

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

June 5, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 22



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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, June 6

Census: Families continue moving away from the traditional model

NASHVILLE (ABP)—America continues to shift away from the "Ozzie and Harriet" family model of the 1950s, according to the 2000 census.

The changing face of the American household shows fewer traditional families, more homes composed of unmarried partners and an increase in the number of children living with single parents.

Fewer than one fourth (23.5 percent) of American households now are traditional nuclear families—families composed of married couples with their children. The figure dropped from 25.6 percent in 1990. In 1960, it was 45 percent.

The number of unmarried partners living together, meanwhile, grew 72 percent between 1990 and 2000. The census did not measure how many of those are same-sex partners.

The trend is even more pronounced in the Bible Belt, where several states outstripped the national rate of increase.

Texas showed an 88 percent increase in unmarried partners living together, compared with 108 percent for Georgia and 123 percent for Tennessee.

According to news reports, in places where the practice once was taboo, people now joke about "living in sin."

Despite the growth, unmarried partners still represent a small percentage of all homes—5.5 percent, compared with 3.2 percent in 1990.

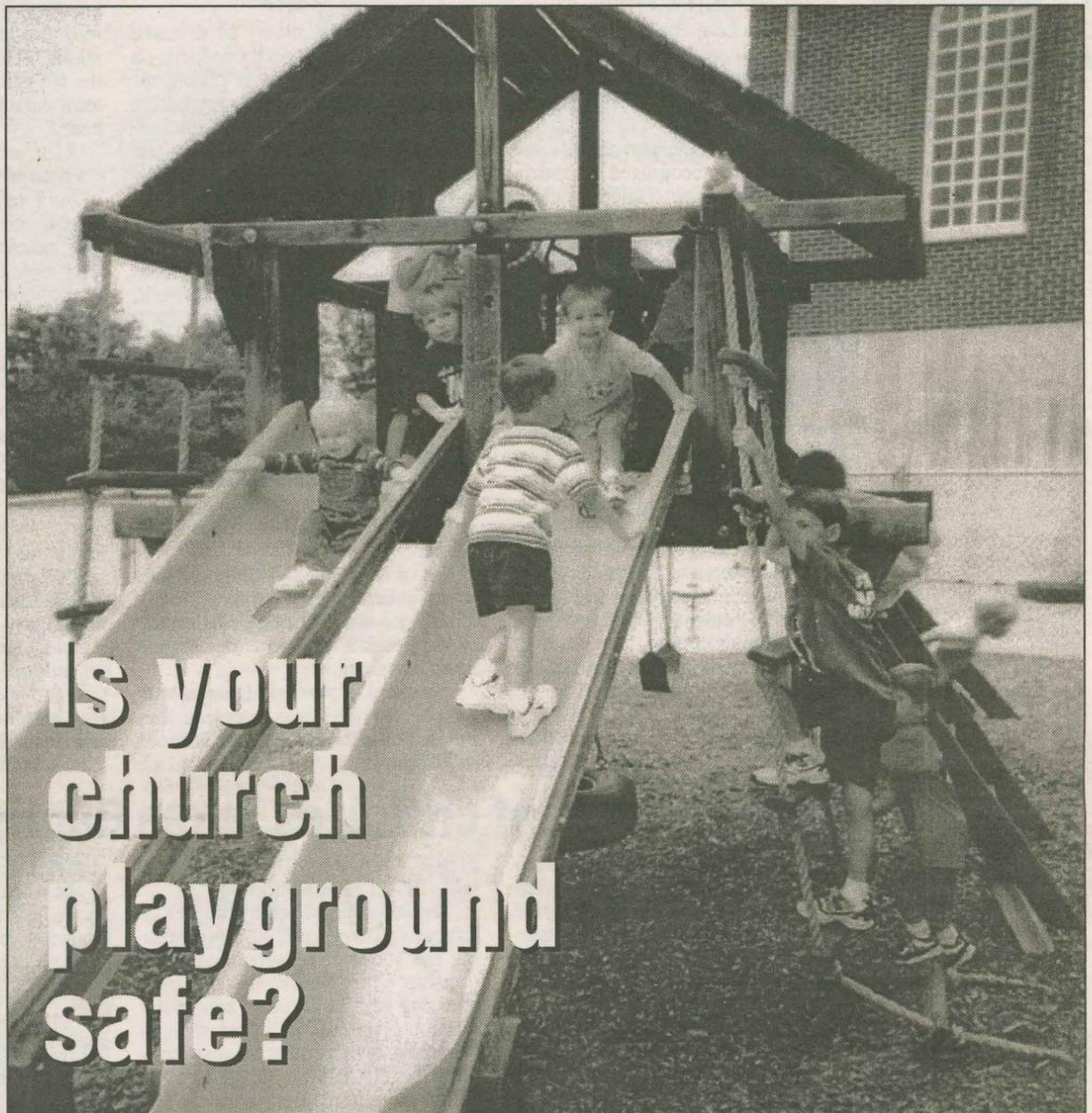
Single-father homes with children represented 3 percent of households in 2000 and showed a 62 percent increase over the past 10 years.

North Carolina's number of households headed by single fathers increased 81 percent, while South Carolina's number increased 72 percent.

Single-mother homes with children represented 7 percent of households. From 1990 to 2000, this category increased 25 percent.

A Baptist ethicist urged congregations to pay heed to the new census data as they minister to their communities.

"These changes challenge church leaders to look more closely at congregational and community demographics in order to shape ministry and sharpen the choice of preaching texts and sermon topics," said Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville. "Good information can advance more effective ministry, providing real help for real families."



PLAYGROUNDS Children play on the equipment at First Baptist Church of Cold Spring during the Northern Kentucky church's mother's day out program. A church playground consultant recommends that churches pay attention to the ground surface for their recreation area as well as conduct regular maintenance checks.

Consultant's tips include design & maintenance

By Linda Lawson
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Preventing all church playground accidents is impossible, but churches must give priority to safety in designing, building and maintaining grounds and equipment, a playground consultant told church leaders recently.

Approximately 200,000 children are injured seriously enough on U.S. playgrounds to be hospitalized or treated by a doctor, according to Jim Dempsey, a partner in Grounds for Play Inc.

The consultant from the Mansfield, Texas, firm recently addressed a church conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Stores at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Approximately 15 children die each year from playground injuries, Dempsey said. The most serious injuries occur when children get their heads trapped in a piece of equipment, an item of clothing gets caught on equipment during a fall or a child hits a protruding piece such as a bolt.

