

May 29, 2001
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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, May 30

Study: Churches should offer more post-wedding counselingBy Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

OMAHA, Neb. (RNS)—In the months and weeks leading up to that all-important walk down the aisle, most pastors advise couples to explore their differences on a host of issues ranging from sex to money to parenting.

A new Creighton University study, however, says the most important counseling might actually need to occur after the honeymoon, when couples report most problems center around three issues—time, sex and money.

Creighton researchers surveyed 947 couples married five years or less and found the most basic trouble spots in marriage haven't changed much. But what they found was missing was strong, church-sponsored follow-up

counseling that can help couples steer away from divorce.

The first five years are critical in any marriage, said Michael Lawler, director of Creighton's Center for Marriage and Family. Half of all divorces occur within the first five years, and 30 percent within the first three years. The most critical point in a marriage is the third year, he said.

That's about the time when the church should step in with strong parenting classes, money management classes, communication courses and mentoring programs, Lawler said.

"Five years ago we suggested that marriage prep classes will carry you only so far because situations change," he said, "so there needs to be some kind of post-marriage enrichment, at around five years."

Only 6 percent of the couples surveyed registered as "highly adjusted,"

while more than twice as many, 14 percent, classified themselves as "distressed." Lawler said those numbers show that typical marital strains are coming earlier.

"It's becoming clear that what used to be the 7-year itch is now closer to a 5-year itch," Lawler said. "Something changes."

The research focused primarily on Catholic couples. It found many Catholic churches offer programs to young married couples, but even officials concede they could do better at marketing them and making them accessible to families, who often are balancing young children and two careers.

Particularly troubling for church leaders was the finding that the church is sometimes the last place where couples go for help. Fifty-seven percent turn to friends first, and 46 percent

turn to parents. Most people said they were unaware of services offered by churches or did not use them.

"We're on the right track," said Shelia Garcia, assistant director of the family office for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Now that we know what the issues are, we need to try to keep the connection with these couples."

Gail Risch, a Creighton researcher who worked on the study, cautioned that local churches need to be flexible in what programs they offer and cannot create carbon copy programs and expect them to work for everyone.

Risch said most couples said they would not want to be part of a mentoring program with older couples, and the most effective way to offer help was by a personal invitation. "Don't just presume your couples are just like all other couples."

Barna: People expect Web to have growing impact on faith

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—The growing confluence of religion and cyberspace is leading Americans to predict that more of them will use the Internet for specific religious experiences in coming years, the Barna Research Group reports.

Currently, 8 percent of adults and 12 percent of teenagers use the Internet for spiritual or religious experiences, the organization recently reported. Two percent of teens and fewer than 1 percent of adults say they use the Internet instead of a physical church.

But when asked about the likelihood that they will use the Internet for religious experiences in the future, more than two-thirds of those surveyed said they were likely to do so on a regular basis within the decade. Those experiences might include reading online devotional material, buying religious products online and listening to archived religious teaching.

"By the end of the decade we will have in excess of 10 percent of our population who rely upon the Internet for their entire spiritual experience," predicted George Barna, president of Barna Research Group. "Some of them will be individuals who have not had a connection with a faith community, but millions of others will be people who drop out of the physical church in favor of the cyberchurch."

One in three Protestant churches has a Web site and four out of five Protestant senior pastors have Internet access, the Ventura, Calif.-based marketing research firm found.

Going up

BAPTIST BUILDERS A team of 35 volunteer Baptist Builders from Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro recently helped build a new sanctuary from the ground up at New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Gilstrap. The project, begun last month, is scheduled to be completed by September, said Liberty Pastor Larry Brown. *Story on page 3. (KBC photo by Tim Beauchamp)*

Rick Warren offers evangelism 'fishing lessons'By Jon Walker
Pastor.com

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)—If you want to be a successful fisherman, you don't look for the most comfortable spot on the lake, according to pastor Rick Warren.

Instead, successful fishermen go where the fish are and make it as easy and attractive as possible for the fish to swallow your hook, said Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

The same is true when fishing for people, Warren told 2,500 ministers from 34 countries during a training conference at his church.

"Unfortunately, many churches

don't take the time to understand the people they want to reach and they don't have a strategy. They want to win people to Christ as long as it can be done in a comfortable way."

Warren said he learned this principle from his father, who was a fisherman.

"If there was only one fish in a lake or stream my dad would catch it," Warren said. "As I got older, I realized his secret: My dad understood fish and caught them on their terms. In contrast, I never had a strategy whenever I went fishing. I'd cast out anywhere in the lake hoping something might bite. While my dad would crawl through brush or get wet up to his waist in order to get to where the fish were, my fish-

ing spots were usually determined by what was most comfortable to me. I had no strategy and my results showed it."

Warren said Jesus gave five fishing lessons for evangelism and that Saddleback grew from only four members to more than 15,000 members by using this simple strategy:

■ **Know what you're fishing for.** "The kind of fish you want to catch will determine every part of your strategy," Warren said. "Fishing for bass, catfish or salmon requires different equipment, bait and timing. You don't catch marlin the same way you catch trout. There's no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to fishing, and the same is true in fishing for men."

□ See Warren's evangelism ..., page 7

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Phase one** of revitalization plans for LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) and LifeWay Glorieta (N.C.) conference centers was launched at a May 15 groundbreaking ceremony for a new hotel and conference center space at Ridgecrest. Upon its completion in the summer of 2002, the \$8.5 million hotel at Ridgecrest will have 120 guest rooms and several thousand square feet of conference space. The first new construction in 27 years at Ridgecrest began in March with construction of the 300-seat Rutland Chapel.

■ **Harry Piland**, a longtime leader of Southern Baptist Sunday school work, died May 24 of brain cancer. He was 72. Piland directed the Sunday school division of the former Baptist Sunday School Board from 1978-94. After retiring from the board, he served three years as associate pastor/minister of education at First Baptist Church of Dallas.

■ **Donna Forrester**, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's top elected leader, is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor discovered earlier this month. Forrester, moderator of CBF, underwent surgery May 21 four days after the tumor was found. Family members reported the surgery went well and Forrester is scheduled to begin chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

■ **James Wideman** has been elected executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England. Wideman, director of missions for Green Mountain Baptist Association which covers the state of Vermont, will begin his new position June 1.

IMB regional leader declines to sign BF&M, resigns post

RICHMOND, Va.—A Southern Baptist International Mission Board regional leader stepped down from his position May 21 after declining to sign a document affirming the revised Baptist Faith and Message adopted last year by Southern Baptist Convention messengers. His resignation will not affect his status as a missionary.

Bill Phillips, regional leader for IMB work in West Africa, said his decision not to sign a statement affirming the document "is a matter of personal conscience related to signing such a form and has nothing to do with the content of the Baptist Faith and Message."

Phillips' action follows a recent announcement that two professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will resign their teaching positions rather than sign the revised faith statement.

Amid such developments, a nine-member Kentucky Baptist Convention committee currently is studying how the state convention can best relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. The committee is expected to release

its report in the next few months.

In January, IMB trustees took action distinguishing between signing the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and signing an affirmation to work "in accordance with and not contrary to" its teachings.



Phillips

Stopping short of requiring missionaries to sign the actual faith statement, the policy requires missionary candidates to sign a statement that reads: "In accountability to the International Mission Board and Southern Baptists, I agree to carry out my responsibilities in accordance and not contrary to the current Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention."

Trustees also affirmed the agency's missionaries and stateside staff members, saying their beliefs already had been adequately screened during the selection process and that nothing more should be required of them.

IMB President Jerry Rankin added, however, that senior-level administrators such as vice presidents and regional leaders would be required to affirm the Baptist Faith and Message.

Despite his personal convictions against signing such a document, Phillips added, "As I stated verbally and in writing to International Mission Board leadership and trustees, I affirm the Baptist Faith and Message as a Baptist statement of doctrine for life, work and leadership. My wife, Mary-Dean, and I both continue to fully support the global mission of IMB missionaries, staff leadership and trustees."

Rankin affirmed Phillips' doctrinal beliefs and expressed regret at his decision to step down. All other elected IMB leaders have signed the affirmation of the Baptist Faith and Message.

"We are grateful for Bill and Mary-Dean's outstanding leadership in West Africa and their passion for reaching a lost world," Rankin said. "I personally regret their decision to step down from their leadership position. Their doctrinal soundness and support of the IMB and our strategies is unquestioned."

"It is appropriate, however, for Southern Baptists to expect leadership to be willing to affirm commitment to the Baptist Faith and Message statement adopted by the SBC, and we regret Bill's decision not to affirm that commitment as requested by the IMB board and administration."

Phillips' resignation from the regional leader's position is effective June 30. Bill Bullington, IMB vice president for overseas services, will serve as interim regional leader for West Africa until a successor to Phillips is elected. Bullington led IMB work in West Africa prior to Phillips' election and served as IMB regional vice president for work on the entire continent.

"Our work in West Africa should continue in the direction that Bill and his colleagues have set," Bullington said. "I love the peoples, our personnel and our Baptist partners in West Africa. God is doing a great work in West Africa, and that has been the focus of Bill Phillips' leadership. I am committed to supporting that focus and momentum."

The Phillipses were appointed by the IMB in 1978 as missionaries to Zambia, where they served until 1985, when he became associate director of Southern Baptist work in eastern and southern Africa. He was named director of work in West Africa in 1991 and became regional leader with the IMB reorganization in 1997.

Based on reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

Texas Baptist Executive Board affirms change in mission funding

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—The report of a committee studying missions-sending agencies received strong support from the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board May 22.

The Executive Board affirmed the study committee's 21-page report, which notes six concerns about the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board and six separate concerns about the SBC's North American Mission Board.

The report calls for no change in funding of the IMB. However, it calls for intensive negotiations with NAMB about mission work in Texas and for keeping in Texas about \$1.28 million that the BGCT sends to NAMB but that NAMB eventually sends back to Texas ministries. The proposal will be presented this fall to BGCT messengers.

IMB rejects moderate group's funds

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is saying "no thanks" to missions gifts being forwarded by a moderate Baptist group.

IMB President Jerry Rankin said the mission board doesn't want money from Mainstream Missouri Baptists, an organization opposed to conservatives who control the Missouri Baptist Convention.

In a recent letter to Doyle Sager, president of the Mainstream group, Rankin said accepting money from alternate channels undermines the Cooperative Program budget that supports the SBC and state convention.

Rankin said it is inappropriate for an SBC agency to accept money while another Southern Baptist entity—in this case the Missouri Baptist Convention—is excluded.

Committee Chairman Jim Denison highlighted several areas of the report and insisted that early responses from some SBC leaders are inaccurate.

For example, a recent Baptist Press article quoted David Hankins, a vice president of the SBC Executive Committee, saying the BGCT recommendation would take \$600,000 away from the IMB.

"Let me categorically assure you this is not true," Denison said, noting that Hankins "did not speak to any individual who had knowledge of this recommendation or process."

The committee's recommendation "would in no way affect the BGCT's support of the IMB," he added.

The NAMB funding change recommended by the study committee is not based on theology or politics, Denison said. Rather, it is a means of reducing red tape and improving efficiency.

Denison said the BGCT is not alone in expressing concerns about the effec-

tiveness and efficiency of NAMB, which was created from a merger of three SBC agencies in 1997. "There are concerns voiced by a number of state conventions related to the operation of NAMB—concerns that are not political or theological ... but about efficiency."

However, further negotiations with NAMB are imperative, Denison added, because of some potential problems that do touch on theology and politics.

As an example, he cited NAMB's revised policy on endorsing chaplains. Many military, hospital and prison chaplains are required to show endorsement from their denomination as a condition of employment.

While NAMB gives extra scrutiny to any missionary candidate who will not wholeheartedly affirm the 2000 version of the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the SBC, chaplains are required to endorse the revised faith statement, Denison reported.

This is significant because Texas Baptists have not embraced the SBC's revisions in the document.

"If you are a chaplain and will not sign the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, you cannot be endorsed," Denison reported. This applies not only to new chaplains seeking endorsement but also to chaplains needing re-certification.

Also, the committee contends NAMB has violated a 1991 cooperative agreement between the BGCT and the SBC Home Mission Board, a predecessor to NAMB.

That document states that "new projects may be initiated, administered and promoted in the state by the Home Mission Board after consultation with and affirmation of the Baptist General Convention of Texas." NAMB has violated this provision by funding staff members and mission projects of the competing Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, Denison said.

CBF strategy plan generates debate

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (ABP)—A proposed strategic plan is causing friction between the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and some of its affiliates.

Two state chapters of the moderate organization have formally asked national leaders to reconsider recommendations altering membership qualifications and the method for electing its governing board.

National CBF leaders tout the second phase of a strategic plan, scheduled for vote at the Fellowship's 10th anniversary General Assembly, June 28-30 in Atlanta, as a step toward moving the organization beyond its origins in Southern Baptist controversy.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellow-

ship of North Carolina's Coordinating Council, however, voted unanimously May 21 to request that the vote on recommendations by a national strategic planning committee be delayed a year.

