

March 27, 2001
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FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

One Russian regional Baptist group has severed a state partnership with Baptists in Minnesota and Wisconsin. *Page 2.*



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Basketball

Some Kentuckians have long mixed basketball and religion, but the game's inventor sought "to win men for the Master through the gym." *Page 12.*

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Reviews include the Southern Baptist doctrinal study book and a Lenten devotional for sci-fi fans. *Page 13.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 28

Specialist says patient, flexible parents can help children worship

NASHVILLE (BP)—Adults wiggle, giggle, talk and, yes, even sleep during worship services, a national consultant in children's ministry maintains, so parents should lighten up with children who don't behave perfectly.

"Be patient and be flexible," Todd Capps, children's Sunday school ministry consultant at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, told participants in a children's worship conference, last week in Nashville.

"An effort to demand perfect behavior from a young child may prevent worship from being a happy experience for both the child and the parent," Capps noted.

While children and adults view worship differently, children can easily discern adults' attitudes by their actions, he said.

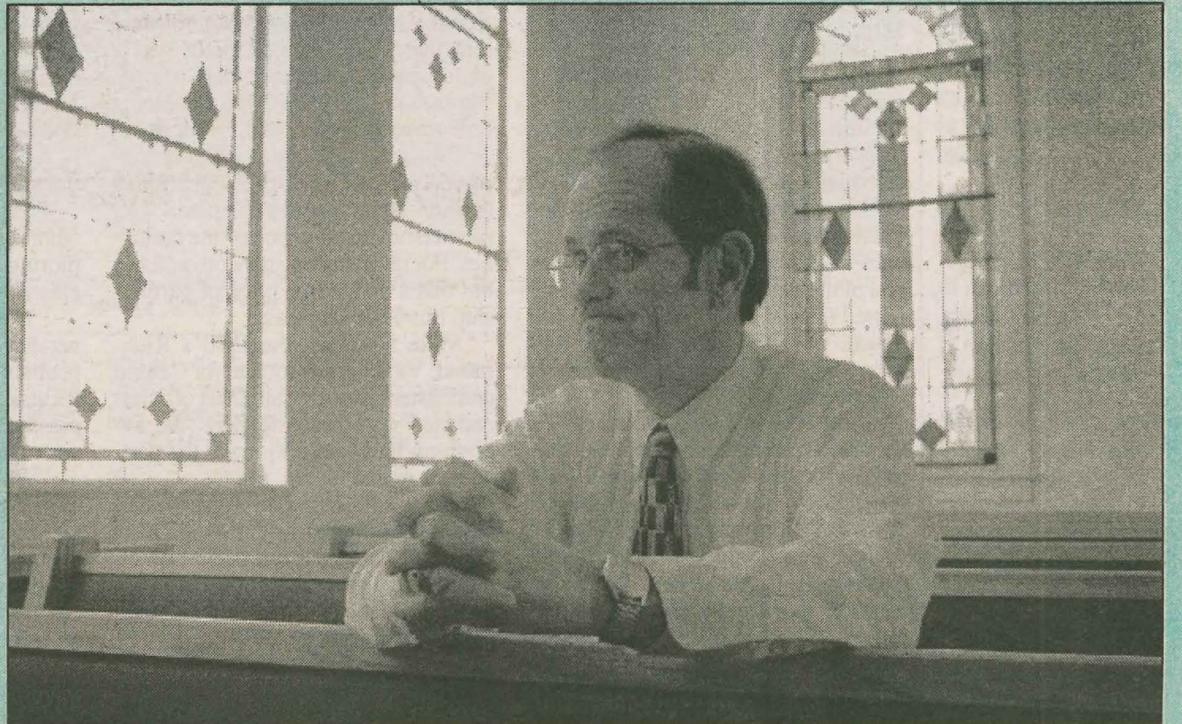
Preschoolers and children learn about worship through firsthand experiences, he said, such as singing, standing when others stand, listening to the music and holding a hymnal. Curiosity, repetition and imitation pave the way for children to learn.

Parents and other adults can help children adjust to participating in worship services by paying attention to them, greeting them by name, permitting some movement and noise and encouraging their participation in the service, Capps said.

"Accept the nurture of children as a responsibility of the entire church family," he continued. "Remember, worship begins in the home. Children learn to worship God from parents who show their own love for God during daily routines, and they sense your commitment and feelings toward God when you talk about Him."

Prayers that are not memorized are a great tool for teaching children about God, Capps said. "Expressing gratitude for the small things is important."

Hazard's drug fight



CHURCH IN ACTION A fledgling ministry to combat drug abuse in Hazard grew out of a community meeting organized by Petrey Memorial Baptist Church. People Against Drugs Inc. already has organized six teams to coordinate projects from educating children to helping addicts get into rehabilitation programs. The problem is acute because of the growing abuse of OxyContin, a prescription medication that contains a synthetic morphine. "We are in dire need of resources," said Pastor Butch Pennington (above). "We can use all the help we can get." (Lexington Herald-Leader photo by Charles Bertram. Used with permission.)

Church organizes ministry for community battle

By Victoria Moon
Staff Writer

HAZARD—A prayer request at a Tuesday night Bible study meeting has launched a chemical dependency ministry in Hazard that rapidly is gaining national attention.

"Last October during the Bible study someone requested prayer and began to share the pain that drugs had brought to their family," recalled Butch Pennington, pastor of Petrey Memorial Baptist Church.

"Soon, every person in that group of about 55 people was sharing how

chemical dependency had impacted them or their family in a direct way."

Pennington said families shared during their discussions that the latest drug of choice for many addicts in Eastern Kentucky is OxyContin, a prescription medication that contains a synthetic morphine.

As an oral medication, it is a highly effective painkiller; however, addicts of the drug crush the pills and snort or inject them for a quick—but intense—high that is said to rival that of heroin. The drug has resulted in more than 200 arrests and dozens of deaths in Eastern Kentucky alone.

Feeling that God wanted him to respond to this need, Pennington said he went to his congregation and asked members if they wanted to meet with the community to see what could be done.

The congregation, which averages 165 in weekly attendance, enthusiastically agreed and set up a public, county-wide meeting for those wanting to fight back against the devastation OxyContin was causing in their community.

"That first meeting drew over 400 people," said Pennington. "People
□ See Hazard church ..., page 8

Agencies seek to decrease confusion in women's resources



OUT FRONT WOMEN (From left) Chris Adams of LifeWay Christian Resources, Laura Savage of Woman's Missionary Union and Jaye Martin of the North American Mission Board seek to help churches strike a balance in the options and resources available to women at Southern Baptist churches. (LifeWay photo by Morris Abernathy)

By Victoria Moon
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—From missions and evangelism to discipleship and support, Southern Baptist women are finding a variety of groups offering both structure and resources for a field once considered the sole domain of Woman's Missionary Union.

Amid this changing landscape, leaders of several women's groups—including WMU—say their greatest challenge is helping churches strike a balance between all they have to offer.

Representatives of WMU, LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board say they are collaborating to help churches sort through what can be a confusing net-

work of programs.

That confusion even extends to the vocabulary, according to Laura Savage.

"When we refer to women's ministries, we have to be careful of our terminology," said Savage, a ministry consultant at Woman's Missionary Union. "Women's ministries' is not a program name. It is anything that happens with women in the local church."

Using that definition, she explained, women's ministries has been around a long time.

"Southern Baptists can claim 1888 as the beginning of women in the churches organizing on a national basis to raise money and support the sending of more women missionaries
□ See Agencies try to strike ..., page 7

Women's Ministries
3 Agencies, Endless Options

TV reporter named to seminary vp post

Lawrence Smith, an award-winning television journalist with nearly 25 years of experience, has been named vice president of communications for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Smith, a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, is the first African-American to serve in a vice presidential position at Southern Seminary. A reporter for WHAS-TV in Louisville for the past 11 years, he succeeds James Smith who resigned as director of public relations to become editor of the Florida Baptist Witness.

Baptists in Irkutsk end partnership, cut ties to IMB

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

ROCHESTER, Minn.—An international missions partnership between the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention and the Irkutsk Russian Baptist Union has come to an abrupt halt.

The partnership ended when Russian Baptist leaders in Irkutsk unilaterally voted to withdraw from the partnership and to sever the union's relationship with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

The international partnership, officially launched last year, was scheduled to continue through 2002. The end of the partnership initially was reported in the March issue of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist, a partnership paper published by the Western Recorder.

"This was an unexpected move on the part of the Russian Baptist leadership in Irkutsk," said Glen Land, state missions director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin convention. "The issues involved were local to that particular province of Russia. There was no indication on our part that it was coming."

Land said volunteers who participated in a mission trip to Irkutsk last year were greeted with "genuine warmth and affection by the Russian Baptists while we were there. Our first-hand contacts with the Russian Baptists while we were there was positive."

Land said Joe Kelley, an IMB missionary serving in Irkutsk, indicated that the crux of the problem was a philosophical difference between the Baptist union and the IMB concerning how mission work should be done.

"We got caught up in a bigger controversy between Baptists in Irkutsk and the IMB," Land explained. "Our partnership became one of the casualties. For us, it's been an inconvenience but that's part of the price of partnership missions overseas."

Mike Norfleet, the IMB's Richmond, Va.-based associate for Central and Eastern Europe, said IMB officials and state convention leaders "did everything they could to make the partnership work."

Citing conflicting priorities with at least one senior pastor in Irkutsk, Norfleet said some pastors primarily are interested in receiving financial assistance while the IMB's priority is starting new churches.

"In that particular area, they're struggling with exactly what to do with Americans still," Norfleet said. "They had another agenda rather than the partnership."

Despite the setback, Norfleet added, "There still is hope there. We are praying we can help them see the long-term benefit of working together."

Norfleet said the Baptist union's decision "is not typical of Russia or Ukraine where they have a very warm, open-door attitude toward us. Hopefully we can build a foundation for relationships down the road."

Land said convention leaders in Minnesota-Wisconsin already are exploring other options for partnership efforts in Russia.

"We are hoping to get a new partnership in some other area of Russia, probably still in Siberia but not in Irkutsk," he said. Leaders hope to present a new partnership proposal to convention messengers in November.

"When you sign up for one of these things, you have to be pretty flexible," Land said. "I don't see any widespread dismay about it. We'll go where the doors are open. ... I wouldn't discount the possibility of us going back to Irkutsk some day."

Mohler claims SBC controversy rooted in truth vs. liberty

By Jeff Robinson
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The overarching issue that divides Southern Baptist moderates and conservatives is divergent understandings of Baptist identity, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler told participants at a recent conference on the seminary campus.

The conference focused on the theme, "Southern Baptists in the New Millennium: Identity, Orthodoxy and Cooperation."

Mohler said the Southern Baptist Convention controversy is rooted in an argument over Baptist history and what role that history should play in the modern church.

The controversy, at the most basic level, has been over core beliefs and the vision for the convention, he added, citing differing views over inerrancy and other doctrinal beliefs.

The differing parties could be divided into two camps: the truth party and the liberty party, Mohler said. The truth party emphasizes the authority of Scripture and its inerrancy, while the liberty party focuses on personal autonomy.

"The truth party, to speak mostly of conservatives, spoke very clearly that what was threatened was truth," he said. "And that truth (is) the faith once and for all delivered to the saints, and those truths are non-negotiable and essential."

"The liberty party argued that what was most threatened was Baptist liberty."

Tracing the roots of convention controversy to the modernist-fundamentalist controversy of the 1920s, Mohler said the differences between the two groups have grown even greater in the past two decades.

The controversy is much deeper than some would believe, Mohler said, noting that by the 1990s crises of theology, authority, confessionalism, polity and culture existed along with identity in the SBC.

The most troubling threat to emerge from these recent debates is theological minimalism, a threat that is being perpetrated by both sides, Mohler said.

It is dangerous for members of either camp to say, "Let's get it down to this," Mohler noted. "That reductionism I would argue is the continuing source of theological crisis and identity. Among the moderates, this theological minimalism is most often by intention. Among conservatives, it's largely by the temptation of pragmatism and the sublimation of virtually all theological issues to operational concerns."

IMB trustees earmark \$500,000 for professors to serve overseas

SHREVEPORT, La. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board have earmarked \$500,000 to help Southern Baptist seminary professors serve Baptist seminaries overseas.

The board already was providing travel funding for professors to take sabbaticals overseas for four months to a year to fill strategic needs, said Sam James, the IMB's vice president for leadership development. But because of responsibilities with classes, most professors can't be away for four months or more.

With the new Seminary Professors Abroad program, approved during the trustees' March 8-10 meeting in Shreveport, La., professors now will have the opportunity to serve overseas from four weeks to four months. Participants will have the opportunity to teach in Baptist seminaries and participate in leadership training, Theological Education by Extension, church planting and more—with the travel funds provided by the IMB.

Funds for the emphasis will come from the IMB's Mobilization Assistance Program, which since 1998 has provided \$1.2 million to help Southern Baptist leaders and students participate in their first overseas missions project. Missions entities on the field where the professors serve will provide in-country expenses.

The reason behind full funding of professors' service overseas is to bring that missions message back to campus, James said.

"Every seminary campus is working to achieve a real missions ethos," he said. "We would like to help them achieve that ethos to the end that every student who graduates from the seminary would know how to develop a truly globally aware, missions-involved church, or that every student would at least consider going to the mission field. Professors involved in this program could contribute significantly to that end."

"Most missions professors already go overseas on assignments, but professors in other disciplines seldom have the opportunity to meet strategic needs overseas," James added. "We're hoping that all professors in all of the disciplines will have an opportunity to serve in a strategic assignment of some kind overseas."

Crossover New Orleans leaders recruiting ministry volunteers

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—When the Southern Baptist Convention returns to New Orleans this June, local Baptist leaders are asking Southern Baptists to once again join them in impacting the city with the gospel.

During the 1996 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, nearly 3,000 individuals made professions of faith during the pre-convention Crossover New Orleans evangelistic initiative. The evangelistic emphasis helped push the number of baptisms to an all-time high in the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans the following year.

"We really need people across the nation to pray that individuals would be receptive to the gospel, and that volunteers would be willing to come from across the nation," said Fred Dyess, director of missions for the association.

The Crossover evangelistic initiative has been an annual companion to SBC annual meetings since 1989, when volunteers shared the message of Christ in Las Vegas. Coordinated nationally by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, Crossover is a partnership of local churches in convention host cities and volunteers from across the country.

As in the past, the bulk of the activities will be held the Saturday before the convention, which this year is June 9. Other events and special projects will continue throughout the week.

Among volunteer opportunities available in New Orleans are:

■ **Block parties.** At least 30 community events throughout the city are designed to help local churches get to know their neighbors and introduce them to Christ as opportunities arise.

■ **Door-to-door canvassing.** Teams of volunteers conduct spiritual opinion surveys as a way of helping local churches understand their community

better and share the gospel with those who are interested.

■ **Street evangelism.** Music, drama and other forms of entertainment help draw crowds and illustrate gospel truths.

■ **Kindness explosion.** Free bottles of water and gift packets for street artists and craftsmen will feature a written presentation of the gospel.

■ **Ethnic festivals.** Groups of ethnic churches will sponsor citywide festivals for those of their nationality, offering a chance to build relationships with people their churches are seeking to reach.

■ **Inner-city evangelism.** Trained individuals will spend the weekend walking through low-income areas of the city sharing Christ.

Dyess said one of the most significant differences from the 1996 Crossover is the emphasis on follow-up with new Christians.