"We're never going to prevent all



injuries on a playground," said Dempsey, who served on a 1991 national committee that developed playground guidelines. "But we must do all we can to prevent serious injuries."

A former teacher and a certified playground safety inspector, Dempsey emphasized that people of all ages learn by doing and "play is what children do. We study children's play and have great respect for the value of play. Outdoors is the friendliest environment for play."

As churches work with architects and equipment companies to design a playground, priority must be given to play surfaces, he said. Approximately 60 percent of injuries are caused by falls.

Dempsey warned against use of asphalt, concrete or grass ground cov-

erings, favoring instead poured rubber or engineered wood fiber which are more flexible and absorb the energy of a fall. Grass, he said, wears and the ground becomes hard and compacted.

Also, he said, equipment must be placed with a six-foot fall zone around it. While Dempsey said he personally favors the use of swings on a playground, he noted that they take up a lot of space and should be placed in a corner to minimize the likelihood that children will run in front of the swings. He urged the use of resilient materials such as plastic for seats rather than wood.

Dempsey said guidelines recommend that only two swings be placed in a bay (space between uprights).

Also, elevated surfaces must be surrounded by rails. Hand grips must be sized for the age and height of children who will be using the equipment. And the playground area must be completely visible to workers.

Instead of designing their own playgrounds, Dempsey suggested churches work with a reputable company on the design. As a cost-saving □ See *Is your church ...*, page 8

BAPTISTS

IMB reorganizes mission strategy in Asia

The overall attrition rate for IMB workers in 2000 was 5.1 percent of the total missionary force.

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board approved a strategy change for work in Central and Southern Asia during a May 21-23 meeting in Richmond, Va.

They also appointed 53 new missionaries and recognized 72 retiring missionaries. (See related article on page 3.)

Central and Southern Asia's 16 countries are home to 1.4 billion people—nearly one-third of the world's population, noted Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president of overseas operations. Only a fraction of those people have any access to the gospel.

Vast differences in culture and in the way Christianity is developing in the area convinced board strategists that missions efforts would be more effective if they were organized in two regions: Central Asia and South Asia.

In addition, the number of Southern Baptist workers focusing on people groups in the region has grown from 200 to more than 550 in the past four years, he said.

"God is moving in unprecedented ways in Central and South Asia. We are just trying to adjust our plans to His," Willis said. "These two parts of the world were put together in 1997

in the reorganization because we had only about 200 missionaries in both of them. Now in just four years we have more than 550.

"This change allows us to make two regions so that each can focus on the opportunities God is giving us. Obviously, a region with 1.4 billion people needs to have a concerted effort to be sure every person hears, understands and is given an opportunity to respond to the gospel and that every people group has a church planting movement."

The current leader of the combined region will direct the South Asia work, and a search process has begun for a Central Asia leader.

IMB activities during the week also included a three-day gathering of members of the board's Global Priority Church Network. Church missions leaders convened for updates on developments in IMB work around the world and briefings on how to mobilize Southern Baptists to reach a lost world.

As of May 21, 777 congregations have joined the Global Priority Church network. The board helps network churches tap into available missions resources.

Southern Baptist missionaries with previous experience overseas fare much better than workers without such experience, Avery Willis told the

trustees.

"The 2000 attrition rate for long-term personnel with previous experience was 1 percent," said Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations. "This is in sharp contrast with the 6.6 percent attrition rate for long-term personnel with no such experience."

Last year, Southern Baptist workers with previous overseas experience in the International Service Corps or Journeyman programs comprised 31.7 percent of the total force. However, they accounted for only 6.5 percent of the long-term attrition.

The overall attrition rate for IMB workers in 2000 was 5.1 percent of the total missionary force of almost 5,000 people. While lower than the 1999 rate of 5.3 percent, the number still is slightly higher than the average rate of 4.4 percent since 1990.

Southern Baptists are accountable to God for their response to a lost world, IMB President Jerry Rankin told trustees.

"When we reach 5,000 missionaries, Southern Baptists will have one missionary unit for every 4 million people," he said. "How many of the 16 million Southern Baptists would God call in order to reach the nations? Has not God blessed us in numbers and finances in order to play a significant role in fulfilling his mission?"

Former professor Frank Stagg dies

LOUISVILLE—Southern Seminary professor and author Frank Stagg died June 2 at his home. He was 89.



Stagg

Stagg was a professor of New Testament interpretation and Greek at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville from 1964 to 1978.

Stagg wrote 10 books about religion. Among them are commentaries and "Woman in the World of Jesus," a book he wrote with his wife, Evelyn.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Owen; two sons, Theodore Owen and Robert Hammers Stagg; a daughter, Virginia Shane; a brother, Paul Stagg; a sister, Julia Powell; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held June 8, at Crescent Hill Baptist Church. Memorials can be sent to McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University or to Hospice & Palliative Care of Louisville.

NAMB president criticizes Texas Baptist mission funding proposal

NASHVILLE (BP)—Bob Record, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, expressed disappointment and frustration at recent action of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board. The May 22 action proposes redirecting \$1.28 million in funds currently allocated to NAMB.

The BGCT action also authorized monitoring the International Mission Board to assess its responsiveness to a list of concerns.

"I am saddened that the Baptist General Convention of Texas leadership continues to move away from our historic partnership to help Southern Baptist churches reach the vast numbers of lost people in Texas," Record said. A final vote on the proposed shift

in BGCT funding will be taken at this fall's BGCT annual meeting.

The report approved by the BGCT Executive Board calls for renegotiating the cooperative agreement relationship with NAMB and proposes retaining \$1.28 million to administer mission programs in Texas without NAMB's involvement. It also contends that NAMB has violated a 1991 cooperative agreement between the BGCT and the SBC Home Mission Board, a predecessor to NAMB.

BGCT study committee chairman Jim Denison said the proposal should not be viewed as defunding NAMB "but simply administering more efficiently that portion of Texas funds which would be already returned to Texas under the agreement" for joint

missions work in the state.

Record noted that NAMB receives less than 23 percent of national Cooperative Program funds and relies on state conventions to share in the funding of North American missionaries. "This is true in Texas as well as 41 other state Baptist conventions and fellowships," he said. "We continue to pray and work toward continued partnership with the BGCT and others who share our passion for evangelism, church starting and mobilization of 'on mission' Christians."

