


**PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**WESTERN RECORDER**

January 9, 2001  
Vol. 175, No. 1

**FOR THE RECORD**

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**New feature to highlight paper's 175th anniversary**

As Kentucky Baptists pursue ministry in the 21st century, they build on a rich Baptist heritage in the state that dates back more than two centuries. A significant part of that history has been documented throughout the years by the *Western Recorder*.

2001 marks the 175th anniversary of Kentucky Baptists' state paper. The oldest weekly state paper in the Southern Baptist Convention, the *Western Recorder* traces its roots to 1826, more than a decade before the Kentucky Baptist Convention officially was organized.

To highlight the Recorder's ministry impact during the past 175 years, three writers have been commissioned to produce a series of articles that debut this week on page 5. Jack Birdwhistell, professor of religion at Georgetown College; Duane Bolin, associate professor of history at Murray State University; and Joyce Martin, the *Western Recorder's* partnership editions editor, will share the story of the state Baptist paper and its vital role in Kentucky Baptist life.

The series of articles will address such diverse topics as the Recorder's earliest predecessor, the *Baptist Register*; the adoption in 1851 of the paper's current name; and its designation as the KBC's official state paper in 1919 as well as the challenges and opportunities of the present and future.



**Pledge power**



**PLEDGE CARDS** Youth from Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland were among a group of teens who posted 450 True Love Waits yard signs June 13 on the front lawn of Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, site of the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention. A new study says that such "virginity pledges" significantly reduce the likelihood that teens will engage in sex. Those pictured are (from left) Rachel Routt, 18; Jennifer Harris, 15; Phillip Harris, 19; Holly Routt, 16; and Heather Harris, 6. (BP file photo)

**Study: Abstinence efforts like True Love Waits work**

By Terri Lackey  
*SBC LifeWay Christian Resources*

NASHVILLE (BP)—Teenagers who pledge to remain sexually abstinent until marriage are 34 percent less likely to have sex than those who don't take virginity vows.

That's the finding of a study to be published in the *American Journal of Sociology*.

"Pledging decreases the risk of intercourse substantially and independently," the study's authors, Peter Bearman and Hannah Brückner,

wrote. Bearman is professor of sociology and director of the Institute for Social and Economic Theory and Research at Columbia University, and Brückner is assistant professor of sociology at Yale University.

Advocates of such programs as True Love Waits, hailed the report.

"This is great news," said Paul Turner, co-coordinator for True Love Waits, an international campaign that challenges teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage. The campaign is sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Since the beginning of True Love Waits in 1993, we have believed pledges do make a difference," Turner said. "We have witnessed the leveling off and decline of teen pregnancy since then because the latest CDC (Centers for Disease Control) report told us so. This study provides us with strong data that prove pledges do actually make a difference."

The study, "Promising the Future: Pledging to Remain Sexually Abstinent Until Marriage," was published in the *American Journal of Sociology*. The study, "Promising the Future: Pledging to Remain Sexually Abstinent Until Marriage," was published in the *American Journal of Sociology*. The study, "Promising the Future: Pledging to Remain Sexually Abstinent Until Marriage," was published in the *American Journal of Sociology*.

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**Split decisions often leave congregations with fences to mend**

By Michael Leathers  
*Illinois Baptist*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (ABP)—After winning the presidency by a paper-thin margin, President-elect George W. Bush faces the daunting task of how to bring together a nation sharply divided between two candidates.

It's a challenge familiar to many Baptist churches.

Unlike many other types of churches, Baptists have a congregational polity. Each local church decides in democratic fashion who its leaders will be, how its money is spent and whether or not to build new buildings.

Often, disagreement occurs. And when close votes dominate business meetings, even over minor issues, church members often polarize, according to Baptist leaders with experience in resolving church conflicts.

"We often polarize over internal decisions that don't impact how we are fulfilling the Great Commission," said

Lindsay Cobb of Chicago Metro Baptist Association, who has been called on to intervene when crises have threatened to derail churches.

The problem is that the very nature of voting encourages a win-lose mindset, he said. That fosters a competitive environment rather than a collaborative one.

Cobb said some churches could avoid arguments at business meetings by delegating decisions to appropriate committees or church staff, but that works only as long as those making decisions have demonstrated they can be trusted.

Some churches avert disruptions in fellowship by agreeing to table close votes and allow more time for discussion and study.

Some hold off action even if 75 percent of the congregation approves, said Sylvan Knobloch, director of church-staff-development ministries for the Illinois Baptist State Association. Through such dialogue, opposing sides might discover another so-

lution that everyone can support.

Knobloch noted that even with 80 percent of members supporting an issue, one in five church members will oppose the measure and could potentially try to sabotage the issue or bring it up for another vote later.

Churches also should be careful not to dismiss the minority as not being in touch with God's will, warned pastor Fred Winters of First Baptist of Maryville, Ill. "I think there are times when a minority can be speaking with a prophetic voice," he said.

A key to building unity is to make sure church members have plenty of opportunity for input before significant votes take place, Winters said.

That's why First Baptist of Maryville now conducts budget discussions three-weeks before the church votes, instead of only a week before. Some members had felt that their input didn't matter, because one week didn't allow time to make budget adjustments based on their comments. Now they truly can be part of the pro-

cess, Winters said.

Once a church is polarized, there's no single solution to restoring peace, Cobb said. The tension might appear to go away in a few weeks, but people often bottle up their feelings until the next conflict surfaces. That's why a trained mediator from outside the church is crucial to heal congregations torn by conflict.

Jim Shemwell, director of missions for Kaskaskia Baptist Association in Illinois, spent 13 years in Togo, West Africa, as a Southern Baptist missionary.

When conflict threatens churches there, the elders spend most of their time listening and allowing people to vent before proposing a solution. They know every voice has to be heard before reconciliation can occur, he said.

That's different in many American churches, where the majority sometimes cuts off discussion so they can vote and be done with it, he added. "We prefer to split more than we would to heal."

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, January 10

## Chafin, influential Kentucky pastor & professor, dies

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

HOUSTON (ABP)—Former Kentucky Baptist pastor, seminary professor, evangelist and strategist Ken Chafin died Jan. 3 of leukemia.

Chafin, 74, had a varied and influential ministry career. He taught at the Southern Baptist Convention's two largest seminaries, was pastor of two influential inner-city congregations, directed evangelism efforts for the nation's largest Protestant denomination and worked alongside evangelist Billy Graham.

He also was one of the first moderate Baptist leaders to speak out against a strategy by conservatives to gain control of the SBC in the early 1980s.

Chafin first taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, from 1957 to 1965. He later taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, from 1965-1969 and 1984-1987.

He led Southern Baptists' outreach efforts as director of evangelism for the SBC Home Mission Board from 1969 to 1972.

His long association with Graham included service as dean of the Billy Graham Schools of Evangelism, held in conjunction with crusades around the globe, 1967-1983.

He was pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, 1988-1992, and South Main Baptist Church in Houston, 1972-1984.

Chafin also was known for his denominational leadership. He was a member and chairman of the Southwestern Seminary board of trustees. He also was a trustee of Georgetown College, Baptist Healthcare System in Kentucky and Houston Baptist University. He also served on the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.



Chafin

Chafin provided informal leadership for moderate Baptists, particularly during the 20-year controversy between conservatives and moderates.

He was a leader of the so-called "Gatlinburg Gang," a group of pastors who organized the first resistance to the "conservative resurgence" in the SBC in the late 1970s and early '80s.

The group asked moderate-leaning SBC agency leaders to join in the effort, only to be criticized by moderates and conservatives alike for "politicizing" the convention.

A decade later, after conservatives had gained control of the national convention, Chafin helped organize the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an organization for moderates disaffected by the emerging convention leadership.

"I would call him one of those watershed people in Baptist life in the South who saw transitions in the old Southern Baptist Convention and spoke about them before a lot of people did and who paid dearly for it at times," said historian Bill Leonard.

"He was not only an outstanding pastor, but he was a grand teacher," added Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's divinity school and a former colleague of Chafin's at Southern Seminary.

Roy Honeycutt, former president of Southern Seminary, said words that describe Chafin's life and ministry include "calling, commitment, creativity, courage, compassion and consistency."

"At the personal level of our relationship, Kenneth Chafin embodied the best in friendship, vitality of life, wide-ranging interests, poetic expression, Christian charity and compassion," Honeycutt added. He cited Chafin's "unswerving commitment to Jesus Christ and His church" as well as his commitment to urge "believers to be on mission with God in His world,

whatever the context, challenge, controversy or consequences."

Southern Seminary President Al Mohler called Chafin "a skilled communicator and motivator."

"I regret that in later years our differences over theological and denominational issues became insurmountable," Mohler added. "I admired Dr. Chafin's honesty, even when the result was honest disagreement."

Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, called Chafin "a man of enormous conviction and courage," noting that "Baptists everywhere have lost a great friend."

Daniel Vestal, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, described Chafin as a "Baptist prophet."

"He spoke the truth when it wasn't popular and was a discerning spirit and saw what was happening in Baptist life. He also was a pioneer. He helped shape not only CBF but the moderate Baptist movement."

Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, remembered Chafin as "a wonderful encourager, supporter and advisor." He noted that Chafin organized Georgetown's annual pastors' conference the past several years.

"If we could produce a whole bunch more Ken Chafins, this world would be a better place," Crouch added.

Dwight Moody, dean of the chapel at Georgetown, said school officials plan to host a banquet in Chafin's memory April 17 as part of its 2001 pastors' conference.

Chafin, a native of Oklahoma, wrote six books, including volumes on evangelistic witnessing, marriage enrichment and biblical commentary. In retirement, he became a published poet and wrote devotionals for "The Daily Guidepost."

Chafin is survived by his wife, Barbara, two daughters and one son. Funeral services were held Jan. 7 at South Main Baptist Church in Houston.

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson and ABP Editor Bob Allen

## Kentucky issues among top 10 stories for 2000

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Two Kentucky-related stories were among last year's top 10 national news stories in Baptist life, according to an informal survey of state Baptist paper editors.

The Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's pending lawsuit over firing a lesbian staff member was the fifth-ranked story in the survey.

Comments by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler critical of former Southern Seminary President E.Y. Mullins was ranked 10th. Mohler said Mullins, the primary author of Southern Baptists' 1925 Baptist Faith and Message statement, gave too much credence to religious experience, contributing to a loss of confidence in biblical authority among Baptists.

The state paper editors ranked last summer's revisions to the Baptist Faith and Message as the year's top national news story.

Coming in a close second was an autumn vote by the Baptist General Convention of Texas to reduce funding to seminaries and selected other programs of the Southern Baptist Convention by more than \$5 million.

The two stories were not unrelated. Texas Baptist leaders pointed to the first major rewrite of Southern Baptists' official belief statement since 1963 as a rationale for re-evaluating the state convention's historic relationship with the denomination.

Each of the editors responding to the poll ranked either changes to the Baptist Faith and Message or the Texas defunding as first or second in the year's top stories.

The other top stories include:

3. The Cooperative Baptists Fellowship adopts a value statement that leaders describe as "welcoming, but not affirming, of gays." The policy says the moderate group will no longer provide direct financial support to organizations that promote homosexual behavior.

4. "Mainstream Baptists" form a nationwide network, followed by similar groups in several states, in an effort to mobilize moderates to defend their state conventions against conservative dominance.

6. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter announces he no longer regards himself a Southern Baptist. He cites differences with conservative views espoused by the denomination.

7. The U.S. Supreme Court rules that public prayers at high school football games in Texas violate the separation of church and state.

8. Religious violence escalates in Indonesia.

9. The Supreme Court rules that the Boy Scouts of America are not required to accept homosexuals as scout leaders.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Severance prompts staff exodus.** More than one-fourth of the Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board staff left their positions at the end of December, accepting a severance option expected to cost the convention nearly \$770,000. A total of 28 employees retired or resigned after the state convention offered an across-the-board severance package in anticipation of a major staff restructuring that begins this year. Executive Director Jim Hill said more than half of the staff members leaving cited political conflict between moderates and conservatives as a contributing factor. Nearly a third of the staff vacancies won't be refilled.

■ **Golden Gate reduces staff.** Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary officials have eliminated four staff positions, citing financial concerns in the wake of Texas Baptist action to reduce financial support for the Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries. Seminary leaders anticipate budget cuts of more than \$500,000 per year, about 8 percent of the school's annual budget.

Seminary officials also will delay filling other staff vacancies and put on hold a planned salary increase for employees.

■ **Book of the year examines SBC.** A book investigating strategies and rhetoric used by conservative leaders to gain control of the Southern Baptist Convention has been named the Religious Communication Association's 2000 book of the year. "In the Name of the Father: The Rhetoric of the New Southern Baptist Convention," published by Southern Illinois University Press, was written by Baptist scholars Carl Kell and Raymond Camp. Kell teaches at Western Kentucky University and Camp at North Carolina State.

■ **Houston church cuts ties to BGCT.** Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston, one of the city's largest Baptist congregations, has voted to sever ties with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. The 12,000-member church, which gave \$85,000 in 1999 to the BGCT's unified budget, voted 2,243-20 by

secret ballot to sever ties and align solely with the conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Pastor John Morgan said he believes it is the first large church in Texas to put such a vote before the entire church.

■ **Truett search for new dean continues.** The search for a dean at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary apparently is back to square one after the leading candidate for the post turned down the job. Howard Batson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, was one of three finalists interviewed for the deanship. He told the Texas Baptist Standard that after being offered the job, he felt he should stay at Amarillo, where he has served since 1995.

■ **William Jewell professor dies.** David Nelson Duke, a religion professor at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., died Dec. 18. Duke, 50, suffered from cancer. A graduate of Samford University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Emory University, he joined the William Jewell faculty in 1980.

## Longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor shares his secrets

By Victoria Moon  
Staff Writer

CENTERTOWN—Duncan Smith has never sent a resume to a single church. He doesn't have a graduate degree from seminary, and he knows more about old-fashioned tent revivals than mega-churches.

In fact, Smith might be far from some people's description of the successful modern-day minister. But for a 90-year-old, he thinks he's done pretty well.