"We're making sure that in every place we have a block party we have one or more Southern Baptist churches to follow up on the converts," he said. "And we're having a lot of training for follow-up. We found out that was a weakness in 1996."

One of the specific evangelism tools being used this year also is new, a prepaid long-distance phone card designed to encourage runaways to call their parents. Each card will include the plan of salvation.

Plans also call for using the Crossover events to help with the startup of at least four new churches, Dyess said. The association typically plants 10 new congregations each year.

More information about Crossover is available at www.bagnola.org/crossover_2001.htm. Interested volunteers also may call the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans at (504) 282-1428.

Weekend rallies are 'springboard' for Graham crusade

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—With less than three months until this summer's Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade begins, crusade leaders hosted a weekend blitz of pre-crusade rallies March 23-25.

The three events, targeted toward students, adults and senior adults, offered crusade organizers an opportunity to gauge initial community involvement and to mobilize volunteers for counselor training and other crusade-related needs.

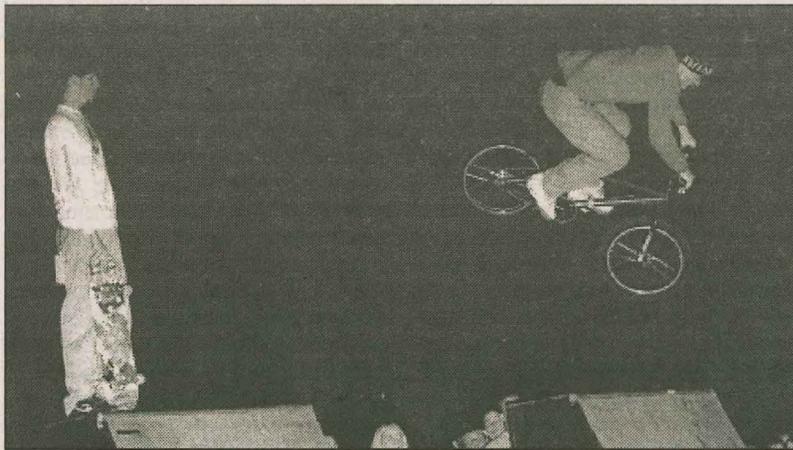
The weekend events at Louisville's Kentucky International Convention Center ranged from a Saturday night "Xtreme Explosion" concert for students featuring contemporary Christian band Salvador and bicycle stunt riders to a Sunday afternoon "Senior Celebration" featuring soloist George Beverly Shea and pianist Kurt Kaiser.

Crusade Director Jeff Anderson said the pre-crusade rallies "are really a springboard into the rest of the crusade."

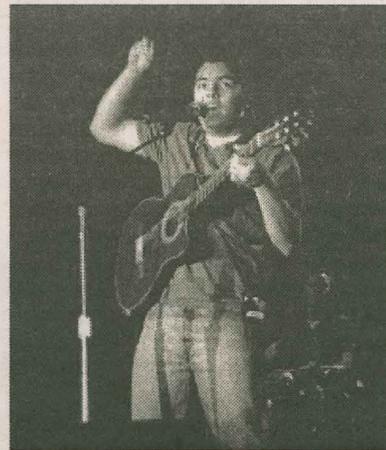
"We've been meeting with pastors and church leaders the past couple of months," he noted. "This was the first opportunity to meet face to face with people from the local churches."

"The meetings were geared to be inspirational and encouraging to people who attend," he added. "At the same point, they are designed to be very informational so people who attend can find out how to be plugged into crusade opportunities in the coming months."

During the Friday night "Prepare to Win" rally targeted to adults, Jefferson County Judge/Executive Rebecca Jackson challenged participants to "take the responsibility to prepare to win lost souls for Jesus."



RALLY TIME Bicycle stunt riders and contemporary Christian band Salvador were among featured performers during "Xtreme Explosion" March 24. The event was one of three pre-crusade rallies held last weekend in preparation for this summer's Billy Graham crusade in Louisville. The crusade will be June 21-24 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.



Jackson, vice chairman of the crusade executive committee, noted that "those of us who live here and learn here and love here will make this crusade go on and on. ... The responsibility is yours and mine. Let us prepare to win."

Jackson interviewed Louisville businessman Junior Bridgeman, a former basketball star with the University of Louisville Cardinals and the Milwaukee Bucks.

Sharing memories of his collegiate and professional basketball career, Bridgeman added, "What is really important is not what you have and what you think you accomplished and how many championships you've won. What really matters is your relationship to Christ. If you don't have that, none of the other things matter."

Bridgeman said the June 21-24 Graham crusade at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium "is long overdue."

"This is the opportunity for the community to come together and make a difference," he said. "It's a

chance to win people to Christ, to bring someone to the crusade and really make a difference in their lives."

Ron Hutchcraft, the Friday night rally's featured speaker, recounted that hundreds of people who died when the Titanic sank could have been saved if those in the ship's lifeboats had returned to rescue them.

Comparing that to the spiritual challenge Louisville faces this summer, Hutchcraft asked, "How will your life take on the significance you want it to have? Very simple, you will become a rescuer of dying people who are already in your reach."

"That is your call to greatness," he added. "There is no greater difference you can make than to have someone in heaven because of you."

Al Mohler, chairman of the crusade executive committee, challenged participants to become personally involved in the crusade's Operation Andrew emphasis and Christian Life & Witness training.

Operation Andrew is a plan to en-

courage Christians to pray for and invite unsaved family members and friends to the crusade. Christian Life & Witness courses, which begin April 16 in several area churches, offer personal evangelism training and prepare volunteers to serve as counselors during the crusade.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said Louisville will be "ground zero for the gospel" during the Graham crusade in June.

He said one key to the crusade's success is "whether God's people bring their lost family members and friends into the stadium" during the crusade. He said focused prayer and personal involvement can help provide "victory against the power of sin and victory against death and darkness" throughout the greater Louisville area.

For more information about crusade-related events, contact the crusade office at (502) 412-0977 or e-mail info@LouisvilleCrusade.org.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ More than 250 volunteers are being sought for a Campbellsville University effort to repair area homes April 9-11. The school's Kentucky Heartland Outreach program will coordinate "Repair Affair Days." For more information, call Todd Parish at (270) 789-5360.

■ Clear Creek Baptist Bible College will host an open house April 17 for its Carol Boatman Brooks Memorial Library. The facility recently underwent renovation, including the addition of an archive section, enlarging the curriculum lab and expanding the computer lab. The open house will include tours, refreshments and a book sale. For more information, call (606) 337-3196.

■ Georgetown College's alumni association has launched a Web site for such activities as finding old friends or reading the group's magazine on line. The site's address is www.georgetowncollege.edu/alumni.

■ Health professionals interested in Christian short-term missions are being recruited to form a Kentucky medical missions fellowship. The group, being organized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department, will hold an organizational meeting April 21 at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood. For information, call (502) 244-6489 or, toll-free in Kentucky, (888) 254-5720.

Kentucky volunteers train for variety of long-term service projects

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

BOWLING GREEN—Fred Johnson is still working to set up a central food distribution ministry in Louisville, but his new life as a Southern Baptist volunteer missionary already is bearing some fruit.

Johnson is working as a Mission Service Corps volunteer. While his ministry receives no funding from the Southern Baptist Convention, his status does connect him with prayer and training resources through the SBC North American Mission Board.

He noted that NAMB already has linked him with the organization's task force of self-supporting missionaries and helped him discover a wealth of new resources.

He was one of 29 new MSC missionaries and volunteers to attend an MSC orientation session March 16-18 in Bowling Green.

Networking, fellowship and prayer were the key agenda items as individuals from Kentucky, Texas, Indiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi learned what MSC is all about from Kentucky Baptist Convention and NAMB personnel.

Orientation training included discussion of individual personality

strengths for missions and evangelism, tips on how to develop a support system, information on church planting and a tutorial on the relationships between Southern Baptist agencies and institutions.

It was the sixth such regional training held in Kentucky, said Eric Allen, MSC director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Allen said most MSC missionaries are retired. Many volunteers say they felt a call to missions early in life, but for a variety of reasons delayed their response, he added. MSC gives these people the opportunity to fulfill their call.

He said other MSC missionaries are young people who either raise their mission support from individuals and groups or serve bivocationally, working in another job to support their ministry.

Johnson, who retired in 1998 after 23 years at Phillip Morris, has been at work on his ministry for almost a year, and was invited recently to join MSC.

When in place, his ministry will seek to link corporate donors with Louisville churches and ministries that distribute food to needy families.

At the orientation, Johnson hooked up with MSC volunteers from Eastern Kentucky and elsewhere who are in-

involved in similar ministries.

The networking helped him identify valuable potential suppliers. He also hopes to raise the additional \$5,000 he needs for start-up costs with guidance from the MSC network.

Johnson said one of the biggest advantages of doing ministry through MSC is the prayer support. Missionaries can call in requests to NAMB's intercessory prayer line and receive prayer support from Southern Baptists across the country.

"It's undergirding. 'The fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much.' These things aren't happening because Fred Johnson's doing them," said Johnson, referring to the progress being made in establishing his new ministry.

Allen said other advantages for ministry through MSC include increased credibility, access to health care coverage at group rates, spiritual refreshment and professional growth through the "retreat" atmosphere of orientation and training, and access to resources through the network of Southern Baptist missionaries and organizations.

For more information on Mission Service Corps in Kentucky, call (502) 245-4101 or, toll-free in Kentucky, (800) 266-6477.

Help wanted

Eric Allen is seeking to fill 19 requests for long-term Missions Service Corps volunteers throughout the commonwealth.

Workers are needed to lead a variety of ministries, including:

■ Restaurant manager in Hazel Green. With a high unemployment rate in Eastern Kentucky, on-the-job skills training is needed, Allen said. A restaurant will serve as a training center for food service industry jobs. A manager is needed to help run the restaurant and train employees.

■ WMU Web site help. Help is needed keeping the content fresh on the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union site.

■ Baptist Student Union assistant. Campus ministers frequently need help with office work.

■ Assistant chaplain in Morganfield at the state Job Corps center.

■ Camp director in northern Kentucky and campground hosts for state parks across Kentucky.

■ Ministry center coordinator for migrant ministries.

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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Spiritual worship

Rick Warren's provocative commentary on worship at Saddleback Community Church and insistence that churches follow its model as a 21st century church summarize the attitude of a growing number of churches in their approach for putting "new wine into new wineskins." Though many, including me, will not agree with Warren's conclusions to throw out all the old, the ministry of Saddleback certainly is to be admired.

Without a doubt, Warren's abhorrence of church music that pre-dates microphones and the exclusive use of choruses is repulsive to many Christians. It is surprising though that the church music he advocates is actually more narrow than that in the churches he condemns. Pastors and church musicians should not allow communities that thrive on the Disney World, entertainment-based approach to life be the final say in how they minister. Only the Spirit of God should be the guide.

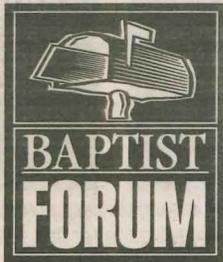
During my 20-plus years as a church organist, I've been led to believe by both new and older Christians that the organ has given important leadership in worship. I believe many other organists would share the same testimony. The underlying intent of every note I've ever played has been to help a congregation understand the eternal truth of God's grace.

If we are to truly minister in Christ's name we must minister throughout the week in the tasks God has called us to. Then we can celebrate in worship, using a variety of microphones, organs and music to praise and meditate on God. By allowing God to speak to each person through a variety of

worship, we truly will put "new wine into new wineskins." The "new wine" doesn't mean throwing out the heritage of Christians from the past; it means building upon it and being accepting of God's newest saints into the world where we live.

Wesley Roberts
Campbellsville

Creedal document



I am aware that Kentucky Baptists are discussing the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. As a graduate of Georgetown College, let me warn you that the 2000 statement is being used as a litmus test for fellowship and service in the denomination.

I am pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Gainesville, Fla. Parkview has ordained women to the deacon ministry and chaplaincy in the past. Recently we ordained a woman to the gospel ministry in education. She faithfully has served our association in educational roles in three churches, the association and the Florida Baptist Convention for 16 years. Her integrity, ability and spiritual commitment have never been questioned. Then the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message was adopted by Southern Baptist Convention messengers.

Our minister of education was nominated to serve as a trustee for one of our Florida Baptist institutions. She was told she had to meet five criteria, including commitment to the Baptist Faith and Message. She explained she did not agree with it on several points. She was told she would no longer be considered for the trustee position.

Recently, three churches contacted our association's credentials committee. They charged that Parkview does not comply with the 2000 faith

statement and therefore is out of fellowship with the association. The association has not adopted the 2000 statement, but these pastors say the SBC decision automatically means all SBC churches should comply.

The 2000 statement is being used as a creedal document and a tool for doctrinal accountability. Instead of being a faith statement around which all Baptists can unite, it is being used to break fellowship and question the integrity and faith of Bible-believing Baptist churches and women. I urge Kentucky Baptists to reject the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as your faith statement. If you do not, you may be next on the hit list.

Gregory Magruder
Gainesville, Fla.

Christian grace

Julia Woodward was the first person to serve twice as president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Prior to her recent death, she also served several terms on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board. A wise counselor and a woman of Christian grace, she gave quiet strength and stability to WMU at every level.

In honor of her long life of service, the WMU of Elkhorn Association recently passed the following resolution:

■ To give thanks to God for the privilege of having shared in the life and influence of Julia Woodward.

■ To remember with gratitude the large scope of mission service she gave to WMU at every level.

■ To follow her way of life and imitate her abiding faith and example of Christ-like living.

■ To renew our commitment to the One whom Julia Woodward served, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

Elkhorn Association WMU
Resolutions Committee

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Recognizing generous CP giving

I recently had the privilege of visiting three very different congregations to recognize their outstanding Cooperative Program giving. They are representative of a large number of generous churches committed to missions that we are seeking to recognize in a variety of ways.

Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington is in the midst of extensive renovation of its sanctuary and other facilities. However, when the plans were announced, Pastor Craig Loscalzo stated that Immanuel would not cut the missions budget percentage due to the church building projects.

Immanuel Baptist Church has been a leader in support of world missions through the Cooperative Program for many years. During the 1999-2000 period, Immanuel ranked fourth in total CP giving and 54th in per capita CP gifts in the state. This represents the heart of a pastor and church family for missions.

Two weeks later I had the privilege of making a CP presentation at Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg. More than 600 people assembled for exciting worship in the Anderson County High School auditorium. Jeff Eaton is pastor of this congregation which started in August 1998.



Bill Mackey

During the 1999-2000 report period, the congregation was first among Kentucky Baptist Convention churches in per capita giving for a total of \$44,360. (This was up from \$25,883 the year before.) Hope ranked 90th in total giving through the Cooperative Program. This new congregation is to be commended for establishing a priority for strong missions giving.

A week later I spoke at a rural church in West Kentucky that has established a reputation for outstanding missions giving through the Cooperative Program. The church has just completed a family life center but did

not diminish missions support.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Muhlenberg Association averages 155 people in Sunday School and more in worship under the leadership of its new pastor, Rusty Trotter. During 1999-2000, the church gave \$78,148 to missions through the Cooperative Program. The church ranked eighth in per capita giving and 34th in total Cooperative Program giving. This represents an incredible commitment to missions by this rural congregation and proves that a small congregation can have the world on its heart.

