

March 6, 2001
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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will decide this summer whether to adopt more specific membership requirements. *Page 2.*



Kentucky
A Louisville duo has dedicated more than 60 years to missions volunteer work. *Page 3.*

Editorial
KBC evangelism conference offers points to ponder and priorities to pursue. *Page 5.*

Nation
Missionaries share spiritual hope with Sioux Indians. *Page 12.*

Ministry
Seminary students gain overseas missions education in Ghana. *Page 13.*

Few preachers among viewers of Christian TV

PHOENIX (RNS)—A national study of Protestant pastors finds that many are more likely to watch secular TV programs than Christian ones.

The study by Ellison Research of Phoenix was reported by its president, Ron Sellers, in the February/March issue of NRB, the magazine of the National Religious Broadcasters.

Sixty-three percent of the ministers surveyed said they watch secular television programs almost daily, but only 20 percent said they watched Christian channels or programs at that rate.

Charismatic and Pentecostal ministers were the group that seemed most interested in watching Christian programming. Thirty-seven percent of them said they watched such programs every day while 16 percent said they never or rarely viewed them.

Eighteen percent of evangelical ministers watched Christian programs daily, while 32 percent never or rarely did. Twenty percent of mainline Protestant clergy watched Christian television almost daily while 47 percent never or rarely did.

Sellers said the study findings also show that pastors aren't proud of what airs on Christian television.

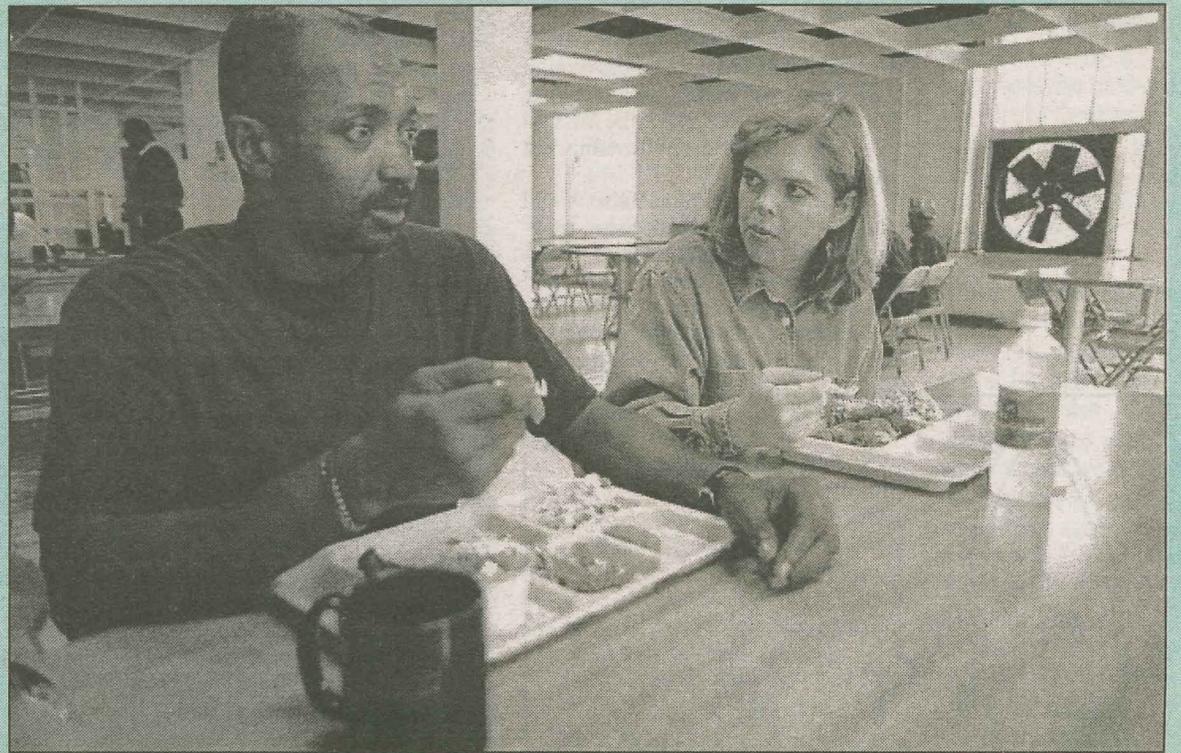
Six percent of all ministers agreed strongly with the statement, "You're generally proud of what you can see on Christian TV today." Another 33 percent agreed somewhat with that statement.

Sellers said the study's findings prompt larger questions.

"If they're wrong about Christian TV, and their opinions need to be changed, there are many things television stations, networks and ministries can do to help reach out to pastors," he said.

"But if they're essentially right about Christian television, then the industry as a whole needs to take a careful look at itself and see what needs to be done to address the problems."

New Orleans 'jewel'



MISSIONARY Each night about 230 people find shelter at the Brantley Baptist Center in New Orleans, and Ginger Smith is usually on hand to help them get the physical and spiritual care they need. She is among the Southern Baptist missionaries profiled this year in promotion of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's national goal is \$50 million. (NAMB photo by Ted Jackson)

Missionary shares God's love with homeless, addicted

By Deborah Moore
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW ORLEANS—Just one block away from New Orleans' glitzy French Quarter district and glamorous Canal Street is the last place most thrill seekers would step into when they're headed to "the city that care forgot"—where "Laissez les bon temps roulez" ("Let the good times roll") is the death-defying guiding

force behind the actions of some men and women.

Many come only to indulge themselves completely in the city's strange mix of exotic cultures and European charm, neon lights and crystal chandeliers, 24-hour cafes and world-renowned haute cuisine—along with readily accessible liquor and gambling. While some come honestly seeking a job in the area's non-stop

tourist industry, eventually even for them the lure of totally unrestrained irresponsibility somehow becomes synonymous with fun.

When the supposed good times are long gone and friends have deserted them, Ginger Smith is waiting to take them in.

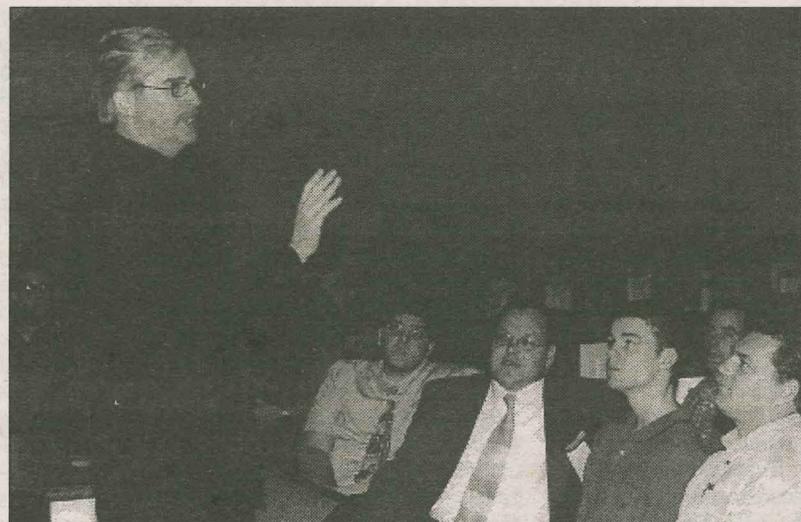
Smith has served since 1995 as social services coordinator at the Clovis L. Brantley Baptist Center. She is a missionary appointed by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Smith oversees the center's women's ministry. See Brantley Center ..., page 6.



Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 7

Sweet: Churches must serve Bread of Life in variety of flavors



LEONARD SWEET The author and professor speaks during a breakout conference at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference last week at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. More than 1,200 people attended the annual meeting. Next year's conference will be held Feb. 25-26 at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Too many Christians are unwilling to share the Bread of Life, Jesus, in flavors they don't like, according to author and professor Leonard Sweet.

Sweet, speaking last week during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, compared the gospel of Jesus Christ to the basic ingredient used to make sourdough bread.

He explained that he's learned about sourdough "starter" from a friend named Al who continuously bakes bread. As he described various types of bread his friend bakes, Sweet tossed several wrapped loaves into the audience.

Al doesn't like baking bread, but he got the starter from his mother, who got it from her mother, explained Sweet, professor of evangelism at Drew University in New Jersey and author of several books including "Postmodern Pilgrims."

The starter, believed to be more than 200 years old, was passed on to Al, and he wants to keep it alive as part of his heritage, Sweet said.

In order to keep it alive, Al must add flour and distilled water regularly, and he must constantly be using it to bake bread.

"As he started talking about his sourdough, I started hearing some holy resonance," Sweet said.

Jesus referred to Himself as the Bread of Life. See Sweet urges churches ..., page 9.

Let the Light Shine

KBC Evangelism Conference

BAPTISTS

CBF to vote on new membership guidelines

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will decide in June whether to adopt more specific membership requirements and create a new governing board.

Proposed changes to the CBF's constitution and bylaws would require churches and individuals seeking membership to "embrace" the mission and core values of the Fellowship, not just send money.

The revised constitution also would change the CBF's top decision-making body from a "representative" group to a "governing" board, said CBF executive Daniel Vestal.

Leaders said the changes reflect the Fellowship's coming of age. The mod-

erate Baptist group will celebrate its 10th anniversary during its June 28-30 General Assembly in Atlanta, where the changes will be considered.

Last year the Fellowship adopted a new mission statement that focuses on serving local churches. The constitution and bylaw changes, which represent a second phase of strategic planning, were approved Feb. 24 by the Coordinating Council, the representative group that currently directs the organization.

The constitution and bylaw changes will require approval by two thirds of those voting at the General Assembly.

During its three-day meeting, the council also adopted an \$18 million budget for 2001-02 and heard that its new restriction on funding theological schools that accept gay students will be challenged at the council's June meeting.

Under current CBF bylaws, any church or individual that contributes to the Fellowship is considered a member. That includes churches that simply allow individual members to channel contributions to the Fellowship without any formal action by the church. That practice, critics say, artificially inflates the size of the CBF.

Asking churches to embrace the CBF's mission and values, Vestal said, runs the risk of alienating some churches and shrinking the number now considered CBF members (about 1,800). "It's going to create some tensions." But it also gives churches that want to identify with the Fellowship a clear way to do that, he added. "At some point, I'd like to say, 'Here are our partnering churches.'"

While the new standard will tighten membership in the Fellowship, leaders say it will not limit participation. Any church or individual, whether or

not a member, can participate in CBF meetings and programs. But only members can vote on business matters.

Neither do the revised bylaws dictate how a church "embraces" the mission and values. Although some church action is required, the church decides what action to take "in its own judgment and through its own process."

The 78-member Coordinating Council voted to replace itself with a 40-member Governing Board proposed by a nominating committee.

Critics say the new structure makes the Governing Board more like a self-perpetuating board and distances it from the grassroots of the Fellowship.

Supporters say the new structure will result in a more diverse board and one better suited for the task of overseeing the organization's staff, budget and ministries.

A controversial policy adopted by the Coordinating Council last October again came up for debate during its recent meeting. The funding policy prohibits financial support "for organizations that condone, advocate or affirm homosexual practice." The action will affect CBF support of several theological schools that are required by their parent universities to accept gay students.

Dixie Petrey, a council member from Knoxville, Tenn., made a motion to rescind the policy. However, because prior notice is required to rescind a previous action, the vote on her motion was delayed until the council's meeting in June.

Vestal told the council the policy is "a middle-of-the-road solution" that allows CBF to support students at the affected schools through scholarship money while prohibiting direct support of the schools. "I am working real hard to deal with a conscience issue for many churches," he said.

Dunn emphasizes church-state issue identifies Baptists

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—Commitment to separation of church and state is an identifying mark of true Baptists, a church-state scholar and activist told a Baptist gathering.

"I personally and passionately believe that Baptist Christians are an identifiable breed," said James Dunn, visiting professor of Christianity and public policy at Wake Forest Divinity School. "One of our marks is separation of church and state."

Dunn, past executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, spoke on "Religious Liberty as a Baptist Distinctive" at the annual workshop of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Using the metaphor of a pebble tossed in a pond, he said the three principles of soul freedom, religious liberty and church-state separation are like three concentric circles.

"The center circle is the point of impact, representing the experience of one person with the Divine—the central act of one's life, an act of God's grace, the immediate engagement of heaven with earth—soul freedom," Dunn said.

Religious liberty is the second circle, representing the moral, ethical and social result of a saving encounter with God, he explained.

And the outer ring, church-state separation, he said, is the "necessary corollary" to the two inner circles. Dunn said the Baptist commitment to these principles is theological.

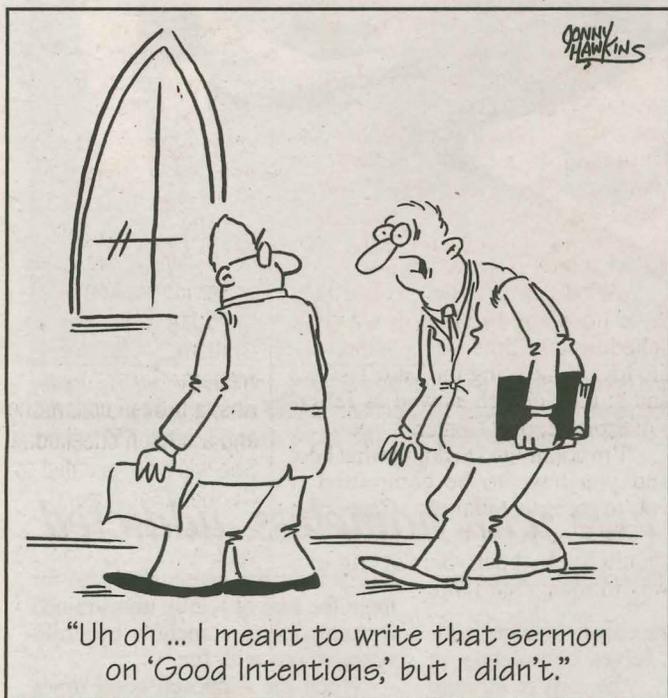
"We root our soul freedom in the very nature and person of God," he said. "We are wired up with a 'chooser,' and we live with the consequences of those choices. In a sense, we are genetically programmed for soul freedom."