The motion calls for referring the proposals back to the national CBF Coordinating Council for "further review" with the "input of as many CBF members as possible."

The Coordinating Council of the CBF of Virginia earlier asked the national organization to reconsider a new proposal for electing leaders that it said "leans toward" self-perpetuation. Bylaw changes scheduled for vote at this year's CBF national gathering call for a smaller and re-named Coordinating Council.

Baptist Homes for Children launches Richmond youth support center

RICHMOND—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children soon will add a program to its agency with the Madison County Youth Support Center in Richmond.

The program is an expansion of the youth support center in London, which opened in 1999.

Youth support centers provide counseling, community service projects and other services to youth returning to their communities after a stay in residential treatment or juvenile justice care.

The youth, ages 14-18, live at home but visit the center daily after school or all day during the summer. Generally, the youth are involved with center counselors and programs for three to six months.

Lloyd Jackson, director for both centers, said he was approached by social workers and juvenile justice workers in the Berea and Richmond area who said their area needed a program like the London center.

"They said there was no one in their area doing these kinds of services," Jackson said. "I did a six-month assessment, and at the end of that found four contracts and an overwhelming need for our program."

The London center currently has 25 clients. With a greater population in Madison County, Jackson said he thinks that center can serve 30 to 50 teens.

"The transition from group care back to home is a difficult one," said Bill Sapp, KBHC's vice president for community-based services. "The youth support center is designed to help teens stay focused on their educational and treatment goals and to help these families learn to work together."

Churches and community groups are needed to provide meals for clients at both centers. The programs serve lunch to the teenagers during the summer and dinner during the school year, Jackson said. Currently, six churches rotate each week to serve meals at the London center. "In some cases the meals our kids receive at the center are their best meals of the day, and we want to give them the best," he said.

For information on the meal program, call KBHC volunteer coordinator Steven Whiteley at (800) 456-1386.

The new youth support center joins two other KBHC programs in the area, Cornerstone Counseling in Berea and Southern Region Family Foster Care.

The youth support center is located at 210 St. George St., Suite 110, in Richmond.

The public is invited to an open house June 1, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Owensboro builders raise church in Gilstrap

By Tim Beauchamp
Kentucky Baptist Convention

GILSTRAP—A recent crisp, sunny May morning took on the air of an old-fashioned barn raising as Baptist Builders from Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro helped a sister church erect the frame for a new sanctuary.

Amid the banging and buzzing of hammers and saws, the new 300-seat sanctuary for New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Gilstrap began to take shape at the hands of the 35 men, women and youth who make up Yellow Creek's Baptist Builders chapter.

Baptist Builders is a Southern Baptist ministry that organizes volunteers for construction missions projects. The groups are organized through the men's ministry of a local Baptist church, and the Brotherhood department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention provides leadership and support for chapters throughout the state. The groups often help sister churches renovate, expand or build facilities.

"We felt that the Lord would have us to come and help build this sanctuary for the folks here at this church," said Mike Melloan, coordinator for the Brotherhood at Yellow Creek Baptist.

Melloan said he was proud of the youth who came with the group this weekend. Many of the youth will be participating in a World Changers mission trip this year in Michigan and needed the experience.

Ashley Brown, 15, described her time on the site as rewarding and life changing in many ways.

"I didn't know how to use a hammer, but I am learning how to work around a construction site. It is really a lot of fun," Brown said.

Learning how to work around construction is not all that Brown and other youth are learning. They also are learning about serving others and working as a team.



"Working out here shows that you can do things as a volunteer, helping other people and showing them Christ's love," Brown said. "It makes me happy that people are excited about our work here with them."

The new sanctuary signals the beginning of a new era of growth for New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church.

The church began the building project in early April with completion planned for September. They hope to finish in time for the church's anni-

versary celebration, Pastor Larry Brown said.

"We realized that we were running out of room for people," he said. "We knew that something had to be done and the Lord has led us to build."

The new sanctuary, a 70 by 100 foot building, will hold up to 300 people. The old sanctuary will become a fellowship hall with the current downstairs fellowship area converted to classroom space.

Brown said that he is in awe of the work that Baptist Builders are doing at his church. He said their enthusiasm is contagious and motivates his congregation to be excited about the potential of a new building for ministry.

For more information about Baptist Builders, contact the KBC Brotherhood department at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free in Kentucky, (888) 245-5720. Information is also available on the KBC Web site: www.kybaptist.org.

BAPTIST BUILDERS
Volunteers from Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro help New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Gilstrap build a 300-seat sanctuary. The church is expected to be finished with the building in September. ■ Above: Ronnie Whitaker, left, steadies a board as Henry Crabtree drives a nail to stabilize the vestibule wall for the new sanctuary. ■ Left: Mike Melloan, director of Yellow Creek Baptist Church Brotherhood, works on the new church's sanctuary as Henry Crabtree looks on. (KBC photos by Tim Beauchamp)

New group taking '180 degree' turn to ministry

WILLIAMSBURG—Spring is in the air and seniors in colleges throughout the nation are contemplating their next move.

But four Cumberland College seniors already have begun the next chapter of their lives through a ministry to use creative arts to share the message of Jesus Christ.

The four former students, along with a fifth person, have formed "180 Degree Ministries."

The group specializes in revival ministries for youth. Traveling from church to church, team members lead in such programs as youth revivals, retreats, church revivals, summer camps, lock-ins, children's ministries, youth camps, True Love Waits weekends and associational rallies.

The four Cumberland grads said they gained most of their missions experience through programs they participated in at Cumberland College. The four previously have participated in mission work in places such as Wales, Taiwan, Atlanta and Virginia Beach. Through these experiences, the members said they felt led to contin-



NEW DIRECTION Members of 180 Degree Ministries plan to lead youth ministries and events in Kentucky and beyond. Members, from left, are Matt Walton, Carrie Keener, Mike Cabel, Lori Grigsby and Josh Martin.

ue creative ministries work.

As member Mike Cabell explains, "180 Degree Ministries is the result of a faith-led vision. God simply told us to follow Him in creating a traveling ministry team, and we have done that. And, in that, He has honored our faithfulness with His faithfulness."

The group already has held several retreats and revivals throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana

and will hold a mission retreat this summer called Mission: 180 in Houston.

Mission: 180 will focus on daily mission work throughout the Houston area. Up to 50 students per session will spend six days working with Baptist mission centers in Houston, doing inner-city mission work, aiding in clothing ministries, helping in food pantries, providing daycare services, helping with teen clubs and performing light construction.

In addition to the two Houston programs, June 10-15 and July 17-22, 180 Degree Ministries also will assist in an FCA Leadership camp and a beach camp July 28-Aug. 4 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Team members are Carrie Keener of Lake City, Tenn.; Michael Cabell of Shelbyville; Matt Walton of Sellersburg, Ind.; Lori Grigsby of Manchester; and Josh Martin of Bagdad.

For more information about 180 Degree Ministries, call Mike Cabell at (606) 549-0793 or visit the group's Web site: www.180degreeministries.com.

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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Stewardship involves more than money

By Wanda Lee

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—“When I stand before God at the end of my life I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, ‘I used everything You gave me.’”

This is one of my favorite quotes by Erma Bombeck. Before I read this, whenever I thought about Erma, I immediately thought of her humor. Now, I think of her as a woman desiring to be a good steward of all that God had given her. She put into words what many of us feel as we grow in our understanding of stewardship.

What is your understanding of stewardship? Is it giving money to your church? Is it giving an extra gift to a special charity at the end of the year? Neither of these is bad. But if the only concept we have of stewardship is related to money, then we have missed

some important biblical truths.

Several years ago Woman's Missionary Union published a book by Calvin Partain titled “Trusted Steward.” In the opening pages, Partain states that “a steward is a manager of goods that belong to someone else.” He outlines three basic foundational truths of stewardship:

■ God owns every-

thing.

■ God has entrusted some of His possessions to us.

■ God holds us accountable.

These simple truths call us to recognize that God, as the creator of all of life, has entrusted us with everything we are and have—our body, mind, soul, talents, time and possessions. The Greek word for entrusted is translated “to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage.” God has graciously given each of us many wonderful gifts and abilities. He desires that

we use those in service for Him.

WMU has been entrusted during the past 113 years with a wealth of resources. As stewards of all that God has given us, we are responsible for passing our missions heritage on to those who will follow after us.

For me personally, that means I need to give of my time in educating others about the biblical mandate to care about the people of the world. I must share my professional skills and abilities through missions experiences whenever and wherever God calls me, all for the express purpose of sharing the gospel. And I need to give of my money for the development of missions leaders in the future.

Stewardship is essential in a believer's life. It is giving our lives back to the One Who has so generously blessed us. Like Erma Bombeck, when this life is over, my prayer is that “I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, ‘I used everything You gave me.’”

Wanda Lee is executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union

Revival. Ask God to work in our lives so we will experience personal revival.

Servanthood. Pray that we will do our work with a servant's heart.

Thankful heart. Ask God to give us thankful hearts, even in difficult situations.

Unsaved. Pray that the unsaved will develop a hunger for Jesus.

Victory. Pray that we will know victory in spiritual warfare.

Weariness. Pray that we will not get bogged down in having too much to do.

X-ray vision. Ask that we will have X-ray vision of the heart and desire a cleansed life.

Yieldedness. Pray that we will be completely yielded to Christ and willing to die to self.

Zeal. Pray that we will have a renewed zeal to share the gospel.

Brad and Jeanine Horn are Southern Baptist missionaries in Russia

COMMENTARY

Pray for missions from ‘A to Z’

By Brad and Jeanine Horne

On behalf of all Christian missionaries around the world, we ask that you pray for ‘A to Z’ for all of us:

Anointing. Ask for the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that we will operate in the Spirit's power.

Boldness. Pray that we will speak the Word of God with boldness.

Comfort. Ask for comfort when we are discouraged, brokenhearted or stressed out.

Direction. Ask that we will sense God's specific direction in ministry.

Encourage. Ask God to send someone to encourage us.

Family. Pray that we will guide our children in the way they should go.

Glory of God. Pray that we will live each day to glorify God.

Humility. Ask that we will develop a sense of humility and reject pride.

Insight. Ask that we will see people and things from God's perspective.

Joy. Pray that we will be full of the joy of the Lord in all situations.

Knowledge. Pray that we will desire the knowledge of God's Word and apply it consistently.

Love. Ask that we will be vessels through which God's love flows.

Motivation. Pray that we will labor for godly motives, not to please other people.

Needs. Pray that we will realize that in Christ all our needs will be met.

Open door. Pray that we will recognize opportunities to share the gospel.

Prayer partners. Ask God to provide prayer partners who will intercede for us on a regular basis.

Quiet time. Pray that nothing will keep us from having a quality quiet time each day.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Prayer undergirds crusade preparations

The June 21-24 Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium in Louisville is a grand opportunity to impact our region with hope through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayer is the foundation and every believer is encouraged to pray daily for crusade preparation.

Here are some specific prayer needs:

■ Hundreds of counselors have been trained, but more are needed. A makeup session has been planned at Highview Baptist Church on June 2, 9:30-11:30 a.m. for senior pastors, denominational staff directors and counselors who missed one of the first four training sessions.

■ The Crusade Evening of Prayer will be Sunday, June 3 at 5-7 p.m., at the Kentucky International Convention Center (221 South Fourth St., Louisville).

■ Pray for the steering committees and the crusade office staff as they enlist thousands of volunteers to assist with ushering, accessibility, counsel-

ing, stadium arrangements and events for children (Kidz Gig) and youth (Concert for the NeXt Generation).

■ Pray for the churches to experience the presence and power of God during these weeks of preparation.

■ Pray that thousands of believers will become involved in Operation Andrew, a simple plan to reach out to those who need Christ. Andrew brought the person he loved very deeply, his brother Simon Peter, to Jesus (John 1:40-42). Build your own Operation

Andrew prayer list of 12 people and enlist them to attend the crusade with you.

■ Pray for Billy Graham (especially for his health) and the crusade team. Pray for God's anointing upon the crusade special guests, choir members and music groups.

■ Pray for the Love-In-Action ministry, that people will be generous in providing school supplies to be collected for children in need.

■ Pray for the crusade follow-up as

churches minister to those who make decisions and conduct church and neighborhood Discovery Groups for new believers.

■ Pray for your personal consecration that God may do a mighty work in your life and through you in your family, church and network (Joshua 3:5).

■ Pray for cooperation among God's people and His churches. There is great power when God's people work together on the mission God has ordained.

■ Pray for crusade financial support. This crusade will be a significant historical and spiritual benchmark for generations. I plan to give my very best support in every way through prayer, Operation Andrew, counseling and giving. Due to the financial needs, I plan to double my original pledge. You can make your gifts through your church or directly to the crusade office, Box 6839, Louisville, KY 40206-0839.

For more information, call the crusade office at (502) 412-0977 or visit the Web site at www.LouisvilleCrusade.org.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

GIVING

Who will take care of your financial decisions if ...?