Mt. Pisgah has a policy that extra funds are sent for missions through the Cooperative Program rather than to a bank CD. I think God has revealed to them the best investment that can be made. The eternal dividends will be out of this world.

May God bless those who are willing to give with more to give. I think one pastor put it well when he said, "If you aren't willing to give everything to God, it isn't likely that you will give anything." Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Home mortgages: To refinance or not to refinance?

By Jeremy White



As interest rates have dropped recently, you might have the opportunity to refinance your mortgage at a lower rate. Refinancing might lower your monthly mortgage

payment, allow you to convert from an adjustable-rate mortgage to a fixed rate or consolidate other debt.

Keep in mind, however, that you will have to spend money (and time and effort) to save money in refinancing. It is important to crunch some numbers and think about your future.

Let's use an example to illustrate the key considerations. Bob and Ruth are beginning the third year of a 30-year, \$80,000 mortgage at an interest rate of 8 percent. Their current payment is \$587 for principal and interest.

Bob and Ruth's mortgage balance is about \$78,500. They could refinance the existing balance of \$78,500 at 7 percent. The closing costs, such as title search, appraisal and other fees, total \$1,500 for the new loan.

Refinancing would lower their monthly payments to \$522, a reduction of \$65 per month. Mortgage lenders would say Bob breaks even after 23 months (\$1,500 divided by \$65). However, you also should consider the time value of money and the reduced tax benefits from lower interest deductions.

Your decision to refinance hinges on these factors:

■ *The length of time you expect to remain in your current house.* If Bob is likely to have a job transfer within the next year, then refinancing would not be prudent.

■ *The difference between your current mortgage rate and available rates.* Get out the calculator when the differential approaches 1 percent. If the difference is 2 percent or more, it generally makes sense to refinance.

■ *The number of years left on your current mortgage loan.* The further you are in your mortgage term, the less attractive refinancing is because more of your monthly payment is for principal instead of interest.

■ *The amount of the closing costs.*

Ultimately, your goal should be becoming debt free. We should strive to be servants to Jesus and servants to nothing else.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.

Pursue healthy balance between church activities, family priorities

Q: My husband recently rededicated his life to God. In his enthusiasm, he is involved in church activities that require him to be away from home three nights a week and sometimes most of the weekend. I'm thrilled that his faith has deepened. Yet, I find myself wondering if all these activities are necessary. I miss him. What should I do?

Perhaps one of the hardest things in life is truly keeping a balance with all of our commitments. Even more challenging is when your marriage commitment seems to be in competition with your husband's commitment to God.

Start with the Bible. What kinds of clues does Jesus give us about how our family commitments should fit with our faith commitments? Biblical scholars offer different answers to this quandary. Some scholars would argue that the Christian commitment is so radical that it involves exclusive commitment to Christ, while others would maintain that a biblical ethic demands commitment to family life as a top commitment.

I remember my grandmother's biblical admonition that a person who does not minister to one's own household is "worse than an infidel." I would suggest that you share your feelings with your husband. You might discover some church activities you can do together.

If you are unable to agree on what is essential for both family and faith, a professional Christian counselor or pastoral counselor could provide a neutral arena to discuss your mutual concerns. It may be that your husband believes his deepening faith is pleasing you as well as Christ. Ephesians 5 exhorts husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Since Christ gave His life for the church, it seems clear that Christian faith should enrich rather than hinder family life.—*Suzanne Coyle*



Q: Should a parent ever tell a child to retaliate?

Are there times where a parent should say to a child, "If he does it again, knock his block off!"? While there certainly are situations where such a response would be understandable, parents need to teach boys and girls to think carefully about what retaliation may mean.

When Jesus talked about forgiving another person 70 times seven, the emphasis was on attitude, not arithmetic. Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Children should be encouraged to ignore, walk away and do everything they can to avoid a troublemaker.

However, there are children who, despite warnings, simply cannot keep their hands to themselves, and who will not quit bothering others. Parents, teachers and responsible adults should do all they can to straighten things out. If that does not work, the child who continues to be harassed might need to say something like this to the tormentor: "If you do that to me again, I am going to do this to you. Do you understand?" Parents and teachers should have awareness of, and ideally, even witness this exchange.

A child who decides to strike back needs to understand that his or her actions might bring consequences, and that he or she might be held responsible for those actions by people in authority, however justified, fair or understandable their actions might be. Having an adult witness the warning might help a child avoid punishment, but there might be other prices to pay, such as tearing a favorite article of clothing or getting hurt in a fight.—*David Garrard*

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

E-mail alerts: Learn when to hit 'delete' key

How could a call for prayer ever be the wrong thing to do? After all, most Christians readily agree that prayer should be a first step rather than a last resort in responding to pressing needs.

One drawback occurs, however, when a specific prayer request is inaccurate, outdated or misleading. Such is the case with an e-mail prayer request making the rounds these days.

The e-mail message urges recipients to pray for Ezekiel David Allen. He is described as a young Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand who "is critically ill with an unknown parasite and apparently WILL DIE WITHIN TWO MONTHS unless there is an intervention by the Lord." The prayer request asks individuals to "help create a global blanket of prayer" for Allen and his family.

Now for the facts: Yes, there is an international missionary named David Allen; yes, he serves in Thailand; and yes, he has faced serious illness due to an unidentified parasite. However, Allen is not a Southern Baptist missionary; the outdated e-mail alert has been circulating for more than two years; and the initial round of prayers reportedly already have worked.

According to Mark Kelly, a spokesman for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, "The e-mail was true more than two years ago. Allen was desperately ill. People all over the world prayed and God answered those prayers." He said Allen has since returned to Thailand where he serves with another evangelical mission organization.

Kelly said part of the confusion about Allen's alleged IMB ties apparently occurred when an IMB worker in Africa forwarded one of the early e-mail prayer requests, including the worker's IMB address. Much like the childhood game where a row of young-

sters takes turns whispering their version of a story to the person next to them, the original prayer request evolved into a version that linked Allen to Southern Baptist mission work.

While I would never want to discourage anyone from praying about a legitimate prayer concern, there are far too many current needs to spend time mobilizing friends and family members to pray for an outdated request. "I wouldn't say that prayer is ever wasted," Kelly pointed out, "but this certainly is misdirected."

On the positive side, Kelly said such incidents "can help educate people about the need to verify e-mail requests." Noting that "good-hearted believers are likely to pass it on" when they receive an appeal for urgent prayer, he encouraged people to learn to confirm the original source of e-mail bulletins they receive.

In a somewhat related development, false rumors continue to circulate about Madalyn Murray O'Hair seeking to ban religious programming on radio and TV. The latest version of the story claims she has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission to ban the TV show "Touched by an Angel."

Once again, let's review the facts: Petition 2493 was rejected by the FCC in 1975—more than 25 years ago. O'Hair was never a participant in the original petition filed by two California men. FBI agents recently identified the remains of O'Hair, who has been missing since 1995. She apparently was murdered by a business associate and two accomplices.

Whether it's an "urgent" prayer bulletin or a questionable rumor, concerned Christians should take time to verify the accuracy of information before passing it along to others. That way, when legitimate needs do arise, the Christian community won't be found falsely crying "wolf" one more time.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

State paper editor plays pivotal role in 'Whitsitt Controversy'

By Jack Birdwhistell

During the final decade of the 19th century, Kentucky Baptists and the Western Recorder became deeply involved in the "Whitsitt Controversy," one of the more divisive controversies in Kentucky Baptist history. Here are the particulars:

In 1895 John A. Broadus, the beloved long-time president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died and was succeeded by William H. Whitsitt, a church historian and veteran professor at the seminary. During that same year, an article written by Whitsitt appeared in a publication called Johnson's Cyclopaedia. In the article, Whitsitt stated his view that the Baptists of England (and the United States) did not begin to practice baptism by immersion until the early 1640s—believer's baptism only, yes, but by pouring or sprinkling.

This view went against the view held by many Kentucky Baptists that Baptists churches had existed intact and in an unbroken line since the time of Jesus—the so-called "succession-

ist" view of Baptist origins. "Old Landmarkism," a strong movement among Kentucky Baptists at the time, had long taught that position. It was very popular, especially in Western Kentucky. A Methodist writer noticed Whitsitt's article and, in a periodical called the Central Methodist, jubilantly began to call attention to Whitsitt's variance from the Baptist majority.

The battle among the Baptists began in earnest in the pages of the Western Recorder in April 1896, with an article by the revered Baptist historian, J.H. Spencer, that strongly attacked Whitsitt's views as "heretical." Editor T.T. Eaton followed in June with a similar article. From then on, the Recorder led in the attacks on Whitsitt in the South.

The controversy led to a stormy session of Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville in 1896. Whitsitt's colleagues at the seminary rallied around him, as prominent Baptists led by Eaton criticized his views.

In May 1897, the major issue at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Wilmington, N.C.,

was the Whitsitt controversy. The seminary's board of trustees affirmed Whitsitt, and the convention in general took no action against him. He was, after all, a man of great personal character and piety, generally beloved by those who knew him.

In 1898 SBC messengers again took up the matter, with great pressure on the seminary trustees to remove Whitsitt as president. The General Association of Kentucky Baptists, meeting in June, passed a resolution (by a vote of 198 to 26) declaring the embattled president "unfit for his current position." Eaton was one of the more forceful speakers in favor of the resolution.

Faced with growing opposition, Whitsitt submitted his resignation as president of the seminary, effective at the end of the 1898-99 academic year, and the controversy gradually diminished. E.Y. Mullins became president of the seminary, and Eaton remained in his influential positions as editor and pastor.

Eaton died unexpectedly in June 1907, on a trip to Mississippi. One historian who memorialized Eaton noted that he "was doubtless the most potent and influential personality among the Baptists of the South."

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



WOMEN

Murray church's council coordinates activities

By Victoria Moon
Staff Writer

MURRAY—First Baptist Church of Murray knew it needed a plan when it came to its women's programs.

"Nothing was coordinated in one spot," said women's ministries facilitator Denise Travis. "You had to go 15 different places to try and figure out what was going on, and then no one knew what was going on."

So she asked her pastor to help come up with a plan to organize the women's programs under one umbrella.

The result was a Women's Ministry Council of 11 women picked from every aspect of women's ministries in the church.

"They represent WMU (Woman's Missionary Union), our Bible studies, discipleship, evangelism, teaching—all of it," Travis said.

The 11 women meet regularly to coordinate current ministry opportunities and make sure programs do not have conflicting time schedules or resources. They also produce a quarterly newsletter for the 545 women on their church roll to let them know what the church is offering for women.

"We try to have something for every woman: WMU, one-time mission opportunities, 11-week in-depth Beth Moore Bible studies, a yearly regional conference, and we are now trying to find a leader for a six-week Bible study for women who might be at that level," Travis said.

While the transition has been helpful to women in the church, it has not always been easy.

"There were definitely some turf issues, and we didn't want people to think we were going to come in and take over women's ministries in our church," Travis said.

She said they avoided a lot of hurt feelings by approaching the transition very slowly and including long-established women's groups like WMU in everything they could.

"We didn't want it to feel like us versus them," she said. "We wanted to work side by side with WMU, but provide something for women who didn't feel like WMU was for them."

Because the Women's Ministry Council is a relatively new ministry that began in January of this year, council facilitators have planned a get-acquainted tea for all the women in the church to understand what the council is trying to do with women's ministry.

"We want to create opportunities for every woman in our church to find her place and get involved," Travis said.

"If I have one goal, it's to provide more opportunities for women to just get involved in the church beyond Sundays and Wednesday nights," she added.

Women looking to start this type of ministry in their churches should first pray about the endeavor, she said.

"The first thing I'd say to anybody is get down on your knees and know for sure this is what God wants you to do," she said. "This ministry can be done in any size of church if you go slow and try to work side by side with the ministries that are already there."

Women's
Ministries
3 Agencies, Endless Options

At a glance

Woman's Missionary Union

Founded: Women representing local missions societies began formal meetings simultaneously with the Southern Baptist Convention in 1884. In 1888 those groups constituted in Baltimore as the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missions Societies. The name was changed to Woman's Missionary Union in 1890.

Mission Statement: WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God.

Tasks/Goals: Missions support, including prayer, financial contributions, involvement and education. Missions-minded spiritual development. Participation in church and denominational activities.

Resources: Comprehensive missions education, church consultation for establishing and sustaining a local WMU, leadership training and development, books and training materials offered through New Hope Publishers.

Source: WMU Web site, www.wmu.com

Women's Enrichment Ministries

Founded: Women's enrichment ministries trace their beginnings to the West Coast churches that began during the "Jesus People" movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s, according to Jaye Martin, at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "As Southern Baptists, we were later in the game, and it was not until the 1990s that Southern Baptists responded to meet women's needs and the women's enrichment ministry began at LifeWay," she said.

Mission Statement: To equip women to live the Christian faith in their families, churches and communities.

Tasks/Goals: Equip and enable women for discipleship ministries both for themselves and to lead other women. Training and participation in evangelism, prayer and Bible study.

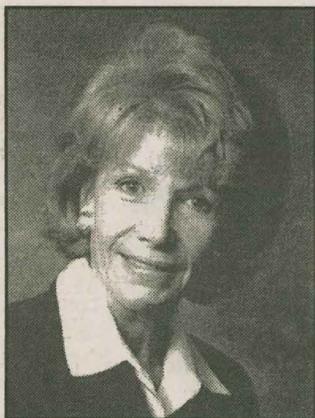
Resources: Mostly conferences, books and magazines. Examples include Beth Moore Bible studies, "Home Life" magazine, "Journey" life support and recovery materials, marriage resources and leadership materials.

Source: LifeWay Web site, www.lifeway.com

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WOMEN

Agencies try to strike balance in women's resources

Continued from page 1
to China," she said.

But in the early 1990s LifeWay Christian Resources, then known as the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, began offering more resources targeting women's discipleship, Savage added.

"What LifeWay did ... was to answer the call of many churches to provide more in-depth Bible studies to women who were asking for them," she said.

And this, Savage said, was the start of "women's enrichment ministries."

Jaye Martin, women's evangelism associate at NAMB, agreed with Savage's assessment.

"As long as there have been women, there has been some sort of ministry to women," she said. "Our traditional Woman's Missionary Union has always done a great job of carrying the banner in our churches for missionary efforts."