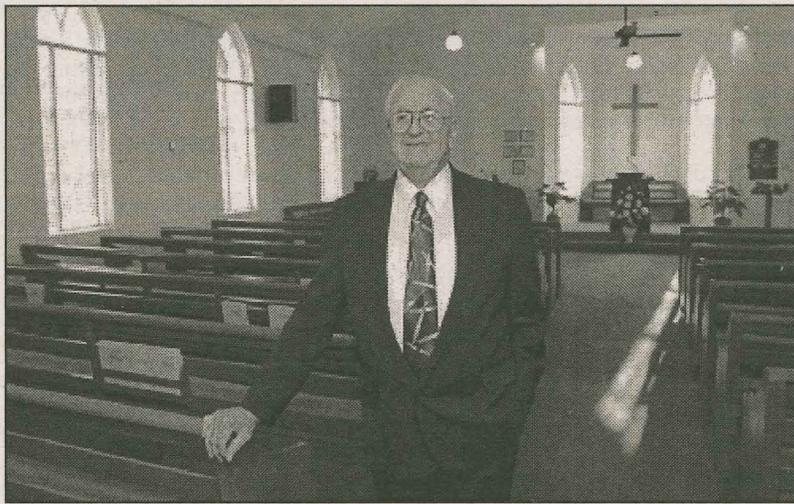
Smith has served 67 years in 10 churches throughout the commonwealth, making him one of the oldest Baptist pastors still preaching in Kentucky.

"The Lord's really blessed me," said Smith, who said he first received the call to ministry when he was asked to preach at a tent revival while still in his teens. Though only given a day to prepare his message, three men accepted Christ as their personal Savior during that service.

By the time Smith was 17, he said he felt God's call on his life to preach and was a regular speaker with the Baptist Young People's Union.

But Smith said he didn't begin to pursue full-time ministry until 1933, when he and his first wife lost a child to a sudden, mysterious illness.

"I had been farming in and preaching on the side since I graduated high school in 1930. After the experience (of losing a child), I gave up the farm and everything and went com-



**67 YEARS OF MINISTRY** Duncan Smith first started preaching at West Providence Baptist Church in 1943 when the congregation averaged about 70 people. He returned to the rural church in Ohio County in 1991. (Owensboro Messenger Enquirer photo by Gary Emord-Netzley)

pletely into the ministry."

At the heart of the Depression, Smith said he often received no pay when he preached and he made a point of not making money an issue.

"I've never asked about salary at any church I went to," he said. "I just went wherever the Lord called me. I told the Lord a long time ago I'd go wherever He wanted me to go and do anything He wanted me to do and trust Him to provide."

It wasn't easy, though, for a pastor to make a living. At one time in his early ministry Smith was preaching at six "quarter-time" churches and often

walking five to 10 miles to preach each week.

"Now there's more than 40 full-time churches in the Owensboro area, but when I started preaching there were only three," he said. "I would preach twice on Saturday afternoons and a couple more times on Sunday."

Smith's relationship with the congregations he's served have been so positive that he has been called back to five of the churches. The church he currently serves, West Providence Baptist Church in Centertown, he first served in the 1940s.

He said his ties with the churches

he's served have been so strong that they funded the only vacations he's had.

During his years at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church outside of Sorgho, the church sent him to the Holy Land. In the 1980s, friends—many of them members of his church congregations—raised money to send him on a mission trip to Africa.

"I have a wonderful fellowship with these churches," Smith said, adding that he is troubled by the division he now sees in many churches.

"The devil's in it, I reckon," he said.

Looking back over his career, he said he really would make only one major change. "I would spend more time studying the Word of God and preaching, and less time pastoring and organizing," he said.

He attributes the secret of his long life to "clean living," and the secret of his long ministry to two principles he's used as guides.

"One, to be content wherever I was," he said, "and two, don't complain about what I can't do anything about, and just depend on the Lord."

Though Smith has never seen many of the "perks" offered in today's churches like church staff, regular vacations or even a retirement plan, he said he still has no regrets about entering the ministry.

"I can honestly say I was God-called," he said, "God has called me to do this. I might make some changes along the way, but I wouldn't change being a pastor."

**Duncan Smith said one of the secrets of his long ministry is to "just depend on the Lord."**

## Louisville racial reconciliation effort continues

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—A movement to foster racial reconciliation that was promoted during last June's Tony Evans Crusade will take its next step with a community worship service Sunday, Feb. 11, at St. Matthews Baptist Church.

The event begins with prayer at 5 p.m., followed by a two-hour worship service starting at 6 p.m. Lincoln Bingham, chairman of Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries, will be the speaker.

St. Matthews, a predominantly Anglo church in suburban Louisville, and St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church, a downtown, mostly African-American congregation, will co-sponsor a reception afterward in the fellowship hall.

"I will talk about reconciliation not being optional but being obligatory," said Bingham, pastor of St. Paul's Church. "That's been mandated by God. We've been given the ministry of reconciliation."

Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries is the new name for the group that planned the Evans crusade.

The 10-member steering committee adopted the label as part of its commitment to insure the Dallas pastor's visit was more than a one-time event, said committee member Leslie Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Church.

"The uniqueness of the crusade was its focus on evangelism and the message that as we get right with God,



**RECONCILIATION** Les Hollon, left, washes Lincoln Bingham's feet during a reconciliation conference in Louisville in 1998. The two Louisville pastors are among the leaders of an effort to bring racial reconciliation through churches in Louisville.

we need to get right with each other," he said. "That's a powerful combination, but unfortunately a distinct approach."

The committee got a boost recently with the announcement of Billy Graham's upcoming appearance in Louisville June 21-24. A member of that crusade's committee has been invited to speak at the Feb. 11 service.

Acknowledging that reconciliation services are good but often fall short of crossing racial barriers, Hollon said the committee is encouraging black and white churches to form partnerships.

Joint worship services and other activities in friendships and congregations result in briefings and small-group discussions where the tough work of reconciliation can be accomplished, he said.

The suburban Louisville congregation met twice last year with St. Paul's. Members discussed their Christian life

and how race has been part of their experience.

"The partnership between St. Matthews and St. Paul's is one way to approach an ongoing forum where people talk about things," Hollon said.

"People can say, 'Here's how I was raised and here's how I intend to live differently,' or 'Here's how I have to forgive a white person for what he did.' Those conversations are where the real change takes place. Services like the one Feb. 11 create an atmosphere of trust and hope."

Although the Louisville group has no formal ties with Reconciliation Networks of the World, whose 1998 conference at St. Matthews attracted 1,500 people, the pastor said the two are connected in a broader sense.

Reconciliation is an idea whose time has come because of the awareness that it is a global age, he explained.

"There are 11,000 people groups in the world and ethnic strife on every continent," Hollon said. "It's a prime time for Christians to step forward and say, 'This is how we do it. This is how we can live peacefully with each other. Because of the power of Christ beyond ourselves, we can overcome ancient rivalries and hate.'"

Other Kentucky Baptists on the Greater Louisville Reconciliation Ministry steering committee include Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Charles Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church and past KBC president; and Doug Crawley, minister of music at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Partnership volunteers needed.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership office is seeking volunteers for five upcoming trips. Workers are needed for a prayer walk in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, Feb. 7-23; construction and vacation Bible school volunteers for projects in Yombo and Bagamoyo, Tanzania, March 7-23; evangelism and construction workers to work in Wisla, Poland, March 6-19; construction workers for the Baptist seminary in Warsaw, Poland, March 20-April 2; and leaders for a family life conference in Kaiserslautern, Germany, March 20-27 or March 27-April 3. For more information, contact the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462 or toll-free (888) 254-5724.

■ **Elizabethtown to host prayer meeting.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team will host a prayer meeting for spiritual awakening in the commonwealth, Jan. 18-19 in Elizabethtown. The event will be held at the Severns Valley Association office. For more information, call Larry Martin at (502) 235-4101 or (800) 266-6477.

■ **Deacon/pastor/spouse retreat planned for next month.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth team will host the annual deacon/pastor/spouse retreat Feb. 9-10 at the Cave City Convention Center. Pastor Ken Schmitt of Knoxville, Tenn., will lead a presentation on healthy responses to difficult behavior titled, "Never Call Them Jerks." For more information, call toll-free (888) 254-5710.

■ **Georgetown gets grant.** Georgetown College received a \$350,000 grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville to upgrade the college's science facilities.

■ **Journalist gives Cumberland College gift.** Veteran White House journalist Helen Thomas recently gave a \$10,000 grant to Cumberland College. Thomas was honored by the JC Penney Co. with an award that included a \$20,000 educational grant, which she asked be split between Cumberland and her alma mater, Wayne State University in Detroit. In 1992, Cumberland awarded an honorary doctorate to Thomas.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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

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## Share God's love

When will Baptists learn that you can win more people to the Lord by telling of Jesus' love and the plan of salvation than we can by constantly deciding publicly what church (other than Baptist) knows the Lord? Why do we do that?

You never read in the newspapers where a Catholic church, a Christian church or a Methodist church group has decided that the Baptist church is a false teacher of the Bible. Baptists do so much condemning of other people, races and denominations that we have no time left to tell of the true reason why Jesus came to this earth.

I have some friends who are married to members of other denominations. It's so sad to see them not attend Baptist churches with their spouses because they get run down and hurt in some of the churches. Thank God the leadership in our church isn't like that, but laypeople and some of the higher powers that be do more damage than the leadership of our churches can undo in a lifetime.

It isn't necessary to be that way. Last time I read Matthew, it said, "Go ye into all the world." Nowhere does it say they have to walk the Baptist walk, just that they be taught in love.

One sure way to run off someone is to start off telling them that their beliefs are stupid, unfounded or not Bible-based. Don't condemn first; love first, show by example your love and concern for the person and witness.

Let's get together and quit running down other religions, races, cults as they are called, etc. and give of our money and show and share God's unconditional love with all people everywhere.

*Libby Arnold  
Louisville*

## Confession collection

There is much talk and some action these days concerning the role of the Baptist Faith and Message in the life of Kentucky Baptists. This is a good thing, and can be encouraged. But it needs to be an informed discussion.

To assist in this, we are gathering material from churches, institutions and organizations about the nature and function of confessions throughout the 200-plus years of Baptist history in Kentucky. We encourage anyone to send us materials and documents that illustrate how your church or organization has drafted, edited, adopted, affirmed, revised, employed, ignored or discarded a doctrinal confession. This information is available in constitutions, minutes, histories, articles and oral histories.

Material can be sent to us at Georgetown College, 400 E College St., Georgetown, KY 40324. Our research will be published in an effort to serve the common good.

*Jack Birdwhistell, Professor of Religion  
Dwight Moody, Dean of the Chapel  
Georgetown College*

## Judge carefully

The Dec. 26 letter by Ruthanne Boyles is wrong about not judging others. The Matthew 7 verse was quoted out of context. Also, the Romans 2 verse is taken out of context.

The summary of these verses and the left-out verses immediately next to them state that you are not to do the same activity that you judge someone else of doing.

All Christians are to judge people's behavior, but just be careful how they do it!

*Cynthia Tepper  
Louisville*

## Thanks for support

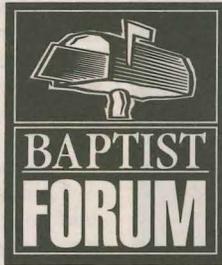
Thank you, Kentucky Baptists. Due to your generous giving to the 1999-2000 Eliza Broadus Offering, a total of \$774,080 was received during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. Because of your faithful giving, praying and volunteering, a variety of missions ministries across Kentucky received support. The impact of your praying and giving will be felt for years to come as those who came to know Christ this past year grow in their discipleship.

We are pleased to report that due to your faithful giving beyond the basic goal of \$750,000, funds were provided for additional state missions requests. Funding was provided for: Eastern Kentucky Regional Deaf Ministry; Jackson Valley Multi-housing Ministry in McKee; Infant Resource Center in Frankfort; church planting in Louisville; South Central Regional Hispanic Ministry; Christian Women's Job Corps in Louisville; and Discover Missions Week at Cedarmore.

We are now receiving the 2000-2001 Eliza Broadus Offering. From salary support for state missionaries and associational directors of missions to funding for summer missions, language missions, evangelism training, and disaster relief, the offering is a vital channel of missions funding. The offering also is used for missions education training and events, as well as smaller ministries across our state that apply directly to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union for assistance.

Please help us reach the 2000-2001 Eliza Broadus Offering goal of \$1 million. By giving at this level, we will be able to provide funds to the Kentucky Baptist Convention for starting new churches in addition to our other state missions ministries. WMU groups and churches may want to provide an emphasis on state missions throughout the year to encourage people to pray, give and volunteer right here in Kentucky.

*Joy Bolton,  
Kentucky WMU executive director*



## GIVING

### Christian estate plans enhance ministry impact

By Laurie Valentine

A Christian estate plan is one that is developed by determining God's purposes for distribution of your assets at death and management of your assets in the event of incapacity during your lifetime.

To accomplish God's purposes for distribution of assets at death you need a will that provides for distribution of your probate estate (individually owned assets and amounts payable to your estate or executor at your death). Fine-tuning the written distribution plan under your will can be accomplished with specific bequests of designated amounts or assets to specific charitable or individual beneficiaries. You also may need to make special provision for the management of the shares of your estate passing to young beneficiaries or incapacitated beneficiaries by including testamentary trust provisions.

You must coordinate your written plan for asset distribution (your will) with life insurance and retirement plan beneficiary designations.

You also need to review the way in which your assets are titled. Assets titled as joint tenants with rights of survivorship do not pass under your will; they pass to the surviving joint owner. This may conflict with the provisions of your will that indicate a different overall plan of distribution.

God's purposes for asset management in the event you become incapacitated as the result of a stroke, an accident or illness may be accomplished by executing a durable power of attorney. A revocable living trust also can provide a mechanism for management of assets in the event of incapacity, as well as distribution at death without probate.

To assure that the appropriate people have authority to make healthcare decisions for you if you are incapacitated, a healthcare surrogate designation should be considered. You also may determine that you wish to put in writing your desires regarding life-prolonging procedures in the event of a terminal condition by executing a living will directive.

Estate planning is an important part of every Christian's stewardship responsibilities. For more information, contact me or Barry Allen at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation toll-free at (888) 254-5701.