Because people are created in the image of God, he added, "To deny freedom of conscience to any person is to debase God's creation."

A commitment to separation of church and state flows naturally from that conviction, Dunn said.

"True, separation of church and state does not define Baptist theology, but it is a logical, inextricable, inevitable corollary of religious liberty as we know it," he said. "It is the plug which, if pulled out of our machine, the motor dies. We go no more."

Anyone who claims a devotion to religious liberty but questions the validity of church-state separation may be a devout Christian, but that person is not an authentic Baptist, Dunn said. "If you dismiss the separation of church and state as some irrelevant, optional teaching, I can say you are not a Baptist."



Southern Seminary conference explores Christian apologetics

LOUISVILLE (BP)—"Give Me an Answer," an apologetics-based conference for college students attracted more than 500 students to the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Feb. 23-24.

The conference offered college students the opportunity to hear speakers offer biblically based answers to skeptical questions about Christianity.

Seminary President Al Mohler told the students they always must be prepared to defend their faith.

"The goal of a proper Christian apologetic is not merely to win an argument," he added. "It is most importantly to win souls. Apologetics separated from evangelism is unknown in the New Testament, and it is clearly foreign to the model offered us by the apostle Paul."

Preaching from Acts 17:16-34, Mohler said Paul's purpose was "preaching the gospel, presenting the claims of Christ and calling for men and women to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Far too many evangelicals think of apologetics as reduced to philosophical structures and rational arguments. Those are not uninteresting and they are certainly not unimportant, but they are a means to an end. They are not the end in themselves."

Postmodernism "denies that there is any truth that can be determined and (that) should be accepted by all persons," he said. "That is a more difficult apologetic task than the one faced in the last generation, which was between different groups contending for different universal truths."

Texas Baptist study committee proposes no cuts in IMB funds

DALLAS (ABP)—A Baptist General Convention of Texas committee studying the state's relationship with mission-sending agencies will not recommend defunding of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, nor will the state organization send its own missionaries, the study group chairman said in a preliminary report.

Chairman James Denison, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, reported on progress of the study Feb. 27 to the BGCT Executive Board.

Denison said the committee, created in 1999, is not scheduled to bring a full report until the Executive Board's May meeting. The final report may include recommendations about changes in Texas Baptists' relationship not only with the IMB, but also with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

While not mentioning NAMB or CBF in his preliminary report, Denison said in a prepared statement, "We can tell Texas Baptists today that we will not be recommending a change relative to the BGCT's budgetary commitment to the IMB and have never intended such a recommendation."

This year Texas Baptists have budgeted more than \$12.2 million for the IMB, nearly 17 percent of the BGCT's total budget.

Denison said the committee also has been asked if it would recommend that Texas Baptists become a mission-sending agency. "We have not discussed such an option and are not planning to make such a recommendation."

The Missions Sending Agencies Study Committee was created by convention action in 1999. The 17-member committee began its work in the fall of 1999. A similar group studying theological education last year proposed significant cuts in Texas Baptist funding of SBC seminaries.

Denison said his committee "has met with leading representatives from each of the sending agencies—IMB, NAMB and the CBF."

"Our committee has been hard at work compiling our findings, but we are not finished with our work," Denison said. "We will bring a report of our findings, recommendations and a suggested process for further dialogue with the missions-sending agencies to the Administrative Committee and the Executive Board in May."

Senior duo share passion for Baptist volunteer work

By Victoria Moon
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—At a time when most people are looking to slow down and retire, two senior women are taking on their most challenging project yet as volunteers at Jefferson Street Baptist Center, a homeless shelter in downtown Louisville.

Mildred Stelzer, 82, and Mary Cates, 73, grew up together as friends living on the same street in Louisville. They remained friends through the years as they married their husbands and attended the same church, Carlisle Avenue Baptist. They also shared a passion for volunteerism, and between them have more than 60 years invested in volunteer projects in their church and community.

"I've always felt it was important to volunteer," Stelzer said. "I've always felt a strong need to do it, and I like it, so it came easily to me."

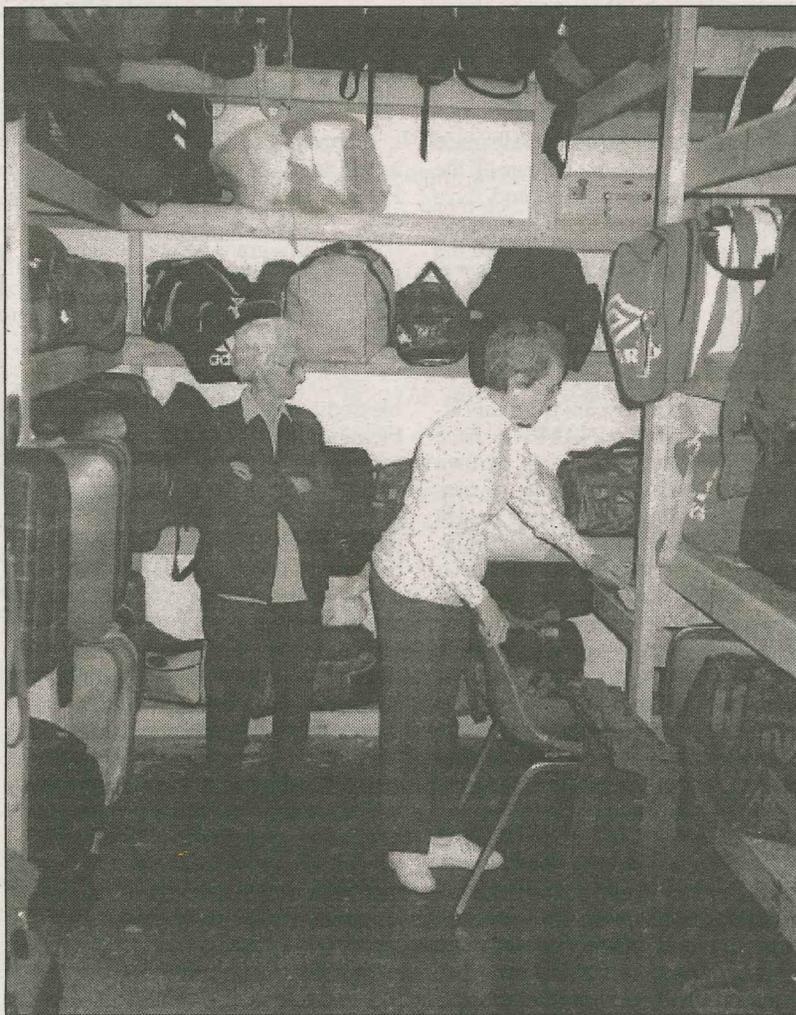
All their years of volunteer work, however, did not prepare them for what they saw when they toured Jefferson Street Baptist Center with a missions prayer group from their church in 1998.

"The first time we toured here, we noticed the men's (sleeping) rooms didn't even have curtains for privacy," Cates said. "And it was easy to see they needed volunteers."

Cates and Stelzer decided they needed to help. The first thing they did was sew curtains for all the men's rooms.

"They are just simple drapes, but it gives them some privacy and makes the rooms look a little nicer," Cates said.

Since then, the two women have come early every Tuesday morning and done everything from restocking canned goods to picking up doughnuts donated from a nearby bakery.



HELPING HANDS Mildred Stelzer (left) and Mary Cates look over the clothes bags of some of the homeless men and women who go to Jefferson Street Baptist Center in downtown Louisville. The two members of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church have more than 60 years invested in volunteer projects in their church and community.

"We put out coffee and doughnuts in the day room, give out towels, washcloths and soap to the people who come in to take showers, clean rooms, disinfect mattresses and sometimes help with the cooking," Stelzer said. "There's always something to do."

The first floor of the center serves

as a day shelter for at least 130 homeless men and women who come into the shelter to store their belongings, wash their clothes, get a meal, take a shower or simply get some rest. The second floor has 20 beds and serves as a halfway house for men dealing with both chemical addiction and psycho-

logical problems.

"Volunteering here has really changed my perspective on the homeless," Cates said. "There are so many different circumstances that have brought people here. Some work, but don't make enough to live on. Some are veterans, some have family. It's not what people expect."

Both women said that volunteering at the shelter has given them a chance to share the gospel with the men and women at the shelter.

"Homeless people really need someone to talk to," Stelzer said. "A lot of the people who come in will listen when you talk about God, and ask you questions. It's a great opportunity to witness."

Randall Harvey, executive director of the center, said the two women are invaluable to the shelter. "They are wonderful, I don't know what we'd do without them," he said.

"A lot of volunteers come in for a day or a week to do short-term missions projects, and that's great because we need that," he added. "But here are two ladies you can count on to show up week after week, long-term. That's harder to find, and we really appreciate what they do here."

Both Cates and Stelzer said they have no plans to slow down their schedule any time soon, which includes volunteering for Dare To Care and at their church as well as Jefferson Street Baptist Center.

"I'm committed to doing what I do, and you have to be committed if you're going to volunteer," Cates said.

She also noted that more people should think about volunteering as a way to share their faith.

"I know people get busy, but I've found the Lord will always give you the time you need to do His work if you trust Him," she said. "You definitely get something from volunteering that those who don't miss out on. I wish more people would see that."

Henderson council moves toward repealing 'fairness ordinance'

By Frank Boyett
Henderson Gleaner

HENDERSON—The Henderson City Commission voted to repeal the city's fairness ordinance Feb. 27, in a discussion that was much shorter and less harsh than the debates that accompanied passage of the controversial measure.

The 3-2 vote was not the final word, however; the commission will vote again when it meets March 13, at which time the ordinance most likely will become history.

Only about 50 people attended last week's hearing, and about two-thirds of them apparently favored keeping the ordinance, judging from applause during the debate. That contrasts with the hundreds of people who attended hearings in the fall of 1999, when the ordinance was passed on a 3-2 vote.

The 1999 measure—commonly called the fairness ordinance, although some opponents object to that term—prohibits discrimination based on sexual preference in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations.

Only 10 people testified Feb. 27

about the ordinance's repeal, compared to 90 who spoke at the first 1999 public hearing. Three were in favor of repeal, while seven wanted the ordinance retained.

"Discrimination is a subtle form of hatred," said Katherine Hope Goodman, leader in the effort to enact the fairness ordinance. "Discrimination is morally wrong." If the ordinance is repealed, she said, "many folks in this community will return to living in fear. Civil rights are not a popularity contest. Until all of us are free, none of us is free."

She also noted that no complaints have been filed since the ordinance was enacted a year and a half ago. "This is evidence this law is doing what it was designed to do."

But Rick Hile said the same fact supports the opposite contention, that the ordinance is not needed. "Where is one complaint filed?" he asked.

"The voters were not represented in this. In my opinion, this is a wrong being made right."

Frank Nally, another opponent of the ordinance, also said it is not needed.

The only discrimination protection

based on sexuality should be gender-based, he said, such as protections afforded women. Protection against discrimination "is fair based on one's sex," he said. "That's the only fair way."

Opponents of the fairness ordinance have maintained that it promotes a homosexual lifestyle. But Steve Sullivan said that's not so.

"It no more promotes homosexuality than laws protecting religion promote Judaism," he said.

The public testimony ended after 35 minutes, compared to 13 hours of testimony that accompanied passage of the controversial ordinance.

The commission then discussed the matter for 10 minutes before voting to repeal. Commissioner Robby Mills, who led the fight to repeal, did not speak. Neither did Commissioner Bob Hall, who also voted for repeal. Hall replaced former Commissioner Sonny Ward, one of the three who voted to enact the fairness ordinance in 1999.

Commissioner Russell Sights was the third vote in favor of repeal. "The need for such an ordinance was never justified," he said, saying the three

commission members who enacted it "imposed their values on the community. The passage of this ordinance has left a negative image with many people."

Commissioner Michele Deep and Mayor Joan Hoffman voted against repeal; both voted to enact the original ordinance.

"Only in loving my neighbor can I truly love myself," Deep said. "The manner in which I judge others is the manner in which I will be judged."

The mayor said she voted for the ordinance because "there comes a time when you must stand up for what you believe strongly."

She quoted Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address in making a plea for community healing.

"Even if this ordinance is repealed this commission, and I hope this community, will begin to bind up the wounds of division," the mayor said. "If we have 'malice toward none and charity toward all' we can deal with issues that divide us and can move on to be a whole and healthy community."

This story originally appeared in the Henderson Gleaner and is used with permission

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Convention** President Jim McKinley will speak at Campbellsville University March 21 at 10 a.m. in the Powell Athletic Center. The public is invited to attend. McKinley, a Campbellsville graduate, is a former Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh and is author of "Death to Life in Bangladesh."

■ **The Southern Baptist International Mission Board** has requested prayer for David and Melody Graham, missionaries to Kosovo who recently were involved in an automobile accident. Both are in the hospital, according to the IMB. Graham, a native of Kentucky, was reported as having broken ribs but doing well. Mrs. Graham, a native of Alabama, has broken ribs, a broken collarbone and a broken cheekbone. She will be evacuated to Germany for further medical care, officials said.

■ **The Graves County Baptist Association's** executive board adopted the 2000 revised Baptist Faith and Message statement during its Feb. 12 meeting.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Focus on faith

Satan sure is clever! Isn't it sad to see Baptists fight the way we do?

We fight about all kinds of issues that distract us from the one thing that is near and dear to the heart of God. When you get right down to it, sharing our faith in Jesus with others should take priority over everything else we do.

Sure we have things that we disagree about and probably always will, but there is a lot we do agree about. For a change let's put our focus where the focus rightly belongs: winning others to heaven.

Now for a simple question: In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven? I never thought this question would change my life the way it has.

Sorry to say, at age 43 I have been a poor steward of sharing the gospel message most of my life. Not anymore! The FAITH evangelism strategy, which is available through LifeWay Christian Resources, has changed me forever.

FAITH covers all the bases needed to share with people how the Bible answers this new, threatening type of question.

I'm sure there are other effective ways and strategies to win people to the Lord as well. I'm just here to say that the proof is in the pudding. I have been fortunate to witness the Holy Spirit change the lives of at least 10 people in the last year.