By Laurie Valentine

Who will be in charge of your financial affairs if you are in an accident, suffer a stroke or some other illness or injury leaves you unable to make decisions for yourself?

If you haven't done any prior planning, a court and a jury will make that decision for you through a determination of disability and appointment of guardian proceeding. Court-supervised guardianship can be a significant and ongoing financial drain on your resources. Asking a court to determine that you are mentally incompetent also can place a tremendous emotional strain on your family.

The better alternative is to do some “incapacity planning” well in advance of any future incapacity. Incapacity planning—planning that assures your finances could be managed and decisions could be made for you in the event you became incapacitated and unable to do those things for yourself—is an important aspect of estate planning. Neglecting this planning can be costly.

Incapacity planning allows you to plan now for the possibility that some future physical or mental incapacity might render you unable to manage your own affairs. It permits you to decide who will manage your finances and make decisions for you, determine how that person will be empowered to act for you and state what kinds of decisions should be made for you if you cannot speak for yourself, rather than leaving those choices and decisions to others.

Usually more than one “incapacity planning” document is necessary to accomplish your incapacity planning objectives. Empowering someone to act for you can be accomplished through the use of durable powers of attorney and revocable living trusts. Memorializing your healthcare wishes and declaring the types of healthcare decisions that should be made for you if you cannot speak for yourself can be achieved by making a living will directive and healthcare surrogate designation.

As people live longer, the possibility that they will experience a period of incapacity during their lifetime becomes greater. This makes the need to do this type of planning vital.

Who will be in charge? Hopefully someone of your choosing. All it takes is a little advance planning.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



What are the benefits of assigning children specific chores at home?

Q: Should children have chores?

Chores instill many good things into the life of a child. As children work around the home, they begin to learn basic life skills that keep them from feeling helpless or being useless when they are on their own.

Chores strengthen character by teaching responsibility and discipline. They build a sense of belonging and contribution to the family. As children complete chores, they begin to understand that everyone has a part to play in keeping the home running smoothly.

Chores bring a sense of accomplishment that enables a child to say, "I did that!" Chores also begin building good work habits—work habits that can grow weak in a society of plenty. Chores help children learn the important values of accountability and completion—doing work well and finishing what you start.

Give your children specific chores. Setting or clearing the table, helping with the dishes, basic cooking, collecting the trash, making beds, folding clothes, tending the recycling bin, feeding pets, vacuuming, dusting, washing the car, washing the dog, raking leaves. Most parents will not have any trouble finding chores for children. Just make sure tasks are age-appropriate, and make sure you show your child how to do what you want done. Work with them the first few times, or on jobs that are particularly hard or tiresome.

Hold children accountable for their work. Specific deadlines can help children learn that chores must be finished before other activities can be enjoyed. Even if you choose not to connect chores with an allowance, chores will begin to teach the relationship between effort and reward. Don't forget to praise your children for a job well done. Make sure they know you notice and appreciate what they do!—David Garrard

Q: My husband has a quick temper. Often, he blames me when things don't go the way he'd like at home. At work and at church, he's patient and even-tempered with everyone. But with me, he blows up at the least frustration. I feel like I'm going crazy. Is his behavior my fault?

In one word, my answer is "no." Living with a person who gets angry easily can make you feel that you are responsible for your partner's behavior. Although we are partners in marriage, no one is responsible for another person.

Your husband's behavior sounds like it borders on being verbally abusive. A verbally abusive person, male or female, directs the blame for his or her unhappiness on other people. The easiest people to abuse are those people we live with. I doubt if a boss or friends would put up with that behavior.

The pattern of a verbally abusive person is similar to that of a physically abusive person. After the abusive behavior subsides, the individual apologizes and acts kind for a period of time. Then when frustration builds up, the individual again vents his or her anger at the unfortunate family member.

Your husband needs to take responsibility for his own frustrations and learn constructive ways to deal with anger. I recommend that he see his family doctor to rule out any physical reasons for his behavior. Then I suggest that he visit a professional Christian counselor or pastor for counseling. Ephesians exhorts the husband to love his wife as Christ did the church. This behavior of lashing out at you does not meet that criterion. After the anger is manageable, I would suggest marriage counseling to heal the hurts from this behavior.—Suzanne Coyle

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.



Today's senior adults: Survivors or thrivers?

From Boomers and Busters to Gen X and Gen Y, many churches focus lots of time and attention on meeting the ministry needs of families and young people. That is as it should be.

Equally important, however, is the older generation of senior adults who have spent decades in faithful service to the local church and the Kingdom of God.

Many of today's older adults are part of the World War II era that Tom Brokaw has described as "the greatest generation." They have invested their lives in building churches, businesses and communities that reflect the best in American values and priorities.

Unfortunately, many senior adults have reached the point in life where they feel unwanted or unappreciated by the very people for whom they have sacrificed over the years. Rather than honoring the wisdom, knowledge and life experience of older adults, society often seems to push them aside in the rush to pursue financial and technological gain.

It's important to remember that many of the older members of our congregations and communities have helped protect, promote and preserve the basic rights and freedoms we often take for granted. Rather than ignore their needs as the older generation copes with such issues as health, finances, grief and loneliness, our churches should lead the way in responding to their concerns. We should express appreciation for their years of service while continuing to offer ways for them to be meaningfully involved in the ministry and fellowship of the local church and beyond.

One ministry the Kentucky Baptist Convention provides senior adults each year is a series of regional Senior Adult Celebrations. This year's events, which attracted more than 1,000 participants throughout the state, were held in Bowling Green, Cold Spring, Mt.

Washington and Pikeville. A fifth conference, scheduled for Madisonville, was cancelled due to a hepatitis outbreak in the area.

Conference coordinator Karl Babb, director of the KBC family ministry department, described the senior adult events as "an opportunity to fellowship and renew and strengthen spiritual commitments and self-worth." Each of the one-day events featured a worship celebration, special interest conferences, a fellowship lunch and a Southern gospel music concert by New Horizon, a student quartet from Campbellsville University.

The small-group conferences gave participants an opportunity to gain relevant information they could apply to day-to-day life. The workshops addressed such diverse topics as how to avoid a stroke, coping with grief, crime prevention, humor and senior adult ministry opportunities. Even more significantly, the events offered a clear reminder that KBC leaders view senior adults as valued participants in Kentucky Baptist life.

I had the privilege of speaking at the worship celebrations during each of the events. Citing society's recent obsession with survival-based "reality" shows, I encouraged the senior adults to move from being survivors to thrivers. While surviving is a basic goal in life, I believe God calls each of us to move beyond the routine of daily life and seek to thrive in the ministry opportunities that come our way.

"Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus," Paul declared in Ephesians 3:13-14.

That's a timely goal whether you're a Gen Xer, a Boomer or a faithful member of society's "greatest generation."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

State convention merges competing Baptist papers in 1919

By Duane Bolin

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, before the dramatic impact of radio and television and the even more dramatic impact of the computer, newspapers were the primary source of information for most Kentuckians and the rest of the nation.

Baptists were no different. Baptist newspapers with varying perspectives on a dizzying assortment of issues inundated Kentucky Baptist clergy and laity alike. News and Truths, published in far western Kentucky, and Kentucky Mission Monthly, published by the Executive Board of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky and edited by the corresponding secretary, reached large numbers of Kentucky Baptists across the state.

Two other newspapers published in Louisville offered contrasting views of Baptist belief in the early years of the 20th century. The Western Recorder, privately published by the Baptist Book Concern, had been edited by J.W. Porter since 1909. Following the example of T.T. Eaton, his editorial predecessor, Porter continued to level attacks on E.Y. Mullins and Southern Baptist Theological

Seminary over issues like Landmarkism, "alien immersion" and "unionism."

Even before Porter, Eaton's criticisms were so intense that in 1908, Mullins, with the aid of seminary faculty, raised the necessary capital for a new concern—the Baptist World Publishing Company—responsible for publishing books written by faculty scholars as well as a new newspaper, the Baptist World. The World offered a decidedly different perspective, sympathetic and supportive of the seminary, its president and faculty.

By 1919, with the enormous challenge of the Seventy-five Million Campaign before them, Kentucky Baptist leaders determined that a united voice would be necessary to promote the campaign and other Baptist causes. A Texan actually suggested the course that Kentucky Baptists would choose to follow. In a letter to Mullins, J.B. Gambrell, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a former corresponding secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, advised the embattled seminary president that "Kentucky Baptists merge the two papers for the sake of denominational efficiency."

O.E. Bryan, Kentucky Baptists' corresponding secretary in 1919, concluded as well that Kentucky Baptists "could only reach their financial goals" through a merger of the denominational papers in the state. Bryan eventually presented a resolution at a called meeting of the state's Board of Missions at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville. He asked for the board to purchase the Baptist papers of the state and operate them under the board's direct control.

The purchase took place in 1919 when owners of the Western Recorder and the Baptist World sold those papers—\$20,000 for the Recorder and \$15,000 for the World—to the state board. The Kentucky Mission Monthly merged as well, but H. Boyce Taylor held out and continued to publish his News and Truths independently.

The newly merged paper, yet another example of Kentucky Baptist cooperation, retained the name Western Recorder and Porter remained as managing editor. The former editor of the World, E.B. Hatcher remained as news editor and O.E. Bryan agreed to serve as business manager. To their credit, Porter and Mullins, along with other mainstream Kentucky Baptist leaders, put aside old animosities for the good of Kentucky Baptists.

James Duane Bolin is associate professor of history at Murray State University



NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Land a candidate for federal panel.** Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, is being discussed as a candidate for a federal commission that monitors religious persecution. Sources close to the selection process for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said Land could be appointed by President Bush. If Democrats pick a Catholic to the commission, sources say Bush might feel less pressure to do so and will have two slots, rather than one, for evangelical Christian leaders.

■ **Salvation Army serves record numbers.** For the third consecutive year, the Salvation Army served a record number of needy Americans in 2000. More than 36 million people were served by 9,000 local Salvation Army service centers, an increase of 3.3 million people from 1999. The Salvation Army 2000 Service Report states that 20 million people were assisted through local family casework programs. In addition, 5.6 million received holiday assistance, 4.6 million were visited in institutions and almost 2 million were helped during disasters.

■ **Exodus leader to retire.** The long-time director of one of the nation's most prominent ex-gay ministries will retire in September, but says his retirement is not spurred by skeletons in his closet. "There are no hidden scandals about to be revealed in my life," said Bob Davies, executive director of Exodus North America, in a statement. "I am approaching the finish line of my 'lap.'" Davies said. "It is time for me to pass the baton on to the next runner, someone with fresh vision, giftings and enthusiasm to continue the race."

■ **Homicide ruling first for death of unborn.** A 23-year-old woman recently became the first person in the country to be convicted by a jury of murdering her unborn baby by smoking crack cocaine, according to a Columbia, S.C.,

newspaper. The Conway, S.C., jury took only 15 minutes May 15 to convict Regina McKnight of homicide by child abuse. She was sentenced to 12 years in prison. Prosecution of the case was based on a 1997 opinion by the South Carolina Supreme Court, which ruled an unborn child able to live outside the womb is a person with legal rights. McKnight was arrested in 1999 after cocaine was found in the body of her stillborn girl.

■ **Groups urge action on "conflict diamonds."** An interfaith coalition recently asked U.S. lawmakers to approve legislation to ban the import of "conflict diamonds." The Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone, the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism asked for support for the Clean Diamonds Act, which would close U.S. markets to groups in conflict zones, such as Angola and Sierra Leone, who sell diamonds to buy weapons and carry out human rights abuses.

■ **Muslims criticize religious freedom report.** Five American Muslim groups and a Christian organization have criticized the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom for declining to issue a report on religious freedom in Israel. The commission's decision to issue reports about Saudi Arabia and Egypt but not Israel "can only be seen as an attempt to shield Israel from criticism," read the statement signed by the Muslim groups and the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation.

■ **ACLU sues to end pre-dinner prayer.** The American Civil Liberties Union sued Virginia Military Institute on May 9 in an attempt to end prayers at its evening meals. The ACLU filed the federal lawsuit in Lynchburg, Va., on behalf of two cadets. State Attorney General Mark Earley said he will vigorously defend VMI's dinner prayer, which has been a tradition since at least the 1950s.

Web porn case goes to top court

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed again to decide whether Congress has abridged free speech rights in its attempt to protect children from pornography on the Internet.

The court announced it would review a challenge to a 1998 federal law that bars commercial Web sites from making sexually explicit material available to minors. Under the Child Online Protection Act, Web sites are required to keep children from viewing pornography by collecting a credit card number or access code as proof of age.

Lower courts have sided with opponents of the law. A federal appeals court ruled last year the measure's reliance on "community standards" to determine what is harmful to children was overly broad, according to *The Washington Post*.

The case, *Ashcroft v. ACLU*, marks the second time the high court has considered a congressional effort to protect minors from Internet material that is sexually explicit, though not legally obscene.

Congress adopted COPA after the justices struck down part of a 1996 law, the Communications Decency Act, as a violation of the First Amendment's free speech guarantee.