While the BGCT Executive Board recommended no change in funding the IMB, the report cited several concerns, particularly regarding the New Directions initiative that emphasizes church planting around the world. The

BGCT board also expressed frustration at the use of the Baptist Faith and Message when questioning candidates for mission service. A committee will be appointed to monitor response to these and other concerns.

In a brief response to the BGCT action, IMB President Jerry Rankin stated, "The International Mission Board is grateful for the rather positive affirmation of our work around the world by the BGCT mission study committee. The concerns expressed are not accurate perceptions of our work and strategies, and we look forward to addressing these issues with additional clarification and explanations to those involved."

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

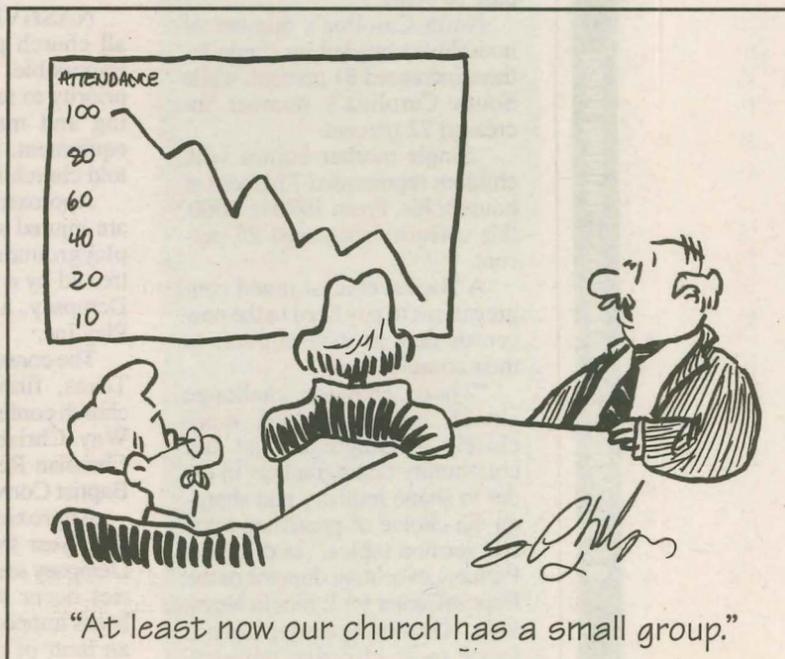
BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **LifeWay celebrates centennial.** Employees of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention marked the agency's 100th anniversary during a recent chapel service. Founded in 1891 as the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, LifeWay is among the world's largest publishers of Christian resources.

■ **Southern hosts apologetics conference.** Phillip Johnson, author of "Darwin on Trial," will be the keynote speaker at an apologetics-based collegiate conference June 25-27 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The conference, "Equipping for Ministry in Today's University Culture," will seek to equip college ministers and students with information to counter opposing worldviews. For information, call (800) 626-5525, ext. 4119.

■ **Moore, Lotz headline women's event.** Author and speaker Beth Moore has been added to the lineup of workshop leaders for the Global Celebration for Women Sept. 19-21 in Houston. Other speakers will include Anne Graham Lotz and Elizabeth Dole. The event is sponsored by more than a dozen international women's organizations, including Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. For information, call (888) 251-9080.

■ **Creed accepts Samford post.** Brad Creed, former dean of Baylor University's Truett Seminary, has been named associate provost for Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Creed resigned last year at Truett when Baylor President Robert Sloan affirmed Creed's contributions but said the seminary needed someone with different skills for its next phase of work.



State prisoners celebrate seminary extension graduation

By David Winfrey
News Director

LaGRANGE—Graduation for the seminary extension students at Luther Lockett Correctional Complex wasn't that different from graduation services held elsewhere this spring.

The program began with music and prayer. A speaker gave a challenge to the former students. Observers applauded while graduates walked up to receive their diplomas.

Later, friends offered hugs and congratulations while graduates smiled and stared at their certificates. Professors praised former students for jobs well done.

Sponsored by Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, 20 classes have been offered behind the razor-wire fences of Luther Lockett since July 1997. This first graduating class included 11 inmates who received diplomas in biblical studies. A 12th student declined the diploma so that his classes can be applied toward a college degree.

Director Nachel Wilkins said the effort began after Highview sponsored a revival at the medium-security prison in 1996. Inmates wanted to learn more about their Christian faith, he said, so a visiting professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary suggested they try to enroll 20 inmates so they could link up with the Southern Baptist Convention's seminary extension program.

By the first course, 35 men had signed up for classes, he said.

Designed to offer Christian education to church leaders and members, the Southern Baptist seminary extension program has approximately 500 course sites throughout the country and 25 in Kentucky.

Teachers must have at least a master's degree to teach, and students had to pass 16 classes to receive a diploma in biblical studies.

Of course, the graduates can't go



GRADUATION DAY Eleven students graduated last week from the seminary extension program at Luther Lockett Prison in LaGrange. ■ Left: Danny Akin, right, of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, hands a graduate his diploma in biblical studies. ■ Right top: The prison tower overlooks the yard at Luther Lockett. ■ Right bottom: The proud graduates display their diplomas.



out immediately and get new jobs as a result of completing the program. But that doesn't mean they haven't already begun putting their skills to work where they are.

Inmate Ricki Cook estimates he's already delivered more than 25 sermons during Friday night worship services held in the prison's chapel. The preaching course taught him how to better structure his presentation and research his topics.

"My goal right now is to minister," he said, referring to his interaction with other Luther Lockett inmates.

In addition to preaching, Cook is part of an evangelistic team that witnesses to other inmates in the prison yard. Wilkins noted that while one team is outside witnessing, another group is praying for them in the chapel.

The students also have developed a letter-writing campaign to a group of inmates who have extra time on their hands and might be inclined to do some extra reading: prisoners in

solitary confinement.

Cook praised Highview's support for the program.

"The thing that really stands out the most in this is not the courses. It's the love that's been shown to us," he said. "It's a blessing to know that people are praying for you."

Fellow inmate Michael Phillips agreed. Five years ago he was licensed to preach by Highview. "They reached out to me when the world said I was scum."

Convicted of armed robbery and a veteran of at least five prisons, Phillips said he felt as a teenager that he was called by God to preach. But he said he took his eyes off God. "I've done everything from horse rustling all the way up," he admitted. "There's some things I ain't been caught for."

But Phillips said he clings to Isaiah 61:1, "He has sent me ... to proclaim freedom for the captives."

"I might not ever see daylight, but I'm free inside," he said.