I would never have thought in a million years I would be able to do what I am starting to do now. God does use ordinary people to do extraordinary things. All I have to do is look as far as the mirror. Thank you, Lord, for changing my heart and soul.

Jeff Morris
Union

Let Holy Spirit lead

After reading the Baptist Digest section of the Feb. 20 issue of the Western Recorder, I felt compelled to comment on "NAMB: No Charismatic Chaplains," concerning the prohibitions of "charismatic manifestations."

The mission board has clearly made their point: They do not believe all the Bible is the Word of God and have chosen to go against it: 1 Corinthians 14:39, "Do not forbid the speaking in tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:7, "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

It appears from this article that NAMB is made up of men taught by men with the doctrines of men rather than being taught through the Holy Spirit. Their prohibition against "charismatic manifestations" reveals that they have only human wisdom that is unspiritual, according to James 3:15. One must humble himself and be still to listen to what the Holy Spirit says.

Earthly wisdom is rewarded with academic degrees. It is strange that these men who pursue these degrees look down on Christ because He was not Jesus Christ, PhD. They replaced the testing Jesus used on His disciples with classroom intellectual works.

Where is the proof they have received the Holy Spirit in casting out demons, healing of the sick and other manifestations of the Spirit? The apostles were "unschooled, ordinary men" (Acts 4:13) but they received the "charismatic manifestations" of wisdom, knowledge, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, and yes, speaking in different kinds of tongues and interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Perhaps it is because of decisions like the ones that NAMB has made that reveals why many of our churches are not experiencing true revival, since

human teaching is shunning the Holy Spirit because men want to be in control.

Donald Bowen
Lexington

Mid-Continent impact

I appreciated David Winfrey's fine article on Mid-Continent College in the Feb. 13 issue of the Western Recorder.

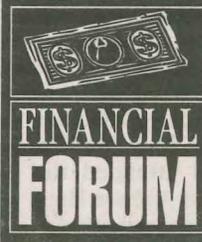
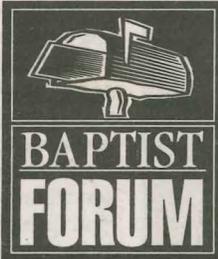
As both a graduate and former faculty member, I know firsthand that MCC fills a special need for higher education in the Baptist tradition in Western Kentucky.

For the past three years, I have been blessed to serve a growing church in Flemingsburg, located in the northeastern part of the state, but I am still a strong advocate for my alma mater in "the West." My training at MCC provided excellent training for pastoral ministry, but it also gave me wonderful preparation for graduate study. I was well prepared for the challenges of doctoral work at the University of Kentucky because of my education at Mid-Continent College.

I applaud the willingness the college has demonstrated to reach out to a more diverse student population, while still remaining true to its original purpose of training preachers, missionaries and other Christian workers. I hope that MCC's leadership will continue to demonstrate visionary strategy for reaching the church and unchurched college student population in Western Kentucky. It is excellent to read about the growth that is occurring there.

I pray that many more of my fellow Kentucky Baptists will recognize MCC as a place we can wholeheartedly and proudly support. I believe it will continue to be a college that will provide quality, affordable and, most importantly, biblically-based higher education. Truly, it takes seriously its calling as a "Great Commission College."

Christopher Beckham
Flemingsburg



GIVING

Foundation can help facilitate charitable giving

By Laurie Valentine

Making charitable gifts to your church and other Baptist causes

through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation provides advantages to you and the causes you wish to support.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is the only agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention that may receive gifts for the support of every Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist cause. As a "member of the family," the Foundation has a special appreciation and affection for the mission and ministry of the causes that will be supported through your gifts. This connection assures you, as the giver, that the foundation has each cause's best interests in mind as it manages the gifts made for that cause's benefit.

Many donors want to provide support to more than one cause and realize that dividing their gift may result in lower total support. A single trust or endowment fund established with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can be set up to provide support to more than one Baptist cause. This can result in more consistent levels of support for all. Each cause will have the benefit of the same level of investment management services and the economies of centralized fund management.

Directing that the Kentucky Baptist Foundation will manage your gift assures that the causes you want to support are left to do what they were called to do—missions, Christian education, child care, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. You relieve their board, trustees or staff from day-to-day investment research, analysis, decision-making, transacting and reporting, and place those responsibilities with the organization whose purpose is to provide competent, prudent financial management for the causes designated by its donors.

The board and staff of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation desire to help each Kentucky Baptist determine how they can practice their Christian stewardship at a higher level. This desire is reflected in the variety of gift plans offered and the ability of the foundation to accept gifts of any size.

Contact our president, Barry Allen, or me toll-free at (888) 254-5701 and let us show you how you can make a lasting difference.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

"On Mission Together"

"On Mission Together," the theme for this year's Week of Prayer for North American Missions, is very appropriate for Kentucky Baptists. There are many mission initiatives that Kentucky Baptists have launched that would have been impossible without the partnership of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

One of these important partnerships involves our ministries to Hispanics in Kentucky. As many as 70,000 Hispanics are now in our state. In cooperation with local churches, associations and NAMB, 67 local Hispanic ministries are developing to meet the spiritual needs of this growing population. Please pray for Grundy Janes, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Hispanic ministries consultant, and for our Hispanic leaders across Kentucky.

Another partnership enables us to reach out to the 186,000 young adults on Kentucky's college campuses. In cooperation with NAMB, Kentucky Baptists have placed an evangelism

strategist at the University of Kentucky. Please pray for Penny Cruse as she mentors students in personal witnessing at UK and at Eastern Kentucky University.

A growing subgroup of college students in Kentucky is international students. Again, in cooperation with NAMB, a strategy coordinator based at the University of Louisville is training student leaders—especially believing international students—to share their faith and lead ministries for the 6,000 international students now on our campuses. Pray for Tommy Johnson as he leads in this ministry.

Our ministries to students do not focus only on the college campuses. There are 538 middle and high schools in Kentucky with about 280,000 students. Again, in cooperation with NAMB and local youth leaders, support is being provided for student-led initiatives to share the gospel. Pray for Randy Record as he gives leadership for youth evangelism strategies.



Bill Mackey

Help teens understand smoking has physical, financial consequences

Q: What do you think about teenagers smoking? At what age should we let them choose? Our daughter is 15 years old and says that most of her friends smoke after school, but not in front of their parents. I smoke, but I wish I could quit; my husband does not smoke any more. I told her I would rather have her smoke in front of us, than hide it behind our backs. My husband says she is too young and that we should tell her to stop.

Smoking is not good for us at any age and you both seem to know that. Your husband has quit and you want to stop smoking. Cigarettes are habit-forming; do not help your daughter become addicted. Help her stop. There are programs that can assist you and her to break the cycle of smoking.

It won't be easy, but you can do it. The first step is to admit that you are addicted. The next step is to affirm that God is able to give you the strength to overcome this addiction. She will need to decide to quit for herself, as will you. Consider talking to your doctor for help. Get some information about the health risks of smoking and look at the plain economics.

Her heart and lungs will be damaged by a life of smoking. She will cut many years off her expected life span. Plus the body is the Lord's temple and we should all take care of our bodies. Smoking is not the only bad physical habit that we should overcome, but it is a major one.

A pack a day habit easily could cost \$25 a week and that is more than \$1,200 a year. If she saved that much in a retirement account each year for the rest of her life, that could grow to more than \$1 million by age 56.— *Wade Rowatt*

Q: My boyfriend and I are moving toward marriage. He's Catholic. I'm Baptist. Is it OK to proceed?

It is good that you stop, look and listen before proceeding. There are many issues, and the answer to your question may depend on many factors. If either of you already have children, or if you plan for children to come into the marriage, the issue becomes larger. You would have more people to consider than just yourselves.

One step you can take is to have a trained pre-marriage counselor take you through a premarital inventory. Two widely used programs are PREPARE and FOCCUS.

Premarital inventories help you gauge your relationship in several different areas. Two issues that directly apply to your situation are parenting and spirituality. Your counselor will help you to dialogue about these issues.

If your children are grown or there is no possibility of children in your future, the area of focus becomes the spiritual. Studies have shown that the important factor is not that you share the same denominational practices, but that you are on an equal spiritual plane. It is vital that you are supportive of one another's practice.

Just because two people are part of the same denomination doesn't mean they share the same level of spirituality. And just because two people are from different traditions within the Christian faith doesn't mean they don't share a great deal in common in their level of spirituality.

The important thing is your basic spirituality in Christ. The apostle Paul was strong in his admonition to Christians to choose to be "equally yoked" in the spiritual realm. He was speaking of denominations. He was speaking of one's basic relationship to Christ. Do you share that in common? If not, stop, look and listen. Pay attention to any red flags before you proceed.— *James Stillwell*

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. Matthew 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.



Points to ponder and priorities to pursue

It's one thing to attend Kentucky Baptists' annual evangelism conference, enjoy the music, messages and fellowship and drive home with a nice warm feeling. It's quite another thing to be challenged by the words of the speakers and make a personal commitment to apply those truths to daily life and ministry.

While last week's evangelism conference certainly offered ample opportunities for the former, it also provided plenty of pointed, practical perspectives for pursuing the latter.

Among significant points to ponder during the two-day gathering were:

- "The day of cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all, standardized programming for church life is long gone." That observation by Rick Ferguson, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, is a vivid reminder that doing church the same old way, week in and week out, probably won't make much of a spiritual impact on Gen-Xers living in a postmodern society. Challenging participants to "contextualize the ministry without compromising the message," Ferguson said growing, effective churches must be willing to "think new initiatives rather than old inventory" in order to communicate the gospel to today's young people.

- "We cannot be the lights God want us to be if we are chained to sin." Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, emphasized that God calls Christians to run a spiritual race by faith, laying aside every weight and sin while keeping our eyes on our eternal goal. In a world where it's easy to be distracted and discouraged, Luter affirmed that Jesus Christ remains "the author and finisher of our faith." That's a truth worth remembering as we face the challenges of ministry in the 21st century.

- "Water-walking miracles take place when we

get out of the boat." Citing the encounter between Jesus and Peter on the Sea of Galilee, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Thom Rainer noted that many modern Christians stay in the boat and refuse to take risks in their spiritual lives. By contrast, he pointed out that those who step out in faith to witness and serve are the ones who experience miraculous moments of ministry. While it's obviously easier to stay in our personal comfort zones, spiritual victories tend to occur when we are willing to risk personal comfort in the pursuit of life-changing ministry opportunities.

- "We're not worth a plug nickel if we're not willing to start right where we live." Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, emphasized that the most effective way to impact the nation with the gospel is one person at a time. Offering practical ministry application, Reccord challenged conference participants to take part in NAMB's "Lighthouses of Prayer," an evangelistic prayer emphasis.

Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team, said "Lighthouses of Prayer" is part of a three-year evangelism focus being launched by state convention leaders. Other ministry projects include servanthood evangelism and personal witness training.

"Our goal is to challenge churches to be lighthouses in their communities," Garland explained. "We've got to see that it is the light that unites us and the darkness that divides us."

If that is accomplished, this year's evangelism conference will become far more than a two-day inspirational event. It will be a lasting reminder that Kentucky Baptists' top priority is to "Let the Light Shine" for the sake of the gospel.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Kentucky Baptists 'moved to tears' amid nation's centennial celebration

By Jack Birdwhistell

During 1871, ownership and proprietorship of the *Western Recorder* passed to A.C. Caperton and A.S. Worrell, with Caperton taking the role as principal editor.

It is important to recall that in that era of Kentucky Baptist journalism, the *Recorder* was owned and administered by individuals, with little or no denominational support. The owners would recruit "agents," ministers and other Baptists from throughout the region, who in turn would recruit individual subscribers for the paper. The whole enterprise had to at least break even financially.

Like previous editors, Caperton came to his post from the pastorate. Born in Jackson County, Ala., in 1831, he was a graduate of Mississippi College and Rochester Theological Seminary in faraway Rochester, N.Y. He had been pastor of churches in Memphis, Tenn.; Mayfield; and Evansville, Ind., prior to becoming associated with the *Recorder*.

Caperton's tenure was free from the greatly divisive controversies of

the earlier decades of the 19th century. It was a time of slow denominational progress as the General Association of Kentucky Baptists and the Southern Baptist Convention gradually gained the support of more local churches.

The period was notable for two significant Baptist anniversary celebrations: the centennial of the United States and the semi-centennial of the General Association, both of which Caperton helped plan.

In May 1876, when messengers gathered at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville for the annual meeting of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists, the entire program of May 25 was given over to a centennial celebration. The moderator of the meeting was Gov. P.H. Leslie, and there were two special addresses given. The first, by Lucian B. Woolfolk, a pastor in Lexington, was so effective that, according to historian J.H. Spencer, "The great audience was moved to tears and enthusiasm. It was a time of thrilling joy, of grateful praise, of glad remembrance and of hope-inspiring anticipation." An evening ad-

dress by Basil Manly, the president of Georgetown College, on "The History of Kentucky Baptists of the Past Century" was equally well received.

Kentucky, like much of the nation, was in the midst of a financial crisis in 1876, which made it a "very hard year to collect money for benevolent purposes in Kentucky." Only \$6,288 was collected for state missions that year.

In spite of the bleak financial picture, carefully gathered statistics showed a total of 143,920 Baptists in Kentucky (white and African-American), which meant that Baptists had gained ground in the state since the Civil War. Hopes were high that times would improve and a centennial committee was appointed to review the work of the General Association.

A special appeal was made to secure the balance of the \$300,000 which had been pledged by Kentucky Baptists to locate Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, an appeal which proved successful, with far-ranging impact over the years.