The case also marks the second review of a decision on children and online pornography to be conducted next term by the Supreme Court.

In January, the high court announced it would review a ruling that struck down a congressional measure criminalizing the transmission, reception or possession of an image that "appears to be of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct."

Convicted polygamist pledges to keep wives

SALT LAKE CITY (RNS)—After being convicted of bigamy May 18, Tom Green, a Utah resident who follows a now-abolished Mormon practice, said he plans to continue his polygamist lifestyle even if he is sentenced to prison.

Green, 52, a man with five wives and 29 children, was found guilty of four counts of bigamy and one count of failing to pay child support, *Associated Press* reported. He plans to appeal.

At sentencing, scheduled for June 27, he could face up to 25 years in prison and \$25,000 in fines.

Green has dismissed claims of those who consider him a martyr for polyga-

my, but he proudly noted that his sentencing date is the 157th anniversary of the death of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The church brought plural marriage to Utah but now excommunicates polygamists, including Green.

The state abandoned the practice more than a century ago but hadn't prosecuted anyone for polygamy in almost 50 years.

Green, a former Mormon missionary who had said he was willing to be tried for his religious beliefs, said after the trial's outcome that he was singled out for speaking in favor of polygamy.

Educating for life

Choosing a college or school that is right for you, your child or grandchild can be a challenging, even confusing experience these days. When you begin the search, let me strongly encourage you to consider the five Baptist-related institutions in Kentucky that specialize in "educating for life." They are Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Cumberland College, Georgetown College and Mid-Continent College. All five are members of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. The ASBCS will hold its annual meeting in June in Lexington, hosted by Georgetown College President Bill Crouch.

Educating for life means being equipped for cutting-edge technologies. Educating for life means integrating Christian faith and academic disciplines, and leaving school with a degree and with the knowledge of how to develop a close relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Educating for life means sharing your personal faith, time and talents not only in your career, but also in helping others through your church and community.

Campbellsville University, founded in 1906 and located in south central Kentucky, has an enrollment of 1,598 undergraduate and 103

graduate students. Call (800) 264-6014.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, founded in 1926 and located in southeastern Kentucky, has an enrollment of 190 students. Call (606) 337-3196.

Cumberland College, founded in 1889 and located in southeastern Kentucky, has an enrollment of 1,554 undergraduate and 148 graduate students. Call (800) 343-1609.

Georgetown College, founded in 1787 and located 12 miles north of Lexington, has an enrollment of 1,375 undergraduate and 371 graduate students. Call (800) 788-9985.

Mid-Continent College, founded in 1949 and located in western Kentucky, has an enrollment of 247 undergraduate students. Call (800) 232-4662.

If you think you cannot afford to attend one of these, please keep in mind most students receive some kind of financial assistance, and some receive substantial financial assistance.

Call me about ways you can support "educating for life."

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

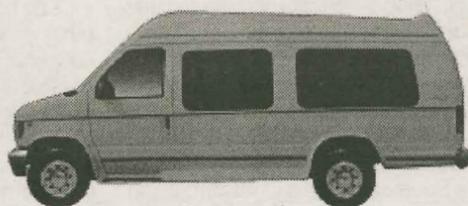
AVAILABLE FOR MINISTRY

Dr. Don Carroll recently finished a fruitful two-year interim at Central of Paris. He leaves with a strong commendation from the deacons and the congregation. He will be available for interims, supplies and revivals. Contact him at (859) 266-8191 or 105 Victory Ave., Lexington, KY 40502.

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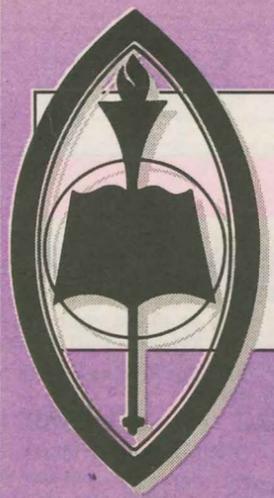
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KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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Supplement to Western Recorder

The Final Countdown

2000-2001
Eliza Broadus Offering
Basic Goal: \$800,000
Reached by March 26

Challenge goal:
Additional \$200,000
for new church starts
(April 26, 2001: \$804,830
has been received.)
Give through Aug. 31
to help reach this final
\$195,170 of the goal.

*We CAN reach the
million dollar mark!*

Summer 2001

A Personal Word

Have you ever seen a set of dominoes set on end in a row or pattern and at a signal someone knocks one down? That one domino sets in motion a chain reaction and in a few moments all of the dominoes have fallen. It's really fun to watch when a large number of dominoes are involved.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

Missions education and support are somewhat like dominoes. What we do in our churches to raise missions awareness, teach our children and garner prayer and financial support for missions sets in motion a chain of events. We rarely see all the far-reaching results. One of the great blessings of a mission trip is that we often have the opportunity to assist personally in mission work that we have prayed for and supported financially but have never seen.

This setting in motion of a chain reaction with the potential to reach people around the world is what WMU does best. And because people are born every day who need to know Christ, our work is never finished. New generations of children must be taught. New Christians must be disciplined into a missions lifestyle. Prayer and financial support must never be lacking.

I would like to ask you to join me in praying for WMU and a missions revival among women. Would you devote time each week to this prayer concern? Would you invite others in your church to join you in praying for WMU? Would you take your church directory and pray for each woman in your church by name, asking God to give her a heart for missions?

We can plan wonderful meetings, have great literature and host all sorts of special events to attract women. The results are often temporary at best. But when God begins to stir in a woman's heart and call her to missions involvement, things that are beyond belief begin to happen. Many of us have grumbled, worried and fretted about WMU. But have we prayed, really prayed?

Please note that I'm not praying for God to restore the WMU of the past. Rather, I am praying that God will make us into the WMU He needs today and in the future. I am praying the prayer of Jabez for WMU: that God will bless us, expand our territory, keep His hand upon us and keep us from harm.

I love WMU as an organization. But I'm not praying for God to bless our organization just to be proud of WMU. I'm praying for God to bless WMU because of the domino effect. I know that if we are faithful in carrying out the strategic work of WMU, people locally and globally will come to know Jesus. And that's what WMU is all about.

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2001

WHAT? Training Motivation
Inspiration Fellowship

WHO? Associational WMU missions leaders
Church WMU and Brotherhood missions leaders

WHY? To create an excitement and develop expertise in missions education
To become the leader God wants you to be

WHEN? and WHERE?

July 13-14	Campbellsville University, Campbellsville
July 20-21	Central Baptist Church, Winchester
July 27-28	First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville

COST?

OPTION ONE: OVERNIGHT - CAMPBELLVILLE ONLY

\$40 per person if registered by June 15
\$45 after June 15
Includes: lodging (two people per dorm room),
3 meals, WMU or Brotherhood resources

OPTION TWO: FRIDAY/SATURDAY - CAMPBELLVILLE ONLY (NO LODGING)

\$25 per person if registered by June 15
\$30 after June 15
Includes: 2 meals, WMU or Brotherhood
resources, additional conferences Friday
afternoon

OPTION THREE: ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERS - WINCHESTER OR HOPKINSVILLE

\$15 per person if registered by June 15
\$20 after June 15
Includes: Friday evening associational
conferences, Saturday conferences, lunch and
resources for church leaders

OPTION FOUR: SATURDAY DRIVE IN - ALL LOCATIONS

\$15 per person if registered by June 15
\$20 after June 15
Includes: Saturday lunch, WMU or
Brotherhood resources

HOW? Request registration brochure from Kentucky WMU, complete and return with registration fee.

QUESTIONS? Call (502) 244-6485 or toll-free (888) 254-5726
OR e-mail: Brenda_Price@kybaptist.org



SHOWING JESUS

More than 1,200 people attended the 2001 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, March 30-31. Using the theme "Show Them Jesus," the program featured a parade of flags, children's event, associational missions fair, missionary speakers and more.



Information for WMU Directors

National recognition

It isn't often that you pick up a national magazine and find a picture of a fellow Kentucky Baptist on the cover. Look at your June issue of *Missions Mosaic*. Debbie Bell is a former member of the Kentucky WMU Executive Board and one who has been vitally involved in missions education for many years. More of her Acteens at First Baptist Church of Murray have been selected as National Panelists and Top Teens than from any other church in the nation.

Debbie has seen the importance and good results of having a strong Acteens program at Murray. (Perhaps her profession as a school administrator has benefited her in working with Acteens.) Read the article and notice the references to Acteens and Women on Mission working together.

As WMU Director in your church, you have a wonderful opportunity and responsibility to seek and encourage the strongest leaders possible for Acteens and Women on Missions, as well as all the other age level organizations in your church. NOW is the time to complete your enlistment of leadership team members for the coming year. Let Debbie be an inspiration to you as you seek God's choice for your leaders.

Watch for it in June

Your sample package of state missions materials will arrive in JUNE (I know, that's early) in order to give you time to order materials and make all your plans for the September observance of the Season of State Missions. The NEW video has been produced since the first of the year, and can be viewed all at one time or in segments. It will be mailed to you WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER for prayer guides, envelopes, posters, etc. Order early, GET YOUR VIDEO EARLY! See other *Eliza Broadus* and state missions information on page 4.

World Missions Unlimited Training for everyone

Your church can have its greatest year in missions involvement, if your leaders participate in one of the three training conferences provided by Kentucky WMU. See the information on page 1 or refer to the promotion piece that you received in early May. Notice that all who register and participate will receive a new *How To* (guide) for their age level and the 2001-2002 *WMU Year Book* (along with lunch). Registration for the Saturday Drive-In is \$15 if you register by June 15.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults on Mission

Everywhere you turn these days, it seems like the hot topic of conversation is the little book "The Prayer of Jabez," written by Bruce Wilkinson. I, too, have been lead to pray this simple prayer and expect God to work in miraculous ways in my life and surroundings. I want to encourage each of you to check out this prayer found in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. May the Lord hear our cries to bless

us and enlarge our territory. May His hand be upon us and keep us from harm so that we will be free from pain! Oh, what wonderful promises!

Join with me in praying this prayer, not only for what God will do in each of our lives, but also for His plans for the future of WMU.

Now that summer has finally arrived, there

are many events coming up that I'd like to encourage you to participate in over the next few months. Some of these will require a little preparation; so, get out your calendars and begin to plan to be with us for these exciting events.

• **The Global Celebration for Women** will be held in Houston, Texas, on Sept. 19-21 at the Astrodome. A group tour will be going from Kentucky. The cost of this event is \$425 which includes registration, airfare and lodging (meals are not included). For more information, please contact the WMU office for a brochure. The first payment deadline is June 15, 2001.

• A conference titled, "Training Mentors," will be offered at Campbellsville University on Aug. 10-11. Anyone interested in this topic is welcome to attend. The registration cost is \$20. The college will provide lodging and

meals for \$26. For more information, please contact Tonya at the WMU office.

• It's not too early to make your reservation for the **Women on Mission Fall Retreats**. Promotional brochures are now available with details of these events.

• Looking ahead... a Kentucky WMU **Enterpriser Team** will be formed to take a mission trip to Salt Lake City, Utah, for the Winter Olympics in February 2002. Details of this event will be published soon. Plan now to join the team!

Tonya's Tip - Hold a missions work day at your church. Plan a morning of mission service projects in your area. These could include projects for the elderly of your community, park clean up, planting flowers, random acts of kindness, etc. Have all participants meet back at the church for a luncheon. What a rewarding time for all!

—Tonya Williams



Youth



Wow! I don't know about you all, but I had a great, spiritual time at **Exalt!** Almost 550 young ladies

and their young advisors came to Bowling Green on April 20-21. The folks at Living Hope Baptist Church were gracious hosts and very well organized under the leadership of Nora Hubbard. Thank you, Nora and all your volunteers.

There were many personal highlights for me at Exalt. The truly worship services lead by the Living Hope Praise Band, Susan Peugh and Lisa Hoffman. The fun ZOEgirl concert that got serious for a while and provided the opportunity for girls to get to know Jesus Christ for the first time and to renew their relationship with Him. The 100 or so participants in the interpretive movement seminar who shared what they had learned in a worship session. And the girl in the hallway who just

had returned from a mission project covered in dirt and, well, manure, but could not contain her excitement.



I can't wait until next year! **Exalt 2002** will take place at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville on April 5-6.

I'm also looking forward to **Splash** at Jonathan Creek on June 15-16. Son Share, the state BSU drama team, will be there to lead in worship. **Camp** at Cedar Crest on June 25-29 and July 9-13 also will be a blast. I've worked with many of the summer missionaries who will serve on staff at Cedar Crest. They are committed young ladies with servant hearts, full of love and laughter.

Youth night at the **Billy Graham Crusade** will be June 23. Bring your non-Christian friends and join Kirk Franklin, Jennifer Knapp, DC Talk and me for a night of worship. (No, I won't be on the program, but I will be there.)

Advisors and leaders, don't forget to attend **World Missions Unlimited** this summer. You'll receive a copy of the new how-to guide, a yearbook and lots of great ideas.