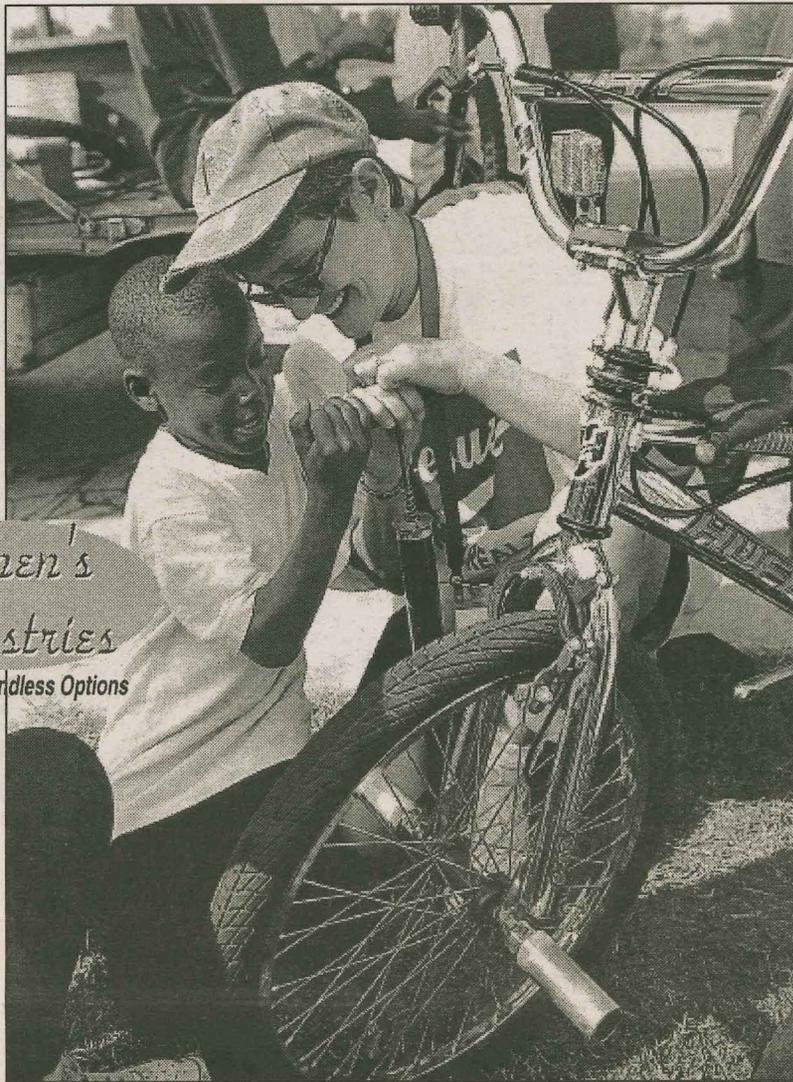
"The new movement of women's ministry reached unchurched as well as church women, because many women needed to grow up in the Lord before they understood the need to reach out to others."

Chris Adams, women's enrichment specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, said women's enrichment ministries began as a draw to involve women in the life of the church.

"We have had women's ministries for many years, in the form of missions," she said. "It has been a wonderful way to involve women in outreach and leading others to Christ. But for some this may not be the 'hook' that will get them involved in women's ministry and spiritual growth."

"The starting point may be a support group, discipleship group or Bible study," Adams added. "The goal is to help these women grow in Christlikeness. In doing this, missions and evangelism is a natural next step."

As the term "women's ministries"



Women's Ministries
3 Agencies, Endless Options

is redefined in the 21st century, the women agree that striking a balance between the groups is key.

"What we like to focus on is the importance of balance in the individual Christian woman's life and the need for balance in any type of women's ministry that happens in the local church," Savage said.

"I like to explain it this way," Martin added. "God desired for us to do two things: know Him and share Him. That's discipleship and evangelism. Evangelism is what you say, missions

is where you take it.

"So the balance of evangelism, discipleship and missions is God's balance, not ours," she added.

The three women attempt to follow a balanced model among their ministries in their own lives as well as encouraging churches to do the same.

"In the area of women's ministries, NAMB, LifeWay and WMU work together in the persons of Chris, Laura and myself," Martin said. "We have a monthly hour-long conference and prayer time together, and we pray that we be one and unified. Acts 2 is a great example of what happens when we work together."

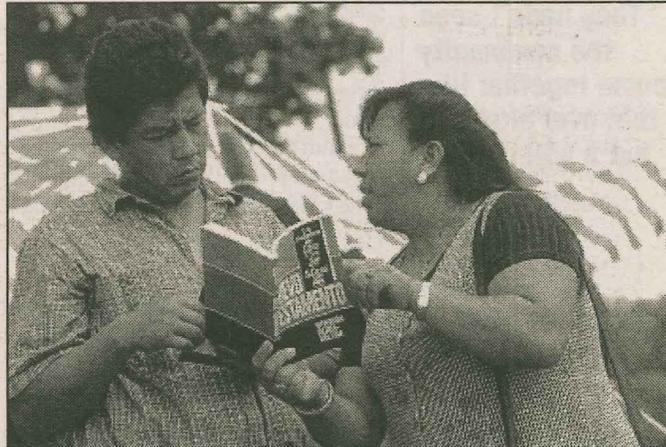
Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky WMU, agreed that the move toward balanced ministries for women begins first with its leaders.

"Much depends on the leaders of the different groups and how they approach each other," she said. "Leaders who take the approach of affirmation of current ministries, while at the same time seeking to broaden the ministry opportunities to provide a balance, generally are more successful than those who are disdainful of ministries other than their own."

But both national and Kentucky women's ministry leaders agree the balance sometimes can be more difficult in implementation than it is on paper. "All three aspects (of discipleship, evangelism and missions) are necessary, and none of them are optional," Savage said. "And honestly, that's a difficult message for many women to hear."

Bolton said she's found this to be true in some Kentucky churches.

"It's not as easily worked out in part



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
Three Southern Baptist agencies are working together to help women get involved in missions, evangelism and discipleship. ■ **Left:** A woman helps repair a bike during a missions event in Charleston, S.C., sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union. ■ **Top Right:** A woman shares the gospel during an evangelistic event coordinated by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. ■ **Bottom Right:** Author Beth Moore speaks at a women's conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.

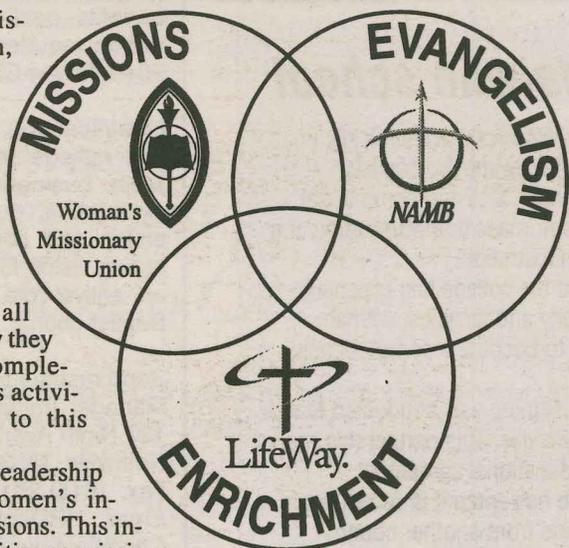
Who's doing what?

Woman's Missionary Union, LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board use this graphic to describe their roles in women's ministries.

Leaders at all three agencies say they are trying to complement each other's activities. According to this strategy:

WMU takes leadership in the area of women's involvement in missions. This includes such activities as missions education and involvement.

LifeWay takes the lead for enhancement, including discipleship and Bible study.



NAMB takes the lead role for evangelism, including providing materials and training for helping Christian women share their faith.

Hazard church organizes ministry for area drug battle

"They hadn't seen the community come together like that over anything but a ball game."

Butch Pennington, pastor of Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard

Continued from page 1

were coming up to me and saying they hadn't seen the community come together like that over anything but a ball game."

From that first meeting, a non-profit organization called People Against Drugs Inc. was formed in January of this year.

PAD Inc. consists of six committees:

■ **Crime watch.** Members set up neighborhood crime watches and an anonymous hot line for people needing help or wishing to report criminal activity.

■ **Family support.** This committee assists families affected by drugs.

■ **Drug court assistance.** Volunteers work closely with the judicial system to help arrested addicts get into short-term recovery programs.

■ **Referral.** The committee helps addicts of any chemical substance get into faith-based long-term recovery programs.

■ **Schools.** Workers inform teachers, administrators, students and parents about how to recognize signs of drug abuse. This committee also offers seminars and is evaluating current school drug policies in the county.

■ **Youth.** Committee members work with area youth in drug prevention. Volunteers and youth are organizing an upcoming prayer walk on Hazard's Main Street.

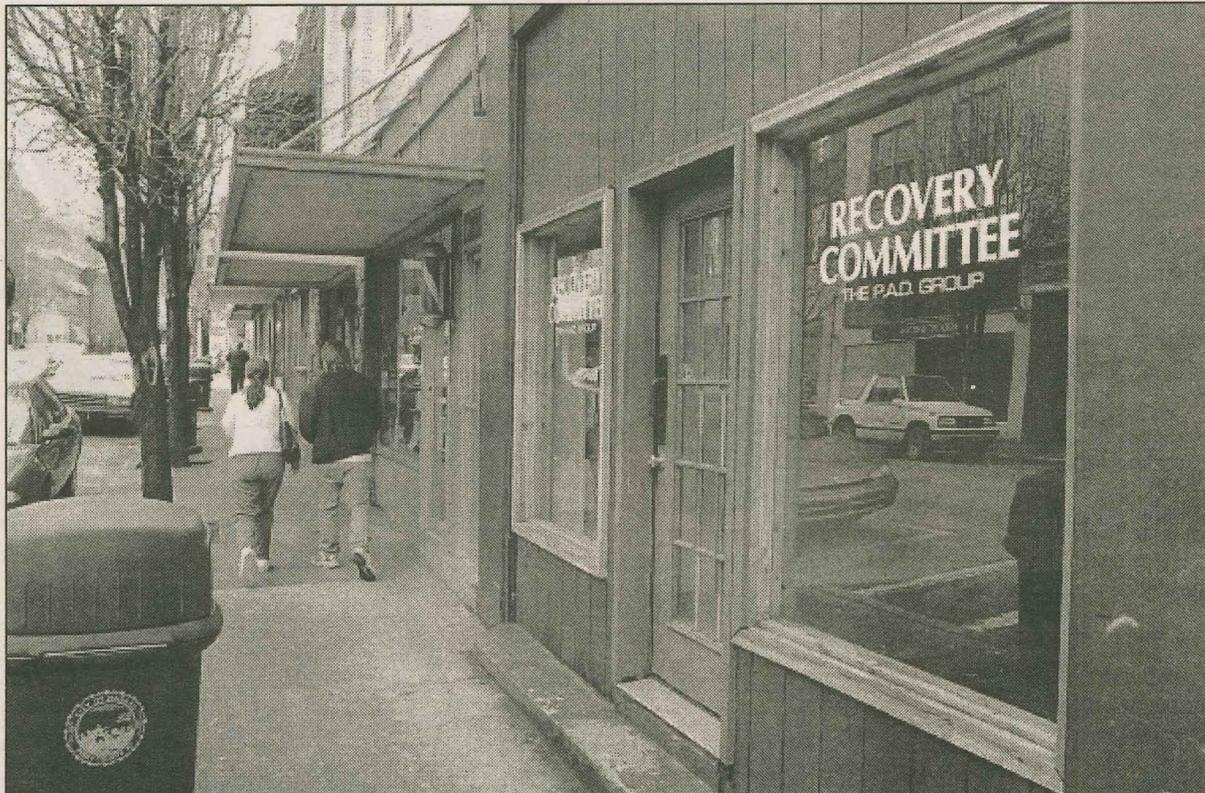
All six committees are functioning well, Pennington said. "But we're learning as we go, through trial and error."

He said the newly formed organization was needed almost immediately. Law enforcement officials arrested 200 OxyContin dealers and users in a four-county roundup shortly after PAD Inc.'s structure was in place.

"We had our committee meeting in February, and right after that was the drug bust," Pennington said.

Previously, police were hesitant to arrest addicts who had no long-term resources for recovery, he added.

After PAD Inc. was established, officers were able to make more arrests knowing addicts would have somewhere to go, Pennington said. "I was later told by authorities that because we were in place, more arrests were



PAD INC. Members of Petrey Memorial Baptist Church in Hazard launched the first meeting that resulted in a non-profit organization to combat drug abuse in the community. "The Lord's put us in the right place at the right time," Pastor Butch Pennington said. (Lexington Herald-Leader photo by Charles Bertram. Used with permission.)

made."

Still, PAD's resources are severely limited, he noted. After the arrests, PAD could help only eight addicts indicted since the arrests.

"The nearest long-term rehabilitation center we have is in Lexington, and the nearest faith-based center is in Nashville," he said. "And even if they were closer, they cost \$600-\$1,200 a day. The people here can't afford that."

The only local option, he added, was admittance to the local psychiatric hospital, but that facility can only hold drug addicts for a maximum of three days, Pennington said.

"That's just not long enough," he said.

The only faith-based program PAD has available for referrals is Teen Challenge. That ministry will link PAD officials with available space in Teen Challenge's one-year treatment programs throughout the country. The closest Teen Challenge center is in

Louisville.

"We are in dire need of resources," he said. "We can use all the help we can get."

Still, he said the eight addicts helped through PAD would not have had anywhere to turn without the organization's help, and that he has seen people come to Christ through direct involvement in the program.

"It's a pilot project that God can use," he said.

According to Pennington, the project also has attracted national attention as OxyContin abuse spreads among young people in rural areas in West Virginia, Maine, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The OxyContin addictions are hitting two hot-button issues at the same time. One is the spread of a new addiction among teens. The other involves the community's involvement with a faith-based social service program.

Already, Newsweek magazine and

NBC's Dateline news program have contacted Pennington about his involvement with PAD and the spread of OxyContin abuse.

He also is speaking on a regular basis to churches and political leaders throughout the area and in April will meet with U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to discuss PAD and a pastor's perspective about the devastation of drug abuse.

"The Lord's put us in the right place at the right time," he said. "And if the Lord's in it, it can flourish and go."

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CHRISTIAN STORES

Campbellsville University enters partnership with Taiwan school

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University has entered into a partnership with Eternal-Life Christ College of Taipei, Taiwan.

The agreement will provide college students in Taiwan the opportunity to earn a graduate degree in either music or business and to take additional studies in English at Campbellsville University, according to Campbellsville President Mike Carter.

Eventually, the partnership between the two institutions could include a student exchange program for undergraduate students as well as an opportunity for a team of Campbellsville faculty to teach at one of Eternal-Life College's three campuses in Taiwan.

"This is a great, new initiative for Campbellsville University as we continue to

reach across the globe for the cause of Christian higher education," Carter said. "In order for us to follow Christ's Great Commission, we at Campbellsville University must seize those international opportunities that make sense and that will enhance our academic reputation and our Christian mission."

Three graduate students from Eternal-Life College recently enrolled in Campbellsville's master's degree program for business administration.

Eternal-Life Christ College, a non-denominational institution, was founded by professor Chi-Cherng Cheng in 1986, and is the largest Christian college in Taiwan with more than 1,200 students. The college, with campuses in Taipei, Taichung and

Kaohsiung, is organized academically in seven departments: music, English, international trade, arts and commercial design, tourism, mass communication and business administration.

Cheng said the college has expansion plans for faculty and facilities, with an ultimate goal to become a comprehensive university.

An official signing was conducted March 16 in Campbellsville. This partnership marks the second educational agreement Campbellsville has entered in recent years with institutions from another country.

The first was a partnership with Baptist-related schools in Brazil, established in the late 1990s. Nearly 50 students from Brazil are enrolled this spring at Campbellsville.

Regional evangelistic event nets nearly 1,000 teens

TYLER, Texas (ABP)—One of the best-known drug users at a school in Tyler, Texas, now leads a prayer group there.

The boy was among 970 teenagers who accepted Christ during a citywide youth revival that brought together 140 churches of multiple denominations in a unified evangelism effort.

Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Bible churches, Church of Christ and non-denominational churches joined together to support "Fish the Planet," a four-day youth revival that extended into nearly a week.

"I've never seen anything like it," said R.J. Holt, one of the event's organizers and youth minister at Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Tyler.

Holt and other youth ministers in the area are working overtime to follow up with each of the 1,300 teenagers

who registered spiritual decisions, including the 970 who professed new faith in Christ.