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

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### 2001 offers evangelism opportunities

Evangelism will be our focus for 2001 with a special launch of a three-year emphasis at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Lexington in February and the celebration of a Billy Graham crusade in June in Louisville. All Kentucky Baptists will have an opportunity to participate.

The Billy Graham crusade is set for June 21-24 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in Louisville. Please pray for Al Mohler, chairman of the crusade steering committee, and the crusade staff as preparations and enlistment proceed in the coming months.

We are grateful that Dr. Graham's good health has made this crusade possible. I am calling on all Kentucky Baptists to be ready to respond with full participation in this special opportunity. Church leaders are especially invited to the crusade announcement event at 10 a.m. on Jan. 16, at the Kentucky International Convention Center at 221 Fourth St. in Louisville.

Churches are encouraged to plan

bus or van trips each night that include unreached persons. If your church is within 75 miles of Louisville, please plan to participate in all of the preparation events and training.

A Billy Graham crusade will benefit the community and churches in significant ways. For instance:

■ Christians will be encouraged in their faith walk with Jesus Christ.

■ Louisville will be the most prayed for place in America.

■ Christians will work together in order for people to be changed by Jesus Christ.

■ The greater Louisville area will be more aware of the gospel than in any recent time.

■ Thousands of Christians will receive Christian Life Training and encouragement to share their faith.

■ "Love in Action" will provide ministries to the crusade-area communities.

■ Churches will be enlisted and encouraged to carry out the Great Com-

mission in their communities in order for people to be transformed by the gospel.

The Billy Graham crusade is not all that is happening in evangelism this year, however. You can get a real boost in your evangelism efforts by attending the state evangelism conference, Feb. 26-27, at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. There are 11 outstanding speakers coming who also will lead conferences. You also will experience inspiring music and the testimonies of God at work will bless you.

A three-year emphasis on evangelism will be launched at the evangelism conference. In 2001 you will be encouraged to make your home a "Lighthouse of Prayer" for your neighborhood (Matthew 5:16).

This evangelism effort is so important. While baptisms in Kentucky Baptists churches were up in 2000, the population in Kentucky grew by 9.7 percent or about 356,473 people during the last decade. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we must focus on reaching all people in our communities with the gospel.

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



Bill Mackey

# OPINION

## When teen's grades drop, seek to discover root of the problem

**Q: Our 15-year-old daughter is failing two subjects in school. We are horrified. She made all A's and B's in middle school. She has never made a D before this past progress report. She acts like its "no big deal." I want to ground her for the rest of the school year, but my husband thinks that is too harsh. What do you think?**

You are right that this is a big deal. However, I do not think grounding necessarily will help. You need to know more about what went wrong and let the discipline address that problem. Just punishing her might not fix the trouble.

Talk with her teachers and isolate the issues. Is she doing her homework? Is she in classes that are too advanced? Is she skipping class? Does she do poorly on the exams? Has she failed to do her class projects? Does she sleep in class? Are there social conflicts at school? Is there an emotional issue (fear, grief or guilt)? Is she depressed?

Perhaps she is so bright that until now she has been able to do well without applying herself. Does she know how to study and does she have the self-control to follow up on her plans? Is she over-extended with socializing or working?

When you have a clear picture of the issues, build a contract with her for improvement. You might want to ground her for a while so she can study more. Consider limiting TV, video and Internet time. Discuss a plan for improvement with her and her teachers. Be plain about what she will lose if her grades go down. Be positive about what she will gain if her grades stay high.

Whatever you decide, you and your husband must be in agreement. Be consistent and do not let her play "divide and conquer." Have a clear agreement and follow it daily. Be fair, but be firm.—*Wade Rowatt*

**Q: I recently had a hip joint replacement and my doctor has scheduled me for physical therapy. What should I expect the therapist to do?**

Aging is a normal process. Normal aging need not result in pain or decreased physical mobility. A physical therapist is a source of information to explain these changes and offer assistance for regaining lost abilities or developing new ones.

A physical therapist, working with an older adult, understands the anatomical and physiological changes that occur with normal aging. The physical therapist will evaluate your needs and develop a specially designed therapeutic exercise program to help restore the highest level of functioning.

Through the use of tests, evaluations, exercises, treatments with modalities, screening programs and educational information, physical therapists can:

- Help increase, restore or maintain range of motion, physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance and endurance.
- Recommend adaptations to make the home accessible and safe.
- Teach positioning, transfers and walking skills to promote maximum function and independence within an individual's capability.
- Increase overall fitness through exercise programs.
- Prevent further decline in functional abilities through education, energy conservation techniques, joint protection and use of assistive devices to promote independence.
- Improve sensation and joint flexibility.
- Reduce physical pain.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



## Unity plus urgency equals spiritual impact

Much of the world chose to celebrate the dawn of the new millennium a year ago with festive fireworks and fanfare. A few purists opted to wait until last week to officially usher in the millennial milestone.

Either way, we've all stepped into the 21st century now. As Christians, and more specifically as Kentucky Baptists, one vital question we face is how we will address the challenges and opportunities of ministry in an ever-changing world.

In many ways, 01-01-01 was just another date on the calendar. Yet it symbolically points to a boundless array of hopes, dreams and goals. Kentucky Baptists must plan carefully and act boldly to harness those goals for maximum impact.

Each century in Kentucky Baptist life has witnessed unique ministry needs and responses. The 18th century was a time of discovery and development as Squire Boone and other early Baptist preachers proclaimed the gospel in remote pioneer settings.

The 19th century saw the birth and rapid expansion of organized denominational life. The Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Western Recorder, the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and numerous other Baptist organizations were established to help strengthen Baptist work in the new commonwealth.

The 20th century was a time of unprecedented growth in Kentucky Baptist life. Record-setting gains were achieved in church growth, baptisms, financial gifts and other key areas of convention life.

What will the 21st century hold? With expanding opportunities in partnership missions, campus ministry, personal evangelism, electronic communications and countless other cutting-edge ministry options, the potential spiritual impact is huge. But there also is the risk of falling far short of that potential.

One key to effective ministry is for Kentucky Baptists to move forward in unity, pooling our time, energy and resources for the benefit of the gospel. Ephesians 4:3-6 calls us to "preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," emphasizing that "there is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

The adage that we can accomplish more together than we can separately has been proven true time and time again throughout Baptist history. While spiritual unity must be tempered with personal commitment and conviction, we must be willing to place kingdom goals above individual ambitions. To do otherwise is to ignore God's call for unity in the body of Christ.

In addition to God's clear instruction, a strong sense of urgency offers ample motivation for pursuing unity in Kentucky Baptist life. "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest," Jesus told His followers in John 4:35. That same urgent spiritual need pervades society today.

According to the 2000 census, population in the United States has escalated by more than 32 million people in the past decade. That total includes a population increase of more than 350,000 people here in Kentucky.

With thousands of people in need of a strong Christian witness, the start of the 21st century is no time for Kentucky Baptists to abandon God-honoring unity. We must strengthen our efforts to rally around common goals aimed at producing a rich spiritual harvest in Kentucky and beyond.

Whatever the 21st century holds for Kentucky Baptists, unity and urgency are vital ingredients.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Western Recorder traces roots to commonwealth's pioneer spirit

By Duane Bolin

The year 2001 marks the 175th anniversary of the Western Recorder, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's venerable state Baptist paper.

The Recorder's earliest predecessor debuted as the Baptist Register early in 1826. Editors George Waller and Spencer Clack soon changed the paper's name to the Baptist Recorder and a dizzying array of other publications—the Baptist Herald, the Baptist Chronicle, the Baptist Banner—all published in Kentucky, followed.

In 1839, the Banner, recently moved from Shelbyville to Louisville, merged with the Baptist, a Nashville publication, and the Western Pioneer, published in Alton, Ill. The merged publication was renamed the Baptist Banner and Western Pioneer and was later shortened yet again to the Baptist Banner. A remarkable but confusing collection of other Baptist papers continued to spring up in towns around the state, but it was the Banner that survived.

The tenacity of these early editors—most of them serving as Baptist pastors as well—reflected a determination to ensure what one writer, in the Jeffersonesque language of the day, hoped for: "the diffusion of

religious, literary and general intelligence" throughout the commonwealth.

It was in 1851 that editor John L. Waller, a nephew of George Waller, changed the name of the Baptist Banner to the Western Recorder. Although the paper did not become the official denominational publication of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now the Kentucky Baptist Convention) until 1919, the paper's name has endured into this new millennium. The 175th anniversary of Kentucky's state Baptist paper also is the sesquicentennial anniversary of the paper's distinctive name. And an appropriate name it was.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Kentucky lived in the imaginations of Americans as the western frontier that it was. Chester Raymond Young, a long-time history professor at Cumberland College, edited the narrative of early Kentucky Baptist pioneer Daniel Trabue, naming the book, "Westward Into Kentucky."

Trabue noted that he first heard frontier Kentucky in 1775 described as that "new Discovered wonderful country." The rush to the west that followed was astonishing. In 1775, at the time of Trabue and Daniel and Squire Boone, only 150 non-Indian

men—no women—lived in Kentucky. Fifteen years later, on the eve of statehood, there were more than 73,000 men, women and children, and Lexington became known as "the Athens of the West" because of its flourishing educational institutions.

By the mid-19th century, the Western Recorder served not only the western state of Kentucky, but Baptists in Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois as well. Just as Kentucky has been a leader in other areas of Baptist life, pioneering Kentuckians led the way in Baptist journalism. And the Baptist paper in Kentucky, recognized for its integrity and for its depth and breadth of coverage, continues to take a pioneering lead today. Editors from John Waller to T.T. Eaton, from V.I. Masters and R.T. Skinner to C.R. Daley and Trennis Henderson have all been blessed with a pioneering spirit, treating the challenges, issues and events of each new generation with wit, insight and no small measure of faith and courage.

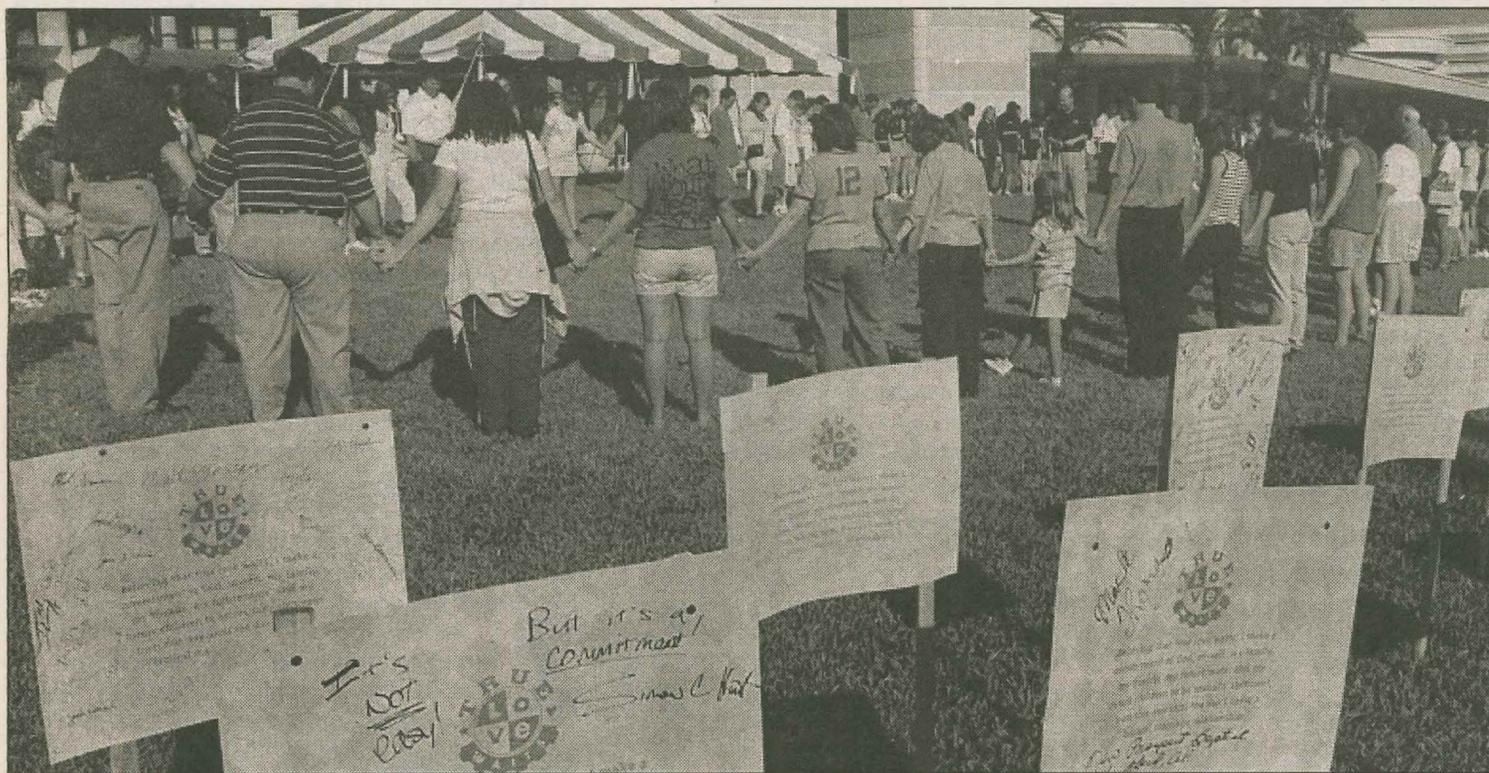
As we celebrate the dawning of another new year, Kentucky Baptists also can celebrate the ongoing ministry of their state Baptist paper. The name, Western Recorder, appropriate in 1851, remains appropriate today. Westward into Kentucky, indeed!

James Duane Bolin is associate professor of history at Murray State University. He is the author of "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation."



1826-2001

# RESOURCES



## Researchers say church missions giving at lowest point in 31 years

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (RNS)—Americans are giving slightly more for the day-to-day operations of their churches, but giving to missions beyond the local church has hit a 31-year low, according to a new report.

The report on church giving between 1968 and 1988 was released by empty tomb inc., an Illinois firm that has tracked church giving and membership in Protestant and Catholic churches since 1972.