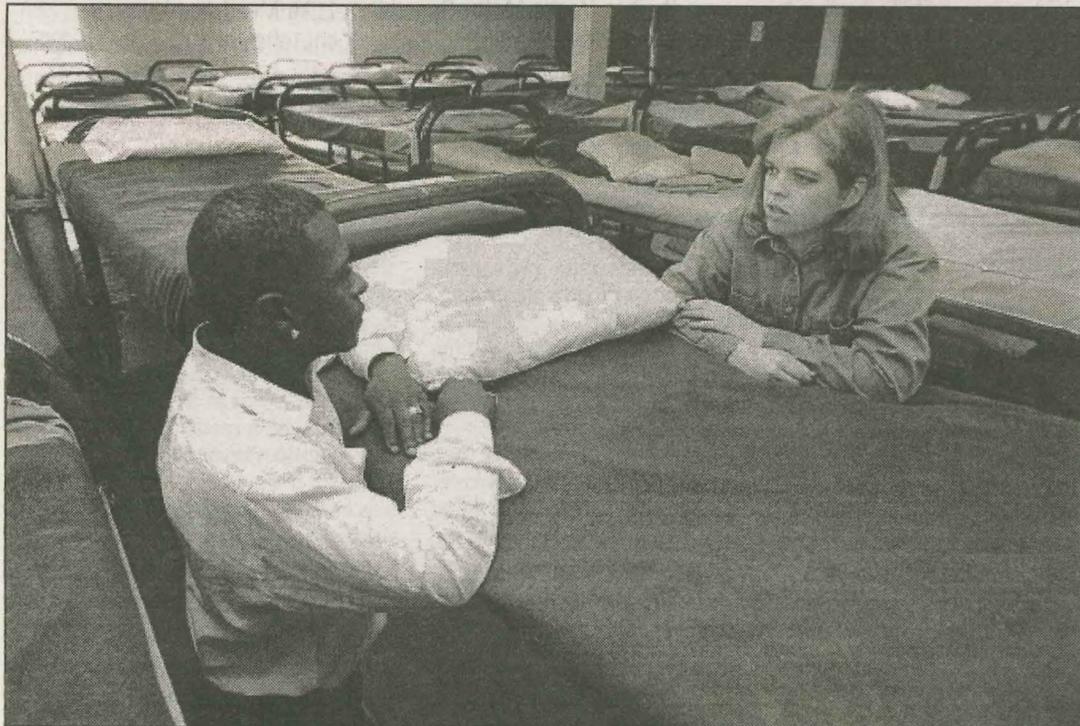
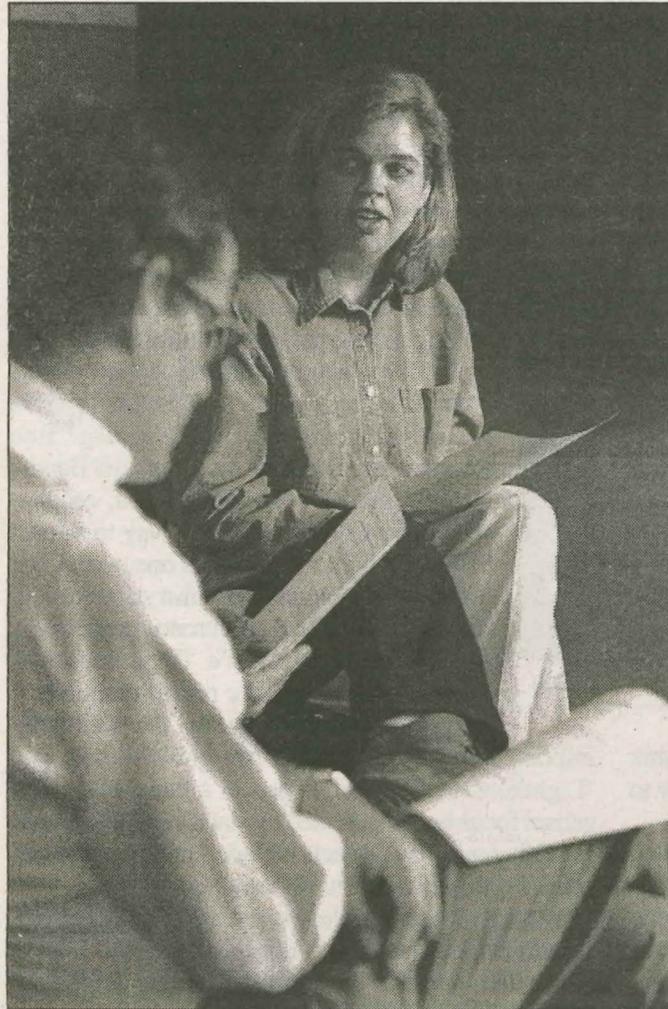
Next week we will examine the state association's semi-centennial celebration which took place in Louisville in 1887.

Ira "Jack" Birdwhistell is associate professor of religion at Georgetown College

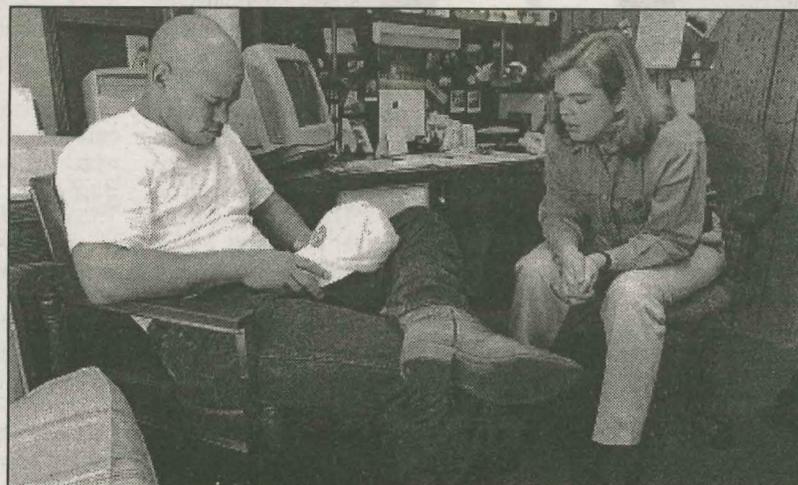


MISSIONS

Brantley Center: Home for homeless in New Orleans



MULTI-FACETED MINISTRY Southern Baptist missionary Ginger Smith is social services coordinator at the Clovis L. Brantley Baptist Center in New Orleans. ■ **Top:** Smith joins in a discussion with participants in the center's drug and alcohol treatment program. ■ **Above:** Smith talks with a center guest. ■ **Right:** Smith prays with a client during a counseling session. (Photos by Ted Jackson)



Continued from page 1

en's and children's shelter; supervises the self-assessment phase of a Christian rehabilitation program and leads Bible studies and classes on computer skills, GED preparation, parenting skills, job readiness and anger management. She also is the center's community referral and resource specialist.

Originally from Arkansas, Smith said she "always wanted to work with people, but didn't know exactly how God wanted to use me." No one in her family had ever been involved in vocational ministry—let alone inner-city social ministry.

She first applied for summer missions service while still in high school. When she was approved to serve at an inner-city ministry center in Houston, Texas, it was a shock to her parents, who told her she could not go. But they came around after a visit from veteran missionary Mildred McWhorter, the center's director.

"It was amazing to see how God worked all that out," Smith said. The three months went by safely, and when it was time to start her first year of college, Smith said, "I knew that my life had changed forever." She spent every summer of her four years in college doing a variety of mission projects, including two in U.S. inner cities, one in a pioneer U.S. ministry area and her

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North American Mission Board facts

More than 5,000 missionaries serve through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in the United States, Canada and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

■ Mission pastors serve as church planters in English-speaking and language churches in rural and urban settings. Southern Baptists in North America worship in 212 languages among 112 language groups in more than 7,000 ethnic congregations. Southern Baptists are starting more than 1,700 new churches each year.

■ NAMB missionaries minister to human needs through ministry evangelism in church and community settings. They serve senior adults, nonreaders, non-English-speaking people, substance abusers,

families, people in the criminal justice system, homeless people, disabled people, migrant workers and vacationers. These ministries resulted in more than 17,000 professions of faith in Jesus last year.

■ Mission Service Corps volunteer missionaries serve more than two years and provide most of their own funding although they may receive some NAMB funds.

■ Almost 3,000 Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains serve in the military, institutions such as prisons and hospitals, and in corporate settings. They are paid by the group that hires them. Last year, these chaplains visited more than 1.5 million people, and led more than 20,000 people to faith in Jesus.

■ More than 100,000 youth and adults serve as short-term mission volunteers each year. Last year, through World Changers, the short-term program for youth, more than 1,500 people made professions of faith in Jesus.

final summer in Hong Kong.

"I really struggled about whether to go back to Hong Kong instead of going on to seminary," Smith said, but she did not have peace about it. Within 24 hours of her arrival at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, she had an interview to work at Brantley, "and I knew from the first day that I was going to work here, that this was my place of ministry." She served a two-year internship at the center before becoming a NAMB missionary.

Smith is one of three NAMB missionaries at Brantley Center, where "soup, soap and salvation" continue to play important roles in the work of New Orleans' only Southern Baptist homeless shelter, started in 1927. Named in memory of a former director, the Clovis A. Brantley Center still features the preaching of the gospel as its central purpose. Besides morning Bible studies, nightly preaching services are held. They often are led by seminary students and area ministers, including Clay Corvin, vice president for business affairs at the seminary.

"Ginger is a jewel. She's one-of-a-kind," said Corvin, whose weekly volunteer ministry at the center has spanned 20 years. "I've seen a lot of people go in and out of here. She is truly Christlike and has such a sweet, patient, kind spirit. But when she says, 'No,' they know she means it."

Attractive, energetic and patient, Smith might at first glance seem innocent to New Orleans' notorious "ways of the world." But she learned her lessons well in college and seminary, through her mission trips and especially during her internship.

She is now described by the male staff members at Brantley Center's front desk as "an alcoholic and drug addict's worst nightmare."

"In other words," added a man from Texas who was finishing the program that day, "she takes her work seriously. She's taught me that even as manipulative as we can be, God sees right through it, and she sees right through it. I needed that."

"Ginger has taught me you can't just read the Bible. You have to live it," said a fellow staffer at the center, who herself had endured the hardships of the streets.

One of the things Smith enjoys about ministry in New Orleans is that "bottom line, people don't pretend in New Orleans. People living here are who they really are—colored hair, multiple piercings, different lifestyle, everything."

Still, she said, New Orleans can be a difficult place to minister, "as people can have the attitude that there are no consequences to their actions. They come here to revel in uncontrolled freedom. When they're here, some people don't have moral lives for themselves like they would if they were in other places, like back home."

In the late afternoon, the smell of bleach lingers upstairs in the men's floor and separately on the women's floor. A total of 232 guests can be sheltered each night. Everything may be rough, but it is spotless.

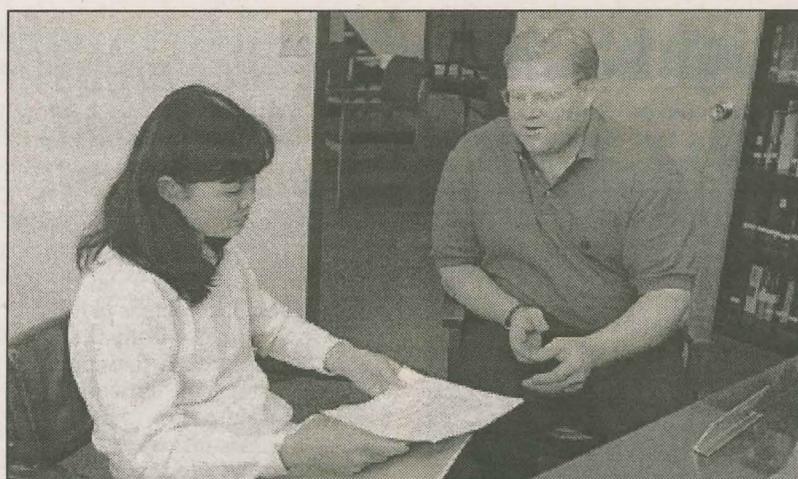
To the "shelter guests," as she refers to her transient boarders, Smith likes to offer a place "where we treat them like they're human beings," rather than a faceless number among hundreds of others.

"People are people, regardless of their money or status," she insists. "I don't see them as homeless people."

She works hard at remembering their names, making their birthdays special and helping them become responsible and productive. But most of all she enjoys helping them to know Christ as their personal Savior, to use His strength to overcome their addictions and to grow in knowledge and service to Him.

"I keep reminding myself that I'm not here to be a social worker," Smith said. "I'm here to share the love of God with people, and that's not a discouraging job."

For more information about Smith and other missionaries featured in the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.



MENTOR Allan Karr meets with student Lillie Lin in his office at the Denver campus of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. As director of the Nehemiah Project and a missionary with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Karr oversees a network of church planters across the western United States. He and his wife, Kathy, are featured missionaries in this year's Southern Baptist Week of Prayer for North American Missions. (Photo by James Dotson)

Church starter now helps others plant congregations

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

LARKSPUR, Colo.—Allan Karr learned the importance of mentor relationships early on, when at 15 years old a man by the name of Jon Cook befriended him and helped him discover God's plan for his life.

"He recognized what he saw as a young man with potential and made a conscious decision to invest his life and energy and time into mine. And the relationship that we developed and the discipling that took place has become foundational for who I am as a minister," said Karr.

That discipling also has become the foundation of Karr's latest role. As Nehemiah Project director at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and a missionary with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Karr oversees a network of church planters across the western United States.

"As a professor I have become increasingly aware that the intentional investment that one makes in the lives of people who are sometimes overlooked can oftentimes have tremendous potential for the Kingdom—if only someone would take the time to develop them," he said.

From his base at the Denver campus of Golden Gate, Karr travels to each of the seminary's regional campuses—in Phoenix; Vancouver, Wash.; Denver; Los Angeles; and San Francisco.

For Karr the academic life and demanding weekly travel schedule is new, but the subject matter has become his heart passion. He came to the role from a position as a church planter himself, as pastor of Castle Valley Community Church in Castle Rock, Colo., about 20 miles south of Denver.

In the summer of 1999, however, Karr took his current position as Nehemiah Project director at Golden Gate Seminary, giving him the opportunity of applying the knowledge he had gained about effective church planting.

"To have credibility to the postmod-

ern church planter, one must be involved in it firsthand," Karr said. "Church planters do not want to hear stories about how you did it 20 years ago. They want to know how you do it now."