Phillips said he enjoyed the semi-

nary extension courses that taught specific books of the Bible. "I love Revelation, because it assures me that He's coming again."

Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist, congratulated the students for their work and sought to encourage them that they are not alone. "There are 2,400 people on the southeast side of Louisville who love, pray for and support this ministry," he said.

Danny Akin, vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Seminary, gave the graduation address, noting that the Bible offers several comparisons of the Christian life to sporting events.

"The devil and sin may knock us down, but it cannot knock us out when we have Jesus in our life," he said.

Akin noted that, like a long distance runner, Christians must train for their challenge and have a strategy. Jesus is the ultimate example for Christians to imitate, he added. "He'll keep you in the race, and He'll get you to the finish line."

"The thing that really stands out the most in this is not the courses. It's the love that's been shown to us."

Inmate Ricki Cook

Kentucky natives among Southern Baptist emeritus missionaries recognized

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

RICHMOND, Va.—Jim Dillard and Eugene Elder took different paths in becoming Southern Baptist missionaries to Africa. But their paths crossed recently in Richmond, Va., during a recognition service honoring them and other colleagues on their retirement.

Dillard, Elder and their wives were among 72 emeritus missionaries honored May 20 for their service. The retiring missionaries represented 1,994 cumulative years of overseas ministry.

Dillard and his wife, Janet, are retiring to Owensboro after serving 30 years in Kenya. They married and began their missions service together after meeting at Southern Baptist journeymen in Nigeria.

Elder, who grew up in Shelbyville as a member of Little Flock Baptist Church, served 14 years in South Africa as a church planter and theological educator. During three decades of service in Kenya,

Dillard taught English and other subjects at Nyeri Baptist High School.

"Working with young people in Kenya is very important these days because there is a need for more and more of them to become committed to the Lord," Dillard said. "You have a really good opportunity to share what it means to be a Christian and to live out your life among the students over a period of four years."

Mrs. Dillard spent several years teaching music at a nearby elementary school. "I felt like we were planting so many seeds in the lives of children who definitely are going to be leaders in their country," she said. "Many made professions of faith even though they were not from Baptist homes."

Although they had opportunities to accept other ministry assignments, "we felt what we were doing was important," Dillard said.

"Once you stay a while, that becomes your home," Mrs. Dillard added. "You have relationships that are lasting that give you

the opportunity for ministry and witness."

During the couple's lengthy tenure there, she added, "Parents sent children to the school for the same spiritual nurture they got there. Seeds were planted and I believe God will honor them."

The Dillards said one of the biggest challenges they faced on the mission field was having to say goodbye to friends and colleagues after 30 years.

"We enjoy being back but we miss Kenya very much," Dillard said. "We miss our friends. We miss the country."

Mrs. Dillard said the process "is a bit like grief. You're leaving something permanently." She said they hope to return to Kenya in the future as short-term mission volunteers. "We hope the Lord will open up the way for us."

The Elders, who spent 14 years on the mission field, also are dealing with the transition to retirement in the States. "It's still an adjustment for me. I haven't got there yet," Elder said. "My heart still is in South Africa."

In recent years, Elder helped pioneer theological education satellite centers throughout South Africa. "That's really the hope of missions in South Africa—getting the nationals trained," he said.

Elder helped establish 52 satellite centers across the nation with more than 400 students. That number has grown to more than 1,000 students in the past year.

Along with her husband's role in theological education, Mrs. Elder served recently as president of the South Africa Baptist Women's Department. Elder noted that she was the first non-South African elected to that position.

Affirming Southern Baptists' prayer and financial support during their years in South Africa, Elder said, "We could not have been there and done what we did there without those prayers."

"I would encourage people to open up their hearts and seek God's heart about missions," he added. "The needs are so great. We need to do whatever we can to reach this world for Jesus Christ."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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Use anger as a gift of grace

By Henlee Barnette

To be angry is to be human. It is a universal experience.

In the United States anger and violence have become widespread. Ours is now an age of rage. Road rage on our highways is on the increase. It has been estimated that more than two-thirds of the 130 deaths on our highways daily are due to rage.

To reduce this problem we must begin with the individual. How do we handle anger that plagues us? Fortunately we all have defense mechanisms with which to cope with our personal anger. Solving personal anger will go a long way to solving the social problem.

There are negative and positive ways of dealing with personal anger. Let us first examine some negative ways:

■ We tend to internalize anger and this leads to depression. To put it simply we swallow it and it embraces us with a dark cloud of despair.

■ Some people deny anger by calling it righteous indignation. This is a not so clever way of wrapping our anger in a euphemism. Admit anger and find a positive way to deal with it.

■ Projection is another mechanism for dissipating anger. People often blame others such as a spouse, children or colleagues. Get the "beam out of your own eye" and you will see that most of the fault is yours and you can deal with it realistically.

Now let us turn to some positive and healthy ways of coping with our hostility:

■ We can vent our pent-up frustration, aggression and anger by catharsis. Rather than damming up

rage and anger, find ways to flush out accumulated negative emotions.

■ Try the Apostle Paul's principle: "Don't let the sun go down on your wrath" (Ephesians 4:24). As comedienne Phyllis Diller put it: "Stay up and fight."

■ Personally, when I get angry I write articles and letters and file them away. This

seemed to work for President Harry Truman.

■ Give five dollars or more to charity every time you blow your stack. That should reduce your incidence of anger.

■ Be calm. My long-time friend Clarence Jordan and I were filming the old Haymarket area in Louisville in 1942. A notorious nightclub had been in the news due to murders and other crimes. Naturally, the owner was pretty sore about all that publicity. When he saw us across the street, he approached us like a raging bull. When he got a few steps from us, Clarence, in his soft Southern drawl, said, "Friend, this is a free country, is it not?" The angry man was astounded, turned around and headed back across the street muttering to himself. I learned existentially what the Bible means when it says, "A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1).

■ Be courteous. Avoid name-calling; treat others with the same treatment you would like.

■ Be in control. By discipline and

COMMENTARY

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Reality combats false assumptions

Dave Travis coordinates a group known as Church Champions. At a recent meeting they discussed false assumptions made by many people in church leadership. These false assumptions lead to ministry efforts that are misguided and out of touch with those who need to be reached.

The following assumptions and realities identified by Church Champions are followed by my own questions or comments in italics.

1. Assumption: "We live in a church culture."

Reality: The day of the church culture is over. The day of the mission field has come. We must help churches see neighborhoods they can reach.