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool

Do you think the boys and girls in Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action are worth it? Are they worth you being the best teacher or leader you can be? The answer to both questions is, of course, "YES!" To be an effective teacher or leader and have a strong missions education program for preschoolers and children, attend **World Missions Unlimited** this summer. There will be something to learn and share whether you are a new teacher or leader or an experienced one. See page 1 for details.

In September, preschoolers and children in your church will want to participate in the **Week of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. It would be a great way to start the new church year. For preschoolers the study and prayer material focus is on resort/leisure ministries in Kentucky. For children the focus is on literacy missions ministries. Teaching guides are available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Mission Friends

Summer is a fun time in Mission Friends. Plan an enrollment/enlistment event for preschoolers. Use ideas for an **Olympic Play Day** in the summer issue of *Start*.

Celebrate **Christmas in August** with the preschoolers in your church. Involve them in helping North American missionaries minister to people throughout the United States. A list of missionaries and their specific needs can be found in the summer issue of *Start*.



Children

Girls in Action

Involve GAs in **World Ventures** this summer. Encourage them to work on activities by having special workdays. Plan a World Ventures Recognition Service to recognize the work of girls who have completed their activities. For ideas use the book, *World Ventures Recognition Events*, available from WMU, SBC for \$6.99.

Will there be "life after GA" for the sixth graders in your organization? Help your sixth grade girls know about the opportunities that await them in **Acteens**. Invite Acteens and Acteens advisors to share with the sixth graders about the Acteens organization. As a GA leader, you can be instrumental in encouraging your WMU director to enlist leaders now for Acteens.

Children in Action

Attention agents! Put on your traveling shoes and come along to the great outdoors for a day of meeting missionaries, making new friends, learning about God and His creation, crafts, recreation and lots more. **Day camp**, for boys and girls in grades 1-6, will be held at Cedar Crest, Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$7 per person. Details will be available from the Kentucky WMU office after July 1.



—Brenda Price



President's Perspective

What an exciting weekend we just experienced! **Exalt**, formerly the State Acteens Conference, was held at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Nearly 600 Acteens arrived on Friday for what was a fun, challenging and spiritually renewing two days!

Susan Peugh from the North American Mission Board led in Bible study emphasizing God's call from salvation to service. Lisa Hoffman shared about being available while awaiting God's call as she answered His call to serve as a journeyman in Israel. Friday night ended with a concert by the Christian contemporary group "ZOEgirl". Not only was the music exciting but these young women's testimonies led several girls to raise their hands at the end of the concert to accept Christ!



Sara Billups
Kentucky WMU
president

LaRaine Dail did a fabulous job putting together this exciting program. When I told her what an excellent job she did, LaRaine was quick to say how much the staff of Kentucky WMU helped with this monumental task. Thank you, staff, for the teamwork involved.

Speaking of Acteens advisors, note that Debbie Bell, from First Baptist Church of Murray, appears on the cover of the June issue of *Missions Mosaic*. Debbie and First Baptist of Murray have had many National Acteens Panelists and Top Teens helping not only to make the church the most represented church in the country, but making Kentucky the leading state in the country for the number of Acteens chosen for these positions. Thank you Debbie and all Acteens advisors for being leaders!

Annual Meeting was another exciting event. Our theme was "Show them Jesus: A Bluegrass Missions Celebration." Thank you to the 38 associations represented in our Associational Missions Fair. We were amazed and challenged to see what is happening in Kentucky. God is truly using Kentuckians in many ways to show the world Jesus.

Summer will be here soon and you will not want to miss **World Missions Unlimited**. Kentucky WMU is offering three weekends to train and equip you to do and teach missions: July 13-14 at Campbellsville University; July 20-21 in Winchester; and July 27-28 in Hopkinsville. We will look forward to seeing you at one of these events as we "Discover the Joy of Missions!"

Thank you for allowing me to serve you another year as president of Kentucky WMU. How much you have taught me during the past year, and I look forward to what God will do in 2001.

In His great love,
Sara Billups

Heritage Fund 2000-2001

The Heritage Fund was established in 1990 to sustain the work of Kentucky WMU. This fund is a permanent endowment and only the earnings from the fund are used for the work of Kentucky WMU.

The development committee of Kentucky WMU has recognized that the single greatest need to sustain

the work of Kentucky WMU is leadership development. They have asked Joy Bolton to use this year's earnings for leadership development. This will include scholarships for collegiate Women on Mission members to attend a fall retreat, working with our Hispanic women to develop WMU work and national training for resource team members.

We encourage you to make a gift to the Heritage Fund in memory of or in honor of someone special in your life. If you have named Kentucky WMU as beneficiary of your estate or other planned gift, please contact the WMU state office to register as a member of the Heritage Society. Forms to register as a member of the Heritage Society

and to request gifts to the Heritage Fund as memorials at your death are available from Kentucky WMU.

From May 1, 2000, through April 30, 2001, 88 gifts totalling \$7,283 were made to the Heritage Fund. As of Feb. 28, 2001, the Heritage Fund had a market value of \$121,127.

Heritage Fund Donors

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Camp

Summer is here and camping season is underway. Our theme this year at Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek is: "I Believe in God, He Believes in Me." Throughout our activities at camp, we will learn how to show our belief in God and how God, in turn, shows us evidence of His love. Please continue to pray for the girls who will experience camp this summer. May they come to know the importance of missions work around the world as they learn and grow at camp.

On staff at Cedar Crest we have a wonderful group of fine, dedicated Christian young women who are serving as summer missionaries at camp. Our Jonathan Creek staff are godly women with a love for missions and young ladies.

Cedar Crest Camp Staff:

Director/ Camp Specialist: Evie Cash

Assistant Director: Nancy Noe

Recreation Leader/ Cabin Leader: Laura Sparks,

Kentucky Wesleyan College

Lifeguard/ Cabin Leader: Meredith Carter, Jefferson Community College

Robin Combs, Morehead State University



Cabin Leaders:

Kristin Belcher, University of Kentucky

Kresta Billingsley, University of Kentucky

Laura Brangers, Morehead State

University

Leslie Drymon, University of Kentucky

Natalie Gabbard, Eastern Kentucky

University

Emily Gamble, Eastern Kentucky

University

Callie Holmes, Western Kentucky

University

Kristy Hogan, Eastern Kentucky

University

Angie Morris, Campbellsville University

Stephanie Smith, Eastern Kentucky

University

Rachel Tharp, Cumberland College

Assistant Cabin Leaders:

Amanda Curtis, Louisville

Maria Griffin, Henderson

Rachel Hyder, Lexington

Suzie Ledford, Somerset

Christy Parr, Morehead

Morgan Holmes, Glasgow

Unit Leaders:

Carol Bolton, Anderson College

Katie Goins, Northern Kentucky

University

Mary Rockey, Bellarmine University



Jonathan Creek Overnight Camp Staff:

GA Overnight Director/ Staff: Joyce Brown, Peggy Monroe, Brenda Price

Acteens Splash Director: LaRaine Dail

Mother/ Daughter Overnight Director: Brenda Price

Calendar

June

- 2 KBC SALT, Porter Memorial BC, Lexington
- 10-11 National WMU Meeting, New Orleans
- 12-13 Southern Baptist Convention, New Orleans
- 15-16 GA Overnight/ Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek
- 18-22 GA Camp, Cedar Crest
- 22-23 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek
- 25-29 GA/Acteens Camp, Cedar Crest

July

- 2-3 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 6-7 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 9-13 GA/Acteens Camp, Cedar Crest
- 13-14 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
- 13-14 World Missions Unlimited, training for church and associational leaders, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville
- 16-20 GA Camp, Cedar Crest
- 20 World Missions Unlimited, training for associational leaders, 7-9 p.m., Central BC, Winchester
- 21 World Missions Unlimited, training for church leaders, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Central BC, Winchester

- 27 World Missions Unlimited, training for associational leaders, 7-9 p.m., FBC, Hopkinsville
- 28 World Missions Unlimited, training for church leaders, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., FBC, Hopkinsville

August

- 11 Super Saturday, Highview BC, Louisville
- 15 Super Saturday, Immanuel BC, Lexington
- 20 Conference on Cults, Cold Springs
- 21 Conference on Cults, Buena Vista BC, Somerset
- 25 Super Saturday, Central BC, Corbin
- 25 Super Saturday, FBC, Owensboro

September

- 7 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel Applications Due
- 8 Super Saturday, Unity BC, Ashland; FBC, Paducah
- 9-16 Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering
- 14 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest
- 19-21 Global Celebration for Women, Houston

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Saturday, June 2
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Lawrenceburg

Featured Speaker: Tina Weitkamp, professor of obstetrics at University of Cincinnati and volunteer missionary to Tanzania
Cost: \$6 to cover meal costs

For reservations, questions or directions, call (888) 254-5726

RESOURCES

Warren's evangelism strategy: Learn to think like a fish

Continued from page 1

■ **Go where the fish are biting.** "It's a waste of time to fish in a spot where the fish aren't biting," Warren said. "Wise fishermen move on. They understand that fish are not hungry all the time."

Non-Christians are more responsive to spiritual truth at some times than at other times, Warren said, noting that the apostle Paul's strategy was to go through open doors and not waste time banging on closed ones.

Christians shouldn't focus their efforts on people who aren't ready to listen, Warren said, adding, "There are far more people in the world ready to receive Christ than there are believers ready to witness to them."

■ **Learn to think like a fish.** In order to catch fish, it helps to understand their habits, preferences and feeding patterns, Warren said. "Jesus often knew what unbelievers were thinking," Warren noted. "He understood and defused the mental barriers people held. This is the reason He was so effective in dealing with people."

"We must learn to think like unbelievers in order to win them," Warren continued. "The problem is, the longer you are a believer the less you think like an unbeliever. Your interests and values change. You must intentionally change mental gears when seeking to relate to non-Christians."

Take church advertising as an ex-

ample. Warren said most of it is written from a believer's viewpoint, not from the mindset of people who don't attend church. "When you see a church ad that announces, 'Preaching the inerrant Word of God,' who do you think that ad appeals to?" he asked.

Warren said he considers the inerrancy of Scripture as a non-negotiable belief but unchurched people don't understand the term. "If you're going to advertise your church you must learn to think and speak like unbelievers," Warren said. "The spiritual terminology that Christians are familiar with is just gibberish to the unchurched."

■ **Catch fish on their terms.** Too often, cultural differences between believers and unbelievers become barriers to getting the message out, Warren said.

"The gospel is always communicated in the terms of some culture," Warren noted. "The only question is, Which one? No church can be culturally neutral. It will express some culture because it is composed of human beings."

"The problem with many churches today is that they're stuck in the culture of the 1950s—using bait and hooks that worked in that era—and they're wondering why the fish are no longer biting," Warren said.

■ **Use more than one hook.** Warren said people have a myriad of choices today, yet many churches offer only two choices: Take it or leave it.

Purpose driven or seeker sensitive?

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)—Many people equate a "purpose driven church" with one having seeker sensitive worship services, but pastor and author Rick Warren said that isn't necessarily so.

Purpose driven churches are built around five New Testament purposes of worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship and ministry, said Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Church."

"Purpose driven churches are committed to doing evangelism, not any one particular style of worship service," Warren told pastors during a recent three-day conference at Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., where he is pastor.

"Thousands of purpose driven churches do not have a seeker service," Warren said. "They do have evangelism in many different forms."

In addition, Warren said being purpose driven is not even about

one's target group: "There are countless varieties of PDCs (purpose driven churches). I know of purpose driven churches that are aimed at postmoderns, ethnics, language groups, cowboys, singles, artists and surfers. They're located all around the world in over 100 countries."

Being contemporary in worship style also is not a sign of being purpose driven, Warren said.

"It doesn't matter whether your worship style is liturgical, traditional, contemporary, country, charismatic, multi-sensory or casual," Warren said. "What matters is that your style matches the people you are seeking to reach."

The purpose driven strategy focuses on balance, health and strength, not size and shape, Warren said, noting there is no correlation between the size and strength of a church.

"We even know of purpose driven house churches that are on boats on the Amazon River."

"It's not pandering to consumerism to offer multiple times or even styles of worship services," Warren said. "It's strategic and it's unselfish. It says we will do whatever it takes to reach more people for Christ. The goal is not to make it as difficult as possible but to make it as easy as possible for the unchurched to hear about Christ."

Growing churches offer multiple programs, multiple services and sometimes even multiple locations, Warren added, and they realize it takes all kinds of approaches to reach all kinds of people. "Jerry Falwell calls it 'saturation evangelism': using every available means to reach every available person at every available time."

Rick Warren said many churches offer only two choices: Take it or leave it.

Honoring two seniors

By Robert Dunston

During Cumberland College's annual Honors Day program, we presented awards to two seniors who demonstrated outstanding leadership on campus.

Nathan Coleman received the T.J. Roberts Campus Leadership Award. Coleman is the son of Jerry and Marilyn Coleman of Inez. In early May, he graduated with a major in history and a minor in political science.

Coleman served as the only two-time president of the Student Government Association in the history of Cumberland College.