The Nehemiah Project was begun in 1998 by NAMB as a way to better equip its church planters, integrating a focused seminary curriculum with two-year internships.

The Nehemiah Project is designed to "address some of the deficiencies of church planting strategies of the past, namely that church planters oftentimes were not adequately prepared when they went out into the field," Karr said.

The system provides both a mentor for each church planter and a group of fellow church planters who can support each other, he said.

"That provides fellowship and encouragement. It helps address the issues of loneliness, particularly with the wives," he said. "And it just gives people an opportunity to just bounce ideas off each other."

Typically, he said, planting a church can be "like a roller coaster ride," with tremendous highs and lows of success and perceived failure.

"During that time of ups and downs you have to be able to be wired to be resilient and bounce back. When it gets to the lows, it always helps to have a friend to lean on."

With the transition in Karr's ministry, his wife Kathy's role has changed as well. Now, she leads workshops during "Basic Training" seminars for church planters and their wives, using the experiences she and her husband had as church planters themselves.

Mrs. Karr points to the "overall calling of God" on her life as well as her husband's. Although the specific roles have varied, the assurance of that call continues to help them through the stressful moments—whether the ups and downs of planting a church or coping with Karr's busy travel schedule.

For more information, visit the www.anniearmstrong.com Web site.



Other missionaries highlighted this week

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—From American Samoa to Montreal, Quebec, more than 5,000 North American missionaries are involved daily in fulfilling the Great Commission.

During the Week of Prayer for North American Missions and throughout the year, remember to pray for these featured representative missionaries, as well as their counterparts across the continent:

Randy and Doris Cowling, associational missions.



Randy Cowling serves as director of missions for 41 churches in Kaw Valley Baptist Association in Kansas, helping churches discover and implement God's purposes for their congregations. The association, which covers a 12-county area, also works to share the gospel with Native Americans living on three reservations. Pray for the Cowlings as they lead the association to be more effective through cooperation in mission and ministry.

Georges and Carolyn Boujakly, church planting.



Georges Boujakly serves as a church planter strategist in Quebec, Canada, confronting what he terms the most post-modern culture in North America. During the past 10 years, Boujakly has seen the number of Southern Baptist churches grow from eight to 22, but with almost 7 million people living in Quebec the task is daunting. He hopes to build a network of house churches, small bodies of believers meeting in homes. The Boujaklys ask prayer for a church planting movement across the province, laborers to gather the harvest and that the people of Quebec would find the freedom they are seeking in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah and Jan Mejia, church and community ministries.



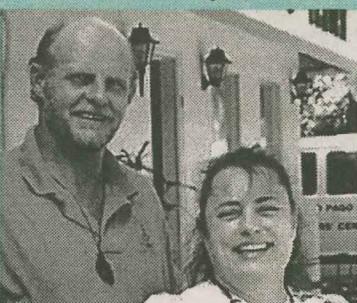
As a ministry evangelism specialist with the Southern Nevada Baptist Association, Isaiah Mejia coordinates evangelistic outreach ministries at ritzy skyscraper casino-hotels on the neon-lit Las Vegas Boulevard and through such venues as the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Lake Mead and Hoover Dam. Pray for Mejia as he helps churches discover new ways to penetrate their community with the gospel, reaching the 777,000 people in metropolitan Las Vegas who surveys indicate have no church affiliation.

Chris McNairy, church planting.



While serving on staff of a church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., a few years ago, Chris McNairy realized that residents of apartment complexes were interested in participating in church, but only if it was located in their own community. It wasn't long before the association had 40 groups meeting in multihousing developments, many meeting in space donated by landlords. In his new role as a national church-planting missionary for multihousing communities, McNairy works to help such groups become self-sufficient congregations. Pray for McNairy as he helps churches see the need for multihousing ministries and take the steps of faith necessary to start churches.

Rob and Sandra Stip, Mission Service Corps.



As directors of the Pago Pago Seafarer's Center in American Samoa for the past two and a half years, Rob and Sandra Stip provided a comfortable place for seafarers to relax, enjoy a game of pool, make international phone calls and learn about Christ. But the Stips also found themselves serving as advocates for seafarers not paid by their employers, for Vietnamese garment workers in indentured servitude and for local children in need of a family environment and Christian teaching. Pray for the Stips as they pursue new avenues of ministry this year, sharing Christ with recreational boaters in North Carolina and Virginia.

Ken and Karen Welborn, United Nations ministries.



From a small office a few blocks from the world headquarters of the United Nations, Ken Welborn ministers to hundreds of U.N. delegates and staff. A weekly Bible study provides fellowship, support and a gospel witness, and Welborn also visits regularly with diplomats in their offices. Pray that Welborn and the staff of the Christian Ministry to the United Nations would continue to find new ways of impacting members of the U.N. community with the gospel, and through them the world.

For more information about these missionaries or the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, visit the Web site www.anniearmstrong.com

EVANGELISM

Speakers offer ideas to 'Let Light Shine'

By Trennis Henderson
& David Winfrey
Editor & News Director



"How many of you would be happy if you only reached a half million?"

Texas evangelist Billie Hanks Jr.

LEXINGTON—From contemporary praise bands to a Southern gospel quartet, last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference offered a variety of worship experiences.

More than 25 speakers and conference leaders from eight states addressed such topics as church growth, campus evangelism and churches in transition during the Feb. 26-27 event at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

"We were bringing together a blending of the old and new," explained Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team. "I tried to cast a vision of things happening in Kentucky in traditional churches as well as casting the vision of starting new churches and ministering in fresh ways."

Highlighting the conference theme, "Let the Light Shine," Garland said the evangelism growth team is launching a three-year emphasis on prayer, servant evangelism and witnessing.

"My hope is for people to have a fresh encounter with God," he said. "The church has got to take stands in the community for what we're for and let the light of Jesus shine. It's a very simple strategy of getting back to the basics."

Among featured speakers during the conference:

■ **Bob Record**, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, challenged Kentucky Baptists to become part of NAMB's "Lighthouses of Prayer" emphasis. The prayer focus, part of the KBC's evangelism strategy, involves individuals intentionally praying together for evangelistic needs in their communities.

Urging participants to "start in your Jerusalem," Record said effective evangelism is based on the unshakable proof that Jesus is alive, the unbelievable power of the Holy Spirit and the undeniable purpose of witnessing to people in need of the gospel.

"There is an unbeatable prize and it's called changed lives through Jesus Christ," Record added. "The ball's in your court. Are you willing to say, 'I'm ready to start in my Jerusalem.'"

More than 200 people responded to Record's invitation to participate in "Lighthouses of Prayer" efforts.

■ **Ellis Orozco** urged congregations to become "new frontier churches." He said that is the key to impacting society with the gospel in the new millennium.

Orozco, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in McAllen, Texas, said new frontier churches must overcome the temptation to be ashamed of the gospel.

"To know the gospel is to have a debt, a commitment, a rock-solid obligation to share that message," he insisted. "To know it carries with it the inherent obligation to tell."

■ Preaching from Exodus 8-10, **Charles Roesel** recounted "the underlying struggle going on between Pharaoh and Moses" when Moses urged Pharaoh to release the Hebrews from captivity.

Noting that Pharaoh repeatedly tried



CONFERENCE SCENES More than 1,200 people attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual evangelism conference, Feb. 26-27 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. ■ **Top:** More than 200 people responded to an invitation to make their homes "Lighthouses of Prayer." The effort involves praying specifically for neighbors to become Christians. ■ **Above left:** Choir members from Zion Baptist Church in Henderson provided music for one of the sessions. ■ **Above right:** The praise team from the University of Kentucky's Baptist Student Union performed after an evening session.

to convince Moses to compromise his demands, Roesel said, "Moses flatly refused to accept compromise. Our God is no compromising God."

Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla., said Christians today also must be willing to reject society's call to compromise.

"God can use the person who refuses to compromise," Roesel noted. He said that requires putting God first and accepting "no rival, no refusal and no retreat."

■ Seminary professor **Thom Rainer** challenged Kentucky Baptists to be "Christians who walk on the water" rather than "Christians who stay in the boat."

Recounting the story from Matthew 14 about Jesus inviting Peter to walk on water, Rainer described Christians who boldly share their faith as modern-day water-walkers.

Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said keys to effective ministry include:

■ Comfort is not an option.
■ Miracles take place when we get off the boat.

■ Christ is the only way to walk on water.

■ It is better to have faith and fail than to have no faith at all.

"How many of us have ever left the comfort of the boat?" Rainer asked. "Water-walking miracles happen when we get out of the boat. ... If I'm going to make a difference, I must share Jesus with others."

■ Evangelist **Billie Hanks Jr.** of Texas said Christians could reach the world in a relatively short time if they practiced evangelism multiplication.

Hanks explained "Operation Multiplication," a strategy by which every Christian is encouraged to evangelize and disciple one friend. By training a

new Christian to share his or her faith, Hanks said, the number of new Christians would grow exponentially.

Hanks said that if one person would evangelize and disciple one person each year, with the intention that each new Christian would do the same, it would result in more than 1 million new Christians within 20 years.

Admitting that everyone reached wouldn't go on to reach someone else each year, he asked, "How many of you would be happy if you only reached a half million?"

"The greatest joy you'll have in your life is investing deeply in the lives of new believers," he added. "The population of the United States could be reached rather quickly by a few churches seriously applying this principle."

■ **Greg Faulls**, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, said more Christians need to model Jesus' response to the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda.

Faulls noted that Jesus took the initiative to approach the man. "We can't expect the paralyzed to come to us. We must go to their pool of Bethesda."

"We can't do that hiding within our traditions. We can't do that hiding behind our pet programs," he added. "We can only do that by getting out there to meet them where they are."

■ Georgia pastor **Johnny Hunt** told conference participants that God has provided the tools to resist temptation so that the devil won't steal their testimony.

Preaching from 2 Corinthians, Hunt, pastor of Woodstock Baptist Church, said purity is the most important tool for a pastor. "The devil has a hard time with a man who is pure," he said. "If you stay close, you'll stay clean."

Next year's evangelism conference will be Feb. 25-26 at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

Speaker urges change in self, church & world

LEXINGTON—If more Christians would be open to personal change, God could accomplish more changes in their Christians and churches to accomplish a change in the world, a south Florida pastor told Kentucky Baptists last week.

"I believe God would do something new in the life of every church leader today if we will allow Him to do it," said Dan Southerland, pastor of Flamingo Road Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

When Southerland went to Flamingo Road Baptist in 1989, he led the church to grow from 300 members to 500 members in six months.

But leaders soon learned that 90 percent of the growth resulted from Christians transferring from other churches. "We were just swapping sheep."

Southerland said he helped the church transition in nine ways, including worship style, ministry model and discipleship plan.

Southerland noted that the Bible is full of references to God doing something new, from 2 Corinthians, in which Paul says those who are in Christ will become new creations, to Jesus saying new wine shouldn't be placed in old wine-skins.

He described a three-point strategy for change:

■ **Be open to life change.** Southerland said the reason most Southern Baptist churches are in decline is because God is doing a new work in the life of the leaders.

"You can't lead anyone where you haven't been yourself," he said.

■ **Be open to church change.** Too many churches are stuck in the past with legalistic, logic-based dogma. While many Christians say their churches are trying to reach non-Christians, their church programs and worship styles prove the churches really are more focused on the desires of the church members.

Southerland said that last century England declined from having 60 percent of its citizens attending church to about 2 percent. "If we don't learn to do church, to go after the unchurched, we are headed down the same path."

■ **Get in on world change.** Revival is taking place in China, Cuba, Korea and Colombia, but America is being bypassed, Southerland said.

Nevertheless, he added that he sees reasons for hope. "We're getting tired of doing it," he said. "Transition is real doable if you'll follow a biblical path."

EVANGELISM

Sweet urges churches to share the Bread of Life in fresh ways

Continued from page 1

Bread of Life, and the name of His hometown, Bethlehem, means "house of bread," Sweet noted. "Sourdough starter spirituality is this: The only way you can keep that sourdough going is that you've got to bake fresh bread."

Sweet compared several characteristics of sourdough starter to the gospel:

■ *Starter expands.* "You can't contain it. You can't control it," Sweet said. "It just keeps growing and growing. It's explosive. I call this flour power."

■ *Starter constantly has to be freshened.* Al carefully makes sure the ingredients used will keep the starter pure and not change its characteristics, Sweet said.

"On the trek westward the most prized possession was the starter pot," Sweet said. "The starter pot is called the Scriptures."

Christians must continually explore the Scriptures to keep the gospel fresh and make sure it is staying pure, he said.

■ *The only way to keep starter alive is to bake fresh bread.* "You don't keep digging in and bringing out new stuff, it's going to go bad," Sweet said.

Likewise, churches and Christians who lose their zeal for evangelism will die, he said.

■ *The bread baked from starter can be customized.* "The kinds of loaves that Al bakes, some of them look really weird," Sweet said. "And let me tell you, some of that bread he bakes doesn't interest me at all. But it's from the same sourdough starter."

Sweet said churches must keep the essence of the gospel the same but they also must be willing to share that gospel in a variety of packages.

But that becomes a challenge to churches when some of those packages aren't appealing to its members, he added.

Sweet referred to Lamentations 4:3, which states, "The children beg for bread, but no one gives it to them."

Many churches are not willing to package the gospel in a way that it will

be appealing to today's youth, Sweet said. "We're not going to bake bread that they're going to want to eat," Sweet said. "It's the same sourdough starter. What is our problem?"

■ *The starter is the same but it's constantly changing.* Al's starter is as ancient as 200 years old, but it is also as new as the water and flour he adds each day, Sweet said.

"Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, but Jesus is fresh every morning," he added.

The church must embrace both the ancient and the future in order to reach the present generation, Sweet added. He compared it to a child on a swing who must lean back and kick her feet forward to move. Otherwise, "we're just sitting in the middle."

Sweet added churches also must adapt to the pace of change in society. Even the term "carpe diem," or seize the day, is outdated, he said.

"You can't do anything unless you 'carpe manana,'" or seize tomorrow, he said. "You believe that we can bake some fresh bread in this world for these little ones?"