Implication: Do we know who the unchurched in Kentucky are and how they want to be served?

2. Assumption: "People will be committed to a cause or a group."

Reality: Nothing is sacred today. Many people are committed to many ways of making a difference. When congregations have too many foci, everything looks diluted.

Implication: What are our primary strengths and how can they add value for people?

3. Assumption: "People know reality is not what they see on TV or in the movies."

Reality: The media is defining what is real for many people. Frequent stories of violence and decay distort reality for many people. Seeing sin portrayed without consequences in the media leads many to believe there should be no consequences in real life.

Implication: Do people know that hope and forgiveness are available through Jesus Christ?

4. Assumption: "Our culture is word-oriented."

Reality: Our culture is visual. People who are age 40 and up use bookstores. The emerging generations respond to visuals.

Implication: The Bible uses powerful visual images such as the cross, salt, light, towel and basin.

5. Assumption: "The solutions to our problems are passed from the old-

the infilling of the Holy Spirit, exercise self-control. If one is filled with the Spirit, he or she displays love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22). All nine fruits of the Spirit are ethical, including self-control.

■ Be a student of the problem of anger. Start a seminar in your church to study the problem.

■ Recognize anger as a gift of God and as a part of the human self to be directed in the cause of justice. So "be angry, but sin not" (Ephesians 4:26). Remember that both God and Jesus expressed anger in Scripture. On three occasions the divine record shows Jesus became angry: When legalists and traditions stood in the way of healing hurting people (Mark 3:1-6); when the powerful prohibited the powerless, the children, access to Jesus (Mark 10:14); and when He discovered religious people using religion for economic gain (Mark 11:15; see Matthew 21:12, Luke 19:45, John 2:13f).

In each of these instances, Jesus' anger was directed toward justice in human relations. So turn your anger toward personal and social righteousness.

By all means, do not harbor hate in your heart. It is like a poison that destroys the vessel that contains it.

Henlee Barnette is a professor emeritus at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and a retired clinical professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine

STEWARDSHIP

Want to get rich quick? Remember basic investing tips

By Don Spencer

It's every investor's dream—a money-making technique that you can get in on for a small amount of money, ignore for a few years and then reap a great reward.

Does it sound like a lost cause? It wasn't for Ann. She's been putting aside \$75 a month for the past five years and has earned an annual return of almost 15 percent. And it wasn't just a dream for Martin, who started saving 50 cents per week in 1946 and now has more than \$82,000.

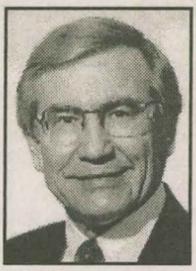
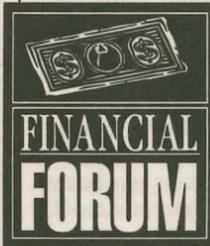
Ann and Martin have been more successful in their quest than some professional money managers because they stuck to some basic investing principles:

■ Pay yourself first. For the Christian, this basic secular principle should be stated as "pay God and yourself first." Ann and Martin invested regularly each month. One used payroll deductions and one used automatic check withdrawals. The critical thing was their commitment to saving a specific amount every month—even if the amount was relatively small.

■ Every little bit counts. That's due to the miracle of compound interest and its counterpart, dividend reinvestment. Time is on your side when investing. I remember my grandmother's savings account passbook that was found after her death. The last transaction was many years in the past. It was amazing to see the effects of compounding on a small, seemingly insignificant amount of money. It had grown to become a significant sum.

■ Don't follow the herd. Regular investing saves you from the tendency to buy high and sell low. By investing an equal amount each month, you benefit over time. Know why you're investing. Pick investments that are appropriate to your personal risk tolerance level and to your time horizon. For example, you can utilize higher risk investments for retirement that is years away. Above all, don't chase last year's winners. Too many people sabotage their investment strategy by moving their money to the investment that did best last year. Too often, you will be buying high and selling low, which is no way to make money. Finally, use professional help where appropriate, but take personal control of your investments.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



Bill Mackey

Children's questions about McVeigh execution need thoughtful response

Q: What do I tell my children if they ask about the Timothy McVeigh execution?

The postponement of Timothy McVeigh's execution will only serve to heighten interest when it finally occurs. Children are sure to have awareness, and perhaps a few questions.

Answer simply and directly, but without unnecessary information. Children can share in the sadness of the situation without having to have all the details. If a child asks what McVeigh did, explain that he blew up a government building; that what he did was wrong; and that lots of people were killed. If a child asks why McVeigh did what he did, explain that he was angry about something that happened to his friends. Use the question as an opportunity to teach that while it is OK to be angry, we must learn to control our anger or we may end up in trouble too. If a child asks how McVeigh will die, simply say that he will be put to sleep with a drug that will cause his heart to stop.

From a theological standpoint, be prepared to answer the child who says, "The Bible teaches us not to kill." A good answer might be that many would agree. They feel McVeigh should be punished, but not in this way, and they will protest what is happening.

You may be unsure how you feel about the execution and about the whole issue of capital punishment. Be willing to say, "I don't know. I'm going to have to think about that some more." Talk about our system of law, and how actions have consequences. Balance sympathy for McVeigh with the wrongness of what he did.—*David Garrard*

Q: My husband increasingly is taking more and more vitamins and other supplements in larger quantities. Is this regimen a healthy practice for him?

Your husband's concern for his health is commendable, but overdoing the amount of any one supplement is not a good idea. Balanced and regular meals are still the best indicator of good health.

Though you may hear that antioxidants are miracle life-prolongers, it's best not to overdo the supplements. Researchers with the American Medical Association report that common vitamin supplements such as C, E and selenium can do harm if taken in large amounts (see the report at www.ama-assn.org).

Additionally, for some older people large doses of supplements can cause such side effects as diarrhea, hemorrhagic disorders and hair loss.

New guidelines from an Institute of Medicine panel on dietary antioxidants and related compounds now set upper limits on daily consumption of selenium and vitamins C and E, the AMA reports.

The limits are suggested for an average, healthy person and should take into account the foods that one eats, the panel notes. Individuals with special medical conditions, which may influence the effect of supplements, should discuss their plans with a physician.

Trust the foods you eat for well-balanced nutrition and powerful vitamins. See "The Good Food Glossary" Web site at www.thirdage.com for a wide variety of natural food options.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



McVeigh case heightens execution debate

By this time next week, Timothy McVeigh will be dead—maybe.