The annual report found that giving to churches lags far behind the rate of growth in personal income, especially for "benevolence" funds that go to missions beyond the local church, including global projects and denominational support.

According to empty tomb, after-tax U.S. income rose 91 percent during the two decades, but giving to congregational finances rose just 66 percent, and benevolence giving rose just 15 percent, a 31-year-low.

While overall giving was up, giving as a percentage of personal income fell dramatically. Churches affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals saw giving as a percentage of income drop from 6.15 percent to 4 percent, a 35 percent drop. Mainline churches affiliated with the National Council of Churches saw the same rate drop from 3.31 percent to 2.96 percent, a drop of 10 percent.

Sylvia Ronsvalle, co-author of the study with her husband, John, said the most troubling trend is that of the increased money given by parishioners, more is being earmarked for day-to-day operating expenses and not for mission and care-giving projects. For every dollar of increased giving, 94 cents went for expenses that benefit just the congregation, while only 6 cents went to benevolence funds, such as feeding programs.

"Our giving patterns really are an indicator of our spiritual condition, and what the number suggests is that our temperature is cooling toward our religion," she said.

Ronsvalle estimated that if church members gave the biblical standard of 10 percent of their incomes back to the church, donations would surge by an additional \$131 billion. The responsibility falls on church leaders to push for big projects, such as hunger relief, that would create the incentive to give, she said.

"If people are not being challenged to do something great, they lose interest," she added. "They put the church on the same par as any other consumer purchase, and they will not sacrifice for something that isn't capturing their imaginations."

## Study: Abstinence pledge efforts are working

**TRUE LOVE WAITS**  
Teenagers and others pray after posting True Love Wait pledge cards in front of the convention hall for the 2000 Southern Baptist Convention. (BP file photo)

Continued from page 1

Virginity Pledges as They Affect the Transition to First Intercourse," is scheduled to appear in the January 2001 issue of the American Journal of Sociology.

In his 1999 study, Bearman reports that 2.5 million teens in the United States have taken public virginity pledges. But he said that figure probably is closer to 3 million by now. Bearman said his data was taken from a mid-1990 National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (popularly referred to as Add Health).

Bearman pulled his research question from the earlier Add Health study that found teenagers who take pledges of virginity, have loving parents and regard religion and prayer as important are the least likely of all ado-

lescents to report engaging in early sexual behavior.

The earlier research was conducted to identify risks to adolescent health and to pinpoint specific factors that might guard against those risks.

Bearman said he wanted to study how taking a virginity pledge alone would affect a teen's sexual behavior.

"The biggest predictor to (having) sex is being in a romantic relationship," he said. But teens who are in relationships and take abstinence pledges are less likely to have sexual relations than teens who don't take the pledge, Bearman's study found.

"A 'pledger' with four romantic partners has the same relative risk of sex as a 'non-pledger' with no romantic partners. That's a huge effect," he said.

The delayed effect of sexual intercourse is substantial and almost impossible to erase, he reported. "Taking a pledge delays intercourse for a long time."

In fact, Bearman said by age 15, half the teens in the study had already had sex. Those who took virginity vows, however, usually held off for 18 more months.

While this particular finding might not elicit a sigh of relief from many Christian parents, Turner reminds them that, in addition to taking a public stance on abstinence, a teen who takes a True Love Waits pledge is making a vow to God.

"True Love Waits is more than just a pledge to remain abstinent," Turner said. "At the heart of the pledge, these kids are committing to God to live a life of purity. We have told teens that there is nothing magic about signing a pledge card.

"But when a teenager seriously takes into account the pledge he or she is making and to whom the pledge is made, a lifestyle emerges that is true to the biblical standards established by God for sex," he explained.

Meanwhile, Bearman reported that pledging might not work for all ages (younger, rather than older adolescents are more likely to keep their vows) or in cultures where nobody's

pledging or everybody's pledging. Too few teens making pledges do not offer the social support needed, and too many negate the uniqueness of the movement, he said.

"If every teenager in the world took the pledge, the pledge wouldn't be as important or as meaningful," he reported.

Bearman said he believes virginity pledges are an excellent way to give teens a way to say "no."

"Even if pledging works only to delay intercourse, and even if pledgers eventually have sex before they marry, pledging may be a way to bridge some of the difficult years in early adolescence without (unwanted) sexual activity," Bearman wrote in his paper.

Turner said: "Many students have shared how making a pledge to abstinence has kept them out of trouble even before it became an issue. It has given them a reason they can fall back on when they are tempted to engage in premarital sexual activity.

"The result has been fewer teens experiencing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases."

Other cultural indicators in Bearman's study that suggested teens would hold off longer on engaging in premarital sex included:

- Teens living in two-parent homes are less likely to have sex earlier than teens living in single-parent or step-parent homes.

- Perceived parental disapproval of premarital sex has a strong delaying factor throughout adolescence.

- Teens who are more religious are more likely to delay sex. This is not denomination-specific, but most likely results from the fact that a connection to peer/community/church helps delay sex.

- The combination of academic achievement and sports participation (for non-African-American girls only) have the strongest delay effect in early and middle adolescence

- In late adolescence, girls with high self-esteem are less likely to engage in premarital sex than girls with low self-esteem.

## True Love Waits planning Web campaign for Valentine's Day

NASHVILLE (BP)—Students around the world are being asked to pledge abstinence from premarital sex and send e-mail True Love Waits commitment cards on Feb. 14.

At the True Love Waits home page, [www.truelovewaits.com](http://www.truelovewaits.com), teens will find a pledge card, which can be filled out and e-mailed to the campaign's headquarters. A live counter will show the totals as they are tallied.

The 2001 Internet campaign, which offers students outside the United States an opportunity to participate, is called "Seize the Net."

The covenant cards teens are asked to sign read: "Believing that true love waits, I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, my friends, my future mate, and my future children to be sexually abstinent from this day until the day I enter a biblical marriage relationship."

Organizers are asking youth leaders and students to schedule Bible studies, discipleship time, worship services, retreats and other experiences to promote the program in the weeks leading up to Feb. 14.

For information about True Love Waits resources, call (800) 458-2772, visit a LifeWay Christian Store or log on to [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com). For information about the campaign itself, call (800) LUV-WAIT or send an e-mail to [truelovewaits@lifeway.com](mailto:truelovewaits@lifeway.com).



# KENTUCKY

## Kentucky church pioneers missions outreach effort

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

SHEPHERDSVILLE—To understand the difference in mindset at Little Flock Baptist Church, one just has to hear how some workers there answer the phone: "Little Flock Ministry Center."

That small change models the efforts represented in a pilot project started last year by the church.

"It does give us the vision of the church to be more oriented toward the New Testament purposes of the church," said Minister of Missions Barry Kornegay.

Little Flock is one of a handful of Southern Baptist congregations around the country participating in a pilot project sponsored by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Last year the church established a "Great Commission Resource Center."

Located in the sanctuary foyer, the center stocks videos, booklets, newsletters and general educational materials. It also spotlights a different missionary each month, including information on their work, the people they are trying to reach and prayer requests.

"It's giving us a lot more opportunities to get missions in front of our congregation," Kornegay said. "People can walk in any time and pick up brochures, information on people groups or request information."

While numbers aren't the only story, they reveal one. About 260 members of Little Flock Baptist Church went on short-term mission trips in 2000, more than double the 105 who participated in mission trips in 1999.

Among other things, they distributed 350 pairs of glasses, food, clothing, school supplies, Bibles and evangelistic materials. They also helped start six new churches in Mexico and Peru.

Collectively, Little Flock leaders said, these outreaches in foreign nations and several states led to 2,600 people praying to receive Christ as their personal Savior.

Little Flock and Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., were the first two churches involved in the Great Commission Resource Network established by the IMB.

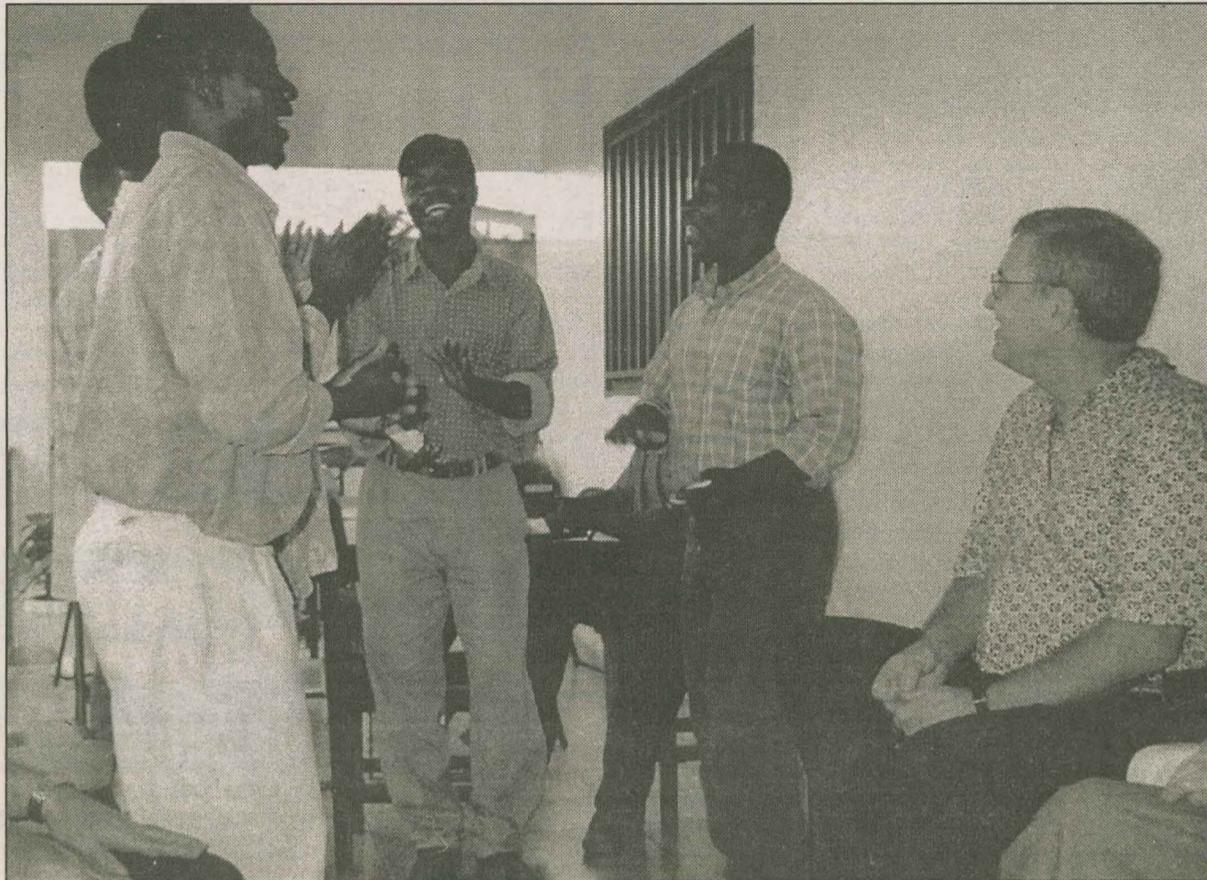
While under discussion for more than two years, the pilot project didn't officially begin until last May, according to Al Gilbert, the IMB's special assistant for mobilization.

Thirteen churches are involved in the experiment, which Gilbert said will last only two years. He said its primary goal is to encourage more involvement at the local level.

This isn't a board-directed initiative, he said; it is aimed at developing strategies that will inform the convention about the best ways to stimulate grassroots participation.

"This is about learning," he said. "As Southern Baptists we've never taken on the task of learning how to get people involved in missions," he said. "Anyone who has a lot of people who want to get involved in missions can participate."

In addition to taking a mission trip, the centers promote various mission



**MISSION EXPERIENCES** After launching a "Great Commission Resource Center" last year, Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville more than doubled the number of people who went on mission trips compared to the previous year. ■ **Above:** Little Flock members (seated) socialize with residents in Guinea during a trip to minister to refugees in the West African country. ■ **Left:** Young adult members of Little Flock lead children in vacation Bible school activities in Mexico City.

Little Flock has worked to get other churches involved in missions, Kornegay said. For example, eight members of Riveroaks Community Church in Middletown went on a Little Flock-sponsored trip to Mexico City last summer.

A member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville went on another trip to Mexico. That church has also established a partnership with a member who is now a missionary to Russia.

"We want to encourage other churches that don't have an active mission program to call us and say, 'We have five men who are carpenters. Where can they go for a week to Montana on a mission trip?'" Kornegay said.

Pastor Ronald Shaver said the center has proved a key to reaching baby boomers and younger people who want hands-on involvement.

It also has resulted in harmony through promoting a common vision, he added.

"In the past, (missions) was duty to a program instead of a joy," Shaver said. "Our goal is to build people and give value to their lives. The greatest way to build people's self-esteem is to give them a task greater than they can do and trust God to do it."

"The word 'personalization' sums it up," Kornegay added. "This has made missions more personal to our people."

opportunities. Among those at Little Flock:

■ Becoming an e-mail prayer partner for a missionary.

■ Helping develop a network of prayer and short-term mission trips to new areas overseas.

■ Working with one of three new Kentucky churches Little Flock supports.

■ Participating in local outreaches. Members have given away soft drinks, washed cars and raked leaves.

John Barnett, director of the year-old center, said it also has stimulated more interest among youth. More than 70 teenagers went on trips this year, compared to 50 a year ago.

Youth also are starting projects, like an effort by middle-school students to collect Bibles to send to North American missionaries.

"We're plugging people in and letting them know they can make an impact on global missions," he said. "It's not about collecting money for mis-

sionaries. It's about helping mobilize people for their cause. We start with prayer and getting people involved and let the Lord show us how we can help."

Barnett said one of the most touching stories from the past year involves a missionary who works in a politically-sensitive area of the world.

Gilbert notified the Kentucky Baptist church that the woman—known only by her code name, Esther—needed prayer. Little Flock used e-mail to recruit more than 100 prayer supporters.

Barnett then met the missionary during International Missions Week at North Carolina's Ridgecrest Conference Center last July.

"She was sharing how that's made a difference in her life," he said. "Because of that, we have a couple of young people who may feel the call to work among (the same) people. Through prayer God puts the call on people's lives."