Sweet: Be there

Evangelism in the 21st century requires that Christians "Be there," Leonard Sweet told Kentucky Baptists attending the annual evangelism conference.

"Be" refers to character. "There" refers to content," Sweet said, adding that Christians must be masters of both. "Be" is 'know Christ.' 'There' is 'make Christ known.'"

In regards to "be," or character, Sweet said Christians must realize that their identity is found completely in Christ, but that identity can be radically different from group to group.

"We don't like biological cloning in the church very much, but we like spiritual cloning," he said, referring to the idea that Christians must all act, worship and minister in identical ways. "The church can squeeze you into a mold just as much as the world."

Related to "there," or content, Christians must seek to understand the world in which they live, Sweet said.

"Sisters and brothers, we are living in a time in which we are either making history or we are history," he said.

The world in which the church feels comfortable no longer exists, Sweet said, but many church leaders refuse to recognize that. "God loves it and we better love it because we're called to be there."

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EVANGELISM

Testimonies affirm lessons learned amid cancer & other crises



"Everywhere I go I tell people about Jesus."

Oklahoma Baptist layman Steve Patchin

LEXINGTON—When Cheryl Baldwin was diagnosed with kidney cancer four years ago, she faced a frightening, uncertain future. So did her husband.

Doctors told Garry Baldwin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, that if his wife's cancer had spread beyond her kidney, she would have only three to six months to live.

"When you hear the big 'C' word, you're really caught off guard," Mrs. Baldwin shared during a testimony at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. When surgeons removed her right kidney, they determined that the tumor was malignant but the cancer had not spread.

"There are times God knows the only way we're going to get closer to Him is through those dark valleys," she said. "It let me see His great love and faithfulness for me."

His wife's medical crisis also forced Baldwin to evaluate his priorities in life.

"For the first few years of my ministry I did not understand the one flesh concept" found in Genesis 2:24, he admitted. "I found that in my ministry I began to take our life for granted."

Giving his wife a hug, Baldwin added, "If you believe the two become one flesh, this is 50 percent of me. If she's not included in my ministry, I've divided my ministry. God had to get my attention."

Challenging fellow pastors to examine their own priorities in ministry and marriage, Baldwin asked, "Is 50 percent of your ministry missing? Nev-

er reach a point where you overlook the oneness that God has performed in your life through marriage."

Other testimonies during the two-day conference addressed such topics as church growth, student evangelism and deliverance from depression.

Todd Lester, pastor of Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church near Frankfort, recounted how his rural congregation has grown from an attendance of 30 people to nearly 300 in the last few years.

"It's no gimmick and no special method I've come to share with you," Lester said. "When a church and people hunger after God, you will find Him when you seek Him with all your heart."

"I just thank God that we are a church that believes in the power of prayer," he added. "I challenge you to be a praying church. I want you to believe God can come into your church, no matter how small or how large, and He can perform a miracle."

Bill Houpt, minister of youth at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, interviewed several young people about the impact of student-led evangelism on middle school and high school campuses.

Sixth grader Emily Faulkner reported that 46 students at her school have become Christians since last fall as a result of First Priority ministry efforts on her campus.

Becca Wunderlich, a senior at Fran-

klin County High School, said youth evangelism has helped change the atmosphere at her school. "We've seen people come to the Lord," she said. "If it wasn't for First Priority and Christian kids sharing their testimony, it wouldn't have happened."

Mary Southerland, a pastor's wife from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., recounted her six-year battle with depression.

Comparing depression to gaping sinkholes that often form in south Florida, Southerland explained, "I discovered that sinkholes don't really result overnight. They are a culmination of a very long process."

Describing her gradual slide into depression, Southerland noted that in 1995, "I found myself sitting at the bottom of a deep, dark, dirty sinkhole of depression."

Acknowledging that she became angry at God, she said He eventually stepped in to rescue and restore her.

"I was sitting in the middle of darkness but God had a plan," she shared. Quoting from Psalm 40, she added, "He lifted me out of the pit of despair." She said keys to overcoming de-

pression include learning how to cry out to God for help and learning to wait on God for deliverance.

Emphasizing that "there are some things we cannot learn in the light," she told the conference crowd, "Bring your broken pieces to God and He will lift you out of that pit."

Steve Patchin, a layman from Moore, Okla., said he grew up as the child of an alcoholic father and determined not to become like him. But by the time he was an adult, Patchin said, he also was drinking.

In the midst of marriage difficulties, Patchin said he went to church. Intending to leave after the sermon, he said he found himself answering the altar call and becoming a Christian.

In addition, the pastor came to Patchin's house later that day and asked if he could disciple him.

"I didn't know what it was, but I knew it had to help," he said. "This guy became my best friend."

Through discipleship, Patchin said, he learned how to share his faith with others. The first was a neighbor, who was near death, and his wife.

"Once we get them saved, we need to get them disciplined," he added. "This is a painter with a fourth grade education, and everywhere I go I tell people about Jesus."

Let the Light Shine

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Barry Allen

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

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Discipleship Training Department

EVANGELISM

Luter: 'Take the baton & run' spiritual race

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LEXINGTON—Fred Luter believes the church is the answer to the woes of modern society. But not just any church.

"We must be the church that Jesus died for and go out and do the things God has called us to do," he told participants at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, said Scripture offers "a strategy where we can take our communities and take our cities and take our state" with the message of the gospel.

Challenging Christians to run the spiritual race described in Hebrews 12:1, he said, "We as believers find ourselves running a great relay race. On one side are all the saints of God and on the other side is the devil and all of his followers.

"One of the advantages of being on God's team is we already know what the outcome is," he declared. "No matter how rough the ministry gets, you're on the winning side."

Luter said winning isn't even Satan's goal, noting that he simply "wants to see that you lose." He said Satan "tries to take out individual teammates" by attacking such areas as one's testimony, values, integrity and self-esteem.

"We need to realize we're all on the same team playing for the same coach," Luter insisted. Describing God as the winning coach, he said the coach



PEP TALK Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, reminded Kentucky Baptists that "no matter how rough the ministry gets, you're on the winning side."

tells His players five things:

■ *Everyone must run by faith.* "The coach says you've got to hang in there by faith," he noted. Citing the "great cloud of witnesses," he added, "The coach says you're not the first one to run this race. ... I know it's rough but you've got to run this race by faith."

■ *Everyone must lay aside every weight.* "While there's nothing inherently wrong with golf, fishing and other activities, Luter said, "If it's keeping you out of the Word of God, that's excess weight and it needs to be laid aside."

■ *Everyone must lay aside every sin.* While the weight of excess baggage will slow you down, sin will stop you in your tracks," Luter warned. "We cannot be the lights God wants us to

be if we are chained to sin."

■ *Everyone must finish the course.* "How many have started this race but where are they now?" Luter asked. "God's eyes are not fixed on the start; God's eyes are fixed on the finish line."

■ *Everyone must keep their eyes on the goal.* Reminding the crowd that Jesus Christ "is the author and finisher of our faith," Luter said, "How dare you get out of the race because you didn't like a sermon. ... How dare you get out of the race because something didn't go your way. You're in this race because of Jesus Christ.

"Jesus has given us the assignment to run the race. Don't stop until you see His face. Take the baton and run and run and run."

Great Commission churches can impact today's culture for Christ

LEXINGTON—How can churches today "build a bridge to lead the culture to Jesus Christ?" The answer is to become Great Commission churches, said Colorado pastor Rick Ferguson.

He said obstacles to accomplishing that goal include division within the local church as well as distraction, disobedience and disconnectedness.

"We've not done a good job of following the movement of God's Spirit in the culture," he acknowledged, adding that "we live in one of the greatest mission fields of the world."

Ferguson, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, said keys to becoming Great Commission churches include being inclusive, intentional, innovative and inconvenienced.

"The Great Commission is for all people of all times in all places," he said. "I believe the church should be a preview of heaven." Noting that there will no longer be an Anglo majority in the United States by 2050, he said, "We better get dead serious about racial reconciliation fast. It's important because it's important to Jesus."

Affirming the need for intentional ministry, Ferguson said his church sponsors Hispanic, Japanese, Romanian and Vietnamese congregations as well as Gen-X, cowboy and biker churches.

Ferguson challenged church leaders to move beyond "a one-size-fits-all, standardized program," warning that "we're trying to reach an MTV generation with black and white programs."

Affirming the Apostle Paul's commitment to "become all things to all men," he said, "The goal is to contextualize the ministry without compromising the message."

Ferguson said it's important to move out of one's comfort zone to share the gospel. Although "it will never be convenient to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ," he added, "We're not going to make a difference until we're willing to pay the price."

Preparing for summer missions

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College always has a large number of students involved in summer missions. The summer of 2001 will be no exception. Some of our students who plan to invest their summer for God include:

■ Elizabeth Bailey, the daughter of Louis and Esther Bailey of Stanford, will spend her summer in Wales working on an outreach team ministering to youth and children.

■ Brad Hawkins, the son of Randy and Pam Hawkins of Bellbrook, Ohio, will travel to Poland and spend two weeks working with college students in a coffee-house setting.

■ Alice Freitas, the daughter of Aracelis Rodrigues and Ubaldino Freitas of Vitoria, Brazil, will be part of a team of Kentucky students working with college students in Venezuela. Team members will be taking Spanish classes and engaging in lifestyle evangelism, on-site witnessing and prayer to lay the foundation for a ministry to college students in Merida.

■ Michael Adkins, the son of Larry and Phillis Adkins of Owen-ton, will spend eight to 10 weeks in Senegal working with the Fulbe

Jeeri people. He will use a laptop computer to prepare promotional materials such as bookmarks, calendars and handouts to touch lives.

■ Ellen Barnes, the daughter of Clayton and Anne Barnes of Charlotte, N.C., will work with Promise House in Arkansas.

■ Clarissa Hutcherson, the daughter of Greg and Beverly Hutcherson of Pleasureville, will minister through the Rachel Sims Mission Center in New Orleans.

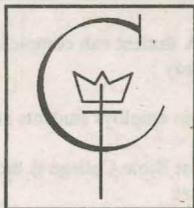
■ Daniel McKee, the son of Eddie and Sandra McKee of Richmond, will be part of SonBurst, Kentucky Baptists' creative ministries team.

■ Betsy Moore, the daughter of Morris and Linda Moore of Hamilton, Ind., and Michael Taylor, the son of Robert and Deborah Taylor of Barbourville, will serve on Kentucky Baptists' SonLife musical team working in Utah in preparation for the upcoming Olympics.

We know these students will have a wonderful summer serving God. Their lives will be blessed as God uses them to bless others.

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

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NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Vermont lawmakers debate civil unions law.** For almost two months, Vermont legislators have been grappling with the issue of repealing a controversial civil unions bill, a law that grants same-sex couples almost all of the rights of marriage. But legislators believe the House will not be ready to vote on repeal until 2002, according to news reports. "I feel we have a strong enough vote on the House floor this session to repeal civil unions," said Rep. Nancy Sheltry. "The Senate is a different matter." Pledging to repeal civil unions, Republicans won control of the House last November for the first time in 14 years. Of 1,722 civil unions granted to date in Vermont, more than 1,300 have gone to out-of-state couples.

■ **Oregon's assisted-suicide death total disputed.** Twenty-seven Oregon residents died last year under the state's physician-assisted suicide law, but some religious leaders say those numbers may not accurately reflect the number of deaths under the program. In a report issued by the Oregon Department of Human Services, state officials said doctors issued 39 lethal prescriptions and 27 people died as a result. During the program's first three years, 70 patients reportedly ended their lives with the help of physicians. Richard Doerflinger, associate director for pro-life activities for the nation's Catholic bishops, disputed the numbers released by the state. "The total number of actual cases ... remains concealed in the name of physician-assisted confidentiality," he said.

■ **Number of younger ministers declining.** The number of ministers age 35 and younger has dropped significantly, especially among Presbyterians and Episcopalians, the Alban Institute reports. In 1999, 7 percent of ministers in the Presbyterian Church (USA) were 35 or younger, compared to 24 percent in 1975. In 2000, 3.9 percent of Episcopal clergy were 35 or younger, compared to 19.4 percent in 1974. The study found that the number of younger Catholic priests and Lutheran ministers also decreased significantly.

Missionaries share spiritual hope with Sioux

By Steve Achord
Kansas-Nebraska Baptist Convention

OMAHA, Neb. (BP)—Stretching toward the Missouri River on the border of Nebraska and South Dakota is Santee Sioux Indian Reservation. There are no flashing lights or sleek tour buses unloading passengers at a glitzy casino.

In fact, the reservation is in a desolate area of Nebraska. Poverty is rampant, unemployment is high and lack of education makes finding good jobs difficult for the Native Americans living there.

Amid that setting, Ron and Alpha Goombi are reaching out as Southern Baptist missionaries to people from various cultures hurting both financially and spiritually. Goombi, who also is pastor of All Nations Church in Omaha, has a burden to reach people who for the most part have shunned the "white man's religion."

The work is slow and difficult as older Native Americans are encouraging younger generations to embrace the culture and heritage of their past. With that encouragement comes the mindset among many that Christianity represents something that was forced upon them years ago as America was being settled and Native Americans were forced from their homeland onto reservations, Mrs. Goombi said.

"We are called to present the gospel, and how God brings Jesus into their culture is up to Him," she said. "This is a group of people who have been put on the shelf, so amidst all the

problems, there is a need for God."

The Goombis' ministry includes a monthly four-hour trek with a van full of volunteers from Omaha to Santee Sioux Indian Reservation for a day of Bible study, recreation, lunch and other activities as part of a regular ministry there. During the summer months, vacation Bible school and other week-long activities are held.

On a cloudless spring morning, dozens of kids rush into the Dakota Youth Center on the reservation. Separated by age groups, the boisterous and smiling kids rush to the colorful signs identifying their classes.

Vicki Wolkins has a dozen elementary children around her as she asks, "Have you ever been told some good news?"

Sheldon raises his hands and says, "A long time ago, when I was 6, but I am now 7," pausing and clarifying things. "Well, once, my mom took me to the circus and I got to see a lot of my family there. That is good news."