In addition, he served as president of Cumberland's award-winning chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society.

Coleman presented a paper at the Mid-South Regional Conference at the University of Tennessee and received runner-up honors in the undergraduate division. He plans to pursue a master's degree and a doctorate in history at the University of Louisville and eventually teach on the college level.

Amanda Kidd received the Gorman Jones Campus Leader-

ship Award. Kidd is the daughter of Roger and Kathy Kidd of Jellico, Tenn., and graduated in early May with a major in mathematics and a minor in physics.

Kidd has served as president of the math and physics club; vice president and secretary of Cumberland's chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, the national math honor society; and secretary of Cumberland's chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta, the national freshman honor society.

For most of her time at Cumberland College, Kidd served as a tutor in math and physics for Cumberland's academic resource center. In her local church she also plays piano and teaches preschoolers. She plans to pursue a master's degree in statistics at the University of Tennessee.

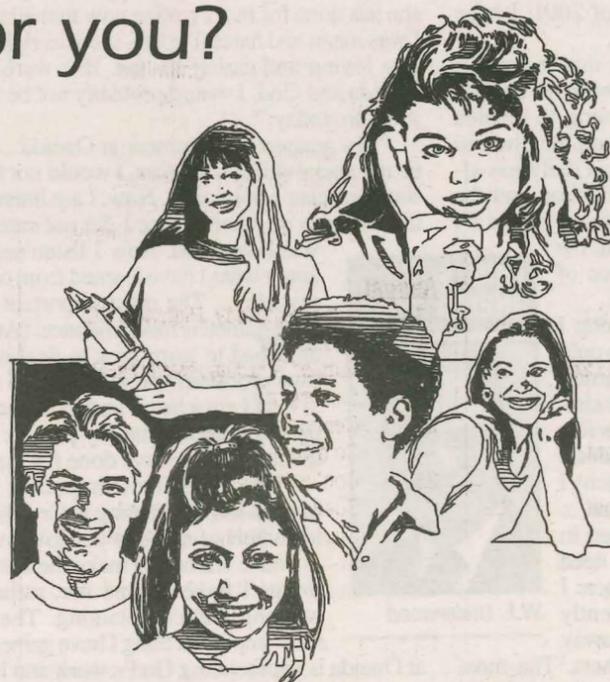
We congratulate both Coleman and Kidd for their outstanding leadership and pray God's blessing upon them.

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

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WORLD VIEW

■ **Church official: North Korea facing new food crisis.** North Korea is facing new worries about worsening food shortages, according to a church-based relief expert. Erich Weingartner, former liaison officer for the United Nations World Food Program in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, said North Korea now faces a 1.8-million ton food shortfall, its worst since 1997. "The food situation is still very critical," Weingartner, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, said at a May 15 forum at New York's Interchurch Center. As many as 1 million North Koreans may have died due to food shortages and related problems in the mid- to late-1990s. Southern Baptist agencies were among those who responded to the country's previous needs.

■ **British churches offer free Web access.** Christian Aid, the aid and development agency serving Britain's Anglican and other Protestant churches, is offering free access to the Internet. Its Web site, www.fish.co.uk, also offers users daily readings and prayers. Christian Aid hopes it will generate additional income—in excess of 100 pounds (\$145) a week—without affecting the flow of donations on which its work depends. The income will come from receiving 50 percent of what British Telecom charges for the local telephone call needed to access the site, along with payments from retailers and others accessed through the site.

■ **World Evangelical Fellowship denounces abuse.** Delegates at the World Evangelical Fellowship denounced abuse of women and supported the cancellation of Third World debt during their recent General Assembly. The 11th gathering attracted about 600 Christian leaders from 84 nations to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 50-year-old fellowship has a general assembly every four years. The statement on abuse encouraged churches to denounce abuse from the pulpit, provide safety for those in danger, help victims heal and admonish offenders.

BWA's U.N. accreditation might be in jeopardy

NEW YORK (BP)—The U.N. oversight committee that booted the United States from the U.N. Human Rights Commission is trying to ban several private human rights advocacy groups from participation in the United Nations.

Those targeted include Freedom House, the Family Research Council, the Baptist World Alliance and the Simon Weisenthal Center, according to a report in the Washington Times.

The effort is being orchestrated in a 19-nation subcommittee of the 54-nation U.N. Economic and Social Council, which increasingly has become polarized between democratic nations and others such as Sudan, Sierra Leone, China and Cuba.

Longtime observers said it is getting harder for bona fide human rights advocates to win accreditation with the current composition of the subcommittee.

Several groups, such as Baptist World Alliance, didn't even realize their applications were in danger of being rejected.

"I suspect they only want more information," said George Younger, the U.N. representative for the Baptist World Alliance. "Our operations are transparent and not politically motivated."

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, said the agency is optimistic it will be reaccredited as an NGO, a position it has held with the UN since 1975.

Lotz noted that the annual award given to NGOs in New York City is named after the first BWA representative there, Eleanor Schnurr. "I would find it very strange and indeed an injustice if the BWA were denied accreditation."

Lotz also noted that leading Baptists such as Billy Graham, Jimmy Carter and Martin Luther King Jr. have spoken to the United Nations and affirmed Baptist concern for religious freedom for all.

"The BWA commitment to defending the principle of religious freedom will continue," Lotz said. "We will not be muzzled, nor restrain our voice from defending those who are persecuted, no matter their race, country of origin or religion."

Taliban: Non-Muslims want to wear yellow badges

KABUL, Afghanistan (RNS)—Taliban officials have decided to require non-Muslims in Afghanistan to wear a yellow badge on their shirt pockets to distinguish them from Muslims.

The decree is reminiscent of Germany's treatment of Jews during World War II, but the government said the action will help Hindus and other minority faith groups avoid run-ins with religious police enforcing Islamic law.

The mandate announced May 22 by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice came at the request of Hindus themselves, said senior Taliban information ministry of-

ficial Mullah Abdulhanan Himat.

"This order was issued on the demand of Hindus who were concerned all the time because the workers of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice would always ask them to grow a beard or go and offer prayers in the mosque," Himat told Reuters.

The law also requires Hindu women in the country to wear veils as their Muslim counterparts do. Visitors to the country would not have to abide by the law.

Within the past 30 years, the number of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan has shrunk from as many as 50,000 to about 500 in the capital,

according to Associated Press. About 1,700 Hindus and Sikhs live in the entire country, according to Reuters. Other faiths are essentially absent in Afghanistan.

Nepal—the world's only Hindu kingdom with more than 90 percent of its 23 million-strong population followers of the religion—has joined India and the United States in denouncing the new law.

"It is a reprehensible act which defies all norms and universal principles of human rights, thereby isolating the Hindu minorities living together in amity with their Muslim fraternity in Afghanistan," read a statement issued by the country's foreign ministry.

'The single most important thing I have gained'

For several weeks I have been sharing excerpts from essays written by the class of 2001. I hope you have enjoyed their comments.

I explained in the first column that the essays were not required. I asked the seniors to share a little about their lives before coming to Oneida Baptist Institute, what faculty and staff have helped them the most, how going to chapel daily has affected them, their plans after graduation and the single most important thing they have gained by coming to OBI. In this last article in the series, I am just going to list some of their comments.

"The single most important thing I have gained at OBI is diversity. I would not have had the opportunity to participate in all I did at Oneida anywhere else. As a result of my experiences at Oneida, I have discovered many of the ideals which best represent me and (which) I will continue to live for in the future. ... The most enduring concept instilled in me is the knowledge that I have no need to be ashamed of who I am or where I am from. ... All people are inherently equal, and status cannot be stripped away through the words or deeds of others. The most important thing I have learned is how to deal with being on the top of the world and then ... crashing to the ground. While I have always been near the top with academics, I have declined in athletics. ... But I've learned not to be a quitter and that I can do anything if I ... trust God to help me through it."

"The single most important thing I have ... gained by coming to Oneida is my relationship with God. If I had not come to Oneida, I'm not sure if I could ever have (appreciated) God's grace over me. Before coming to Oneida, I did not have a relationship with my mom. In the five years I have

been here, I have learned to appreciate her and all she has done for me. I realize now that all the time I was mean and hateful to her, she was right by my side loving and caring for me. If it were not for Oneida and God, I would probably not be the person I am today."

"My greatest achievement at Oneida ... would be my social skills. ... Before, I would not listen to someone else's opinion. ... Now, I am interested in the thoughts of others. Once I did not care what I was being told. Now I listen and try to apply what I have learned from others to my life. ... The most important thing I have gained is independence. (At) Oneida, I had to learn how to deal with my own problems and take care of myself. ... And I am a better and more respectful person. I appreciate my parents and all the things they have done for me."

"The single most important thing I have gained by coming to Oneida is loving others as much as you love yourself. ... I have learned to make the best of the things I have around me, rather than whining and complaining. The single most important thing I have gained while at Oneida is appreciating God's work and love for me. I learned that God loves me no matter what happens."

"The thing I like most about Oneida are the teachers. They actually care about you and work hard with you as long as you are willing to work hard with them. The single most important thing I have gained at Oneida has got to be respect—respect for myself and respect for others."

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

More graduation memories

Each of the 36 graduates had special memories as they received a degree May 11.

Chad Fugitt, of Kentucky, might be the last student whose admission we delay for being under age 21. In the spring he became pastor of Middleburg Baptist Church. This summer he will be married.

Mike Hamby, of Tennessee, remembers late-night rook matches and a mission trip to Tanzania. Mike recently concluded a few months as interim pastor of High Street Church in Somerset, after serving the church as youth pastor for more than two years.

Eric Jackson, of New York, stated the best memory anyone could have, "My three children were saved while I was at Clear Creek." Eric became pastor of Goshen Baptist Church in Glen Dean.

Jerry Lusk, of Tennessee, left a 10-year pastorate for Clear Creek. His daughter Jessica, 22, married a student and Ginger, 20, was awarded an associate degree while Dad received his B.A. Jerry is pastor of First Baptist Church of Pound, Va.

Jim Norman, of Kentucky, remembers fishing with professor Bill Helton. Whenever Jim needs a laugh, he will recall an incident as a

physical plant employee when he got the backhoe stuck in the creek. McKinney Baptist Church in Lincoln County called Jim as pastor.

Barry Proctor, of Kentucky, is pastor of Blackey Baptist Church in Hurley, Va. "I was a C, D and F student in high school but completed Clear creek with a 3.0 GPA," Barry said.

Donald Wadley, of Tennessee, said, "The first Christmas shopping spree was amazing!" He is thankful for Bible knowledge that brought confidence when leading a group.

Brad Watson, of Tennessee, will remember the "opportunity to go to Tanzania with a group of fellows students and Dr. Whittaker and seeing many people come to Christ." Brad, student director of the family life center, received the annual Excellence in Work Award presented to a workshop employee.

The faculty recognized **Greg Williams**, of Ohio, as the student who demonstrated the most progress. While a student, he was unofficial associate pastor of White Memorial AME Church in Middlesboro.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

'It's genocide'

Faith groups campaign to halt slavery in Sudan

By Shelia Dancy
Religion New Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than 300 years after the first slave ships ferried men, women and children away from the African continent to tobacco and cotton plantations in the West, the clink of shackles still echoes in southern Sudan.

That peal has rolled across the Atlantic Ocean to the U.S. capital, where an interfaith coalition of religious leaders has launched a campaign to prod the U.S. government to help find a resolution to slavery, persecution and civil war in Africa's largest country.

"The situation in Sudan is desperate—it's genocide," said Faith McDonnell, coordinator of the coalition called the Institute for Religion and Democracy's Church Alliance for a New Sudan. "We have to have a moral witness against evil, and this is definitely evil."

Thousands of Sudanese are among the millions of people forced or tricked into slavery each year, casualties of the longest-running uninterrupted civil war in the world.

More than 2 million lives have been snuffed out in fighting and war-related famine since 1983 when fighting erupted between the Arab Islamic government in the north and autonomy-seeking groups in the mainly animist and Christian south. Approximately 4 million people have been forced to flee their homes for a hard-scrabble existence in refugee camps.