This kind of reaction is one reason

### Harlan County officials repost Ten Commandments

HARLAN (BP)—The Harlan County Board of Education has reposted the Ten Commandments along with other historical documents in the school district's administrative offices, according to a report in Associated Press.

In a unanimous vote, board members also gave their approval for putting similar displays in each of the district's 14 schools, the Harlan Daily Enterprise reported.

Chairman Sidney Fee said the decision on whether to put the commandments back up came down to a matter of doing what's right. The commandments are posted alongside documents such as the Mayflower Compact and the Bill of Rights.

"We think this is totally constitutional now, without any question," said Johnnie Turner, the school board's attorney.

The American Civil Liberties Union asked U.S. District Judge Jennifer Coffman last month to hold two rural Kentucky counties, McCreary and Pulaski, in contempt for similar repostings in their courthouses.

Coffman issued a temporary injunction in May ordering the displays taken down from the two courthouses and the Harlan County schools pending a ruling on a lawsuit filed by the ACLU in November 1999 seeking to permanently ban the displays.

The two counties reposted the exhibits in October with a few modifications, triggering the ACLU's latest action. Fee said the Harlan County school board is aware of the ACLU's request to hold officials in McCreary and Pulaski counties in contempt and that the group may ask that Harlan County officials also be held in contempt.

## Spiritual counselors say talks with Clinton will continue

**Tony Campolo said some Christians, both Republicans and Democrats, have been critical of the gatherings.**

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than two years after starting to meet with three spiritual advisers, President Clinton has decided to continue the practice when his term ends.

Tony Campolo, one of the three ministers who have met regularly with Clinton, said the president wants to keep the meetings going.

"He has indicated that he will continue this relationship," Campolo said Jan. 5. "He expects that, being relieved of the presidency, he will be able to give even more attention to ... these matters so he is looking for spiritual counsel especially as he defines the future of his life."

Philip Wogaman, another spiritual adviser and senior minister at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, confirmed the president's plans.

"The three of us will have a continuing relationship with the president," he said after the three met with Clinton last week.

Campolo said he is encouraged that the meetings with the president will be ongoing.

"It's a further indication of his desire to understand his life and behavior in spiritual terms," he said.

In September 1998, Clinton confessed to religious leaders attending a White House breakfast that he had "sinned" in his sexual relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and announced he would be "seeking pastoral support." Clinton was impeached as a result of the scandal and narrowly escaped being removed from office.

Since the 1998 breakfast, he has met individually and in a group with Campolo, an evangelical leader based



Campolo



Clinton

in St. Davids, Pa.; Wogaman; and Gordon MacDonald, a writer and speaker based in Canterbury, N.H. Clinton is a Southern Baptist, but he has attended Wogaman's church during his presidency with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, a United Methodist.

Campolo, president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, said Clinton generally has met with at least one of them on a weekly basis and met with all three last week "because he's coming to the end of the administration."

Wogaman said post-presidential meetings with Clinton won't follow exactly the same pattern they did when he inhabited the White House, but said "it's going to be significant."

MacDonald could not be reached for comment.

Throughout the second half of his second term, Clinton has juggled his appointments with the spiritual advisers as he attends to major world concerns, such as his current efforts to achieve a Mideast peace agreement.

"He's nevertheless carving out the time—usually an hour and a half—to be with us, even in the midst of a very pressured schedule, given the peacemaking situation," Campolo said.

Campolo described the discussions as "earnest" but not "confrontational." "Every time we get together, we do

so in the context of deep prayer and self-searching and biblical study," Campolo said.

Neither Campolo or Wogaman would speak of the details of their meetings with Clinton, but Campolo said they address various aspects of the president's life.

"We are concerned about the whole person and his whole life and not just a segment," said Campolo. "We contend that what goes on in one area of life impacts all areas of life."

As the meetings have continued, Campolo said, so did criticism and

praise from those who have contacted him and the other advisers.

He said some Christians, both Republicans and Democrats, have been critical of the gatherings.

"Very often political attitudes have taken precedence over the beliefs about grace and forgiveness that are at the core of the Christian community," Campolo said. "Politics has highly influenced the criticism."

But he added that all three regularly receive encouragement as well, from letter writers saying they are praying for their ministry with Clinton.

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### Magazine: Samaritan's Purse most efficient U.S. faith-based charity

NEW YORK (RNS)—Samaritan's Purse, the Christian relief agency headed by evangelist Franklin Graham, has been cited as the most efficient religious charity by Smart Money magazine.

The designation was based on the magazine's calculations of charities' program, fund-raising and savings ratios. Samaritan's Purse, which is based in Boone, N.C., and had 1999 revenues of \$109.7 million, topped the list of religious charities, with 88.8 percent of its budget allocated to program activities, 3.7 percent of its public donations going to fund raising and 12 percent of its incoming funds retained for savings.

The rest of the top five religious charities were, in descending order, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Focus on the Family and Campus Crusade for Christ.

At the bottom of the list of religious charities was the American Bible Society, with 71.4 percent of its budget going to program activities, 29.5 percent of its public donations going to fund raising and 38.8 percent of its incoming funds retained for savings.

The magazine based its ranking on an analysis of three years of financial data for the nation's 100 largest charities.

Catholic Charities ranked second among human service charities behind Houston's Neighborhood Centers, with 90.9 percent of its budget allocated to program activities, 6.6 percent of its public donations used for fund raising and 2.4 percent of its incoming funds kept for savings.

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- ◆ **Tuesday, January 30**  
Panther Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro  
For reservations, contact Daviess-McLean Assoc. at (270) 684-2377.
- ◆ **Monday, February 12**  
West Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville  
For reservations, contact the church at (502) 491-1920.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 13**  
Andover Baptist Church, Lexington  
For reservations, contact Elkhorn Assoc. at (859) 254-7747.
- ◆ **Thursday, February 15**  
Calvary Baptist Church, Bowling Green  
For reservations, contact the church at (270) 842-5554.
- ◆ **Monday, February 19**  
Main Street Baptist Church, Williamsburg  
For reservations, contact Mt. Zion/South Union Assoc. at (606) 549-4497.
- ◆ **Tuesday, February 20**  
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# NATION

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Souper Bowl efforts expand.** Souper Bowl of Caring, an interdenominational effort to curb hunger, is expanding its annual focus. The emphasis, started in 1990, involves young people collecting hunger funds in soup bowls at the conclusion of worship services on Super Bowl Sunday. This year's emphasis will include a Souper Bowl Service Blitz to encourage youth groups to serve in local soup kitchens, food banks and other charities. Last year, more than 11,000 congregations from 50 denominations raised more than \$3 million on Super Bowl Sunday. This year, organizers have a goal of 15,000 congregations collecting \$4 million on Jan. 28.

■ **Ruling allows home prayer meeting.** A Catholic couple in Connecticut hosted a Christmas Eve prayer meeting in their home after a judge issued a temporary restraining order that overruled a zoning commission prohibition. Robert and Mary Murphy have held weekly prayer meetings and Bible studies in their home since 1995 with as many as 25 people attending. After receiving complaints about traffic from the couple's neighbors, a zoning enforcement officer ordered them to stop holding the

meetings. A federal judge ruled four days before Christmas that the Murphys could resume the meetings.

■ **New law aids congregation.** A Michigan church has won the right to use a storefront location in a business district after it sued under a new federal law dealing with religious land use. A district judge approved a consent agreement Dec. 29 between Haven Shores Community Church and the city of Grand Haven, Mich. The city acknowledged in the agreement that the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, signed into law Sept. 22 by President Clinton, applied to the case. Kevin Hasson, who represented the church, said the settlement was the "first successful lawsuit" under the new federal law.

■ **Campbell earns national honor.** Baptist minister Will Campbell and sociologist of religion Robert Bellah were among the winners of the National Humanities Medals awarded recently by President Clinton. Campbell, a civil rights activist, was honored for his work on racial justice issues. Bellah, a professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley, was

cited for his studies on the moral and religious underpinnings of American life. Campbell and Bellah were among 12 recipients of the National Humanities Medals.

■ **Law aids elderly patients.** A new federal law allowing senior citizens to stay in religiously affiliated nursing homes even if the facilities are not covered by their health maintenance organizations is being praised by religious leaders. The new law will allow Medicare patients who suffer an acute illness or need rehabilitative care to return to their care facility rather than being transferred to HMO-approved facilities far away from family, friends and their own doctors. United Jewish Communities, Catholic Health Association and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are among supporters of the plan.

■ **Gospel, blues singer dies.** Robert "Pop" Staples, founder of the Staple Singers gospel and blues group, died Dec. 19 at age 85. Staples, who taught himself to play blues guitar, began performing with the Golden Trumpets gospel quartet in 1931. He and his children made their first recording in 1953 and their first gospel hit

was "Uncloudy Day" in 1956. The Staple Singers began performing civil rights songs along with their gospel music in the 1960s. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999.

■ **Methodists tap global leader.** A Virginia Methodist minister has been selected to lead the World Methodist Council, a global network of 74 denominations in 130 countries. George Freeman, a district superintendent in the church's Virginia Conference, will succeed Joe Hale as general secretary in July.

■ **Presbyterians divided on gay issue.** With the Presbyterian Church (USA) sharply divided over the issue of homosexuality, the denomination's regional executives have asked for a "third way" to work through the issue that they hope will satisfy both liberals and conservatives. During the church's General Assembly meeting in June, delegates narrowly voted to ban same-sex unions and sent the vote to the church's 173 regional presbyteries for approval. As presbyteries gear up for the vote, 113 presbytery executive directors asked for dialogue to pursue an unspecified third way to address the issue.

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**8. Hampton Inn I-75**  
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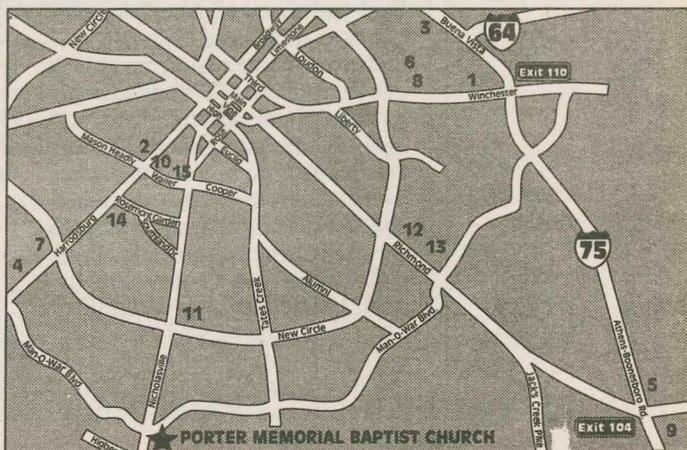
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\$69 Flat Rate

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(859) 269-4999 (R)  
\$53 Flat Rate

**14. Springs Inn**  
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\$54 Double/Triple/Quad

**15. Waller House Inn**  
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## Group urging Americans to pray against curse for president-elect

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An evangelical prayer organization is asking Christians to pray that President-elect George W. Bush will not succumb to a "curse" it says has killed seven presidents since 1840 before their terms ended.

The so-called "zero-year curse" has shown up every 20 years and killed seven presidents elected in years ending in zero. The exception is Ronald Reagan, who narrowly survived an attempted assassination in 1981. Some claim Reagan's survival broke the curse.

Still, the Leesburg, Va.-based Intercessors for America is asking for prayers that the curse will not resurface and that Bush will survive his term.

"Because Satan would desire to use these new speculations to undermine faith and promote fear and suspicion ... it is important that, as intercessors, we reaffirm the cancellation and 'breaking' of death curses on the U.S. presidency," said Intercessors president Gary Bergel in the group's January 2001 newsletter.

According to Bergel, Native American legend says Tenskwatawa, a Shawnee warrior and prophet, put the curse on Gen. William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

Tenskwatawa predicted that Harrison one day would become the "Great White Chief" but would die in office and every Great White Chief chosen after him every 20 years also would die. Harrison died of pneumonia just a month after his inauguration in 1841.

Abraham Lincoln, elected 20 years later in 1860, was assassinated in 1865. James Garfield, elected in 1880, and William McKinley, elected in 1900, were both assassinated a year after they were elected.

The "curse" continued with Warren Harding, who died three years after his 1920 election, and Franklin Roosevelt, who was reelected in 1940 and died in 1945. John F. Kennedy, elected in 1960, died in 1963, and Reagan narrowly escaped death in 1981.

## Bush, faith leaders discuss charity & poverty

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

AUSTIN, Texas (RNS)—Leaders from a range of the nation's faith groups came away from a recent meeting with President-elect George W. Bush saying they are convinced he is committed to greater interaction between church and state in his administration.

"In the White House, there will be an office of faith-based programs, a place where people will feel comfortable about bringing their ideas, and a place where people will feel comfortable about bringing their complaints," the president-elect told the gathering last month.

Between Cabinet appointments, Bush spent more than an hour with the interracial, bipartisan group that included about two dozen representatives of Christian, Jewish and Muslim groups.

During his campaign, Bush had emphasized his interest in faith-based organizations and his support of charitable-choice legislation, which permits faith-based groups to use public funds for job training, food and basic medical care.

Murray Friedman, regional director of the American Jewish Committee in Philadelphia, said he was "heartened" by Bush's plans, despite his organization's current opposition to "charitable choice" legislation.

"I said to him that you really need to develop a set of ground rules because it's a brave new idea," Friedman said.

But Carlton Pearson, a Tulsa, Okla., pastor who encouraged black Republican support for Bush during his campaign, said he thinks Bush will be able to build bridges between government and religion.

"He's showing us the way to get around the paranoia of this whole idea of separation of church and state," Pearson said. "Nobody wants to be under control of the other, but we do want to work and walk together."

Ron Sider, president of the Philadelphia-based Evangelicals for Social Action and a registered Democrat, said he left the meeting convinced Bush wants to help the poor.

"I came away with a strengthened sense that he really does mean what he's talking about in terms of compassionate conservatism, that he is going to place major emphasis on the role of faith-based organizations in overcoming poverty," Sider said.

But Sider said while he and others might welcome the idea of an office

addressing faith-based initiatives, that does not mean the government should leave social concerns solely in the lap of religious organizations.

