create a book of illustrations. Rather, through reading all the stories in a particular chapter, Campolo intends to strengthen the reader's life of faith. Wayne Hager

**A Mighty Long Journey: Reflections On Racial Reconciliation.** Timothy George & Robert Smith Jr. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000. 228 pages. \$17.99. ♦♦♦♦

Timothy George and Robert Smith Jr. are colleagues at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University. Out of their commitment to the church and theological education, they are convinced that "the community of Jesus Christ has something to say about racial reconciliation that no one else can say"; that "at its heart, racism is a spiritual malady"; and "ministers of the gospel are charged with declaring the entire counsel of God."

"A Mighty Long Journey" is a collection of sermons from Anglo and African-American preachers. It concludes with two biblical studies on the theme of reconciliation by James Earl Massey, and includes the "Resolution on Racial Reconciliation" passed by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1995.

The book suffers from one major weakness. Halfway through, the sermons stop plowing any new ground, become repetitive and fail to keep the reader engaged. I was tempted to set the book aside before completing it, which would have been a shame because I would have missed reading Leroy Gainey's excellent exposition of Matthew 5:1-10 and Massey's biblical word study on reconciliation.

For those who have not done much preaching on racial reconciliation, "A Mighty Long Journey" might serve as a good pump-primer. But to get the best benefit, I would suggest reading the book from the back to the front. That way, if you are tempted to put the book aside, you would have gotten the best it has to offer.

One other thing was curious: While including the 1995 SBC Resolution on Racial Reconciliation, the authors failed to include Baptist World Alliance's statement on racism, which came out of a meeting of world Baptist leaders at the Carter Center. Jim Holladay

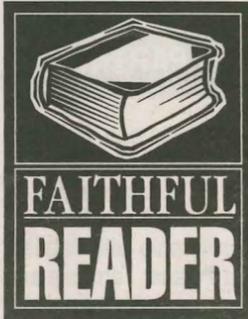
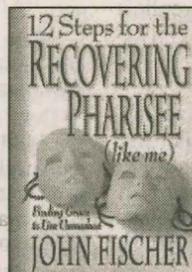
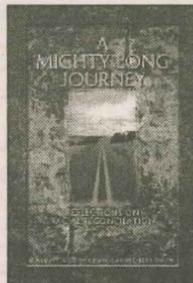
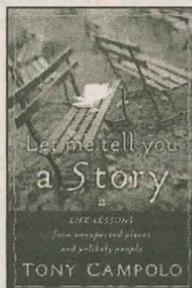
**12 Steps for the Recovering Pharisee (Like Me): Finding Grace to Live Unmasked.** John Fischer. Bethany House Publishers, 2000. 171 pages. \$10.99. ♦♦♦♦

John Fischer has earned his stripes as a recovering Pharisee. From his early years as a well-known Christian performer to his leadership role in Peninsula Bible Church (which he refers to as the "Willow Creek of the 1970s"), to his witty, controversial essays in CCM magazine and books like "Real Christians Don't Dance" (with the word "Don't" crossed out), Fischer knows the Christian world and culture inside and out.

It takes a brave man, though, to turn from not just yanking controversial broad beams out of fellow saints and sinners' eyes, but to call that sort of thing Pharisaical, and spend a whole book trying to get at the "specks" in his, and our, own eyes.

The book, in true Fischer style, is tongue-in-cheek enough to keep you chuckling in between the stabs of conviction that inevitably will follow reading lines like "we admit that our single most unmitigated pleasure is to judge other people," the first step in the 12-step recovery program he outlines.

Those who choose to pick up this book should be forewarned that it will be impossible to read it and not find themselves in its pages, or be impelled toward change. Fischer suggests that some Christians try to start "Pharisee recovery groups" after reading this work, and this reader, at least, is looking for a sign-up sheet. Victoria Moon



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

## Video & disk project more about witness and impact than tragedy

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (RNS)—The hardest questions raised by any tragedy often come months, even years, later. Immediate grief quiets and real soul searching takes root.

So it is with the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., on April 20, 1999, a tragedy that highlights more than safety issues in schools. For many churches, its aftermath has underscored the crying need for workshops, programs and mentors to youth searching for meaning.