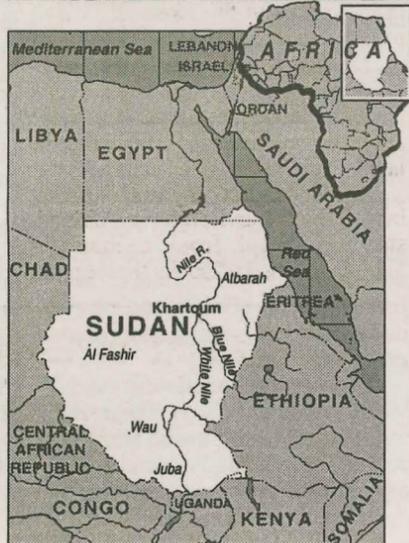
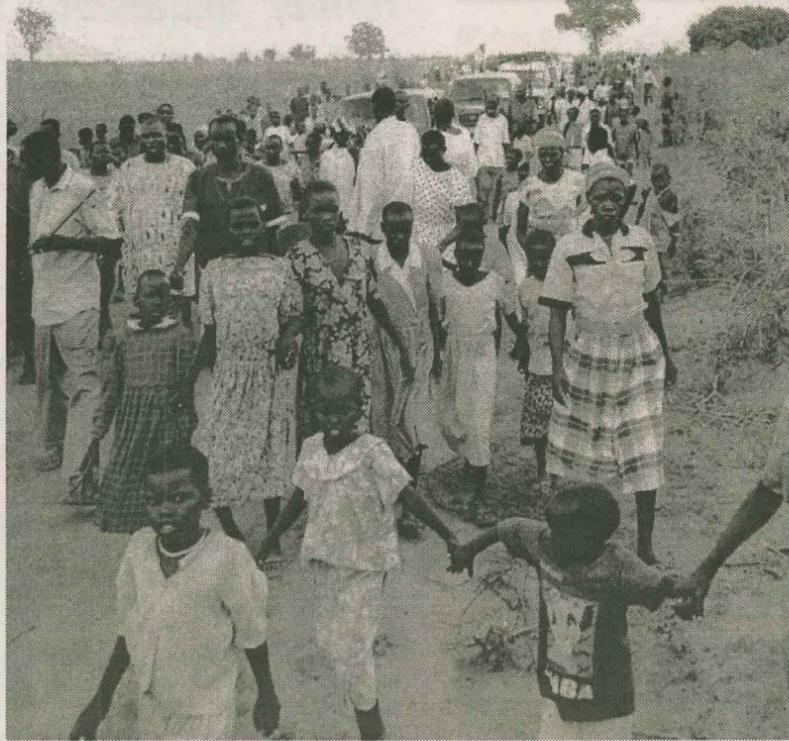
The situation has reached "genocidal proportions," particularly for the nation's non-Muslims, according to a recent report from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Religious persecution is one of the "motivating factors" of the nation's civil war, the commission noted.

Still, in a meeting last fall with Martin Luther King III and other African-American leaders, Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir denied the charges as an effort to smear the country's image.

At least 70 percent of Sudan's 28-million population is Muslim. Christians comprise roughly 19 percent of the population.

Christian refugees "really feel as if they're treated as second-class citizens," said Bishop John Ricard, president of Catholic Relief Services, who joined a U.S. Catholic Conference delegation that visited Christian refugees and government officials in Sudan in April in its own persecution awareness campaign. "The government of Khartoum is pursuing a policy of religious and racial intolerance where people are forced to accept Sharia law," the Muslim penal code.

McDonnell said the church alliance will focus on how Sudan's government manipulates food aid intended for citizens of southern Sudan. "U.S. tax dollars are being used for food aid for



Operation Lifeline Sudan that is at the veto power of Khartoum (Sudan's capital), and the government is manipulating that aid to bring about starvation."

The alliance wants food aid to go directly to nongovernmental organizations and relief organizations so they can give it directly to those in need, she said.

The coalition also wants to convince Congress to close the U.S. stock market to oil companies—such as Canada's Talisman Energy Inc.—which conduct business with the Sudanese government. The Presbyterian Church (USA) recently voted to divest its shares in the Canadian company, McDonnell said, adding that the United Methodist and Episcopal denominations, have passed similar resolutions.

"Most of the oil is in southern Sudan, and that oil is retrieved by 'clearing the land'—burning the villages and killing the people or forcing them out," she said. "The Sudanese government uses the revenue from oil sales to continue fighting the war."

In addition to the coalition, many Christian leaders have long urged prayer and other support for Christians suffering in Sudan.

During a National Day of Prayer service earlier this month, Chuck Col-

FORCED OUT These residents of a southern Sudanese refugee camp were forced out of their homes by the country's civil war. Religious leaders are heading an effort for greater action in the East Africa nation. (Catholic Relief Services photo by David Snyder)

son said Americans should be ashamed for not caring more about those suffering from slavery in Sudan.

"America depends upon righteous, God-fearing, praying people who will seek God's face," he said. "We have no business praying unless we repent ourselves."

Also, the Archbishop of Canterbury has asked the world's 70 million Anglicans to spend nine days—between Ascension Day, May 24, and Pentecost, June 3—in prayer for besieged Christians in Sudan and the Middle East.

The public pressure appears already to be having some impact on the Bush administration.

President Bush announced May 3 that he was taking steps to convince the government of Sudan to end its civil war.

"We must turn the eyes of the world upon the atrocities in Sudan," Bush said during a speech to the American Jewish Committee.

Bush said Andrew Natsios, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development, has been selected to serve as a special humanitarian coordinator for Sudan to make sure that aid to the country "goes to the needy, without manipulation by those ravaging that troubled land."

Jesse Sage, associate director of the American Anti-Slavery Group, said the public needs to be enlightened about a plight that has been ignored for far too long in the United States.

"Part of the reason President Clinton was mostly silent is that the American public was silent," Sage said. "But the American public is becoming much more educated and aware right now. Once you shine a spotlight on an issue like this, it's hard for people to remain silent."

Worship leaders record CD to raise awareness about Sudan

By Stacey Hamby
Missouri Word & Way

COSTA MESA, Calif. (BP)—It was just another benefit dinner, or so Ken Tamplin thought. He told his wife they would go, make a donation and be home in time to tuck their two children in to bed.

But what he saw that night changed his life.

"Raiders went into a village, murdered parents in front of their children, then forced the children to make a 30-mile trek on foot," Tamplin recalled from a video depicting the persecution of southern Sudanese people.

Since civil war began in 1983, more than 2 million people have died and 4 million people have been tortured, raped and sold into slavery. The war pits Arabs in the north against Africans—primarily Christians and animists—in the south. Tensions are rooted in attempts to impose Islamic values on all Sudanese people.

"One 2-year-old boy was crying, and he couldn't keep up. The toddler's captors beat him to death with the butt of their guns. They sold girls no older than 15 into prostitution slavery; they were raped repeatedly by about a dozen men every night. One man tried to buy back his daughters, but he only had enough money for one."

The images and stories haunted Tamplin. "What if I ever had to ask myself which child would I leave?

"I said, 'Lord, there's no one I know—Christian or not—who can sit back and allow this to happen if they have any compassion and ability at all.'"

Tamplin—a three-time Dove Award-winning songwriter who also has written music for "The Perfect Storm" and "X-Files"—set to work on a project called "Make Me Your Voice." Released by Spring Hill Music Group in Nashville, the CD compiles songs written with the persecuted Sudanese in mind.

Spring Hill President Scott Chancey said Christians have a responsibility to speak out for those who cannot. "Ken Tamplin has assembled some of the top worship leaders from across the U.S. to participate, and we have provided listeners with not only a way to help this war-torn nation, but also with a great worship recording as well."

Fifteen worship leaders from such churches as Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago, Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and Church on the Rock in St. Peters, Mo., wrote songs and performed them for the project. Other artists on "Make Me Your Voice" include Andrae Crouch and Charlie Peacock.

Church on the Rock worship leader Kyle McCarty co-wrote a song with Tamplin, who is part of the worship team at Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, Calif. "'We Love You, Lord,' just came to me at a time when I was at the piano worshipping the Lord," McCarty said. "Christ says, 'If you love Me, feed My sheep.' We want to touch the Sudanese people and help them any way we can."

All artist royalties from the recording go to three relief organizations active in the Sudan—Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Samaritan's Purse and Safe Harbor International Relief. Christian Solidarity's international president, Caroline Cox, said the recording will raise awareness of the Sudanese plight and possibly encourage President Bush to action "as well as help us with resources to continue our ministry to save lives, heal the sick and free the slaves."

"Make Me Your Voice" is the first in a series of such worship CDs aimed at assisting the Sudanese people.

"I felt God tell me to make this solidarity worship record to bring people together—blacks, whites—all worshipping together," Tamplin said. "The Lord's hand has been on this. He wants to see this carnage stopped. He wants to see Christians come together to stop this."

For more information about "Make Me Your Voice," visit the Web site, www.makemeyourvoice.com. The CD also is available in Christian bookstores nationwide.

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:

■ Church planters Paul and Jo Ann Beduerftig as they develop an English-language church in Dresden, Germany.

■ Give thanks for a homeless couple in Bucharest, Romania, who recently made professions of faith in Jesus as Savior as a result of the witness of missionary Bill Bowers. Pray for Bowers and his wife, Carol, as they disciple the couple and help them find employment as well.

■ Wiktor, a 29-year-old Ukrainian doctoral student who comes to the home of missionaries John and Jan Stimple in Warsaw, Poland, to practice English. Pray that he will become a believer.

■ Missionaries in language school in Tanzania.

■ The Kaguru peoples of Tanzania and missionaries John and Nancy Laramore who work among them.

■ Ray Allen, evangelism team leader for the Baptist Convention of New England.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BEREA**—Silver Creek Church called **Bruce Rendleman** as pastor. Rendleman previously served at Masonville Church in Utica.

■ **BOAZ**—Wice Memorial Church called **Allen Yates** as pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church honored **Allen Case** and his wife on his 30th anniversary as minister of music.

■ **LEBANON**—**Oliver Hawkins**, director of missions for Central Association, and his wife, **Joy Elaine**, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 10, 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Building in Springfield. For information, call (270) 692-9577.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church called **Chris Butler** as pastor. Butler previously was at Shively Heights Church in Louisville.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Gethsemane Church will ordain **Dale Holcomb** to

the gospel ministry June 10 at 5:30 p.m. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will host **Dwight Ashley** in concert June 10 at 6 p.m. **Jon Bishop** is pastor.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church called **Joshua Parris** as minister of youth beginning June 3. Parris previously served in New Washington, Ind. **Jim Cobban** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—**James Garland**, former interim pastor of Wice Memorial Church, is available for supply, interim pastorates and revivals. He may be reached at 3012 Mississippi St., Paducah, 42003.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—First Church held a note burning ceremony May 6 to commemorate paying off \$550,000 in debt for its new facilities. **Timothy Waits** is pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Pigeon Fork Church called **Danny Garrett** as pastor.



NEW MISSIONARIES Frank Pollard, right, senior pastor of First Church of Jackson, Miss., commends Juan Cintron, who along with his wife Yanina, left, will serve as Southern Baptist missionaries in Puerto Rico. The Cintrons were appointed during the May 20 North American Mission Board commissioning service at the church. Sixty-eight new Southern Baptist missionaries were commissioned.

New homosexual congregation hires former 'amnesiac,' seminary staffer

DALLAS (BP)—A pastor and former Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary staff member who left the pastorate of a Dallas congregation after doubts about his story of amnesia has been hired at a new church formed by his supporters.

James Simmons, who was recognized in December as Wesley Barrett "Barre" Cox who had disappeared from Abilene, Texas, without a trace nearly 17 years ago, recently became pastor of Faith Community Church in Garland, Texas.

Simmons was Golden Gate's campus housing director at the time of his resignation in December. After arriving at the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary in 1991, he was elected student body president in 1993 and 1994 and earned two master's degrees.

Simmons, whose wife, daughter and other relatives had presumed him dead, declined to comment to the Dallas Morning News about his new position.

Simmons resigned in February as senior pastor of White Rock Community Church in Dallas after requesting a vote of support from the congregation. He received a majority of votes but not the two-thirds support he had requested.

Simmons has said he does not remember anything of his life before the experience he recounts of having been found beaten and nearly comatose in a car trunk near Memphis, Tenn., in 1984.

His story of amnesia caused division within the Dallas church and attracted unwanted media attention to the predominantly homosexual and lesbian congregation, church

members said.

Some worshipers were skeptical of Simmons' story and questioned his ability to lead the congregation. Others said they believed the pastor and called his experiences a miracle.

Simmons' supporters recently opened Faith Community Church in a small Garland shopping center that includes an Army recruiting office, beauty college and video store.

A White Rock Community Church deacon told the Dallas Morning News he was happy for the 40 to 50 members who formed the spin-off congregation.

"We're an evangelical church, and we're supposed to spread the Word and grow," Tom Scott told the newspaper. "They thought the world of James Simmons and wanted him, and now they have him."

Scott said the White Rock congregation continues to search for a new senior pastor.

Simmons' story has generated international attention since he was identified as Cox after his sermon in view of a call at White Rock Community Church. He told parishioners after the service about his amnesia, and that's when one of them recognized him as the man who disappeared from Abilene.

Police and hospitals in the Memphis area said they had no record of a case involving a man fitting Simmons' description. Simmons has said he got his first name from the Bible and his last name from a hardware store sign. But the name, along with his birth date and Social Security number, match those of a West Texas rancher. He said he used the number for a couple of years because he was desperate and needed a job.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT: Condo in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms; two baths; fully-equipped kitchen; washer/dryer; courtyard; private drive. (502) 538-6769.

FOR RENT: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental, Sanibel Island, Fla. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$745. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752.

FOR SALE: Twelve 12' padded church pews, two pulpit pews; mauve, great condition. \$2,500 OBO. Calvary Baptist Church, Grand Rivers, Ky. (270) 534-9824, (270) 928-2091, (270) 928-2335.