"It's very important ... to insist that a greatly expanded role of faith-based organizations doesn't mean for a minute that government doesn't have a role to play," he said.

Like others at the meeting, Sider presented Bush with his ideas for policy changes. Sider urged tax credits for the working poor and other measures that would help those with full-time work to have affordable health insurance.

After spending more than an hour with the president-elect, Sider said he believes Bush understands the different roles ahead for government and religious groups.

"He talked about poverty of the wallet and the poverty of the soul," Sider said. "He thought government could help with the poverty of the wallet but government can't heal hearts."

## Missions: Debt or charity?

*"I am debtor both to the Greeks and the non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to proclaim the gospel also to you who are in Rome. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentiles" (Romans 1:14-16).*

Like the Apostle Paul, you and I are debtors, and I am not talking about the kind of debt owed to a financial institution for a home mortgage, car loan or credit card purchases. The debt about which I speak is owed to Christ and to humanity.

Because of the grace Paul had received from Christ, which freed him, and transformed him, he was a debtor to Christ. Throughout his writings, Paul referred again and again to this obligation. He was also a debtor to humanity, not because of any benefits others had conferred upon him, but because of what Christ had done for him.

Not only did Paul realize his debt, but he also was determined to repay it, and he was convinced only his faithful and fearless sharing of the gospel could repay his debt. Because of the enormity of

his debt to Christ and to humanity, Paul declared his intention to spend the rest of his life repaying that debt.

The resource with which Paul repaid his spiritual debt was the "gospel of Christ." Entrusted with the gospel, Paul used a negative statement for more emphasis. His assertion, "I am not ashamed of the gospel," meant he was truly proud of the gospel and gloried in it. Instead of being ashamed of it, he considered it a high honor to be able to proclaim it anywhere, and especially in Rome.

Since it is the desire of our Lord that every person hears His gospel, we owe it to Him and to them to take His message to them. Therefore,

let our New Year's resolution be to yield our personality, possessions and plans to Christ as we regard missions as a debt rather than an object of charity.

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

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## Ricky Skaggs among gospel Grammy nominees

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Kentucky native Ricky Skaggs was among the artists nominated last week for gospel music Grammy Awards in one of six categories.

Skaggs' bluegrass recording "Soldier of the Cross" was among five nominees in the Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album category.

Grammy winners will be announced at a Feb. 21 ceremony in Los Angeles that will air on CBS at 8 p.m. EST.

Gospel category nominees are as follows:

### Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album:

■ "The Great Gospel Hit Parade: from Memphis to Nashville to Texas," by James Blackwood, The Jordanaires and the Light Crust Doughboys.

■ "The Cathedrals A Farewell Celebration," by The Cathedrals.

■ "Just Over in Heaven," by Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver.

■ "Soldier of the Cross," by Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder.

■ "Old Ways & Old Paths," by Paul Williams and The Victory Trio.

### Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album:

■ "Joy," by Avalon.

■ "If I Left the Zoo," by Jars of Clay.

■ "Fearless," by Crystal Lewis.

■ "This Is Your Time," by Michael W. Smith.

■ "Crystal Clear," by Jaci Velasquez.



**RICKY SKAGGS** The bluegrass artist, pictured here during last year's Franklin Graham crusade in Lexington, is among the musicians nominated for gospel music Grammy Awards.

Knapp.

■ "Double Take," by Petra.

■ "Third Verse," by Smalltown Poets.

■ "Learning to Breathe," by Switchfoot.

■ "Offerings," by Third Day.

■ "It Was You," by Mighty Clouds of Joy.

■ "Family & Friends Live From Detroit," by James Moore.

■ "Devotion," by Aaron Neville.

■ "Ole Ricketty Bridge," by Dorothy Norwood

■ "The Concert," by The Williams Brothers.

■ "Love and Freedom," by BeBe Winans.

■ "Purpose by Design," by Fred Hammond and Radical for Christ.

■ "Thankful," by Mary Mary.

■ "Family Affair," by Hezekiah Walker & The Love Fellowship Crusade Choir.

■ "Alabaster Box," by CeCe Winans.

## Quakers asking broadcasters to keep firearms off TV for Easter

BOSTON (RNS)—Television viewers on Easter Sunday 2001 won't see a single gunshot if Quakers leading a national, interfaith campaign succeed in swaying the networks for a brief 24 hours.

The movement, known as "Gun Free Day On TV," echoes claims from some social scientists that violent images on TV lead to real-life violence at home and on the streets.

"We are advocating for one day out of the year where we pause to reflect on the effects of television violence on our children," the group said in a statement. "We hope to help every child and family become aware that shooting people with guns is not an accepted solution to problems, and that there are alternatives to gun violence."

Gun Free Day On TV started last year among a group of Quakers in Midlothian, Va., a suburb of Richmond. With support from its membership of 50 adults and 50 children, the Midlothian Friends meeting set out to persuade the networks to voluntarily forego all programming and advertising that would show guns or gun-related violence on Easter.

The movement has caught fire with help from dedicated foot soldiers and the Internet. Quakers here have enlisted other faith groups to urge local stations, cable systems and members of Congress to join their efforts to designate Easter an annual day of nonviolent television.

Visitors to the Web site, [www.GunFreeDayOnTV.org](http://www.GunFreeDayOnTV.org), can send a pre-written message to the networks. With origins in the gun-rich state of Virginia, the movement's leaders were quick to say they're not pushing for gun control.

"We are not trying to control constitutional rights to own guns," said the group's statement. "We realize that many people enjoy activities, such as hunting, that involve guns. What we do want to do is have a nationwide pause to reflect on the effect of violence involving guns on television."

Most Christians will celebrate Easter on April 15, 2001.

## Honeycutt serves overseas

By Robert Dunston

Andrea Honeycutt, daughter of Mike and Jolyn Honeycutt of Somerset, logged on to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Web site last year and saw a two-week opportunity in a "last frontier" missions area. She applied for the position and ended up with a two-month assignment in an area where access to the Christian gospel has been limited. Honeycutt was thrilled.

Honeycutt cannot reveal the area where she served. Christians are being persecuted there. While she lived in the area, more than a dozen Christian churches were burned.

Although she had particular work to do in the area, part of her service was providing encouragement for the missionaries and Christians. The national religion functions not just as a religion but as the culture and government of the area. The Christian faith is viewed as a major threat and dealt with harshly.

Honeycutt recalled going into a worship shrine and seeing a mother and grandmother teaching a small boy to bow down before a rock. She left immediately, crying because of the lostness of the people and the spiritual darkness that blinded them.

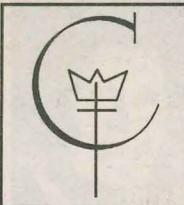
The poverty of the people struck her as well. One of her tasks was to talk with and get to know people. She said everyone was friendly and hospitable, inviting her into their homes and spending the little money they had to treat their guests. Returning home gave her reverse culture shock. The abundance of America compared with the little she saw still makes her feel overwhelmed and grieved.

While in her place of service she got to know many of the pastors and Christians. She drew close to these individuals and tried to provide encouragement and support. The commitment, enthusiasm and courage of the Christians there inspired her.

Honeycutt answered God's call to mission service at Easter of last year. She returned from her mission experience with her call confirmed and a message to all of us. She said we need to "pray, pray, pray" that those who walk in darkness will see God's light and that the Christians in the last frontier areas may have faith, courage and God's protection.

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

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



## Get out of the 'ANY' column

There's a good bit of reshuffling of priorities during the holidays. Things we thought were important may get moved to the "ANY" column. In this case, ANY means "After New Year." I've found out, though, that if we are not diligent, the ANY column might have the same things in it 12 months later.

I heard a pastor describe character as a good habit long-continued. I like that definition. Things like tithing, sharing your faith, daily Bible reading and prayer aren't things to put in the ANY column. Sure, we might miss a day or two during hectic times, but a person of character doesn't put these priorities on a to-do list; he or she just does them.

Giving is another sign of character. The longer I am involved in children's ministry, the more this lesson is driven home: Everyone has something to give.

One of our dearest supporters began contributing to this ministry when he and his wife had only a few coins to give. Nevertheless they gave faithfully throughout their marriage. They have now gone home to be with the Lord, but their legacy lives on because they took the time to make a plan for their estate and to include Kentucky Baptist Homes for

Children in it. When I see improvements being made on a campus, watch Bibles being handed out to children or hear of a new Cornerstone Counseling center being planned, I think of those precious givers who continue to have a positive impact on the lives of children and families.

Planning is a sign of character. Plan to give this year. Your church needs you. We need you. And you need to give. You are missing out on so many blessings if you don't. I heard a story recently about a man who donated a large sum of money to a Christian organization. Not long after that donation, his business went bankrupt. He was financially destitute. Remembering the gift he had made to the Christian institution, he said with great peace, "The only thing I have left is what I gave away." Those are the words of a man with a legacy. You can start your legacy by making an estate plan. Be a person of character. The Lord will bless you for it.

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

**HOMES FOR CHILDREN**



Bill Smithwick

## WORLD VIEW

■ **Christmas Eve bombings in Indonesia hit churches.** Christmas Eve bombings targeting Christian churches across Indonesia killed at least 15 people and injured scores of others in Jakarta and eight other cities and towns. National Police spokesman Brigadier General Saaf said the bombs exploded within minutes of each other in what appeared to be a coordinated assault, Associated Press reported. Indonesia has weathered a firestorm of political, religious and ethnic turmoil since the fall of the Suharto regime in May 1998. Since the beginning of 1999, more than 4,000 people have been killed in Christian-Muslim clashes and more than a million left homeless.

■ **Bishop urges knee bending.** An Anglican church leader is hoping to bring worshippers to their knees, literally. A campaign organized by Stephen Pedley, the bishop of Lancaster, England, aims to encourage worshippers to kneel more during church services. "Over the past few years I have noticed the death of kneeling," wrote Pedley in a recent diocesan newsletter. "People crouch, they stand, they sit, in extremis they appear to lie down; but hardly anyone kneels." Kneeling "is a gesture of adoration," he added, and when worshippers abandon the practice "something very important has been lost from our body language."

■ **Refugee advocates "kidnap" Jesus.** At least eight figures of Jesus were stolen from Christmas nativity scenes and crèche displays by a Belgian group trying to draw attention to the plight of refugees in the country. Members said they initiated the thefts because they wondered how Jesus would be received in Belgium if He were fleeing today from persecution in His home country. The group said it wanted to "alert public opinion to the reception in Belgium of refugees from around the world." The thefts follow reports by the Belgian government that it plans to temporarily tighten border restrictions. The move is an effort to stem an anticipated rise in the number of people seeking asylum in Belgium before the end of cash benefits for refugees.

## Christians outnumber Jews in Israel tourism

By Jeffrey MacDonald  
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Some people, it seems, are so determined to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land that nothing—not even the recent violence—can stop them.

But increasingly, the pilgrims aren't Jews on a roots mission to the world's only Jewish state. Instead they're Christians, resolved to walk in the steps of Jesus.

Christians account for as much as 55 percent of the 600,000 North Americans who travel each year to Israel while Jews make up only about 30 percent, according to the Israel Ministry of Tourism. Thirty years ago, the numbers told a different story: Jews comprised 75 percent of travelers to Israel.

Reasons for the shift are complex, but tourism officials say Jews are now less determined to get to Israel than their Christian counterparts.

"There are many baby boomers (among Jews). They go to many other places," said Yehuda Shen, deputy commissioner of the Israel Ministry of Tourism in North America.

"Christians were committed to going there 100, 200 years ago when they had to ride camels," Shen added. "So today, with all the investments we've made to make it comfortable to visit, they can have it all."

Tour operators who take groups to holy sites were on pace for a record year in September when deadly violence between Palestinians and Jews

erupted. Since then, they say, more than 50 percent of scheduled travelers have postponed their trips until spring or summer of 2001.

Most Jews and Christians alike have chosen to "wait it out," according to Tom Bornstein, marketing director of AMI Holy Land Travel Inc. in Chicago. The only Jews going to Israel in a sign of solidarity, Bornstein said, are leaders of Jewish organizations because the average Jew's ties to Israel are weak.

"There are many other cultural influences affecting Jewish life," Bornstein said, citing widespread intermarriage with gentiles as an example. "Someone might go to the synagogue, but Israel isn't at the center of that experience."

But tour operators say they're swamped with reservations for this year from Christians who have never been abroad.

"For many people, this is the trip of

a lifetime," said Nicholas Mancino, president of Journeys Unlimited, a New York-based Israel tour company for Christians.

Last year was the best ever for his 10-year-old company, he said, as Roman Catholics emulated Pope John Paul II's Jubilee Year pilgrimage and conservative Protestants refused to be cowed by either this fall's tumult or U.S. State Department warnings not to go.

The evangelicals "are so committed to (going to) Israel," Mancino said. "They say, 'I'm in God's hands and wherever I go, God will protect me.'" The Israel Ministry of Tourism hopes Jews will become equally determined to get there.

"We will be getting to all markets, including Jews," Shen said. "In times like these, you play a little bit on the guilt. You appeal to solidarity ... but it's not enough. We can't just play on the guilt."

## Plan Now! Senior Adult Rallies

John Kurtz and "Prof"

302 Woodlawn Dr., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122  
(615) 758-2006



**Recent Rallies:** United Methodist Church, Crestwood, Ky.; Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Central Church, Oakridge, Tenn.; First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky.; Hermitage Hills, Hermitage, Tenn.; Camp Linden, Tenn.; Camp Carson, Tenn.; Bank employees, stockholders, Waynesboro, Tenn.

## There is nothing quite like it

Our students are home now for the Christmas holidays. The week leading up to the break was filled with laughter and anxiety. The laughter came when we had our annual Christmas party. Over the years, we have tried a variety of ways to have a time of fun, but this year took the prize. Several of our faculty and staff volunteered to sponsor a host of events, including games and crafts. The games simply gave the students a time to have fun and burn off some of the extra energy they always seem to have.

The crafts offered students not only a time to use their creative skills, but also the opportunity to make some gifts for Christmas. Our students do not have the opportunity to leave campus and shop prior to the break, so being able to make some gifts was a special treat. Additionally, receiving a handmade item is always special.