Cassie Bernall, who died in the shootings, found meaning in her faith, life and death. Struggling to keep alive the flame of her vibrant beliefs, family and friends have linked talents with Christian artists for a special tribute.

When gunmen Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold asked her if she believed in God, Bernall said "Yes" and was shot point-blank, according to early reports on the tragedy. While questions

have been raised about the accuracy of some of the initial reports, Bernall's story continues to move millions.

Her mother, Misty Bernall, wrote "She Said 'Yes,'" the story of her daughter's life. It has sold more than 500,000 copies, making it a best seller. It explores the tragedy and the often difficult issues faced by adolescents and their families.

Dubbed a martyr by some in the news media, Bernall's most significant contribution may turn out to be focusing serious media and church attention on the perils of adolescence.

In a new video tribute, "Whatever It Takes—The 'She Said Yes' Video Project," friends and family tell how Bernall's life and death influenced them. The video showcases music videos from Michael W. Smith and The Kry.

Publishers, Christian recording artists, songwriters and record labels are donating royalties from the video and a related CD, "Whatever It Takes—The 'She Said Yes' Music Project" to the Cassie Bernall Foundation, orga-

nized after the Columbine incident.

The CD features songs by Christian powerhouses including dcTalk, Jars of Clay, Rebecca St. James and The Kry, one of Bernall's favorite bands.

The title cut, "Whatever It Takes" is taken from a poem Bernall wrote shortly before her death and is recorded by The Kry.

"Whatever it takes, I will be one, Who lives in the fresh, Newness of life," says the song's chorus. "Of those who are alive, From the dead, Whatever the cost, Whatever it takes, I will be one, Whatever it takes."

The 37-minute video tribute relives the Littleton tragedy but moves beyond the deep sadness it engendered in so many. Students and others describe how the massacre and its aftermath strengthened them.

"I've recognized more than I ever have in my life that God has a plan for me, where I fit in," one student says in the video. A local pastor echoes such sentiments, hailing Bernall as "someone who has given us a brand new hunger to do what God would call us to do."

Rob Michaels of Lord & Michaels' Entertainment in Brentwood, Tenn.,



### Proceeds donated

Publishers, Christian recording artists, songwriters and record labels are donating royalties from the Cassie Bernall video and a related CD to the Cassie Bernall Foundation.

Organized after the Columbine incident, the foundation plans to:

- Support churches providing youth scholarship funds for kids to participate in youth group trips and retreats, the kind of event that proved a turning point in Bernall's spiritual journey.
- Assist youth ministry projects and outreach in Littleton and surrounding areas.
- Partner with the Cassie Bernall Home for Children, an orphanage in Honduras named for her.
- Help with various projects in the African Sudan, a region in which Cassie Bernall was very interested.

said events like Columbine have become far too common. He said he wants to remind families of what can happen to young people.

"The story of Cassie is vital in that regard," Michaels wrote in a letter presenting the new CD and video. "This young lady was far from what she became prior to the impact a youth camp made on her life."

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ David and Michele Callahan, new church planters in Waltham, Mass.

■ A man and his wife who are part of the Digo people group in Tanzania who have expressed interest in becoming Christians but are afraid of the persecution that will come to them if they do.

■ Roy and Janet Miller and Bruce and Melinda Mewbourne and the church in Cannes, France, they started on Dec. 3.

■ Praise God for a number of Czech young people who made professions of faith last summer at a Christian camp and were baptized on Nov. 26.

■ Rain that is desperately needed in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Last month, KBC partnership leaders Larry and Joy Lindsay reported that the water supply to the city was too low to provide water. "Thousands of people with large containers (were) frantically searching for a source of water," they wrote.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Good Hope Church honored Pastor **Al Hardy** and his wife, **Peggy**, on their 10th anniversary at the church.

Saloma Church has established a ministry team with **John Chowning** as pastor, **Jim Barnhill** as minister of education and **Mike Forbis** as minister of outreach and visitation.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church called **Brian Schildner** as minister of youth and music. **Ray England** is pastor and **Bob Thurman** is associate pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Evangelist **Earl Jones**, formerly of Henderson, has moved to Elkhorn, S.D.