In an unprecedented spirit of cooperation, ministers from various Christian churches have laid aside turf considerations and are referring teens to other churches where they are likely to find the best personal match, Holt said.

The results of "Fish the Planet" are visible in numerous ways—not only in the observations of parents who wonder what has happened to their children, but also in continuing morning prayer gatherings around school flagpoles and in the trash dumpster at Tyler's Oil Palace coliseum.

Each night of the youth revival, six 55-gallon barrels were placed near the platform, and teens were invited to throw away anything that would stand in the way of serving God fully. Hall

said he saw teens throw away marijuana, cocaine, bong, pornography, CDs, pirated software, even teddy bears.

"Every night, kids filled them with stuff they wanted to throw away," he said.

Sunday night, the first night of "Fish the Planet," about 2,500 people attended the crusade. Attendance swelled each night, with 6,000 present Wednesday night, what was scheduled to be the final night. Adults were asked to give up seats for teens, and even those who were on hand as counselors had to make way for the overflow crowd, Holt said.

Because of the response, the crusade was extended two more nights.

Organizers even cite God's work in scheduling evangelist Ken Freeman.

Organizers began planning in November, far too late to book a youth

evangelist like Freeman, who normally is scheduled at least 18 months out.

But Holt and other organizers were convinced Freeman was the person they needed. They picked a date as they met together and prayed.

Later that morning, Don Allensworth of Green Acres Baptist Church called the person who schedules Freeman's crusades.

He was told that earlier that morning, about the time the Tyler trio was praying, a first in Freeman's ministry had occurred. Two churches in different locations called the same morning to cancel engagements with Freeman. The two dates that had just opened up were the front end and back end of the same week.

And that week was the very week the Tyler churches wanted Freeman to come preach at "Fish the Planet."

Habitat links with NCC

NEW YORK (RNS)—The National Council of Churches and Habitat for Humanity International have agreed to work together to advance their work for the poor.

Officials of the two Christian organizations met in early March and signed a memorandum of understanding about mutual goals.

"What we hope to do is work with Habitat to expand the appeal of house construction to churches," said John Briscoe, director of development for the NCC. "They see it as a valuable way of building houses. We see it as a valuable way of building churches because it's our experience that churches that stretch themselves and reach out to their communities become stronger churches."

More than 25,000, or 18 percent, of the NCC's 140,000 affiliated churches have supported local Habitat affiliates.

Religious freedom panel urges strong response against Sudan

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Reiterating its call for Washington to take action to end religious persecution in Sudan's long-running civil war, a federal panel on religious freedom has appealed to the Bush administration to mount a "comprehensive, sustained campaign" that is "commensurate with the Sudanese government's abuses."

In a report released March 21, the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom said the Sudanese government's abuse of human rights has reached "genocidal proportions," and has worsened since the commission's annual report on religious freedom issued last May.

That report had urged Washington to help end the 18-year-old civil war in Sudan by tightening sanctions against the country, creating a "military no-fly zone" over Sudan and pressuring the Sudanese government to end human rights violations.

Since 1983, more than 2 million people have died in fighting and war-induced famines in Sudan in the struggle between the Islamic government in the north and autonomy-seeking groups in the predominantly animist and Christian south.

In its recent report, the commission said the Clinton administration "did take some steps to address the situation" such as targeting aid to southern

Sudan and the National Democratic Alliance opposition group.

But the administration "fell well short of the comprehensive, sustained campaign that the Commission believes is commensurate with the Sudanese government's abuses," the commission concluded.

"The Commission urges the Bush administration to mount such a campaign," the panel said.

Economic sanctions against Sudan should also be strengthened, the report said, and foreign companies doing business with Sudan should be required to disclose that information to investors in America when using markets in the United

States to raise money.

The commission discouraged any appointment of an ambassador to Sudan. Commissioners suggested instead that Bush appoint an envoy "whose sole responsibility is directed to bringing about a peaceful and just settlement of the war in Sudan and an end to religious freedom abuses and humanitarian atrocities committed by the Sudanese government."

Sudan already is under U.S. sanctions because of its alleged support of terrorism and persecution of Christians. The United States cited those allegations when it thwarted Sudan's bid to gain entry into the U.N. Security Council last October.

Mainline churches face tough choices, scholars say

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Unless mainline Protestant churches can refocus their energies and trim their public agenda, they risk losing their historic and important voice on social issues, scholars said at a recent conference.

For decades, the mainline churches—Methodists, Lutherans, Presbyterians and others—quietly have fed the homeless, nursed the sick and pushed a progressive social

agenda in Washington. They rarely sought publicity for their work, and largely agreed to work with anyone who shared their mission.

But there is a growing sense that perhaps the quiet voice of the mainline churches is not loud enough in the public sphere, and that maybe the churches have taken on so many projects that their influence has become diluted.

"We have to ask whether by taking on everything ... the mainline has spread itself too thin and therefore has fewer success stories to

share," said James Wind, president of the Alban Institute, an organization which studies congregational life.

The two-day conference on Capitol Hill was sponsored by the Aspen Institute, a Washington think tank.

In an age when denominational labels matter less and less, Wind said the mainline churches must link with Roman Catholics and evangelicals on projects where they can be truly effective.

Together, the mainline churches represent a potentially powerful army of 22 million members in 75,000 congregations. They take in \$11 billion in collections annually, and mainline Protestants are more likely than evangelical Protestants to be involved in civic affairs, volunteer programs and community organizations.

Robert Wuthnow, a Princeton University scholar and leading mainline researcher, said the churches must learn to work with, and not simply on behalf of, groups they are trying to support. In particular, Wuthnow said, mainline churches have long been committed to racial justice but have been unable to craft an alliance with predominantly black church groups.

"Of all the issues we studied, this was the one in which mainline efforts had the least success," Wuthnow said. Sometimes the churches suffer from a bad case of "moral laryngitis," he said.

Bipartisan bills for faith-based plan offered in House & Senate

WASHINGTON—President Bush's faith-based initiative moved down Pennsylvania Avenue to Capitol Hill March 21, with both houses of Congress introducing similar—but substantively different—versions to help faith-based groups provide social services.

Reps. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., and Tony Hall, D-Ohio, unveiled the entire Bush proposal in the "Community Solutions Act of 2001" which would allow taxpayers to donate more to charity and allow religious groups to compete for federal funds to provide social services.

But the Senate version, introduced by Sens. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Rick Santorum, R-Pa., would only increase charitable giving and leaves out Bush's most controversial element—the expansion of "charitable choice" programs to fund faith-based groups.

Santorum previously said he is leaving out the funding proposal in order to give the White House more time to fine-tune the program and address concerns raised by both liberals and conservatives.

Still, church-state watchdog groups are calling the plan "dead on arrival" because of Bush's plan to funnel money to private religious groups.

The House bill would allow nonitemizing taxpayers to deduct charitable donations from their taxes and allow tax-free giving to charity from Individual Retirement Accounts.

In addition, the bill would allow people to write off food donations to charities and expand the Individual Development Accounts program, which matches banks with low-income investors. Participating banks would match up to \$500 a year and receive a tax credit.

Some estimates say the new rules could produce an extra \$14 billion in charitable giving each year.

Coming to Buck Grove Baptist Church
Sunday, April 1, 7 p.m.

Fanny Crosby

"Aunt Fanny" visits churches all across the nation. Come visit with Darlene Nepture as she brings Fanny Crosby to life to share the glorious experiences behind many of her more than 8,000 hymns.

*Blessed Assurance • Pass Me Not, Oh Gentle Savior
Rescue the Perishing • Tell Me the Story of Jesus
To Thine be the Glory • Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

Buck Grove Baptist Church
255 Buck Grove Road, Ekron, Ky.

Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse under fire in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (RNS)—The humanitarian relief agency run by evangelist Franklin Graham is coming under fire for allegedly proselytizing in El Salvador while using government funds to build shelters for victims of the recent earthquake.

The New York Times reported that workers with Samaritan's Purse held prayer meetings before showing local residents how to build the temporary shelters. The group has received \$202,000 from the U.S. Agency for International Development for relief work in El Salvador.

Although federal officials did not say relief workers had linked their evangelism with their humanitarian work, the agency nonetheless had concerns about "significant religious/proselytizing purpose or content" and would fund only programs "which do not have the primary effect of advancing religion."

A statement issued by Samaritan's Purse said the money for the shelter project has been promised by USAID, but has yet to be delivered, meaning "not one nickel" of the money described was actually federal money.

Graham, the son of legendary evangelist Billy Graham, said his organization had a total budget last year of \$135 million, and only \$3.9 million came from USAID. The statement said no government money is ever "used to fund any of our direct Christian ministry, whether it be evangelism, Bibles and Christian literature or any other kind of spiritual program."

What's more, Samaritan's Purse said it does not require the people it helps to participate in evangelizing programs. "Samaritan's Purse makes its physical aid available to anyone on the basis of need and never requires participation in any religious programs as a condition for receiving relief."

Still, critics say this case demonstrates why President George W. Bush's plan to fund faith-based programs runs afoul of the constitutional separation of church and state.

"What more proof do we need that our tax money is funding groups which are first and foremost religious, and devoted to recruitment?" said Ellen Johnson, president of American Atheists.

Christian agency touts hunger-fighting plan

By Shelvia Dancy
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—For less than what Americans spend each year on videotapes, jewelry and liquor, the United States could help reduce by half the number of people worldwide suffering from hunger within 20 years.

That's the opinion of leaders at Bread for the World Institute, a grassroots Christian anti-hunger group that released its latest report last week.

For about \$1 billion a year during the next 15 years, Congress could remove about 512 million people from among the estimated 800 million people worldwide who suffer from hunger, the report concludes.

"Individuals in the United States spend \$7 billion a year on videotape rentals, \$20 billion at jewelry stores and \$24 billion at liquor stores," the report notes. "Compared to these expenditures, \$1 billion a year is a modest sum. It is morally unimaginable that we wouldn't respond generously to the needs of our global neighbors."

More than one-third of the world's chronically hungry people live in South Asia, where approximately 500 million people live on less than \$1 a day and half of all children are underweight, the report states. More than 294 million hungry people live in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal.

Among countries in North Africa and the Near East, Yemen, Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran are home to 78 percent of the 36 million chronically hungry people in the region, according to the report.

The report urges Congress to pay particular attention to countries in sub-Saharan Africa, where Bread for the World officials say one person out of three is chronically undernourished, and 291 million people live on less than \$1 a day.

"Hunger has dropped dramatically in developing countries during the last 30 years, but tragically, it has doubled in sub-Saharan Africa," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World Institute. "If we want to cut world hunger in half by 2015, we have to start where hunger hits hardest."

In the Western Hemisphere, 30 percent of people in South and Central America suffer from hunger, and "the worst food crisis" can be found in Colombia, the report concludes.

In the United States, nearly 31 million people are "food insecure"—"meaning they resort to emergency food banks each month or skip meals to pay for rent."

A yearly contribution of \$1 billion from the United States could generate companion donations of \$3 billion each year from other industrialized nations and developing countries, the report says.

"The United States, the most powerful of the industrialized nations, is often the least generous," noted Beckmann. "So when the United States

proposes an initiative to help developing countries, other industrialized countries are typically willing to support it."

Such an effort would have the support of the U.S. public, the report adds, citing a recent survey that shows more than 80 percent of Americans polled favored the allocation.

Not only is fighting global hunger a moral obligation for the United States, such efforts also are in the best interests of the country "from security, humanitarian and economic perspectives," the report states.

"Persistent poverty and hunger cause conflict and instability in developing countries," the report says. "Seventy-five percent of state failure, civil war, insurgency and instability since the Cold War has occurred in the world's poorest countries. ... While environmental stress and ethnicity explain these crises in part, hunger, poverty and economic stress are underlying causes."

Invitation to a Deeper Journey

May 4-6

A retreat led by
Robert Mulholland
of Asbury Seminary
at deftRock Retreat Center
Call (800) 719-0600

WORLD VIEW

■ **Olympic bid draws religious liberty objections.** A campaign against Beijing's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games has been launched by the Center for Religious Freedom at the Washington-based religious liberty organization Freedom House. The campaign's appeal to the International Olympic Committee is being waged "on the basis that China is a severe religious persecutor," according to the group's statement.

■ **Tolstoy's kin wants excommunication reconsidered.** The great-great-grandson of Russian writer Leo Tolstoy has asked the Russian Orthodox Church to reconsider its century-old ruling that excommunicated the famous author of such classics as "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina." Vladimir Tolstoy called forgiveness for his ancestor a matter of national reconciliation. The Russian Orthodox Church excommunicated Leo Tolstoy on Feb. 24, 1901, labeling heretical his rejection of the church's authority in favor of a philosophy that favored self-reformation and introspection. Those beliefs remain "just as heretical as they were during his lifetime," a church spokesman said.

■ **Church launches fund for foot-and-mouth victims.** A Church of England fund set up last year to help pig farmers affected by the outbreak of swine fever has been adapted and relaunched as a national fund to help farmers affected by the foot-and-mouth disease crisis. Trustees of the fund are meeting every other day to decide on grants, which are allocated on the basis of recommendations from third parties such as clergy and farm crisis network groups. The disease also is affecting the church's life and work in other ways, including the cancellation of services in areas immediately affected.

Church study: Size matters, but biggest not always the best

LONDON (RNS)—Size matters when it comes to church growth.

But biggest isn't always best. Instead, according to a study by two Church of England clergy, it's the churches with the smallest congregations that do best when it comes to bucking the trend and encouraging more people to come to church.

Canon Robert Warren, on the staff of Springboard, the Church of England's resource center for evangelism, and Bob Jackson, vicar of St Mary's, Scarborough, studied figures for church attendance in 1989 and 1998 at nearly 9,000 churches across the denominational spectrum.

They found that most churches with large congregations—over 50, and especially over 200—were declining in numbers, and it was small congregations that showed an increase.

Other factors included having a good mix of generations and ethnicities, having a special service for young people and having run a course for at least three years designed to introduce people to Christianity.

The study led the researchers to draw up a list of practices churches should follow if they wish to grow rather than decline in numbers. A pilot project has begun in the Archdiocese of York with 37 churches with a usual Sunday attendance of 150 people or more. Of those, 17 churches have turned a 5 percent decline into a 1 percent attendance increase in three years.

Missions Adventure Camp

If you or your church have young boys looking for a great camp experience, I want to urge you to give the new Mission Adventure Camp a try this summer at Cedarmore and RABRO.

This exciting new camp, in only its second year in this present format, was a great success last summer for those who came.

The camp is led by Dwayne Doyle of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department. Dwayne joined that staff nearly two years ago with a new vision for what boys' camping could become for Kentucky Baptists. In a short amount of time, his leadership has brought an exciting new perspective for this camp for boys.

Dwayne has worked with great enthusiasm and put forth a tireless effort to move this program solidly in the right direction. His passion and commitment for reaching and teaching young boys the merits and responsibilities of the Christian walk and missions is contagious.

For years Baptists had a rich heritage of boys' camping in this state. Thousands of boys came to RABRO and experienced Christ

under the leadership of dedicated men who modeled and lived the love of Christ. Dwayne has come to serve Kentucky Baptists, and I know he has a deep burden to see boys' camping prosper once again.

He's making changes in the Mission Adventure Camp program that will make the young boys say, "I want to go to that camp!"

Dwayne is an exciting individual with a passion for boys and missions that makes for a perfect combination in boys' camping.