Afterward, the students went to the dining room where they created their own versions of sub sandwiches. Trust me, some were really creative. After supper, they sang Christmas carols and funny songs created by our staff. It often takes some time for our students to warm up to the singing, but once they get started they really enjoy it.

After the meal and songs, the students went to the chapel for more fun in the form of skits. There were more carols and then a devotional reminding all of us of the true meaning of Christmas. The last activity of the evening was a walk to the manger in Bethlehem, otherwise known as a trip to the farm. Our farm students and staff presented the Christmas story in a special way. There was a shepherd who pointed to a distant star, actually a very large star of David mounted on top of one of our grain

bins. We were told that if we would follow the star we would find the Christ child in a manger.

Shortly after our journey began, we met some other shepherds who were just returning from a visit with the Christ child. They each gave us their own version of the angels who appeared to them and what they found when they went to Bethlehem. They pointed to the star we had been following and assured us that if we would just follow the star we would find the Christ Child.

Sure enough, the star led us to Mary, Joseph, three wise men and the Child. We had been instructed to spend time at the manger, reflecting on the importance of Jesus' coming and considering where Christ is in each of our lives. After leaving the scene, our students returned to their dorms.

The following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were exam days. Many extra hours of study were spent each evening preparing for the tests. After the last exam on Wednesday, the students were free to leave for the holidays. Hundreds of cars, vans and trucks were waiting for the final bell to ring. Within an hour, most of our students were on their way home. One bus load of students was taken to the Lexington airport. Two other buses took students to the bus station. The Christmas break is two and a half weeks this year, so it will be a lonely place until they return.

While some of the faculty and staff were here for Christmas, the majority traveled to be with family and friends.

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

## An inauguration this drummer will miss

Among those preparing for the inauguration of George W. Bush is the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Clear Creek student Tim Smithheart knows the routine after playing in four inaugurations.

A native of Florida, Smithheart originally joined the Army to be in the Army Field Band but did not like the prospect of overseas travel.

He saw the Fife and Drum Corps at the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade and applied for an appointment.

"I practiced very hard and auditioned in Washington. It was an honor to be part of the group; I realize not many have the opportunity," Smithheart said. "The Corps is very imposing with Revolutionary War red coat uniforms and powdered wigs. A new command-

ing officer took the Corps back to its 1784 roots, and all music we played came from that era. It is amazing the music they had then; much of it sounds contemporary." Smithheart remembers the inaugural parades as exciting and fun. "The planners had everything down to the minute. We also played for White House events such as the visits of heads of state. At times I was within 30 feet of the president."

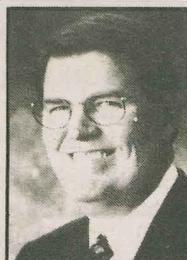
Christian values brought balance

to the Washington scene of political power, he said. "My unit had 69 enlisted men and one officer when I joined and only three of us were Christians. When I left there were 10 Christians. Guys would ask questions, and to know you had the opportunity to represent God to them made me realize the real power," Smithheart recalled.

Smithheart is youth minister at Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Middlesboro. He and Michelle, married for 20 years, have two children, Stephanie, 15, and Jeremy, 5. Following graduation in May, he plans on seminary study and looks forward to ministry as a pastor or associate pastor.

"Wherever God leads I want to work with discipleship," he stated. "I know the Lord will provide. We came to Clear Creek with one-third of my previous salary and He met our every need and gave us great peace."

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Mutombo a big player with a big wallet and bigger heart

By Hillary Wicai  
FaithWorks magazine

ATLANTA (ABP)—Even though he's 7 feet 2 inches tall, NBA star Dikembe Mutombo's full name will never fit on the back of his jersey.

Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, formerly Zaire, he was named Dikembe Mutombo Mpolondo Mukamba Jean Jacque Wamutombo.

Perhaps it's the empowering name. Maybe it's the height. But 34-year-old Mutombo doesn't like to take no for an answer.

In fact his headstrong attitude has been known to get him in trouble with NBA referees. "When they call something I don't believe, I love to express myself, and sometimes I express myself too hard. I get caught up," said Mutombo, a center for the Atlanta Hawks.

But you don't get to be the NBA leader in rebounding and the NBA's only three-time Defensive Player of the Year by being a pushover. In fact you have to push some people. Mutombo's elbows have been known to make painful contact with opposing players.

How does that square with his well-known Christian commitment?

"I don't think God said we should all be soft," Mutombo explained. "My job is to compete, and the best prevails. I will continue to play, and that's the way I'm succeeding in my life. If I hit you by mistake, all I can say is 'I'm sorry' and I keep moving on," he added.

Playing hard has paid off for Mutombo. The Hawks signed him as a free agent in July 1996 to a five-year deal for more than \$56 million. "It was a dream come true. I never thought about having as much money as I have today. I only thought about working hard," Mutombo said.

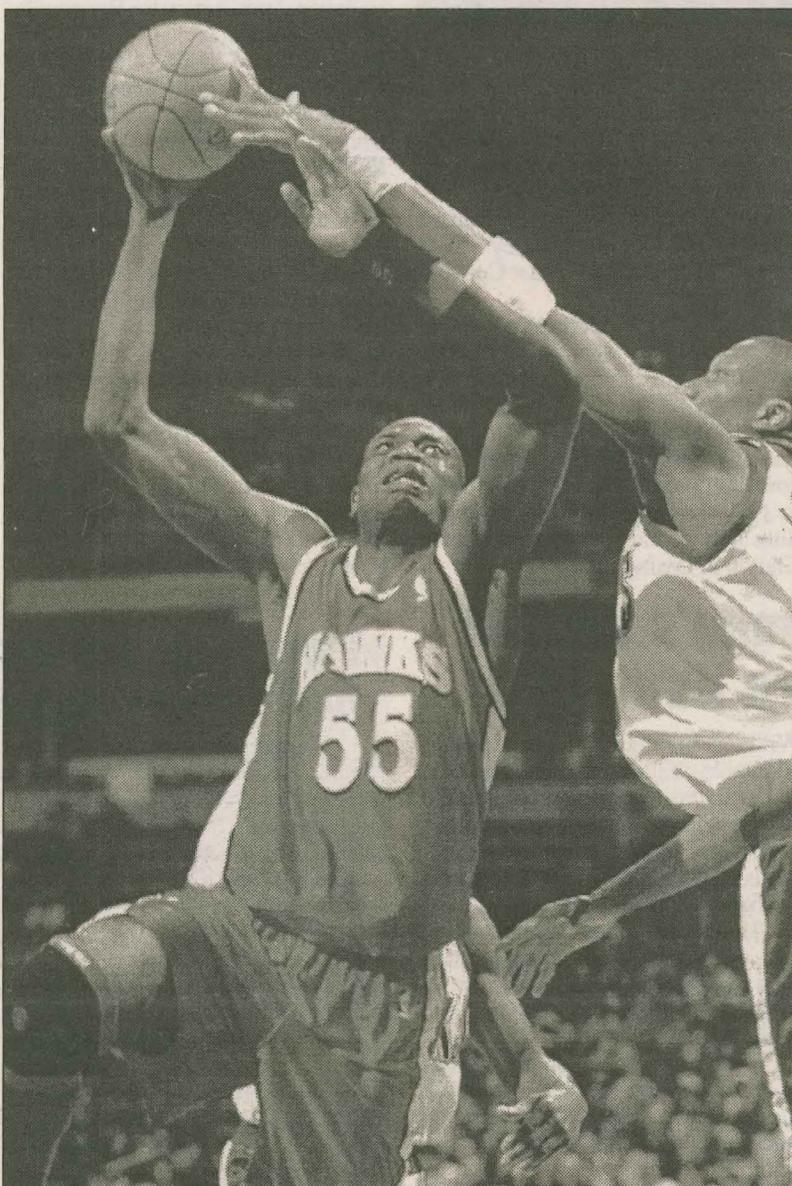
But the large player with the big salary has a big heart as well. While many players dream of such big NBA salaries, Mutombo dreams instead about Africa. "God has given me so many chances to survive and to help," he said.

Mutombo often talks of his blessings and of God. Growing up in the Congo, his parents were Presbyterians and he attended Catholic schools. In Atlanta, Mutombo and his family attend a Baptist church. "The bottom line is the truth, the Bible. Whatever the denomination you attend, you're a Christian," he said.

Mutombo, who speaks English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and five African dialects, holds a degree from Georgetown University with a double major in linguistics and diplomacy. He originally planned to study medicine because he wanted to make a difference and his homeland needs doctors.

But the Congo is in desperate need of many things. It has been independent of Belgium for 39 years, but it lacks infrastructure, including paved roads and clean water. At Georgetown Mutombo quickly realized a big NBA salary would allow him to make a bigger difference than being a highly skilled doctor in a poor country without enough medicine, supplies or equipment.

His homeland also needs hospitals. Mutombo wondered if one man, even



a man with a lot of money, could build a hospital. It's a job usually reserved for corporations and religious institutions.

"I put my courage to the test," Mutombo said. "Our God led me to do this."

He said he has a clear sense that building a hospital is what he's supposed to do. "Looking at the mortality rate and the condition of living in my country, I felt I'm in a position to do this," he explained.

Three years ago he set up the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation. In the foundation's second year, he started the campaign to build a new hospital in Kinshasa, Congo's capital.

"I was just trying to look at what would make more difference than anything else I've done. I decided a hospital would be the best way to do it. I think it's a blessing," he said.

He personally contributed \$3 million toward the project. He hired architects and researchers to conduct feasibility studies. He needs to raise another \$9 million of the estimated \$14 million cost to make the dream a reality.

Many organizations have offered to donate equipment, but that's not what Mutombo needs right now. "We need money," he said, adding that he's hoping to hear from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Raising money from individuals has been tougher than he expected, but Mutombo actually needs less money now than he originally thought would be required. Studies showed a one-sto-

ry hospital would be cheaper to build than a high-rise structure.

In the meantime, Mutombo continues to help the few ill-equipped hospitals that already exist in the Congo. In 1999 the foundation shipped \$250,000 worth of medical supplies and 140 hospital beds. The year before, he sent another \$500,000 worth of donated supplies, including an ambulance.

"That's not enough of a solution. There hasn't been a new hospital built in my country in 40 years," he said.

The project is massive, which is why it's usually reserved for corporations or large religious organizations. Not only is Mutombo determined to raise the necessary millions to build the structure, he'll oversee the 38-month construction of the 300-bed hospital. He also plans to have the foundation run the hospital when it's open. He and his board will have to hire and lead a medical staff of 750. "I have to fight hard to make it happen, challenge myself," he said.

Mutombo eventually sees turning over the new hospital to a church organization. "We've had so many churches come forward willing to run it, but so far I've said, 'Not right now,'" Mutombo explained.

Crews are expected to break ground on the hospital in September. He plans to name his project "Biamba Mutombo Hospital" after his mother. Two years ago, just hours after speaking with her son on the phone, Biamba Mutombo died in her home from a stroke because she couldn't get to a



hospital in Kinshasa.

Mutombo recounted the story to an audience at a fund-raising event. "My mother was sick at home. She really needed to see a doctor. But all the fighting in the streets—nobody could get her to a hospital where she could be treated. She passed away in the middle of her living room."

Mutombo couldn't even attend his mother's funeral because of the civil war.

His mother's lessons in both life and death are largely responsible for Mutombo's African dream of a new hospital. He said she always told him to help others, that helping others was his responsibility.

"I come from a large family, but I was not raised with a fortune. Something more was left me, and that was family values," he explained.

He said he believes everyone is put on earth with a clear job. While basketball is his work, Mutombo believes the game is a means to a more important end. He doesn't want to be remembered for simply blocking shots and getting a ball through a hoop.

"God put us here to prepare this place for the next generation. That's our job. Raising children and helping the community, that's preparing for the next generation."

Mutombo and his wife are rearing five children, four of them adopted.

As for work in the community, he's involved with Strong STARTS, a national NBA program targeting teens who suffer from emotional disorders that impair academic and social achievement. He's also the spokesman for the Hawk's Team Up program that encourages middle-school students to volunteer. In addition to his hospital project, Mutombo is involved in an effort to vaccinate the Congo's children against polio.

Because of all this work, Mutombo was chosen as one of 20 winners of last year's President's Service Awards. It's the United States' highest honor for volunteer service.

Mutombo hopes others will realize they can make a difference, even if they don't earn \$56 million playing basketball.

"You don't just have to be economically strong. You can be part of Big Brothers/Big Sisters or many good organizations that are making such a big difference. You don't just have to be Dikembe Mutombo and build a hospital," he said. "Whatever your contribution I think it's very important."

This story originally appeared in FaithWorks magazine and is reprinted with permission

### DIKEMBE MUTOMBO

The Atlanta Hawks' center says his Christian beliefs reinforce the idea that everyone is put on earth for a purpose. His includes using his wealth and stature to build a hospital in his homeland of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ■ Above: Mutombo helps place drops in a child's eyes during a medical clinic in his homeland.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Urgent request:** Jonathan Tidenberg and Drew Brunson, teenagers of missionaries in Tanzania, were admitted to a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, last week with malaria-type symptoms. As of Jan. 4, they were not responding to treatment.

■ Members of Losimingori Baptist Church in Tanzania as they grow in number and spirit. Several new Christians who are key leaders in the Maasai community were baptized in December.

■ A few members of the Kaguru people group in Dumila, Tanzania, with whom John and Nancy Laramore have been studying the Bible. The group now wants to begin a Sunday worship service.

■ Missionaries in Tanzania who are attending an "Experiencing God" conference led by Henry Blackaby in Kenya this week.

■ Rick and Kristi Bennett as they finalize plans to move from Houston to Boston to begin a church for gen-Xers in February.

■ Give thanks that missionaries Dennis and Margaret McCall have found two teachers who will help them learn the tribal language of the Wazigua people in Tanzania.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BURNSIDE**—Burnside Church called **Joe and Debra Afterkirk** as ministers of music. **Richard Christian** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—West Covington Church called **Terry Leap** as pastor.

■ **DeMOSSVILLE**—Wilmington Church called **Jonathan Behler** as pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—**Ronald Wilburn**, minister of music at Gano Avenue Church, retired Dec. 31. Wilburn served 43 years at churches in Kentucky and Ohio, including Grace Church in Lexington and Ninth & O and Clifton churches in Louisville. He is available for supply, revival musician and senior adult activities, (859) 299-7336.