■ **MAYFIELD**—**Adam Mosser**, a student at Mid-Continent College, was licensed into the gospel ministry by Calvary Church of Hillsboro, Ill.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

#### Northeastern Region

■ **ASHLAND**—Liberty Missionary Church will present the musical "Joy in This Place" Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. **Phil Haney** is pastor.

#### North Central Region

■ **LEXINGTON**—Russell Cave Road Church's adult chorale will present "Color It Christmas" Dec. 10 at 10:30 a.m.; Dec. 16-17 at 6:30 p.m. The church also will present a living nativity scene. **Richard Monk** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Glen's Creek Church will host its 27th living nativity and open house Dec. 21-23 at 7 p.m. nightly. **Mickey Hyder** is pastor.

Versailles Church's Sunshine Critters puppet team will present its Christmas program Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

#### Central Region

■ **Bethlehem**—Churches of the Bethlehem community will present a living nativity scene Dec. 22-25 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 845-5046.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church's sanctuary choir will present the musical drama "That's the Good News" Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. **Ken Bryan** is minister of music and **James Ward** is pastor.

Bethany Church will present the musical "The Majesty of Christmas" Dec. 16-17 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 452-2681 for tickets. **Todd Robertson** is pastor.

Clifton Church will present the cantata "Welcome to Our World," Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. **Michael Karr** is minister of music.

Parkland Church will present the musical "God with Us" Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. **Phillip Landgrave** is minister of music and **Tom Curry** is pastor.

West Broadway Church's youth will present a drama Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. The adult choir Christmas cantata will be Dec. 17 at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and the children's program at 6 p.m. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—Mt. Washington Church's senior adult choir will present "Memories of a Merry Christmas" Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. **Steve Florence** is minister of music and **Travis Collins** is pastor.

#### South Central Region

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church children will present their Christmas program Dec. 10 at 7 p.m.; the youth will present their program Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church's adult choir and dramatists will present "Mary, Did You Know?" Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.; Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. The youth handbell choir and ministry groups will present "Come, Emmanuel." **Don Phillips** is minister of music and **Robert Sutton** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Lebanon Church's sanctuary choir will present "How Great Our Joy" Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. The church will host "Christmas by Candlelight" Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will present its living Christmas tree Dec. 16-17. Call (606) 678-5106 for information. **William Adcock** is minister of music and **Paul Chitwood** is pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church will present "Journey to Bethlehem" with drive-through Christmas scenes Dec. 15-17 at 6 p.m. **Larry O'Bryan** is pastor.

#### Southern Region

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church's worship choir will present "The Rhythm of Rejoicing" Dec. 8-9 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. **Davis Love** is minister of music.

■ **FALLS OF ROUGH**—Falls of Rough Church's children will present a play, "The Miracle at Falls of Rough." **Roger Allen** is pastor.

#### Southwestern Region

■ **CADIZ**—Oak Grove Church will present its Christmas program Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. **Mike Jones** is pastor.

#### Western Region

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church's adult choir will present "Welcome to Our World" Dec. 16-17 at 6 p.m. nightly. The church also will present a Christmas piano recital Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m. **Mark Galloway** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church will present "An Advent Journey," a walking tour Dec. 14-15 at 6-8 p.m. and Dec. 17, 5-7 p.m. For information, call (270) 684-4266. **Chip Pendleton** is pastor.

## KBHC awards honor supporters

LOUISVILLE—Edgar and Opal Dority of Covington recently received the V.V. Cooke Award for their support of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

The award was presented Nov. 2, during the KBHC's 12th annual president's dinner.

Tom Townsend, KBHC's vice president for development and communications, called the Doritys "wonderful examples of stewardship and compassion."

The team of men who drive across the state picking up donations during the annual Food Roundup were presented the Spirit Award for volunteerism.

Past and current Food Roundup drivers who were honored included: Bennie Keen, Tommy Keen and Woodson Foster of Scottsville; Van Yandell and Mike McConnell of Princeton; Donnie Jett, Larry Jett, Jimmy Houser, Gerald Byrd and Bob Woods all of Paducah; Jeep Whitehouse of LaGrange; Allen Arnett of Mayfield; Dan Clark of Russellville; and Bob Bell of Louisville.

Landmark Community Newspapers Inc. and its affiliated publication the LaRue County Herald News received KBHC's Spotlight on Children Award.