Barring any further legal delays, McVeigh will become the first federal prisoner executed in almost 40 years.

McVeigh confessed to the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City that killed 168 people, the deadliest terrorist attack on American soil in our nation's history. His initial execution date of May 16 was postponed until June 11 after several thousand undisclosed FBI documents related to the case surfaced last month.

If McVeigh's execution is carried out next week, many observers will see his death as the official end of a six-year national nightmare. Others will view his execution at the hands of the federal government as one more unnecessary tragedy.

As debate rages over the death penalty, McVeigh's actions have muddied traditional arguments against capital punishment. Many staunch opponents of the death penalty acknowledge that if anyone deserves to be put to death for their crimes, McVeigh heads the list. Defiant and unrepentant as he faces death, McVeigh reportedly gave a fellow death row inmate a photo of himself inscribed with the words, "My head has been bloodied, but it remains unbowed."

Despite McVeigh's lack of remorse, some Christian leaders have appealed for clemency in the case. Others have called for him to repent and seek spiritual healing. During a time of prayer requests at last month's Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board meeting, a board member encouraged participants to pray for McVeigh's Christian conversion prior to his execution. The request was a vivid reminder that no one who sincerely seeks salvation is beyond God's grace.

Beyond McVeigh's impending execution, both

Christians and Americans in general are divided over the issue of capital punishment. A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found that 63 percent of Americans favor the death penalty, down from 80 percent seven years ago.

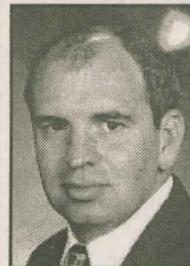
In Baptist life, there also are a variety of views on the subject. Messengers to last year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting adopted a pro-capital punishment resolution for the first time in SBC history. Describing capital punishment as "a legitimate form of punishment for those guilty of murder or treasonous acts that result in death," the resolution noted that God "established capital punishment as a just and appropriate means by which the civil magistrate may punish those guilty of capital crimes."

A few weeks later, during an international Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting in Havana, the BWA's Christian Ethics Study Commission hosted a seminar opposing capital punishment. "The question is not if they have done something they should die for," said Sven Lindstrom, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Sweden. "The question is: Do we have the right to kill them? That is the ethical question." He noted that Christians "need to emphasize the possibility of rehabilitation, recovery and restoration."

Other developments in the ongoing debate include a decision last year by Illinois Gov. George Ryan to impose a moratorium on executions due to reported problems in the state's capital punishment system. A coalition of Christian and Jewish leaders recently asked President Bush to impose a similar moratorium on federal executions, including clemency for McVeigh.

As individuals across the nation continue to struggle with the complex issue of capital punishment, there are no easy answers. The willingness to wrestle with tough questions, however, is a valuable starting point.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Western Recorder readers in 1920-21: What were they thinking?

By Joyce Martin

ship in a mixed assembly?

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then what is a question worth?

Lots, if you want to understand what Kentucky Baptists were thinking in the post-World War I era. "Senex," a question and answer column that ran in the Western Recorder from late 1920 through early 1921, provides clues.

Q: What are four of the greatest evils of modern time?

A: Gambling, moving-picture shows, modern dancing and the divorce evil.

If I had been asked to name five, I would have added the automobile. (Dec. 23, 1920)

Q: The pastor of a Baptist church asked the WMU to conduct the Sunday evening service. An old deacon objected on the ground of Paul's teaching. Was he right in raising this objection? Is there a record in the New Testament of women conducting wor-

A: The deacon referred to was right in his contention and ought to have the sympathy and support of his church in resisting such an innovation. There is no record of women conducting worship in a mixed assembly anywhere in the New Testament and Paul's teaching certainly would

prohibit such a performance. Any pastor who turns his preaching service over to women is making a serious blunder which will soon bring on confusion and strife. Baptists must stand against all such innovations which a loose and liberalistic age would introduce.

Better ask for the old paths and walk in them, for therein is our safety. (May 12, 1921)

Q: "Why should women vote?" "So you think it is right for women to vote?" "Can a woman go to the polls and dabble in politics and be fit for God's service?"

A: The questioner evidently is

not lacking in personal convictions on the issues he wants discussed. He sees in woman (sic) suffrage a blow to the home and danger to her spiritual life. Many share these fears but woman's suffrage is here and time and experience will aid us all in rendering the proper verdict on this momentous question. (Nov. 18, 1920)

Q: Should women remove their hats in church?

A: Yes, if they want to. I think the covering referred to by Paul was the hair, not a hat. (Dec. 23, 1920)

Q: Do the Scriptures teach that a choir shall not close a song with 'Amen'?

A: The Scriptures so far as I know are silent about "Church Choirs" and do not touch on the "amen" in the question above. Many Baptists oppose it because of its formality and its tendency toward ritualism. It is the thin edge of the wedge. I am sorry that some of our Baptist song books have added "Amen," thus seeking to introduce it into our worship. (Dec. 23, 1920)

Joyce Martin is partnership editions editor for the Western Recorder



The U.S. Supreme Court just said he could use a cart in the PGA Tour, but that's not

By Rob Bentz
Christian Single magazine

EUGENE, Ore.—The question to walk or ride is a familiar one in any golf pro shop in the country.

But professional golfer Casey Martin hasn't had that option for a long time.

The cart is as much of a requirement for his game as his driver, putter or sand wedge.

That's because Martin's right leg is severely ravaged by Klippel-Trenaunay-Webber Syndrome, a circulatory defect that impedes the flow of blood leaving his leg.

He can't walk 18 holes without the risk of serious injury, possibly causing the need for amputation. During a round of golf he wears a strong support stocking to hold down the swelling just so he can play at all.

"I'm just missing the pump system in my leg to circulate (blood) properly," Martin explains. "I have a lot of related problems, in my tibia with bone weakening, for example. It's just something I was born with."

In spite of this physical challenge, Martin plays on, or at least attempts to.

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court said the Professional Golfers Association Tour couldn't bar Martin from riding a golf cart between shots in PGA tournaments.

Tour officials had contended that walking is an integral part of the game, and letting Martin ride would give him an unfair advantage. Even Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer have spoken out on the subject, siding with the PGA Tour.

In the 7-2 decision, however, Justice John Paul Stevens noted that the tour requires walking to introduce fatigue into the competition.