FOR SALE: Grand piano. Walnut finish; 5'10"; perfect condition; just right for church sanctuary or chapel. Transportation available. For more information, call Cecil Lea, Bowling Green, (270) 783-0034.

FOR SALE: Solid oak church pews (padded seats and backs). For more information, call (423) 745-1394.

FOR SALE: Ten Commandments T-shirts for vacation Bible school, \$4. Call (888) 601-2345; http://ten

commandments.faithweb.com. Also, Ten Commandments yard signs, \$2 wholesale.

SEEKING: Summer youth ministry intern with possible full-time position by fall. Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Contact: Dr. C. Gilbert Tucker, (859) 277-6147.

SEEKING: Administrator of Christian growth and activities. Related education and experience preferred. Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Fax: (270) 769-0833; e-mail: ibcsearch@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington is seeking a full-time minister of children and preschoolers. Ours is a growing church in a growing community; present worship attendance averages more than 750. Qualified candidates should send resumés to: Personnel Committee, FBC of Mt. Washington, PO Box 315, Mt. Washington, KY 40047.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of adult education for dynamic, fast-growing Southern Baptist church in Northern Kentucky. Strong organizational and management skills and a desire to be part of a strong ministry team are required. Please send resumé to: Florence Baptist Church, PO Box 456, Florence, KY 41022-0456, Attn: Karen Byrd, or e-mail to: tmjohnson@fuse.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth. Must be motivated and organized; pay package: \$33,000+. Send resumé to: Youth Minister Search, Concord Baptist Church, 1945 Concord Lane, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

SEEKING: Part-time bookkeeper (10 hours/week). Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291.

SEEKING: Nursery worker for Wednesday and special services. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, or call (502) 239-0316.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for East Hickman Baptist Church, an historic, rural church located four miles from Lexington, Ky. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 2125 Azalea Dr., Lexington, KY 40504.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C., is searching for a minister of education. Job focus: Responsible for leading the educational organizations of the church. Qualifications: Possess significant knowledge of Christian education and training systems; a degree in Christian education or master of divinity or equivalent experience is optimum. Candidates should submit resumés to: First Baptist, 120 N Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28150, Attn: Pat Whately.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/minister of youth. Position includes youth ministries and administrative duties. Resumé must include experience and/or education in areas of youth ministry and church administration. Applicant must be active member of a Southern Baptist church for the past three years or more. Please submit resumés to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education for loving, growing church in Southwestern Kentucky. Seminary preferred. Please send resumé to: Elkton Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220, Attn: Staff Search Committee.

Prosecutor urges churches to take part in 'restorative justice' process

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—The classic debate about whether prisons exist to punish criminals or rehabilitate them misses the point, according to a Texas prosecutor who supports a third model called "restorative justice."

Restorative justice offers something neither retribution nor rehabilitation can give. It rebuilds community, said Ronnie Earle, who has served 24 years as district attorney in Austin.

"Restorative justice uses opportunities created by crime to solve problems that led to the crime in the first place, reweaving the fabric of community," Earle said in the keynote address at a "Peacemaking Through Community" banquet, held as part of an annual Restorative Justice Ministry Convention.

Earle commended Christians who minister to people in the criminal-justice system.

"We've been told we have two choices. One is to build more prisons, lock 'em up and throw away the key. The other is to offer more treatment—give them an apple and a kiss on the cheek," Earle said.

Restorative justice offers a third alternative that supports the victim, holds the offender responsible and protects the community.

"Restorative justice is what the people want. That makes it good politics. It's what the country needs. That makes it good government. And it's what the future holds," Earle said.

The problem with the conventional criminal-justice system is that its focus is the offender, he said. Restorative justice, on the other hand, asks what harm was inflicted, what needs to be done to repair the harm and who is responsible for bringing about the repair.

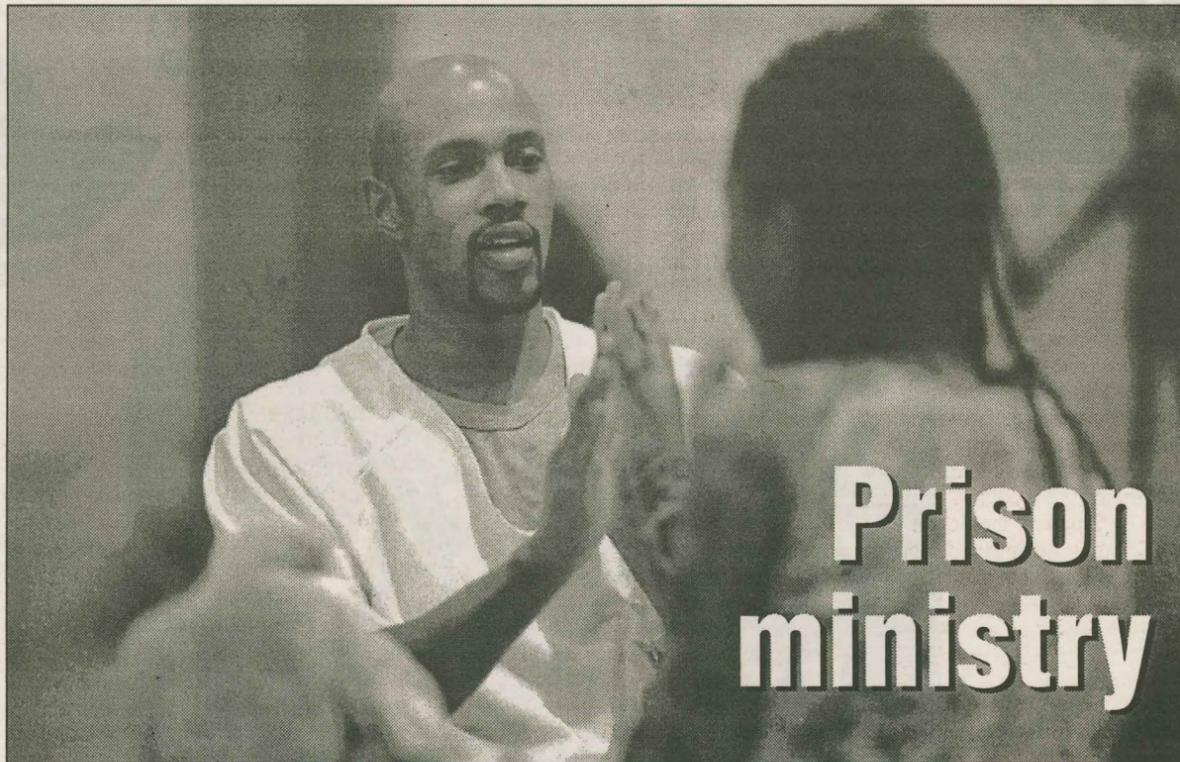
"Efforts to improve the criminal-justice system without addressing improvements in the community are like building a house on sand," Earle said. "Restorative justice builds the house on rock."

Innovative programs such as victim/offender mediation panels and other alternative sentencing help to restore the power that comes from a genuine sense of community, he said. Such approaches involve the victims and their support groups, along with the offenders and representatives of "the system." They also fill the need for "up close and personal accountability," he added.

Earle said Christians and other concerned citizens should demand "a place at the table" on local community-justice councils and require law-enforcement and social-service agencies to learn how to work together to address crime prevention.

"Being tough on crime is easy," Earle said. "What's hard is being smart on crime. The community must take responsibility for the precursors of crime."

"Child abuse is the cradle of crime," he said. "Stop it there, and you stop the assembly line."



Hope House seeks to provide 'moment of redemption'

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (RNS)—The band was blaring at Family Day at Northeast Ohio Correctional Center, but Thomas Murphy and Renee Allen paid it no mind.

Sitting in the gym of the medium-security prison, they were in deep discussion, attempting to heal the most serious of emotional wounds inflicted eight years ago.

"I killed her child, and yet she's bringing my child to see me and cooking me food," said Murphy, 28, who spent about five hours with Allen and his 10-year-old daughter, Tommesha Scott. "This is not an everyday moment for me. It's like I just made parole."

"It's strange 'cause that's not human. I know it's God."

Allen, 45, whose daughter LaShawn Scott was murdered in Washington, D.C., by Murphy in 1993, said she decided after months of consideration to visit Murphy because he soon would be moved to another facility, possibly farther away from her home in Oxon Hill, Md.

She had been polite for the sake of Tommesha, who is also her daughter's daughter. Allen previously helped her granddaughter and Murphy keep in touch by phone. But Allen said she made the 330-mile journey by bus for herself.

"This trip was for me," said the woman in a red T-shirt and jeans.

She expected to break down as memories rushed back when she saw Murphy, but instead he was the one who "cried on my shoulder telling me how sorry he was," she said.

"When people tell you that God can change people no matter what, it's real," she said after watching Murphy participate in a graduation ceremony along with other inmates from a Lifeline prison program that helps them focus on improving their lives.

The outward appearance of the gathering beneath the basketball nets of the gym was just like the average family reunion—laughter and conver-



sation over plates piled high with fried chicken, greens and potato salad. But deep inside the barbed wire and multiple gates, the far meatier matters of reconciliation, forgiveness and understanding were on the table.

Dressed in loose white uniforms that resembled medical scrubs, about 75 inmates—felons serving time for convictions ranging from murder to parole violation—seemed oblivious to the guards standing near the door. For a few hours, their loved ones were getting their full attention.

Seventy-seven family members traveled in two buses earlier this month to reunite with their dads, their children's fathers, their former boyfriends and their husbands. They made the trip—six hours there and six hours back—thanks to an anonymous donation to Hope House, a faith-based organization that works to keep inmates connected to their Washington, D.C.-area families.

"We think guys in prison don't care," said Carol Fennelly, Hope House founder and former Washington activist, in an interview. "What I find is the face-to-face encounter with their mothers or their wives or their girlfriends or the people they've left behind causes them to come face-to-face with themselves. I think that in the lives of every prisoner that I've met, there is at least one moment of redemption."

Upon arriving at the prison, children from tots to teens exited the bus while women shared a hairspray can before entering the long, light gray building with narrow windows.

Inmates eyed the door expectantly as groups of visitors entered to greet them. After the hugs and handshakes,

there was time for deep conversation and fun and games with the children.

Between servings of seafood brought by cooler and heated by microwave, Steve Smith, 34, had a heart-to-heart chat about faith and doing better the second time around. He and his aunt, Dorothy Morris, talked about how his white uniform symbolized the purity that could be in his future after he finished his sentence for possessing and distributing cocaine.

His sister, accompanied by her fiancé, got to tell him in person that she was engaged.

Just before saying goodbye to his family, the inmate summed up the visit: "It gave me an opportunity to realize what I had really missed."

Fennelly started Hope House in 1998 in Washington and moved to Youngstown almost two years ago to assist the prisoners housed here. When she's not in Ohio, she's traveling to New Mexico or Arizona to videotape inmates and send their moving messages back home.

She's also kept families connected through teleconferencing that allows prisoners to spend time with their children via computer. In April, she hosted a camp program where children painted murals with their dads during a week of visits.

Now, with the help of one Washington-based staff person, she'll soon move to North Carolina to work with minimum-security prisoners who lived in Washington when they were arrested.

As they walked out of the prison, some family members clutched Polaroid snapshots of them posing with the inmates before colorful murals drawn by the children and the prisoners. Fennelly carried the jewelry box made by Tommesha Scott as a thank-you gift for reuniting her with her father. In her arms, Tommesha held the rolled-up mural she crafted with her dad.

Allen, her grandmother, leaning back as the bus headed for the Pennsylvania mountains, simply carried her new memories. "I'm just glad I came."

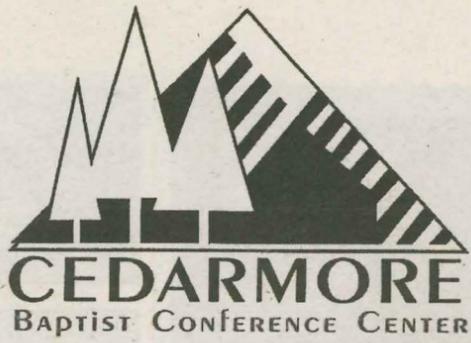


THE LONG ROAD ■ Top right: Annie Smith and her fiancé, Antoine Pinkney, sleep on the bus during the six-hour trip from Washington to the Northeast Ohio Correctional Center in Youngstown. Smith cooked food for her brother Steve until 1:45 a.m. before meeting the bus. Hope House Founder Carol Fennelly said encounters with family members help inmates come face-to-face with themselves.

■ Bottom right: Steve Smith greets his aunt. Smith said of the visit: "It gave me an opportunity to realize what I had really missed."

■ Top left: Thomas Murphy plays with his daughter, Tommesha Scott, 10. During their visit, Murphy reconciled with Tommesha's grandmother, whose daughter he killed eight years ago.

■ Inset: James Carter shares a moment with his son, James, 9. (RNS photos by Carl Bower)



*Thank you
Campers on Mission
for your work and your love
this spring!*