The newspaper has been generous to the children's homes, Townsend noted. "The president of LCNI, Larry Coffey and his wife Joan, were at one time KBHC foster parents."

The Media Partnership Award was presented to Larry Smith of the Institute for Crisis Management. Much of the agency's communication efforts this year have centered around its hiring policies regarding homosexuals, Townsend noted. Smith has assisted the agency throughout that process.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** 35 Christian skits and plays. \$5.95, \$2 book postage, Kentucky 6 percent tax. Kaye Quisenberry, Box 19, Pellville, KY 42364. (270) 233-4376.

**FOR SALE:** Raised ranch walk-out; 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2-car garage, 2,000 square feet. Below market value; various financing programs available. Homebase. Call (502) 421-8987 or 558-4757.

**SEEKING:** Kings Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky., is currently accepting resumés 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 resumés to: Kings Baptist Church, 989 Kings Church Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071, Attn: Lou Cornell.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education and administration to continue development of a comprehensive Christian education program in a growing church. Experience required, seminary degree in education preferred. Send resumés and inquiries to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3400 Summerfield Drive, Louisville KY 40220, Attn: Minister Search Committee. E-mail: hlbadmin@altavista.com.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and education to lead an enthusiastic, ever-growing group of young people (75%) and provide leadership for our comprehensive ministry of Christian education (25%) in one of Kentucky's fastest-growing counties. Experience, training and undergraduate degree required; seminary degree strongly preferred. Please send resumé and letter of interest to FBC Search Committee, c/o Wayne Young, 2002 Keaton Lane, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342 by Jan. 31, 2001.

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

**SEEKING:** 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:** Full-time minister of education and activities. Send resumés to: Hardinsburg Baptist Church, PO Box 54, Hardinsburg, KY 40143, or fax to (270) 756-5203.

**SEEKING:** Younger's Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking resumés for the position of pastor. Please send resumé to: 251 Younger's Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Church prayerfully seeks minister of music/youth (full-time or part-time). Please send resumé to: New Life Baptist Church, 1185 Shackelford Road, Florissant, MO 63031, Attn: Pastor Tim McIntyre. Phone: (314) 837-0626.

**SEEKING:** East Cadiz Baptist Church of Cadiz is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Send resumé to: M/Y Search Committee, East Cadiz Baptist Church, 407 Third St., Cadiz, KY 42211.

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

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

**SEEKING:** 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 resumé to: Personnel Chairman, Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, 4695 Hardinsburg Road, Cecilia, KY 42724.

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

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resumés 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. Resumés should be mailed to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402.

# PEOPLE

## Violence halts Bethlehem plans for Christmas

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, saw thousands of pilgrims flock to the city last year for Christmas celebrations, but has canceled most of this year's holiday festivities.

The Bethlehem 2000 Project of the Palestinian National Authority made the announcement last month as Israeli army helicopters and artillery continued their intermittent battle against Palestinian snipers and stone-throwers at various points around the city of Jesus' birth.

"This year, Bethlehem will not be able to celebrate Christmas as planned, and there will be no Christmas festival," said Christiane Dabdoub Nasser, head of church relations in the Bethlehem 2000 project. "The children will not have their gifts, the worshippers will be in mourning and the pilgrims will be absent.

"Like every year on Dec. 24, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem will make his solemn entry into Bethlehem and the Nativity Church, and Midnight Mass will be scheduled as usual. But last year's buzz and excitement will be something of the past."

An extensive series of Advent Concerts and other cultural events had been planned in advance of the Christmas celebrations to showcase the multi-million-dollar restoration of the ancient city, only just completed.

Guest choirs also were to perform in the city on Christmas Eve, visiting from as far away as Russia and the United States, Nasser said. But all of those events have been canceled. New Year's Eve, which was marked last year in Bethlehem by fireworks and the release of thousands of peace doves into the air, will be noted this year only by a moment of silence.

The dearth of tourists in Bethlehem might give more local people an opportunity to attend the Mass at the ancient Church of the Nativity, a structure that dates back to Byzantine times, said Raed Abussahl-in, a spokesman for Jerusalem's Latin patriarch.

Usually the church is packed with dignitaries and tourists, leaving little room for local Christians themselves.