Wolkins smiles and tells Sheldon and the other children about the good news Jesus offers and how He died on the cross, rose from the dead and lives today. The youngsters smile and all agree that is good news.

"When I come to the kids, the joy is bittersweet," Wolkins says later. "They are so hungry for love, and live in such spiritual darkness. The answer to all their questions is the same—Jesus."

As Mrs. Goombi pointed out, the work is slow and can be discouraging but Wolkins and others continue in the

work because they feel God has called them to it.

One of the challenges is to be consistent and faithful each day, Goombi said. Because they have been lied to for so many years, Native Americans watch to see if "your words and actions are the same."

The Goombis are not only reaching out to Native Americans but many ethnic groups through Omaha Baptist Center, an inner-city ministry that has branched out to the reservations. As director, Goombi oversees afternoon and evening Bible studies, afternoon tutoring programs, a computer lab, feeding ministries, his own congregation and other activities that take place there.

The work at Santee Sioux Indian Reservation has not only helped people living on the reservation, but it impacts countless volunteers who travel every month to be a part of the ministry. Leah Push is still in high school but began volunteering four years ago and has been involved ever since.

"The kids have such sad eyes that reflect their tough home life," Push said. "But when we are with them, we see such beautiful smiles on their faces as they learn about God's love for them."

Although many struggle with difficult circumstances, Push said they seem to hunger to know God.

"As I look at children who haven't had the opportunities that I have had, but do want to know Christ, I realize that I have been given such a privilege in serving the people of Santee Sioux."

Success again

By Denise Spencer

Our Beta Club has again found a place to shine. Two of our students qualified for state competition in the Governor's Cup program.

Five Beta members participated in district competition on Feb. 8 and 10. Will Bowling earned first place in language arts, third place in general knowledge and third in English composition. Joy Beth Woods took second place in language arts and second place in English composition. Noel Spencer brought home a third-place ribbon in language arts and a fifth in English composition. Chris Echert earned fifth place in science. Alicia Barrett also participated, testing in general knowledge.

Three of these students attended the Regional Governor's Cup on Feb. 22 and 24. Will and Joy both qualified for state competition. Will came in first in language arts and third in English composition. Joy Beth finished third in language arts and seventh in English composition. Noel earned ninth place in English composition.

Beta Club co-sponsor Dan Stockton noted that this is his first time in four years to have students compete in the state Governor's Cup. "It's pretty exciting," he said. The state contest will be March 11-12 in Louisville.

Will is the only nephew of our former president, the late Barkley Moore. His sister, Veronica, also is a freshman at Oneida. Will is a senior, and has been a day student with us since kindergarten. This is his first year to be in Beta Club, though he participated in Governor's Cup in English composition last year.

Will said he was surprised to find out he would

be going to state competition. "I didn't think I'd do that well (in composition)," he said. "I thought language arts was my best category." He added, "English classes have helped me more than anything, because we do a lot of writing in there." Will enjoys reading in his free time, and believes this helped him in the language arts area. "The more of a diverse reader you are, the better off you are," he explained.

Joy Beth is a junior. Her mother works in our tutoring lab. She, too, has been at OBI since kindergarten, and also is a first-year Beta Club member. This was Joy's second year to participate in Governor's Cup.

For the regional English composition test, Joy Beth and Will had to write speeches on an imaginary city's growing trash problem. Both are students in our creative writing class, and Joy feels this course helped her prepare for Governor's Cup, "especially with writing styles." She said that English classes prepared her for the language arts exam, particularly through the books she has read. Like Will, Joy Beth was surprised

to do so well in competition, especially in language arts.

State Governor's Cup will be the conclusion of a very good year for our Beta Club. Last fall, two OBI students authored a bill passed by the Kentucky Youth Assembly, while two others earned "Outstanding Speaker" awards. At the state Beta convention, we brought back first and second place honors in arts/crafts, plus a speaker's award.

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

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MINISTRY

Southern students gain overseas missions education in Ghana

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Bewildered grimaces betrayed their confusion. No matter how Ron Trotter phrased his gospel presentation, language and cultural barriers prevented the two Ghanaian women from comprehending.

In an instant of inspiration, Trotter began to trace a canyon and a cross in the dirt. As he completed the evangelistic "bridge illustration," the women's faces lit up.

"I could see (they) understood our message," said Trotter, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "Both those women prayed to receive Christ before we left that day."

The conversion of the two women typified the spiritual experiences witnessed by a 13-member mission team from Southern Seminary during a recent trip to Ghana, West Africa.

"There is something going on in Ghana that no man has anything to do with," team member Perry Polnaszek said. "The Spirit of the Lord had already been working in the hearts of these people, and we were just there as the harvesters."

Less than a year ago, Southern Seminary officials entered a four-year partnership with the Ghana Baptist Convention aimed at providing practical missions opportunities for seminary students while seeking to spread the gospel in Ghana.

The seminary students teamed up with four Kwahu Baptist Association churches—all located near Mpraeso, a highland town several hours north of Ghana's coastal capital city of Accra.

"We realized Mpraeso is one of the associations that needs help and encouragement in the area of church growth and in the area of evangelism," said Yaw Ofori, director of missions and evangelism for the Ghana Baptist Convention.

"The leadership (of the churches) was greatly encouraged by our pres-



INTO AFRICA Southern Seminary students Lizette Beard, Chris Parker and Perry Polnaszek witness and worship during a recent mission trip to Ghana. (BP photo by Bryan Cribb)

ence," said team leader Daniel Hatfield, Southern's vice president for student services. "They capitalized on our evangelism to promote the presence of their congregations and the importance of their standing in the community."

Most days during the trip the team divided up among the four churches to witness alongside the Ghanaian laypeople. Each night, the team and the churches hosted services and crusades to continue the gospel emphasis.

"They were very eager to deploy us," said Hatfield, a former missionary to Panama. "We came prepared to help train their members, but they wanted us more on foot with them in the community."

"I had the great privilege of leading approximately 30 people to Christ," said volunteer Randy Hommel. "I was amazed as I saw the promises of Scripture jump off the page and go from being theory to reality."

Claudia Veres said when she witnessed to a Ghanaian teen, she expected a response she had received many times among American youth.

"I thought, 'He's 19. He's going to say that life has to offer me more than

that,'" said Veres, a master of divinity degree student from Romania.

She carefully explained the need for repentance and a changed life. To her amazement, the teen readily responded.

"You should have seen the joy of that young man after we prayed," Veres said. "He was just glowing and smiling. I think it was a glimpse of understanding at that moment that the Lord is at work."

Ghanaian church planter Emmanuel Mustapha, who helped coordinate the team's efforts, said the project helped revive church members. "They are on fire now. It's like they have been quickened to move."

The Ghanaian Christians said they believe the team's presence also helped the churches make a statement in the community.

"I think that in the communities, some of the people don't know what is a Baptist church," Ofori noted. He said the team's presence in the community "will bring that kind of awareness that this is a church that I can belong to."

One incident in particular promises to make a long-term impact. After team members made an appearance before

the tribal chief of the Mpraeso area, the chief promised to help the church in Mpraeso with future needs.

"I guess I was a bit overwhelmed by the meeting with the tribal chief," Hatfield said. He said the Ghanaian Christian leaders "kept telling me that the people in the community were going to remember that and that they were going to look at us differently and look at that church differently."

In addition to encouraging Ghanaian believers, team members said they returned to the States even more encouraged by the Ghanaians.

"This trip ... just revived me again," Veres said. "Although we were tired, it was good to come home and think, 'Today, God gave me the opportunity to share the gospel with so many people.'"

The trip also provided an opportunity for training in missions principles. "There's something to seeing God move in a different language, on a different continent, in a different people group that you've never met before," Polnaszek said.

"God has taught me ... that missions is not a duty," said Chris Blackwell. "Missions is not obligation. Missions is a joy. Missions is a privilege. ... To be able to join Him and be His instruments as He calls people to Himself is truly a privilege and a joy."

Ofori said Ghanaian Baptists look forward to ongoing partnership efforts with the seminary.

"It's good that we come together like this to do this work," he said. "We need to pray hard concerning this partnership."

Lizette Beard, the seminary's missions coordinator, noted that "we have a task ahead of us—all Christians, not just Southern Baptists, not just Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I think in the next four years we can look back and say we have been on mission with our African brothers and sisters, and there are those that we will see in the kingdom of heaven because of our faithfulness."

Mission volunteer washes Ghanaians' feet to illustrate gospel

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The old Ghanaian woman stared in amazement as water gently trickled through her wrinkled, worn toes. Kneeling before her in the dust of the market, Perry Polnaszek pulled out a handkerchief and carefully wiped the woman's feet.

As the dirt stained the clean white cloth, the Christian life came alive for the woman and the other Africans who watched. Polnaszek, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, then turned to the Scriptures and explained how Christ had taken the soiling sins of the world upon Himself.

"God opened their hearts," Polnaszek said. "It just was a very easy and pure transition to the gospel."

Polnaszek had not traveled to West Africa planning to wash feet as an entree to evangelism. He originally

had planned, with the help of the 12 other members of the mission team, to demonstrate servant leadership to the Ghanaian Christians.

But as the team served in a rural area of south central Ghana, Polnaszek felt impressed to use a simple act to illustrate the powerful gospel.

"Everywhere he went with that (foot washing), it had a profound impact," said project leader Daniel Hatfield, Southern Seminary's vice president for student services. "It drew crowds. It taught. It communicated."

Initially, Polnaszek felt uncomfortable confronting strangers with such an unusual illustration, and he also worried that the approach might appear gimmicky. But the apprehension quickly faded.

"Once they heard that Jesus Himself did exactly the same things, it really became evident as to my intentions," Polnaszek noted. Soon, several members of the mission team and some of the Ghanaian Christians

also began participating.

"I know that the power isn't in the foot washing, but it is in the gospel," Polnaszek said. "What I'm looking to do is find ways of attracting (people to Christ) by the light of our good works."

Servant evangelism like that which he modeled in Ghana is a passion for Polnaszek. For several years, he has headed up a ministry called Touched Twice Ministries.

Touched Twice sponsors clinics that help meet the physical needs of inner-city residents. While ministering to material needs, volunteers also touch the needy a second time with the gospel.

"Whenever we ... give our gifts and talents in Christ's name as a platform for the gospel, the purity of that one-two punch has a dynamic, a power ... that allows Scripture to hit the heart straighter," Polnaszek said. "It makes me weep because of how little I have to give and how much God has given us."

Ministry in Africa is familiar setting for former journeyman

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Lizette Beard stepped off the Ghana Airways DC-10 and into familiar territory.

The other members of the 13-member mission team from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary experienced Ghana and Africa as a completely new adventure. But for Beard, a former Southern Baptist International Mission Board journeyman, the recent trip to West Africa seemed like a trip home.

"When you spend two years somewhere that you love, there's a part of your heart that will always call that home," said Beard, a master of divinity degree student who served in the IMB's International Service Corps program in the Ivory Coast from 1994-96.

"Each time I've been able to go back ... there's a familiarity that triggers something," she said. "When I'm in Africa, there's an excitement and a joy that is very specific and special."

As Southern Seminary's missions coordinator, Beard has the opportunity to help other students experience that same joy in missions. Working with Randy Smith, director of Southern's new Center for Missions Mobilization, Beard facilitates mission trips for the seminary.

Beard said it's a privilege to help other seminary students experience the continent and the people she loved and lived with for two years.

"When I hear the students say the impact it's had on them, I really feel like it's an honor to have helped them get to that place," she said. "I would like to see hundreds of students make missions commitments."

PEOPLE

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Sara Billups

During the month of March, Southern Baptists focus on a time of prayer and support for North American missions.

As a members of a GA girls' missions group many years ago, I was taught I should focus outwardly and be responsible to share God's love with my neighbor. I also was taught my neighbor was anyone with whom God gave me the opportunity to share the life-changing love of Jesus.

I have met many neighbors in airports, rest stops and even the grocery store. What a privilege to be given the joy of sharing God's love with my neighbors.

God's plan of salvation is clearly shared in Scripture, including:

■ Romans 3:23 tells us all of us are sinners.

■ Romans 5:8 tells us even so, God loves us.

■ John 3:16 tells us God has provided salvation through His Son.

■ John 6:47 tells us we can know we are saved.

It is true, we are all sinners and sin separates us from God. But God has provided for us to have eternal life and fellowship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ. And that is called grace.

Sara Billups is president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church called Edwin Talley as senior pastor. He will begin April 1.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will host revival services March 18-21. Bill Fort will be the evangelist. Phillip Salmon is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Salem Church will host revival services March 18-21. Larry Rowell will be the evangelist. Michael Goodwin is pastor.

■ **GRAVEL SWITCH**—Beech Fork Church ordained Virgil Whitehouse as deacon. Lee Arnold is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will sponsor a spaghetti dinner/auction March 17 at 6 p.m. to raise scholarship funds for CentriKid camp. For information, call (502) 368-5806. James Ward is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host the Perry Sisters in concert March 17 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

Fern Creek will host revival services March 21-25 at 7 p.m. nightly and 10:45 a.m. Sunday. Bryant Hicks will be the evangelist; Eric Allen will lead music. Linda Barnes is pastor.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Doctor's Fork Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary March 15-18. Former pastor, W.B. Casey will preach March 18. Lunch and an anniversary service will follow. For information, call (859) 734-4903. John Lane is pastor.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—Pleasureville Church called Jarvis Williams as associate pastor. Dale Niswonger is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Bethany Church called Johnny Baker as pastor beginning Feb. 4.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Kings Church called Michael Hail as pastor.

■ **WACO**—Jason Pierce resigned as pastor of Bethlehem Church to become pastor of Sharon Church, Concord, N.C.



TRUSTEE John Rice (left), a member of Manchester Baptist Church, poses with Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Rice, a LifeWay trustee since 1993, completed his second term on the group's board of directors last month.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: 12'X60' trailer (four rooms). Formerly a real estate office; has been used for Sunday school. Accepting bids until April 1. Send to: New Salem Baptist Church, 632 New Salem Church Road, Vine Grove, KY 40175. Gary L. Kasey, pastor. (270) 877-2729.