So consider what you and your church will do with your boys this summer. If you will take the time to call Dwayne at the KBC offices (502) 245-4101, I know he will go out of his way to tell you about

all the exciting plans he has for this upcoming summer.

He needs your support to make this camp become all that God wants it to be, and the Mission Adventure Camp is deserving of your consideration. To God be the glory for what He is going to do at this camp this summer and in the years ahead.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Samson on the couch: Can Bible characters be analyzed?

By Douglas Todd
Religion News Service

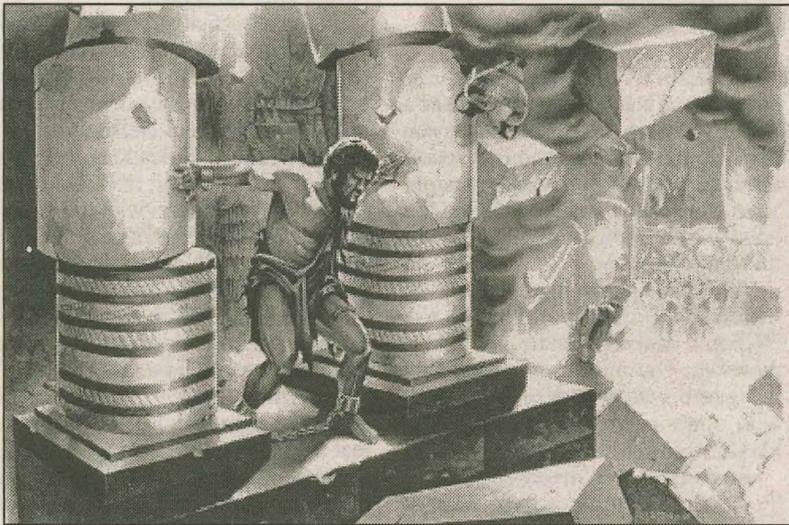
SAN DIEGO (RNS)—Samson, the heroic leader of the ancient Israelites who was undone by the temptress Delilah, exhibited all the symptoms of a serious mental problem called anti-social personality disorder.

A team of psychiatrists at the University of California, San Diego, say Samson must have had the disorder because he was a bully, liar and non-conformist who was impulsive, reckless and cruel to animals. The researchers have just published their findings in the prestigious journal, *Archives of General Psychiatry*.

But contemporary Bible specialists are skeptical about this modern revision of the legendary life of Samson. They say it's the latest manifestation of a dubious trend among contemporary researchers to try to psychoanalyze biblical figures from the distance of several millennia.

A spate of related books have been published in recent years claiming Jesus had to deal with the psychological stress of being born out of wedlock; Eve was a spunky early feminist who wanted to step out in the world, and the patriarch Abraham was psychologically tortured by unusual sexual thoughts.

Jewish and Christian Bible experts find the new psychologizing phenomenon interesting and amusing, suggesting it's not unlike how today's mass media probe the intimate personal lives of American celebrities such as Tom



BIBLICAL BAD BOY Several recent authors have taken to diagnosing biblical characters, including Samson (above), to explain the reason for their actions. But contemporary Bible specialists are skeptical of efforts to psychoanalyze biblical figures from the distance of several millennia. (© 1988 Convention Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.)

Cruise or Oprah.

"It's like giving people the inside skinny on biblical heroes. It helps people identify with them—see them warts and all—and feel closer to them," said Craig Evans, a New Testament scholar at British Columbia's Trinity Western University.

But both Evans and Vancouver Rabbi Robert Daum have serious doubts about whether there is much point in constructing a psychological profile of ancient figures based on the flimsiest details.

The University of California team

led by Eric Altschuler concluded Samson must have had anti-social personality disorder, or ASPD, because:

- He failed to conform to society's norms when he torched the fields of his enemy, the Philistines, and then refused to be arrested.

- He repeatedly lied to his parents, including not telling them he had killed a lion.

- He was impulsive: He burned his fields.

- He engaged repeatedly in fighting, bullying and cruelty to animals, disregarding the safety of others.

- He lacked remorse, as illustrated by his gloating after killing 1,000 men.

"Samson's conduct was unacceptable even in his time—3,000 Israelites (Samson's own people!) captured Samson and delivered him to the Philistines," the researchers wrote, referring to chapter 15 of the Book of Judges.

Asked about the study, Daum said he welcomes almost any kind of research that draws people into thinking in new ways about the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament.

But he maintained it's no wiser for a psychiatrist to diagnose a patient over the telephone than it is to psychoanalyze a figure who can only be known through a story told over campfires thousands of years ago and then written down by someone trying to make a theological point.

Daum views the story of Samson as a dramatic folktale from a radically different culture than our own. It recounts how deeply flawed Samson lost his superhuman strength after Delilah tricked him into cutting his hair, and how he ultimately became a hero to the Israelites by sacrificing his life by tearing down a pagan temple of the Philistines.

The story of Samson follows a traditional narrative form that used hyperbole and stylization to create heroes and villains, said Daum, who teaches at the Vancouver School of Theology on the University of British Columbia. He said the account says as much about the teller as it does about Samson.

A team of psychiatrists says Samson had anti-social personality disorder because he was a bully, liar and nonconformist.

Emily Shipp

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College senior Emily Shipp, the daughter of Doug and Cindy Shipp of Louisville, spent the summer of 2000 as part of the Son Celebration ministry team. She had served on the team the previous summer but found its mission had changed as they moved from a singing team to a worship team.

After two weeks of training at Cedarmore, the team immediately led a summer camp for children from Kentucky Homes for Children. Team members provided recreation, crafts, worship and seminars.

Every weekend, Shipp and the other team members traveled to a different church to lead a youth revival or youth program. While Shipp enjoyed every part of her summer ministry, she especially enjoyed meeting young people in the summer camps and then encountering them as entering freshmen when she returned to Cumberland College.

Shipp, a business major with a minor in communications, has distinguished herself during her Cumberland College career through her Christian service and academic achievements. She is a Presidential Scholar and has ministered through

Cumberland's Appalachian Ministries and Mountain Outreach programs.

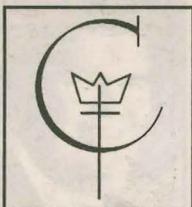
Shipp possesses a beautiful singing voice, which she constantly employs to God's glory. She currently is the lead singer and worship leader for Solace, the Baptist Student Union praise band. Through her experience this past summer and this year with Solace, God has called her to be a worship leader. Shipp would love to sing with a group as long as the emphasis remains on worship.

This summer, Shipp will work as an intern with the Greg Oliver Agency, which represents contemporary Christian artists and speakers including FFH, Mark Schultz and the Darins. While she is a talented vocalist, her business background secured the position for her.

Shipp will graduate one semester early from Cumberland College in December 2001. During her time at Cumberland, she has blessed our campus with her talent and commitment to Christ. As the years pass, we know she will bless the lives of many others as well.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Out of the depths

On the last Saturday in January, I accompanied some staff and guys from our Wilderness Program on the Wild Cave Tour at Mammoth Cave National Park. The entire tour took about six hours.

A lot of the tour was spent on our knees (fortunately, we were furnished knee pads) or on our bellies as we maneuvered through some incredibly tight spaces. I came away from the experience with a better appreciation of what it means to be "between a rock and a hard place!"

On two occasions we experienced total darkness and (in between the giggles of the guys) total silence.

There were times when we had to straddle crevices as we crept along our route. We were told at one place the drop was over 100 feet down, but it was too dark to see the bottom (which suited me fine).

Our two tour guides were super and challenged us all along the way. Needless to say, we were taken out of our comfort zone.

The wild cave tour is part of our camp program for 2001. This year we have camps planned for Georgetown College, Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. We also plan some white water rafting trips.

Each event has a major emphasis on recreation, but the focus is always on Christ. For instance, at Mammoth Cave, we used three Psalms (88, 71, 130) in which each writer mentions being in the depths.

The first writer blames everyone else for his problems, including God.

The second writer tries to get God to zap his enemies because everything is all their fault.

The third writer, however, takes responsibility for his actions and asks God for forgiveness. He also encourages everyone else to seek God's mercy. Thus, we emphasized that each of us must seek the forgiveness that comes from the cross of Jesus Christ and that we should be concerned about the spiritual welfare of others, even of those who have wronged us.

Because of your prayerful support and financial gifts, we are able to get our kids out of their comfort zone and focus on Jesus Christ. Thanks for helping our kids come out of the depths of darkness into God's marvelous light!

Mike Dixon is vice president for religious life at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Contact KBHC at (800) 456-1386 or www.kbhc.org.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Mike Dixon

Hoops founder Naismith had spiritual goals in mind



SPORT OF SAINTS? Some fans of basketball in Kentucky have long mixed the sport with religion, but its founder had a more heavenly goal in mind when he nailed peach baskets at both ends of a Springfield, Mass., gym. (RNS/Reuters photo)

By Elesha Coffman
Christian History Magazine

WHEATON, III.—Christians have not always been the world's biggest sports fans. Puritan pastor William Perkins claimed that recreation "serveth only to make us more able to continue in labour." But the history of basketball gives us something to cheer about.

As you sit down this weekend to watch the Final Four vie for the NCAA's basketball national championship, you might remember that the game was invented by a man who sought "to win men for the Master through the gym."

Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith, a gym teacher at the International Training School of the Young Men's Christian Association in Springfield, Mass. Winter gets cold in Massachusetts, so Naismith wanted to devise an indoor activity that would keep his students busy and fit.

Thinking back to rock-throwing games he'd played during his childhood in rural Ontario, he nailed half-bushel peach baskets to both ends of the Springfield gym, split his 18-member class into two 9-member teams and instructed the boys to try to toss a soccer ball (accurately, not forcefully) into the other team's goal.

It must have been an interesting game: 18 guys crammed onto a gym floor trying to dribble a soccer ball, then scrambling toward the rafters to retrieve the ball from the bottom-intact

basket after each goal.

Naismith quickly refined the game to its current form: two five-player teams, a ball four inches larger in circumference than a soccer ball and hoops with nets and backboards.

With these modifications, the game took off. In January 1892 Naismith published the rules, including prohibitions against "holding, pushing, shouldering, striking, tackling or tripping," in the training school paper. By 1896 the game had reached England, France and Brazil; Australia, China and India soon followed.

Ironically, by 1897 the game had grown so popular in North America that YMCA facilities started banning it. Hotshot teams were monopolizing the gyms. Basketball was introduced to the Olympics at the 1936 Berlin games.

Where's the Christian history in all of this? To start, Naismith, after working his way through high school (he was orphaned at age 9), trained as a Presbyterian minister at McGill University. He taught physical education there before going on to Springfield to study psychology. When he applied at Springfield in May 1889, he was asked, "What is the work of a YMCA physical director?" He answered, "To win men for the Master through the gym."

Naismith later applied to be director of physical education at the University of Kansas, a job he held until his retirement in 1937. In recommending Naismith for the position, A.A. Stagg, "the dean of American foot-

ball," described him as the "inventor of basketball, a medical doctor, a Presbyterian Minister, a teetotaler, an all-around athlete, a non-smoker and the owner of a vocabulary without cuss words." No wonder basketball refs penalize technical fouls.

The YMCA—which used to emphasize the "Christian" aspect much more than it does today—is also important in the development and phenomenal growth of the game. YMCA gyms, basketball's incubators, were opened to provide young men a wholesome alternative to hanging out in saloons. They also were intended to promote civic and religious education.

Like Naismith said on his application, his job at Springfield really was to train men for ministry in the growing Sunday school movement and the similarly expanding YMCA, which at that time pursued "the fourfold program" for fitness: physical, social, mental and spiritual development.

So, as you park yourself in front of the TV for March Madness, note which teams follow Naismith's advice: "Let us be able to lose gracefully and to win courteously; to accept criticism as well as praise; and to appreciate the attitude of the other fellow at all times." Those teams are the real winners, whatever the bracket says.

This article originally appeared on Christian History magazine's Web site, www.christianhistory.net. © Christianity Today International. Reprinted with permission.

The kids are the crop

By Ken Martin
Oneida Farm Manager

When I became farm manager at Oneida Baptist Institute six years ago, my predecessor, Jack Tillman, told me two things that have served me well.

First, don't forget that the kids are the crop. Second, tell the kids to never, never give up.

We recently participated in a regional Future Farmers of America contest day, and the harvest was good. Our sales team took first place and will represent FFA's Kentucky River Region at the state contest in June. Jennifer Martin, Elizabeth Mischler, Bailey Pinson and Candy Whitmer represented Oneida in the sales contest. Jennifer was high individual and Bailey was second high individual.

After the contest, one of the girls said, "Mr. Martin, you told us all along that we could win. You never lost confidence in us." It was easy to have confidence in these girls because they are very talented. The core of our farm program is taking students with few wins and little confidence in themselves and helping them develop the gifts and talents that God has blessed them with. If these girls work hard and don't give up, they will represent our school and region well in June.

Four other students entered the regional FFA proficiency contest. Every student in FFA must have a work program, and the proficiency is a record of the students' goals and achievements. We should do well in this area because of the school farm's many resources. The students and their proficiency areas were: Becky Moore, swine placement; Megan Doyle, beef placement; Adam Clemmons, agricultural mechanics placement; and Justin

Whitworth, agricultural service placement. Becky, Adam and Justin all won at the region and will be in state competition. Quite honestly, we were surprised to do this well. To our dismay, there was no competition in these areas. All of our students had good entries. Congratulations, students. And don't forget, never give up.

FFA takes up a lot of our time now. Mr. Cole is working with 12 students on the parliamentary procedure team. Mr. Covington is in charge of our newest venture. Every day, students feed and groom 10 steers that we are preparing for the FFA calf shows. I am excited about the possibilities in this program. I like work activities that are educational and develop communication skills. These steers also will be used for our livestock judging clinic in July. Mr. Godbold works with the students to arrange monthly recreational events. We will go hiking at our "Bullskin farm" March 31. In addition to preparing the state sales team and teaching agriculture classes, I am working with our officers to get ready for the FFA banquet in April. By the way, our new agriculture education building is almost finished.

In case you're wondering, we still have a farm to operate. Six litters of pigs and two new calves were born Friday night. We are making plans for the spring planting season, and I have noticed the grass is starting to grow. There is always much work to be done, but when I watch the kids cross the swinging bridge on their way to work each day, I remind myself that they are the crop. Thanks, Jack, for helping me get it right.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

From South Africa to Southeastern Ky.

Dorothy and James Ditty Sr. came to Clear Creek as students in 1975. It was a second career move following his nearly 20 years of employment at Goodyear in Ohio.

"Our four children really enjoyed our time here," Dorothy said.

Two sons later graduated from Clear Creek. John is pastor of Harlan Baptist Church and a part-time faculty member. James Jr., a former missionary to Korea, is working with the Ohio Baptist Convention in music and worship.

"Then the wife was able to attend classes free, and I took all I could with my husband," Dorothy stated. "It was here I received a call to missions. The campus WMU was studying Bophuthatswana, Africa, and the Lord's call was so strong. I thought Jim would also have that, but it took 12 years for him to know that certainty."

After graduation they went to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where Jim earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees. "He was willing to go anywhere, anytime and do anything God desired," Dorothy observed. They were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries to South Africa and arrived there in 1988 just prior to the

ending of apartheid. "It was amazing how God moved over the entire country in answer to the prayers of people around the world. I thought there would be a war on Election Day, but God held His arm over the country and it was a peaceful transition. There was not a problem. God does answer prayer!" Dorothy remembered. "Much of my heart is still in Africa. I loved working in the rural areas. It was a rich blessing to share in the enthusiastic worship of the churches and experience the love of the people. In the townships I taught women and children in Bible study and Head Start."