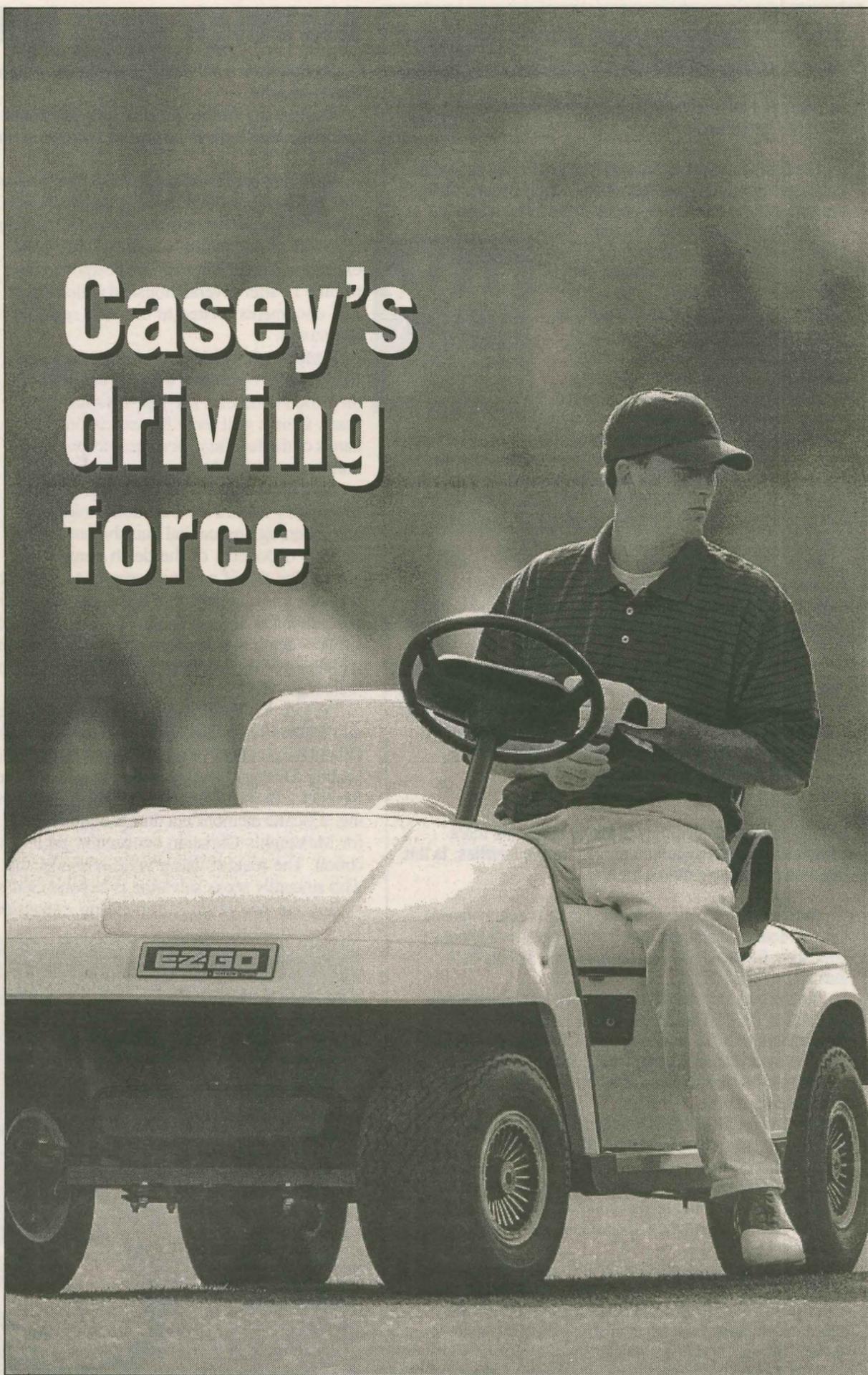
But Stevens said Martin's circulatory disorder causes him more fatigue, even with a cart, during 18 holes than other golfers who walk.

One former Tour player who sides with Martin is Rik Massengale, the executive director of College Golf Fellowship.

"People don't realize the pain he's in," explains Massengale, who has known Martin since his sophomore year at Stanford.

"There's no way you can say that

Casey's driving force



he has an advantage by riding in a cart, because he's at such a disadvantage before he even starts," Massengale says.

During the early rounds of the court wrangling, Martin established himself as a worthy competitor. He qualified for the PGA Tour, thanks to a top 15 ranking on the 1999 Nike Tour money list. Now called the Buy.com Tour, it serves as a proving ground for golfers trying to move up to the PGA Tour.

Martin competed in 29 PGA Tour events in 2000, thanks in part

to a court injunction that prevented the PGA Tour from enforcing its cart requirement for Martin.

He finished last season 179th on the PGA money list. Last December, on the final day of the qualifying tournament, he fell short of regaining his PGA tour card by one stroke.

On the Buy.com Tour this season, his strongest finish has been a tie for 34th in the Louisiana Open in April.