■ **INDEPENDENCE**—Beechgrove

Church called **Terry Ward** as pastor.

■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church called **Steve Watkins** as pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—**Lonnie Bradley**, 75, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Jenkins, Central Baptist Church in Maysville and Springfield Baptist Church, died Dec. 18. Bradley served on several Kentucky Baptist Convention boards.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Julia Woodward**, former Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union president, died Dec. 21. Woodward, 95, was WMU president from 1961 to 1965 and 1968 to 1971. She also served on the Western Recorder's board of directors from 1971 to 1977. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Anchor Baptist Church in Lexington.

## Knoxville anchorman's impact extends to Eastern Kentucky

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—As news anchor for Knoxville's WBIR-TV for 23 years, Bill Williams may be the most recognizable face in East Tennessee and Southeast Kentucky.

What many viewers might not know, however, is the Baptist layman's commitment to God and ministry.

The Oklahoma native grew up desiring to be a preacher and went to seminary with those intentions.

When he finally decided God was not calling him to preach, Williams turned to broadcasting, a career that eventually allowed him to combine his skills with his desire to minister to others.

The veteran journalist said he learned early that on TV, and in particular in the Knoxville market, "you could make a difference in people's lives by presenting problems and showing how those problems could be solved."

Two news segments that have become synonymous with Williams' name are "Hunger for Hope" and "Monday's Child."

"Monday's Child" is a 20-year-old feature of Channel 10. Every Monday,

Williams highlights a special needs, adoptable child or sibling group.

Over the lifetime of the feature (which Williams will continue to do in retirement) about 1,000 kids were presented. Of those, 630 were adopted, Williams said.

"Hunger for Hope" highlights the vast needs of people of Appalachia. That program has highlighted the work of Kentucky Baptists **Lonnie** and **Belinda Riley** in Lynch.

Williams has personally volunteered in Lynch as well, according to Larry Martin, missions growth team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"He featured the work at Lynch on the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. news stories this past November, inviting listeners to contribute toys for families in need in the Lynch area," Martin said. "As a result, Lonnie and Belinda were able to distribute well over a thousand new toys to parents for their children's Christmas."

Williams said he's convinced God led him into broadcasting in order to broaden his ministry. "I was led by God to do what I did and am continuing to do."

■ **ONEIDA**—The board of directors of Oneida Institute honored **Bill Nichols** for 10 years of ministry as associational missionary for Booneville-Irvine Association.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Pond River Church called **Adam Brown** as pastor. Brown formerly was with Calvary Church in Central City.

■ **PARIS**—Central Church called **Dan Russell**, formerly director of missions for Greenup Association, as pastor.

■ **RILEY STATION**—Beech Fork Church called **Lee Arnold** as pastor, beginning Dec. 24.

■ **SOMERSET**—Camp Ground Church ordained pastor **David Muse** to the gospel ministry.

Cedar Point Church called **Matthew Jones** as pastor.

Mt. Pleasant Church called **Jamie Epperson** as youth minister. **Randall Smith** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Jellico Creek

## Carl Fields 90, dead

LOUISVILLE—Carl Fields, 90, died Dec. 30 at Baptist Home East in Louisville after a lengthy illness.

Fields was a member of the faculty and administration at Georgetown College for 50 years. During that time, his positions included chairman of the history department, academic dean, vice president and provost.

In 1979, he wrote "A Sesqui-centennial History of Georgetown College" as part of the school's 150th anniversary.

Memorial contributions can be directed to the school's Marshall Center for Christian Ministry.

Church called **John Justice** as pastor. Justice formerly was at Wilmington Church in DeMossville.

## Campbellsville students spend part of their Christmas break on mission trips

CAMPBELLSVILLE—While many people were making last-minute preparations for the Christmas holiday last month, students from Campbellsville University were traveling to Arlington, Texas; Philadelphia; and the Middle East for ministry work.

Twenty-one Campbellsville students worked with Mission Arlington, a metropolitan Christian ministry organization that reaches out to the Dallas and Fort Worth area. Students worked in the Christmas Store, read and played games with children while the parents shopped for Christmas in the store.

Fifteen students traveled to Philadelphia to work with Adventures in Missions, a group that ministers to that city's Vietnamese community.

Also, four students traveled to the Middle East to do ministry work among a Muslim people group.

According to Ed Pavy, director of campus ministries, mission work helps the students see beyond themselves and gives them the opportunity to serve in a unique way. "It

helps to expand your vision that there is a world out there needing Jesus Christ," he said. "Whatever your area of expertise, we can utilize this in a mission opportunity."

Pavy said that the only requirement for students to perform mission work is a willingness to serve.

"God doesn't want people who are able, He wants people who are available," he said. "Whoever you are, God can use you in a mission setting."

Funding for mission trips was the responsibility of the students, according to Pavy. While some fundraisers were held, most of the money came from parents, student jobs or love offerings for student revival teams. Last spring, \$36,000 was spent on spring break trips with a total of 115 students participating in mission trips, Pavy said.

Besides these Christmas mission trips, students also are planning several 2001 spring break mission trips to Cleveland, Miami, Arlington, Boston, St. Louis, Venezuela, Poland, China, Costa Rica and Jamaica.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful console piano. No money down—take on low monthly payments. (800) 371-1220.

**FOR SALE:** Kimball piano. Spinnet; plays well; cabinet in good shape; \$1,000. Call (270) 737-6645—leave message if no answer.

**SEEKING:** Memorial Baptist of Murray, Ky., seeks full-time, experienced youth minister. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, c/o Tracy Monery, 86 Cunningham Lane, Murray, KY 42071.

**SEEKING:** Minister of students and activities. Southern Baptist, energetic, three years full-time or part-time experience, earned seminary or divinity school degree. Send resumé and references to: Mike Alldredge, search committee chairman, Golden Springs Baptist Church, 3 Robertsdale Road, Anniston, AL 36207.

**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:** Ballardsville Baptist Church, a growing, mission-minded congregation, seeks applications for a full-time position from a person who senses a call to minister to youth and children. Bachelor's degree a minimum requirement; seminary a plus. Experience in youth and children's ministry. Seeking organized, people-oriented individual as a minister to youth and coordinator of children's programs. Compensation package negotiable. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4300 South Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Emmanuel Baptist Church in Carlinville, Ill. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 117 W 2nd South, Carlinville, IL 62626.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth pastor for Hillsdale Baptist Church, Ohio. Send resumé to: hbc@bright.net.

**SEEKING:** Musician needed to play keyboard for Sunday morning worship service. Send resumé to: Elizabethtown Baptist Church, PO Box 338, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Ludlow is seeking a motivated worship and praise leader to help transition from traditional to blended service using the best of old and new. This individual will be responsible for incorporating instruments, praise teams and drama into servic-

es, as well as developing music programs for children through adults. Experience is required for this challenging and exciting full-time position. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 400 Linden St., Ludlow, KY 41016.

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

**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.

# PEOPLE

## Baptists helping families driven out by volcano

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

MEXICO CITY (BP)—Baptists have mobilized to help families driven from their homes by violent eruptions of Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano Dec. 18-19.

Southern Baptist missionaries and their Mexican Baptist co-workers are maintaining a state of readiness to respond if an expected massive eruption occurs.

"El Popo" shot flaming rocks from its massive crater, forcing the evacuation of about 30,000 people from villages that dot the volcano slopes. The eruptions were the most violent activity from the mountain in perhaps 500 years, according to volcanologists.

Many people, however, were refusing to evacuate because they wanted to protect their homes, crops and livestock. Mexican disaster relief officials said their greatest fear was that a 3,000-foot glacier on the volcano's western face might break loose and trigger massive mudslides.

Scientists said a serious buildup of pressure in the volcano's core still has not been released. As many as 250,000 people will have to be evacuated if the situation worsens. The snow-capped, 17,884-foot volcano sits just 42 miles from Mexico City's 18 million residents.

A missionary assessment team identified four Baptist churches that could serve as shelters for displaced families. With basic cooking facilities in place, those could accommodate 750 refugees.

The first refugees to take shelter in one of those churches were 45 people from a town evacuated by the army, reported International Mission Board missionaries Don Kennedy and Thurman Pennick.

Several towns near the volcano have Baptist churches because Mexican Baptist women have organized medical projects and prayerwalking teams to work in the region during the past eight to 10 years, missionary Buddy Albright said.

Mexican Baptists began collecting food and money, Kennedy and Pennick said. IMB missionaries used Southern Baptist relief funds to buy blankets, serapes, cots and food packages.

The Mexican army and disaster relief agencies were well prepared for the crisis and responding admirably, Albright said. About 1,800 buses stood ready to evacuate people to 180 shelters in cities close to the mountain. Each shelter reportedly had a 30-day supply of food.

Contributions toward the relief efforts can be sent to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, General Relief Fund—Mexico Volcano Relief, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

## Innovative effort aids Alzheimer's patients

By Yvonne Betowt  
Religion News Service

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (RNS)—Patricia Lemons and Phyllis Worley know experience is the best teacher, especially when it comes to taking care of Alzheimer's patients.

Lemons, who cared for her mother-in-law, and Worley, who took care of her father, are employees of Trinity Place, an adult day care ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Ala. The ministry specializes in caring for patients with Alzheimer's or other dementia-related illnesses.

Lemons and Worley say the rewards from caring for their patients far outweigh the salary they receive, as well as the heartaches and burdens that often accompany their job.

"This is not a job for me," Lemons said. "I truly enjoy it. I took care of my mother-in-law for a long time, but she had helped me with my children and I don't know what I would have done without her."

Worley said for her part, it is a labor of love.

"I just love it here," said Worley, who took care of her father for six years before his death a year ago. "After taking care of my dad for so long, people couldn't believe I would want to work here, but it is a wonderful place to work and very rewarding."

The women encourage their patients as they create pictures during their new art program, started recently as a pilot program of the Huntsville Museum of Art, the Alzheimer's Association and Elder Care, with funding provided by the Medical Alliance of Huntsville.

The program is designed to help the patients express themselves through art and to encourage interaction with each other, said Alzheimer's Association Executive Director Mary Lou Kraatz.

"It is amazing what they can create," Kraatz said, pointing to some of the patients' work hanging around the room and on the windows. "They are very proud of their work, and it gives them a lot of self-esteem. Just three weeks after we started the program, we saw a noticeable improvement in their behavior."

Jane Willis, dressed in a stylish blue velour pantsuit and matching hat,



is quick to show a visitor her artwork hanging on a wall alongside other drawings by the Trinity patients. A longtime greeter at First Presbyterian Church, Willis "volunteers" her time each day to help other patients at the center, Kraatz said with a smile.

The program is the only one of its kind in Alabama, and possibly the South, Kraatz said. Other successful art-therapy programs for Alzheimer patients have been started in Denver and Orange County, Calif.

Kraatz said she isn't aware of any evaluation tool to gauge the success of the program, but the Huntsville Alzheimer's Association is planning to develop one that can be used nationwide.

For an hour a week, Nancy Atkins, a docent at the Huntsville Museum of Art, works with the patients. Although she had no personal involvement with Alzheimer's patients, she called this project "one of the best experiences of my life."

"They recognize me and know we are going to do something with art. They get a lot of self-satisfaction out of it. It's a marvelous program and I love doing it," she said.

She said the program is not for artists with Alzheimer's, but a way for

Alzheimer's patients to communicate with people.

Kraatz said the program could be expanded to other facilities. "If we determine this program works and we can get more funding, we hope to take it into other assisted-living or nursing-home facilities."

One of the main problems with the art program has been a lack of volunteers to help encourage the patients as they do the work, she added.

"You have to seize the moment when dealing with Alzheimer's patients, and we are sometimes so busy working with others, we miss that opportunity," Kraatz said. "They need guidance, and it would be great if church groups or individuals would volunteer an hour or two of their week to help out here."

Caryl Jones, a member of the Alzheimer's Association board of directors, and her mother, Lucille Roebuck, are among those who volunteer their time to offer encouragement during the art sessions.

"There's a lot of joy in this room," said Jones, who hopes the artwork being done by the Alzheimer's patients will be on public display somewhere next spring. "They are still people and they have a heart."

**ALZHEIMER'S MINISTRY**  
Maudine, left, a client, looks on as Huntsville (Ala.) Art Museum docent Nancy Atkins gets materials for Herb Hunter during an art class held at Trinity Place, an adult day care ministry of Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville. At far right is Mary Lou Kraatz, executive director of Alzheimer's Association, which helps sponsor the art classes. (RNS photo by Patricia Miklik)

## Controversial pastor's successor has own baggage

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (RNS)—The Florida church that was led by Henry J. Lyons, the now-imprisoned former president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, has chosen a new pastor to take Lyons' place.

Members of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church in St. Petersburg voted 200-49 last month to oust Lyons and replace him with Joaquin Marvin, 35, associate minister at Greater Union Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

But their choice does not come without its own controversy.

The St. Petersburg Times reported Marvin was arrested several times between 1986 and 1991 on charges including assault, shoplifting and possession of crack and marijuana. In 1991, he was sentenced to two years of com-

munity control for forgery.

The newspaper also reported there are two outstanding warrants for his arrest for probation violation which date to 1991, but sheriff's officials in the county where the warrants were issued do not intend to search for him.

One member who voted against Marvin said she hoped the deacon board would consider rescinding the vote.

"This is the lowest blow Bethel has had," said Maggie Davis, a longtime member. "We needed somebody with an unblemished record. If this was going to happen, we could have waited for Dr. Lyons."

After the vote, Joseph Harvey, an assistant minister at Bethel Metropolitan who has supported Marvin, contin-

ued to voice confidence in his selection.

"Everybody at church yesterday was still in favor of him coming," Harvey said. "It has been over 10 years. His criminal past has no effect on his preaching. I don't know one preacher that hasn't done something wrong."

In an interview published by the newspaper, Marvin would not discuss his past legal troubles. "All of the things have been exonerated," he said.

Lyons remains imprisoned in Florida on charges of racketeering and grand theft related to his leadership role in one of the country's largest African-American denominations. Since he went to prison in 1999, members of his congregation have debated whether to keep the pulpit open for Lyons.

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