In 2000 James joined the faculty as distinguished professor of missions. Dorothy is grateful for the opportunity to mentor women on campus, and she teaches leadership and personal spiritual growth for the minister's wife certificate. The Dittys continue to accept opportunities to share about missions in the churches. Students seeking God's will about mission service seek them out for dialogue about what to expect on the field.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

Amazing Grace: God's Initiative—Our Response. Timothy George. LifeWay Press, 2000. 160 pages. ◆◆◆ (Out of five)

Timothy George tackles some of the difficult issues surrounding the current SBC debate about Calvinism. He deals with these issues in the context of an interactive study course book published by LifeWay Press.

Recognizing the strongly held positions in Baptist life about such issues

as predestination, limited versus unlimited atonement and irresistible versus resistible grace, George attempts to walk a middle ground, modifying the extreme positions. For example, he advocates changing Calvinism's TULIP acronym (Total depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, Perseverance of the saints) into ROSES (Radical depravity, Overcoming grace, Sovereign election, Eternal life, Singular redemption). While he modifies the harshness of the traditional five points of Calvinism, he still is stuck with the Calvinist conundrum of how we can celebrate the grace of God which only chooses certain people for redemption.

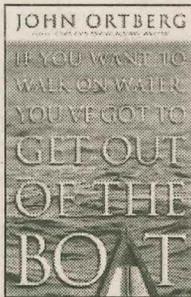
Sometimes, George raises issues that he does not address. For example, he takes issue with Pelagius' understanding of predestination, but does so by arguing Augustine's understanding of free will, pointing out that Pelagius was condemned at the Council of Ephesus in 431. What goes unsaid is that Pelagius was condemned for his view of the role of human agency in salvation, not his view of predestination, per se.

Yet there is much to like in George's attempt to maintain his Calvinist viewpoint, while acknowledging the contribution and corrective of oth-

er voices. This is a difficult topic, and George has dealt with it as fairly as possible given the limitations of the venue. *Jim Holladay*

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat. John Ortberg. Zondervan Publishing, 2001. 212 pages. \$16.99. ◆◆◆◆

Before reading the first page, you know that Peter's experience with Jesus walking on the water is the sub-



ject of this book. My first reaction was the fear that it would be filled with clichés and pabulum.

While the image of Peter getting out of the boat to go to Jesus is used to a maximum, complete with the image of the raging storm, this is a book filled with significant thoughts and encouragement.

Major components of the book deal effectively with taking risks, determining one's gifts, failure in life and ministry, and God's ability to accomplish something in your life. Much of the thought is not original to John Ortberg, but he is much more effective with this material than other attempts I have read. A good bit of the success is Ortberg's conversational style, peppered with ample illustrations.

Ortberg's purpose in writing the book is to present the Christian life in such a way that one would want to encounter Jesus as a life-changing event.

Ortberg succeeds in inviting the reader to want to commit to growing as a Christian. Each chapter ends with questions that make this book ideal for group discussion. A welcome, and honestly unexpected, feature is that the biblical references are from the New Revised Standard Version. *Wayne Hager*

Faith Odyssey: A Journey through Lent. Richard Burrige. Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2001. 226 pages. \$15. ◆◆◆◆

Take heart, all you Trekkies, Here's a group of devotional essays that speak your language.

Richard Burrige's "Faith Odyssey: A Journey through Lent" is a daily spiritual guide through the beginning of Lent all the way through Easter week. Dated in such a way as to be readable annually, it is without a doubt the thematically oddest book of meditations since Andy Griffith found his way into a Bible study series.

Using examples from "Star Trek," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "The Chronicles of Narnia," "Pilgrim's Progress," "The Matrix," "Star Wars," "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," Tolkien, Arthur C. Clarke and even Harry Potter, Burrige draws surprisingly relevant and spiritual themes from science fiction and fantasy and uses them to amplify a daily Scripture.

Even readers who aren't sci-fi fans can appreciate Burrige's thoughtful insights into modern culture and its spiritual messages about how we see such issues as sin, repentance, forgiveness and even Christ Himself. Hardcore fans of Burrige's chosen genre will enjoy the detailed resource appendix in which Burrige lists all his sources by chapter or episode.

Though "Faith Odyssey" is a bit of a novelty, it still packs a spiritual wallop and does not detract from the solemnity of Lent. Rather, it magnifies the meaning of this season of repentance and shadow by showing readers how the symbolism of this season is so pervasive it even shows up in the fantasies of atheists who—without

knowing it—demonstrate a longing for an encounter with the living God. *Victoria Moon*

Invitation to Theology: A Guide to Study, Conversation & Practice. Michael Jinkins. InterVarsity Press, 2001. 272 pages. \$19.99 ◆◆◆◆

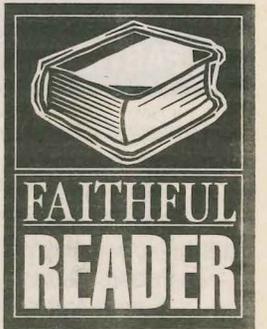
Michael Jinkins, a former pastor and current seminary professor, asserts that theological reflection is essential for the life, health and mission of the church.

"Knowledge and comprehension of God are grounded in our common life before God, and the purpose of our study of God is nothing less than the transformation of our lives 'by the renewing of our minds,'" writes Jinkins, associate professor of theology at Austin Presbyterian Seminary.

Using the Apostles' Creed as his outline, Jinkins manages to accomplish at least three things at one time. He invites us into a conversation with the theological voices and traditions of the church which shape our understanding of such themes as the Trinity, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the church and the resurrection of the dead. Yet, he also manages to develop his own theological framework.

In addition to those two tracks, he invites the reader into the process of theological reflection. Professor Jinkins invites the reader into his classroom. At the end of every class presentation, or chapter, he assigns homework that pushes the reader into further study and reflection.

Jinkins' book is not only an excellent exposition of the Apostles' Creed, it would be an excellent study guide for a small group that wanted to delve more deeply into the foundations of faith. *Jim Holladay*



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

Shootings raise questions of values taught youngsters

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

WHEATON, Ill. (RNS)—California's Santana High School shootings might point to significant cultural problems that can't be understood without considering their religious dimension, according to the author of a new book.

The lasting impact of the Santana shootings—and the violence more than a year earlier at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.—could be that many Americans reconsider the values being imparted to the nation's youth, according to journalist Wendy Murray Zoba.

She examines the religious implications of Columbine in her new book, "Day of Reckoning: Columbine and the Search for America's Soul."

In an interview shortly after the school shooting in California, Zoba said she worries about the enormous questions posed by such violence.

"Our movies glorify people who lock themselves in rooms and go crazy with machine guns," she said. "It's hard to make generalizations, but we are in a cultural environment that makes it easier to justify (violence) in the mind of someone who is already kind of losing it, going over the top."

Zoba, herself the mother of teenagers, is a senior writer for the evan-

gelical magazine Christianity Today and a former overseas reporter for Time magazine. She spent months reporting and reflecting on Columbine and traveled to Littleton, Colo., three times, meeting with students, family members and friends of the victims.

"As a reporter, it was gnawing at me: What happened here?" Zoba said.

"And no parent, myself included, can bear the thought that, in our well-ordered universe, kids can be shot execution-style by their classmates while studying Macbeth in the school library."

Zoba said she believes the Columbine shootings have significant religious implications. The rampage by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold was described by survivors of the incident as "a spiritual battle" in which a palpable sense of evil was present. But Zoba said she wanted to see the discussion taken beyond debate about gun control, media violence and parenting.

In the resulting book, her training in theology lends authority to her exploration of such issues as martyrdom, the existence of evil and the meaning of the cross.

During the final hours of her last visit to Littleton, Zoba sat near the

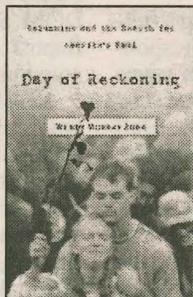
graves. "I wondered how there could ever be enough flowers, pinwheels and Jesus poems to compensate for this loss," she writes.

"There will never be enough blame," Zoba writes. "Brian Rohrbough had called the cross 'a dangerous symbol.' I had come to see it is dangerous, not because it was used to memorialize murderers but because it is the only symbol that can bear the burden of doing so."

Columbine took "us to a place none of us wanted to go," as did the shootings in Santee, Calif., Zoba said. "One of the Columbine students I interviewed inspired me, putting it really well, saying, 'What I'm afraid is everyone is going to look upon us as the generation of the shooters. I want everyone to look upon us as the generation of faithful because we're going to get through this.'"

Zoba urges the nation to examine the fragmented soul-searching of its youth.

"The question is not whether or not the killers (at Columbine) asked their victims whether they believed in God," she said. "The larger question that confronted us as a nation was not do we believe in God, but is God relevant?"



FamilyNet lists Easter programming

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The FamilyNet television network, a subsidiary of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, has announced a lineup of specials for the Easter 2001 season.

All times are Eastern:

■ "He Chose the Nails" with Max Lucado, March 29 at 9 p.m., March 30 at 2 a.m., April 7 at 10 p.m., April 11 at 8 p.m., April 14 at 1 a.m. and April 14 at noon.

■ "Francesco's Friendly World: The Last Stone," April 3 at 4 p.m., April 4 at 5 a.m., April 7 at 9 a.m., April 11 at 4 p.m., April 12 at 9 p.m. and April 13 at 2 a.m.

■ "The Quest," a program that takes viewers to the Holy Land, April 3 at 5 a.m., April 13 at 5 a.m., April 13 at 9 p.m. and April 19 at 2 a.m.

■ "The Promise," a musical drama based on the life of Christ, April 6 at 4 a.m., April 14 at 4 a.m. and April 14 at 10 a.m.

■ "The Life of Christ," the Fort Lauderdale Easter Pageant, April 3 at 4 a.m., April 11 at 2 a.m. and April 13 at 4 p.m.

■ "The First Easter," an animated family special, April 2 at 5 p.m., April 5 at 5 a.m., April 13 at 5 p.m. and April 14 at 9 a.m.

■ "The Wall," a drama of two condemned prisoners in their prison cell on Good Friday, April 5 at 4 a.m., April 13 at 4 a.m. and April 14 at 3 p.m.

Based in Fort Worth, Texas, FamilyNet is a full-time television network airing more than 50 hours of original, values-based programs weekly.

Kentucky affiliates include Ashland, Campbellsville, Corbin, Hopkinsville, Louisville, Paducah and Scottsville. For more information, call Stan Grubb at (800) 832-6638.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ National Tanzanian evangelist/church planter Abell Urio; his wife, Justin; and their three children as they adjust to living in Ifakara, Tanzania, far from family and friends. The city also is a Muslim stronghold.

■ Prayer warriors willing to intercede for the work of the seminary in Arusha, Tanzania. Missionaries are asking for people who will pray five minutes a day and enlist 10 others each to join them in daily prayer. For information, contact renrwalden@cs.com.

■ Three volunteer teams from the States as they prepare to go to Debica and Tarnobrzeg, Poland, this summer to begin Bible study cell groups.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ BREMEN—Pleasant Hill Church called Conard Barnes from Rockport, Ind., as pastor.

■ CADIZ—Donaldson Creek Church hosted a youth revival led by Murray State University's Baptist Student Union. Six decisions were made. Robert McIntosh is pastor.

Second Church will host revival services April 17-19. Donald Brown will be the evangelist. Charles Brown is pastor.

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Saloma Church will host a Maundy Thursday service April 12 at 8 p.m. John

What's going on?

Send your happenings to Shirley Wooton for Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: shirley.wooton@kybaptist.org.

FOR SALE: Choir robes. 60 wedgewood blue robes with reversible stoles. Good to very good condition. \$25 each. Also for sale: 54 silver/gold reversible satin stoles, \$5 each. For information, call Don at FBC, Franklin, Ky., (270) 586-3205 or e-mail: don@franklinfbc.org.

FOR SALE: Pews. 80 in various lengths (28 at 20 feet or more, 50 at 13 to 18 feet). Medium-light color stain, padded. Make offer. Buyer must transport. Call: (931) 526-7108; e-mail: gharvey@fbccookeville.org.

FOR SALE: 1989 low-mileage, 15-passenger van. Send bid to Buena Vista Baptist Church, 119 W 24th St., Owensboro, KY 42303.

FOR SALE: 12x60 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; lecturn; pulpit. Contact Tommy Hunt, (270) 782-2299.

NEEDED: Volunteers: M.D.; dentist; dental assistant; daycare personnel. Fifth trip to Ecuador: July 19-31. Work with IMB missionaries to set up a clinic and daycare program in Andes Mountains. Cost: \$1,100 total. Contact Tim Scott, M.D., (859) 223-7441.

RETREAT: Invitation to a Deeper Journey, led by Robert Mulholland of Asbury Seminary, May 4-6 at cleftRock Retreat Center. Further information, call: (800) 719-0600.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Perryville Baptist Church, Boyle County. Vibrant congregation, active music and youth ministries. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 26, Perryville, KY 40468.

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

Chowning is pastor.

■ CENTRAL CITY—Calvary Church will host revival services April 8-13. Matt Wilkins will preach. Pastor James Shutt resigned effective May 6. He will be available for revivals, interim and supply work. For information, call (270) 754-5317.

■ ELK HORN—Yuma Church will host revival services April 8-12. Dave Walters will be the evangelist. George Gaddie is pastor.

■ EVARTS—Turner Church honored Pastor Jerry Kirby recently for 20 years of ministry as its pastor.

■ FRANKFORT—Calvary Church called Dwayne Southwood, previously pastor of Corydon Missionary Church, as pastor.

■ GRAHAM—Unity Church will host revival services April 6-8. Roger Skipworth will preach. Richard Browning is pastor.

■ GREENVILLE—Roland Memo-

rial Church will host revival services April 1-5.

Chad Watson was ordained into the gospel ministry March 11. Watson was called as pastor of New Gasper Church in Rockfield.

■ HENDERSON—Community Church's choir will present "Celebrate Life" April 13-15 at 7 p.m. John Dunaway is pastor.

■ HARLAN—Harlan Church will present a live dramatization of Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" April 10 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. John Ditty is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Davis Memorial Church and Pleasant Ridge Church, Leavenworth, Ind. will present the cantata "Written in Red" April 8 at 10:45 a.m. at Davis Memorial Church and at 3 p.m. at Pleasant Ridge Church. Wes Brockway is pastor of Davis Memorial Church.

■ LOYALL—Calvary Church celebrated Pastor John Lambert's 45th anniversary in the gospel ministry.

■ PELLVILLE—Pellville Church called Chuck Fuller as pastor. Fuller previously was pastor of Limestone

Church in Bedford, Ind. Jason Drenon is youth minister.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—Second Church will present The Christos "The Passion Drama of Christ" April 11-14 at 7 p.m. Free admission, reservations only. For information, call (270) 726-6461.

■ SLAUGHTERS—Slaughters Church dedicated its new sanctuary March 25. Brad Rogers is pastor.

■ TAYLORSVILLE—Kings Church will host a welcoming service for new pastor Michael Hail and family and a dedication service for the family life center April 1 at 10:30 a.m. For information, call (502) 538-6902.