FOR SALE: Two timeshare weeks 30 and 48, Lake Lure, N.C. 2-BR sleeps six; two baths. (606) 474-7235.

FOR SALE: Like-new church furniture: 36 oak pews, 21-and-1/2 feet long; pew benches; lectern; pulpit. Contact Tommy Hunt, (270) 782-2299.

SEEKING: LPNs (two part-time positions: assist with general resident services including resident orientation, service-plan development and delivery, health status monitoring, training and supervising resident caregivers) and caregivers (several full-time and part-time positions: maintain a clean, safe environment for residents; assist with all aspects of personal care). For confidential consideration, please apply in person or send/fax resumé to: Arden Courts Alzheimer's Personal Care Facility, 10451 Linn Station Road, Louisville, KY 40223, Attn: Bonnie Stephens. Fax: (502) 423-8608; phone: (502) 423-8776. EOE.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth for church committed to historic Baptist freedoms. Master's degree desired, preferably from a seminary. Highly competitive salary package. Send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Broadway Baptist Church, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. We are located in the heart of the Bluegrass. Our resident membership is 521. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362-0327. Resumés will be accepted until April 1, 2001.

SEEKING: Individual to coordinate comprehensive church-wide gifts-based ministry. Will develop and implement membership assimilation, spiritual gift assessment and ministry equipping. Will develop marriage ministry, do some counseling and help conduct and coordinate pastoral care in the congregation. The church is a fast-growing contemporary church of about 1,000 attendance. Send resumé to: Dr. Greg Faulls, senior pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers, Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and youth. Send resumé to: Fairview Baptist Church, PO Box 3006, Paris, TN 38242. Phone: (901) 642-2191.

SEEKING: Motivated individual to lead a blended style of worship at a dynamic, growing church (part-time). Send resumé to: Music minister search, Victory Baptist, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

SEEKING: Part-time minister with responsibility for leading outreach and senior adult ministries. Please send resumé to: Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 8645 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to youth and young adults. Highland Baptist Church in Louisville seeks an individual with the relational and spiritual leadership skills to lead a dynamic program that helps our young people love and learn more about God. An MDiv and/or ordination are preferred. Highland Baptist Church is a moderate, "thinking, feeling, healing community of faith." We are affiliated with the CBF and have a vibrant congregation of 400 active members. We were founded in 1893 in Louisville's beautiful and historic Cherokee Triangle district. Visit our Web site at www.hbclouky.org. Send resumé and references to: Minister to Youth Search Committee, Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204.

SEEKING: We are earnestly seeking God's will in finding a new pastor. Lewisport Baptist Church, located in Hancock County on the Ohio River, is approximately 15 miles east of Owensboro, Ky. Lewisport is a small town about two hours from Louisville. The church has a total membership of 1,025 with a resident membership of 550. Average Sunday school attendance has been 241 for the past six months. Total receipts for the year 2000 were \$350,000. Cooperative Program giving for the year was \$46,800, and Blackford Baptist Association giving was \$13,900. If you have resumés for consideration, please send them to the following address and they will receive prayerful consideration: Pastor Search Committee, Lewisport Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Lewisport, KY 42351. www.lewisportbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Full-time education and youth staff person. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 1815 Clifty Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 113, Winchester, KY 40392-0113, or call (859) 744-2884.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Cline Avenue Baptist Church, a conservative SBC church in NW Indiana (30 miles SE of downtown Chicago), is seeking an experienced, energetic, visionary person with strong leadership and teaching abilities. In addition, strong administrative skills are needed to oversee the church staff including the child care ministry director. Formal education preferred with previous pastoral experience. Forward resumés to: Search Committee, Cline Avenue Baptist Church, 8600 Cline Ave., Highland, IN 46322, or e-mail to: BrendaSue@lwol.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for growing church. Contact Jean Bezold, FBC, 600 N Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, KY 41075.

SEEKING: Married couple as house parents for mentally handicapped adults. Bright Life Farms, Princeton, Ky. (270) 365-7801.

SEEKING: Associate minister of outreach for Evergreen Baptist. The successful candidate will possess good people skills, a heart for evangelism, team-building skills and a calling from God for Christian service. Resumés accepted until April 2 and should be directed to the Personnel Committee, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Direct resumé to: Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 100 John St., PO Box 482, Stanford, KY 40484.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Pioneer Baptist Church, 264 Sparrow Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330. Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: We are seeking a full-time minister with the primary responsibility of leading our church in music and worship. If interested, please send resumé to: Music Committee, Hall Street Baptist Church, 1102 Hall St., Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Due to the retirement of our former pastor, North Park Baptist Church of Evansville, Ind., is seeking an experienced spiritual leader for the full-time position of senior pastor. NPBC is a Southern Baptist congregation with an average worship attendance of 150. Seminary graduate preferred. Send resumé to: Search Committee Chairman Steve Humphrey, 4105 Quail Hollow St., Evansville, IN 47715-1536.

SEEKING: Minister of youth for young, exciting, growing church. Send resumé to: Emmanuel Baptist Church, PO Box 910, Stanton, KY 40380, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: People with secretarial experience and computer application skills to work in temporary positions. Competitive hourly wage, no benefits. Contact Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor of education and youth to assist new senior pastor. Williamstown Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist church located in a small, northern Kentucky town near large metropolitan areas, is striving for a purpose-driven blended ministry with a weekly attendance of 250-plus and great potential for growth. Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, well organized and a creative team player who has an ability to relate to youth and adults on a personal and spiritual level. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's with related experience is a plus. Send resumé to: Stephen C. Rice, 214 North Main St., Williamstown, KY 41097; e-mail to: srice@fuse.net. Phone: (859) 824-4102.

SEEKING: Bethel Baptist Church in Franklin County, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Congregation and choir skills necessary. Send resumé to: M/M Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 8200 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Phone: (502) 227-7278.

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: 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.

TRAVEL: Reach The World Travel. Established, experienced travel agency offers group mission travel special rates. (800) 277-2001. www.ReachTheWorldTravel.com.

TOUR: The tour of the century. Walk where Jesus walked; tour the Holy Land, Dec. 3-13, 2001. Free brochure and information. Rev. Ted E. Francis, PO Box 964, Cedar Key, FL 32625. Phone: (352) 543-5431.

PEOPLE



MUSICAL MEDLEY A variety of musical styles was featured during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. ■ **Above:** Jeff Beech, worship pastor at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, leads praise choruses prior to a Tuesday evening sermon by Bellevue Pastor Greg Faulstich. ■ **Top right:** A youth choir from First Baptist Church of Bracktown presents a Monday evening mini-concert. ■ **Right:** The Journeymen Quartet, a Southern gospel group from Shepherdsville, performed several gospel songs during the two-day conference.



Dallas church's vote of confidence falls short for homosexual pastor

DALLAS (BP)—A vote of confidence fell short for a former Baptist seminary staff member who surfaced in Dallas as the new pastor of a predominantly homosexual congregation.

He has found himself in the national spotlight since being identified as a husband and father missing since 1984.

James Simmons, as he was known at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in the San Francisco area—Wesley "Barre" Cox, as he was known before his 1984

disappearance—had asked for the vote of confidence as the new pastor of White Rock Community Church in Dallas.

Simmons received 106 of 182 votes cast by the congregation Feb. 23, short of the two-thirds vote of confidence he himself had set, the Dallas Morning News reported. He told the congregation he would resign at the end of February, the newspaper reported, but would stay as a member of the church.

Simmons, who described himself as a celibate homosexual, had assumed the Dallas pastorate Jan. 21 after resigning as campus housing director at Golden Gate Seminary effective Dec. 31.

Simmons, 49, was identified as Cox after preaching at the Dallas congregation in view of a call in December. A member of the congregation had recognized him as the young Church of Christ minister and doctoral student who disappeared on a Texas farm road in 1984, leaving behind a wife and six-month-old daughter in San Antonio, Texas. The member contacted his mother, who made some inquiries and then contacted Cox's mother, now 80 and living in east Texas. News of his identity was first published Jan. 8.

Simmons, in a Jan. 20 news conference, expressed regret for the furor that has faced his new congregation. "Many church members have been outed as a result of this media circus, and for that I apologize."

Arkansas man builds Internet bridge between missionaries, 'experts'

By Nancy Caver

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

ELM SPRINGS, Ark. (RNS)—In a 4-by-5-foot makeshift office crammed in the corner of his family room, Rick Shafer is changing the world.

He's soft-spoken and bright-eyed and no one would suspect he's got aspirations of global proportions. But Shafer's plan reaches—literally—all the way to outer Mongolia.

Called Global Economic Outreach, the mission organization brings people together via the Internet. GEO's motto is, "What you know can make a world of difference."

What Shafer knows is that God has called him to do what he can using the talents and gifts he was born with or learned through the years. It's his calling to help people understand that sometimes what they consider insignificant knowledge, like how to knit, is exactly what someone else needs to know to make a living.

Although he's also looking for people who can help solve agricultural dilemmas or computer blips, sometimes, Shafer says, someone who can do counted cross-stitch is of more help than a nuclear physicist to someone in India trying to start a cottage industry.

The plan is simple. Anyone who knows how to do anything, from music to medicine, leatherwork to livestock, registers on GEO's Web site—at no cost. Missionaries from around the world can

also log on, free of charge, with questions they might have concerning hundreds of topics.

Once a volunteer has registered as knowing a skill, he will receive an e-mail if a missionary has posted a question the volunteer might answer.

"Most people are pretty modest about what they know," Shafer says. "But in Third World countries, anyone from the West is considered an expert. Everybody has something to contribute."

Shafer cites examples of missionaries who get frustrated because of computer problems. Someone who knows computers could solve the difficulty in five minutes, but the chasm between the missionary and "expert" was uncrossable.

Until Shafer and GEO built a bridge.

"It takes no effort on this end of the deal," he says. "It's what you know already."

Shafer, 40, knows chemical engineering and marketing, which he did for a string of companies including General Electric and M.A. Hanna. He admits that when he first thought God was calling him to be a missionary, he was petrified.

"I thought (mission work) was the most boring thing in the world," he says. But all that changed when he had the opportunity to visit a mission field for himself.

It didn't hurt that his wife, Liz, always wanted to be a missionary. So a switch from the business world with its steady paycheck to the limited-funds-and-lots-of-

prayer existence in the ministry didn't faze her. The couple moved to Elm Springs, Ark., in 1996 with their two sons, Thomas and Daniel, to attend the school associated with the Northwest Arkansas affiliate of Youth With a Mission. Shafer stayed on to serve on the organization's staff.

That's when his vision for the future began to gel, he says. In the course of his four years with Youth With a Mission, he took several short-term mission trips to Mongolia to help missionaries in the field.

"I thought about going there (permanently), but as we prayed through it, I realized that with my business background, I could help others start their own businesses," he says.

That's a crucial ingredient for missionaries in Third World countries, Shafer says. The goal is to move in, help the local people learn skills to support themselves and then leave them with their work—all the while making it clear that Christ's mandate to help others is the impetus.

GEO has partnered a pharmacist in North Carolina with a doctor in Mongolia. New projects include elementary school officials in the Philippines looking for educational material suggestions and a missionary in Scotland who needs help with fund raising.

"We're just doing God's work here," Shafer's father, Rod, says. "We're trying to do things with a worldwide outreach to help make lives a little better. And when it's

done in the name of the Lord, that's sort of special."

There are still details to be worked out. At this time, the younger Shafer has fewer than 100 "experts" signed up. He hopes to register 5,000 new volunteers in 2001—a goal that is not unreasonable, he says.

"Having come out of the business world, I know there's an incredible bank of talent in that world. I am interested in companies who will mention this to their employees," he says.

So far, he has volunteers from Jamaica, Scotland, South Africa, Germany and the United States. Ministries in Ecuador, Singapore, Albania, Mongolia, South Africa, the Philippines and the U.S. have been helped.

No question is too absurd. No skill is too obscure, Shafer says.

He hopes to have GEO Online up by mid-March, with a bulletin board for questions and quick answers, but for now the Web site can answer most questions prospective volunteers might have.

Today, GEO is surviving on donations, and Shafer is working with a foundation to develop an incentive program. He says he is not going to charge missionaries or organizations for services.

"To put that kind of barrier in the way would severely limit our ability to help," he says.

For more information, visit the GEO Web site at www.teamgeo.org or call (501) 248-4939.



IT'S TIME TO PLAY FOR THE CHILDREN!

JOIN US FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Seven Regional Tournaments Across Kentucky

- **Louisville**
Oxmoor Country Club
Monday, May 14 - 1:00 pm
- **Cadiz**
Arrowhead Golf Club
Monday, May 21 - 1:00 pm
- **Lexington**
Greenbrier Country Club
Monday, June 4 - 1:00 pm
- **Richmond**
Gibson Bay Golf Club
Monday, June 18 - 1:00 pm
- **Owensboro**
The Summit
Monday, June 25 - 1:00 pm
- **Bowling Green**
Bowling Green Country Club
Monday, July 9 - 1:00 pm
- **Northern KY**
Highland Country Club
Wednesday, July 11 - 8:00 am

Individual Entry \$100
Team Entry \$400

- Four-person scramble
- Combined team handicap minimum 40

*Pastors play FREE
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Prizes awarded to:

- Top two teams**
Winning foursome wins championship plaques, 4 - \$100 gift certificates to the hosting course pro shop and an entry into the championship tournament August 6 at Persimmon Ridge Golf Club.
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- Putting contest champions**
Winning foursome wins 4 - \$50 gift certificates to the hosting course pro shop.
- Two closest to the pin & One straightest drive**
Each proximity winner wins a \$50 gift certificate to the hosting course pro shop.

For a registration form or more information, call
(502) 245-2101 or 1-800-456-1386
or e-mail us at info@kbhc.org

Mark your calendar for these fun events, too!

✓ Gospel Singing

Friday, March 16
7:00 pm CST
Lone Oak First Baptist Church
Paducah, KY

✓ Gospel Singing

Thursday, April 26
7:00 pm EST
First Baptist Church of Berea
Berea, KY

✓ Glen Dale Walk

Saturday, April 28
9:00 am EST
Glen Dale Children's Home
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