"Humanly speaking, we may despair over what we are suffering now," added the Palestinian priest. "But we are still hoping against hope that these will be the last days before our freedom. If Christmas means salvation, then we are awaiting salvation, which means justice, and for us as Palestinians, independence."

## Class leaving seminary students all wet

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—One class in seminary is leaving students all wet, literally.

When New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary updated its Bunyan building, the renovation included installing a full-size baptistry for students to get a little firsthand knowledge of the subject.

Professor Jerry Barlow said the focus of baptism should not be doing it smoothly, but doing it spiritually.

Still, the new classroom baptistry should help students master both aspects of the ordinance. The technical training is a significant addition to the theological and theoretical lessons students often face at seminary.

"Baptism was something I had to learn by trial and error," Barlow said. "We want to give students confidence in the particulars of baptism so they'll be able to focus on its meaning.

The new baptistry not only helps visualize the meaning, but also helps in getting through the difficult circumstances that sometimes can accompany a baptism.

One student only partially immersed his candidate during the class, Barlow said. "Many ministers have experienced that, and it can really throw you. If the water is extremely cold, and the candidate is shivering, how do you handle that? How do you baptize someone with a severe disability? With the baptistry, I can demonstrate a lot that has happened."

The class not only focuses on the actual practice of the baptism ordinance, but also on duties such as counseling the candidate before baptism, working with a baptism committee, being aware of the new models of baptistries, many of which don't require



the pastor to enter the water.

"I didn't get the guy under the water the first time," said Marc Daniels, a master of divinity student. "It was good to have something mess up now in class than to mess up like that in my first church."

"I was really nervous," student Jason Sampler said. "The guy I was baptizing was about 8 inches taller than I was. It was neat to be able to practice."

Student Amy Labella willingly was one of the students who posed as the baptism candidate, being immersed repeatedly by students during the class.

While she learned a lot about how to properly baptize a person, for her,

she said the meaning went much deeper.

"I was just standing there in the water while Dr. Barlow was talking about the meaning of baptism," she recounted. "I was just holding on to his wrist as he was talking about going down into the water and being raised again just as Jesus was."

"I was standing there remembering my own baptism as a fifth-grade student, and it never hit me then just how amazing salvation is," she said.

And what was it like being dunked several times with varying degrees of competency by the students?

"I didn't mind at all," she said.

**DRY RUN** Student Marc Daniels (right) practices a "dry run" baptism on Amy Labella, both students in the pastoral ministries class at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The class teaches students ordinances and duties required in a range of staff positions in the local church. (BP photo by Doy Cave)

## Sign takes Ten Commandments to motorists

HAMPTON, Ark. (BP)—The public display of the Ten Commandments might be legally challenged in government buildings, but they still are available on the open road.

The commandments are on a sign that sits on the southbound side of Highway 167, on the outskirts of Hampton.

Joe Glass said he took his own advice while traveling and noting the many non-Christian images or products advertised on billboards.

"I told my wife, 'There should be signs that lift up and encourage people' instead of being so negative," he recalled.

They soon got to work. With his wife's help, the couple designed and painted the sign. This was easy for Glass who worked several years ago for a sign company.

"You never know who might pass by this sign and need to be encouraged," said Glass. "God tells us ... that His Word will not return void. I just don't believe that anyone can read God's Word and not be affected in some way by it."

Many people who travel the state highway might never attend a church, Glass noted. "I believe that placing the Ten Commandments on the sign will allow more people to see and read the Word," he said of the billboard, which is colorfully painted in primary colors.



**MASSIVE MESSAGE** The Ten Commandments are displayed on a billboard outside Hampton, Ark. "You never know who might pass by this sign and need to be encouraged," said sponsor Joe Glass.

No church is identified, nor is Glass.

Glass said he chose the Hampton location a few months ago because of its high traffic and 45 mph speed limit. "Hopefully, drivers are slowing down in the city limits," he said. As a result, "they have more time to take a look at the sign."

Glass said he has received more attention than he anticipated. Thankful-

ly, he said, he hasn't heard negative feedback.

Although Glass has contemplated moving the sign to another site, he said, wherever he decides to relocate it he hopes the message will reach people. "I will never know until I get to heaven who ... has been touched by God's Word on the sign," he said. "I only hope it has somehow been a blessing."



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