■ WADDY—Graefenburg Church called Fred Moffatt as pastor.

■ WILLIAMSBURG—South Union-Mount Zion Association will host a missions fair 5 p.m., March 31, at Main Street Church. Twenty-eight churches will host a missions celebration April 1-4 at 6:30 p.m. Missionaries representing the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and state missions will participate. For information, call (606) 549-9231. Janus Jones is director of missions.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Brooksville Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Brooksville Baptist Church, PO Box 126, Brooksville, KY 41004. For inquiries, call (606) 735-3346.

SEEKING: South County Baptist Church in suburban St. Louis, Mo., is seeking a full-time minister of worship. Prefer seminary degree and experience to bring enthusiastic musical and drama leadership to worship planning, directing choir rehearsals and leading dynamic worship services. Our church is 13 years old with a multi-staff ministry averaging 300 in Bible study, 400 in worship. If interested, please contact: Minister of Worship Search Committee, South County Baptist Church, 5115 Butler Spur Road, St. Louis, MO 63128. Fax: (314) 843-6122. E-mail: SOCOBAPTIST@aol.com. Web site: www.southcountyvision.com. All replies will be held in strictest confidence. Phone inquiries or leads may be directed to Rev. John L. Hessel, senior pastor, at (314) 843-5558, ext. 122.

SEEKING: Concord Baptist Association is seeking for God's man to serve as full-time director of missions. Please submit resumé by April 15 to DOM Search Committee, Concord Baptist Association, 1021 W Buchanan, Suite 15, California, MO 65018.

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: 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 for growing church. Contact Jean Bezold, FBC, 600 N Fort Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, KY 41075.

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

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

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.

Ministry helps Christian addicts walk spiritual path

By Yvonne Betowt
Religion News Service

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (RNS)—Seven people gathered around a table on a recent Thursday night in a classroom at Farley Community Church.

Taped on the wall was a poster with an image of Jesus. Several Bibles were lying on the table among other printed materials. After prayer requests were shared, Pat Traglia, the group's leader, offered a prayer and read a statement of faith. She asked each class member to read some Scripture verses and verbally answer some related questions posed in their workbooks.

The group included people with Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran and Pentecostal backgrounds. It consisted of a couple of homemakers, a teacher, an office manager, a retired tire retailer and a former utility operator. But that's where their differences ended.

"Hi, I'm Kent, and I'm an alcoholic and an addict," said one man as he began to read from the Scriptures. "Hi, I'm Linda, and I'm an addict," said the next person.

And so it went around the table as each one read from his or her Alcoholics for Christ workbook.

The group at Farley is one of 71 A/C chapters operating in 27 states that offer specifically Christian help for recovering alcoholics and their family members. There also are five international groups.

A/C meetings are not just for alcoholics, however. They're for anyone suffering from some kind of substance abuse or other addictive behavior, for family members of abusers and for adult children of alcoholics, said Traglia, who started the Farley group in December.

A/C, an interdenominational non-profit group, is based on the same 12-step program as Alcoholics Anonymous but stresses specifically Christian approaches to combating addiction and encourages all members to join a Bible-believing congregation. It says it does not compete with AA.

The program is the brainchild of two recovering alcoholics—Bill and Jim—who attended AA retreats in Detroit in 1976. They eventually organized an AA men's retreat in February 1977 at which all the leaders were born-again Christians. By the end of the retreat, almost every man attending had made a commitment of faith, and the movement that would become Alcoholics for Christ was born.

"The 12 (AA) steps are wonderful and definitely biblical," said Bill, one of the A/C co-founders, in a telephone interview from his home in Arkansas. "As a born-again Christian, you can't talk about Jesus in AA, and you couldn't talk about recovery in church. Actually, you need both."

A spokesman at the local AA central office declined to comment on the A/C groups and referred to an AA statement saying: "AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety."

For Traglia, AA helped put her on the straight and narrow path and A/C is keeping her there. She said there's a need for both groups.

"I will always go to AA, but A/C has given me an outside door to share our faith together, acknowledging that Jesus Christ is why we have this life," she said.

"I knew I was home when I walked into this church," she added.

Farley not only provides a place for the group to meet, it also has a small budget for the printed handout materials for the class members.

"This is very fulfilling to me," said Kent, who is retired and attends about 15 support group meetings each week. "This is the most important meeting I attend. You have to have a higher power to believe it, which is what AA believes. We just put a name with our higher power—Jesus."

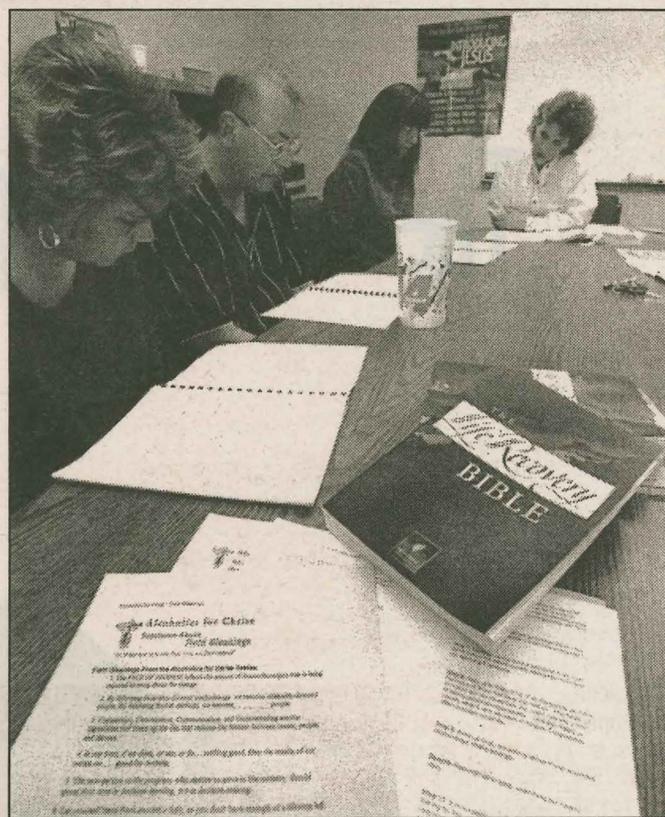
Traglia and Kent, who did not want his last named used, say if they had not kicked their habits—she with alcohol, drugs and smoking; he with prescription drugs and marijuana—they probably would not be alive today.

"I was living on the edge," said Traglia, a 37-year-old mother of two. "I would be dead if I hadn't gotten treatment. ... I thought it was normal to drink, and I drank to cope with whatever situation I faced. I tried to stop, but when it came the weekend, I couldn't."

Kent said he was trying to support a \$500-a-month prescription drug and marijuana habit when he finally realized he needed help.

"After my first treatment, it was three weeks before I could admit I was an addict," he said. "I thought of an addict as a person who lived under a bridge. But after I had three psychotic episodes and began losing touch with reality, I knew I needed help."

In 1978, the A/C founders took the 12-step AA program as a base and began to develop a Scripture-based program, which is printed in the workbook. Members consider their workbook the most important piece of literature behind the Bible. The book includes Scripture verses and poses ques-



tions for class members to answer or interpret.

As the Farley group meeting came to a close, Traglia opened a plastic bag of colored chips and handed them out to those who had completed a milestone—a white chip for a first-timer, a red for one month attendance, green for three months, blue for six months, yellow for nine months and a medallion for one year.

Then the seven recovering addicts clasped hands, bowed their heads and repeated the Lord's Prayer—with special emphasis on the phrase, "Deliver us from evil."

SUPPORT GROUP
Pat Traglia (right) leads an interdenominational Alcoholics for Christ discussion group at Farley Community Church in Huntsville, Ala. (RNS photo by Patricia Miklik)

Georgia church's quilt ministry wraps recipients in love & prayer

By Kathleen Thompson
Baptist Press

EPWORTH, Ga. (BP)—What do these three people have in common?

Eight-year-old Sarah was waiting for her surgery in the pre-operative area of the Scottish Rite Hospital. Sarah had been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

"There were seven kids having surgery and it was bedlam," her father John Walton recounted. "She was sitting in my lap and understandably frightened."

At the door to the cubicle appeared Sarah's pastor, Tom Jordan. In his hand was a teddy bear blanket, which Sarah immediately reached for. She was wrapped in the blanket while they prayed. The blanket has continued to be a great source of comfort to Sarah. It has accompanied her to all of her appointments and was even spread over her during an MRI test.

Peggy, meanwhile, suffers from a degenerative spine condition that has forced her, at age 52, into retirement. In the past two years she has had two major surgeries. Her hand-stitched lap quilt provides comfort both physically and spiritually. "I take it with me to doctors appointments. Offices can be too cool due to air conditioning and often I have to sit waiting for a doctor for several hours," she said.

Every night when Eric's mother tucks him into bed, she lays his lap-size quilt over his blanket. "He is having a hard time with the death of his father and why God would take his dad," his mother said. "The quilt made teaching him that God loves him a nightly affair."

All three are recipients of a lap quilt or blanket from the quilt ministry of First Baptist Church of Epworth, Ga. All of the blankets and quilts have been prayed over and represent a desire by the church's quilters to share the love and healing of Jesus Christ.

Every other Tuesday the women meet and work at two quilt frames. Not everyone in the ministry quilts, but everyone has a role. One member cuts squares, while another stitches around the edges of blankets or embroiders squares. Others support the ministry by providing food or the funds to purchase fabric. Lunch is potluck and is attended by Pastor Jordan, church secretary Priscilla Jordan and music minister Bart Starr.

Several kinds of quilts are created by the volunteers. Some are hand-embroidered or appliqued with traditional designs on white quilt squares and hand-stitched on the frames—and particularly well-liked by older recipients. Other quilts are store-bought with printed designs and can be hand-

stitched or tacked. "It doesn't matter what kind, it's the love and prayers that matter," quilter Ruth Ballew explained.

The blankets are especially helpful when time is an issue. Since they only require cutting and binding, they can be delivered on short notice.

The message attached to each quilt or blanket is direct and sincere: "This quilt was made as an expression of Jesus' love for you. With each stitch we have prayed that this quilt would bring you comfort. When life gets tough wrap yourself in this quilt and remember you are in our prayers."

A blanket sent to a 40-year-old man in Pennsylvania who was dying of cancer and given two weeks to live arrived the day before his funeral. The family, who had recently lost two other family members, was amazed at the love expressed by those who live so far away. The blanket was displayed at the funeral and now gives comfort to the man's widow.

The quilt ministry recently gave blankets to every church youth who is attending college. The idea began with a request for a blanket by the mother of a college freshman. She was worried that her daughter might neglect her faith while attending a secular college. The mother reasoned that the blanket would remind her daughter of her church's senior saints and the faith she

was raised with. Special notes were written to the students to express the women's prayers for the strengthening of each student's faith.

A bulletin board at First Baptist Church displays photos of the quilts and notes of thanks.

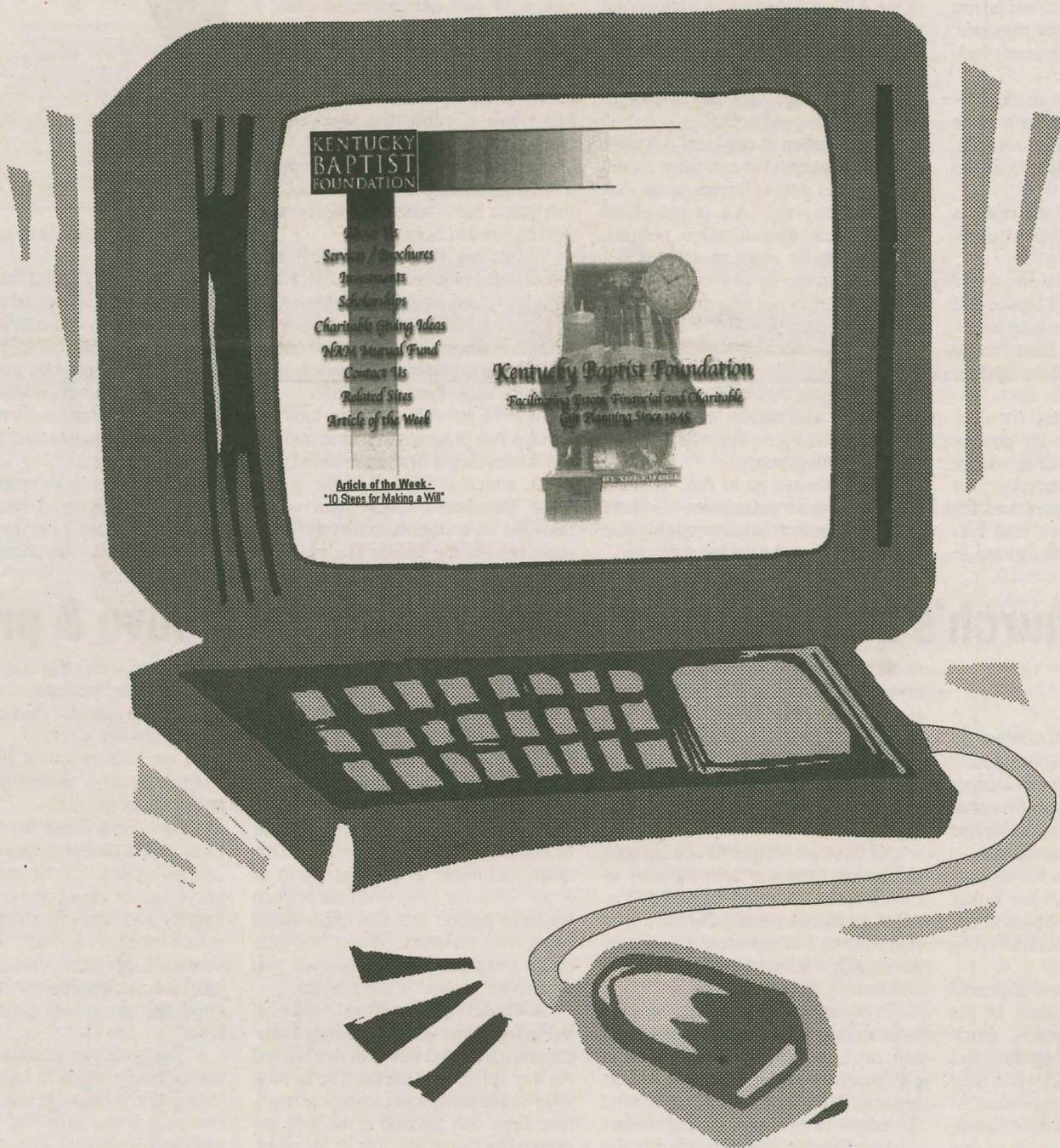
"Each time I use my lap quilt, I think of the time that was put into it," Jonnie writes. "Your thoughts and prayers made the anxious hours before surgery and while waiting for the results a lot easier to bear." One elderly woman's daughter wrote, "Her eyes sparkled as she showed it to me. Indeed she does feel comforted and love."

"The quilt you presented me covers me many nights as I sleep," writes Vicki, who is battling cancer. "The real covering is the love and prayers the quilt represents."

As for 8-year-old Sarah, she has started her own blanket ministry. While recovering from her surgery, Sarah and her family developed many friendships at the hospital and on Internet support lines. They now deliver blankets to young brain tumor victims at the hospital and through the mail.

"Every time I see Sarah's blanket it brings back memories," her father recounted. "I can't tell you how much we appreciated this very special, unexpected gift."

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