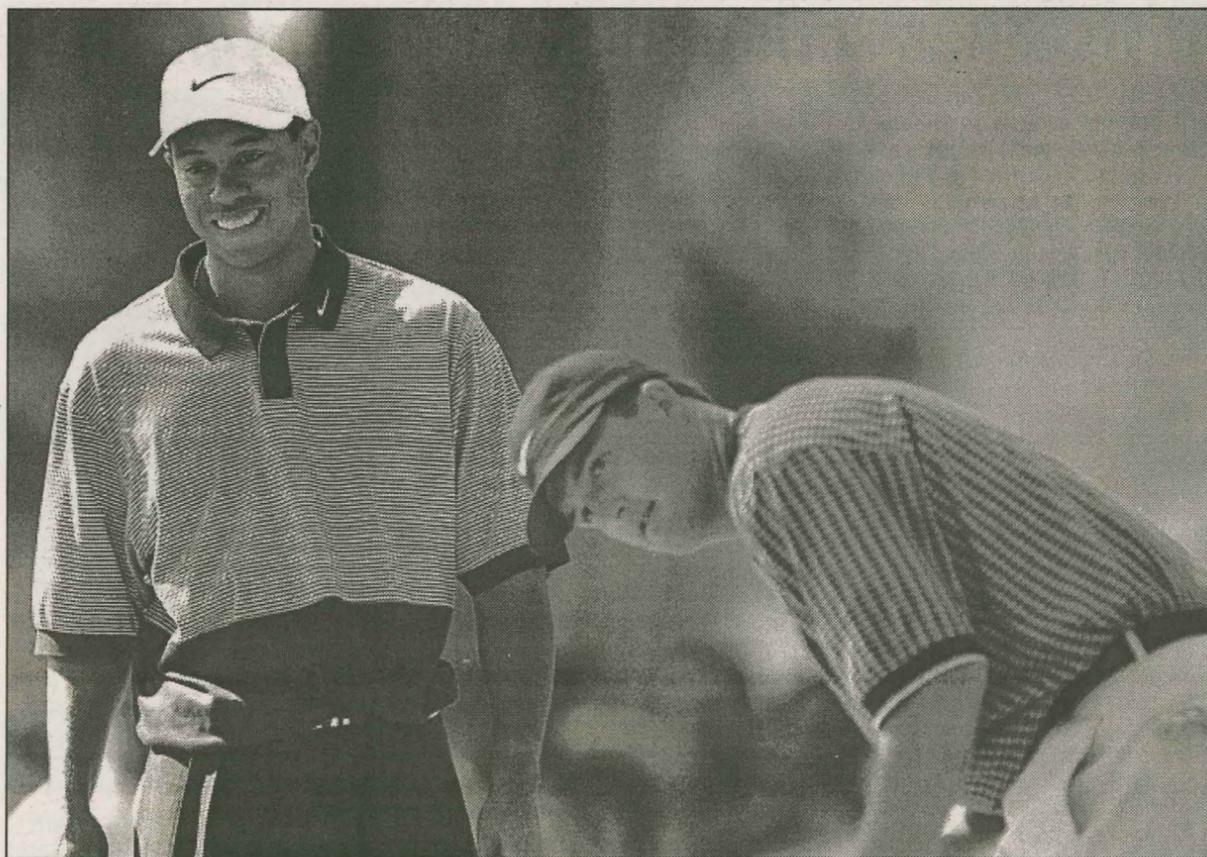
His lawsuit, which cited the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, has stirred strong reactions since the

court handed down its decision last week.

"I could have never imagined that it would go this far," Martin says before the Supreme Court rendered its verdict. "I thought it would be news, but never big news."

If Martin has struggled with bitterness and frustration toward the PGA Tour, it's hard to notice it.

"It's hard to get too upset because a lot of the good things in my life have come out of this," says Martin. "When I'm asked to give a talk at an FCA breakfast or something, I



GOLF In a case that had talk shows buzzing all last week, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Casey Martin can use a golf cart between shots in PGA tournaments. Martin has Klippel-Trenaunay-Webber Syndrome in his right leg, a circulatory defect that impedes the flow of blood leaving his leg. Throughout the publicity surrounding the case, Martin has continued to talk about his faith. "You read the Bible, and God says to trust Him, that He'll work things out. We just need to be obedient and pray and cry out to Him. He'll honor that." ■ **Left:** Martin looks from his cart during the 2000 Bob Hope Classic. (Allsport photo by Donald Miralle) ■ **Above:** Martin and Tiger Woods practice at the Olympic Club in San Francisco before the 1998 U.S. Open. (Allsport photo by Andrew Reddington)

have a story to tell. It's not just generic. It's unique."

Martin's one-of-a-kind story began in Eugene, Ore. That's where, at the age of 6, Martin's father, King Martin, teed the golf ball up for the younger Martin and his older brother Cameron. Casey Martin grew to love the game.

"We were a big sports family. I grew up going to all the (University of Oregon) Ducks' football and basketball games," Martin explains. "But I could never play the sports that I grew up watching because of the disability in my leg. So I stayed on the golf course. I took to it, focused on it, and I've been playing it ever since."

A great deal of success on the links has followed. Martin captured numerous high school titles. He was a member of the 1994 NCAA Championship Team at Stanford University. Then came his banner year of 1995. That's when he was named second-team All-American and was honored as an academic All-American selection. And if that weren't enough, he graduated from Stanford with a degree in finance and then turned pro.

But Martin's life isn't all golf accolades and honors. He's experienced his share of struggles away from the putting green.

While he grew up in a solid Christian home and received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at a young age, Martin says he wrestled with God for many years. Why didn't he have a healthy leg like everyone else? Why wouldn't God answer his prayers to be healed?

"When I was a child, I used to pray every night, 'Lord, heal my leg, heal my leg!' and He never did," Martin recalls. "In college, I started

to grow in my faith. I read more of the Bible. I believe that God just spoke to me, in a way—knowing that He was going to use my leg for His glory. I trusted that somehow my leg was there for some (greater) reason, not just to torture me.

"I've seen how He has worked in my life through my leg, and I guess I've drawn comfort in what He's done. I have a peace and a contentment about it now," Martin says.

What has God done through Martin's leg? Since Martin (and his cart) hit the pro tour, he's been featured in Nike ads, on the cover of prominent national magazines and as the central topic of sports-talk radio programs throughout the U.S.

He's even been the topic of ABC's late-night news program "Nightline" and played golf with Stone Phillips on "Dateline NBC." In the midst of it all, Martin has spoken openly, and often, about his faith in Jesus Christ. He's taken the spotlight thrust upon himself and turned it squarely on his Savior.

Martin's friend and fellow PGA Tour player Paul Stankowski says, "God's given him a platform that not too many people could handle. He's done pretty darn well with it."

An interview rarely goes by without at least a mention of his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Martin adds, "You read the Bible, and God says to trust Him, that He'll work things out. We just need to be obedient and pray and cry out to Him. He'll honor that."

One area that Martin has been crying out to God about recently is his golf game. Any weekend duffer can understand being frustrated by a missed 6-foot putt, but success on the links is critical to Martin. It's his livelihood.

Things haven't been going well for about a year for Martin, and the frustration has gotten serious. The Supreme Court decision could be a moot point if Martin's game doesn't improve enough to return him to the PGA Tour.

"I struggle with my golf game," the brutally honest 28-year-old admits. "I don't understand why God brought me to the forefront of attention with golf, only to be let down as far as how I've played."

"This game is an extremely humbling game. It breaks you down. I know that. Struggles on the golf course are pretty minor in the long run—and in the eternal run they're very minor. At the same time, it's very important to me. I deal with a lot of pressure. I often acknowledge that God's been faithful, but I also feel like I've been burned too. So I struggle with that, there's no doubt about it. I love acknowledging the Lord, but I'm not going to hide the struggles that I have."

The self-effacing Martin adds that another current struggle is his desire to share his life with someone.

The man who was listed as No. 9 among People magazine's 50 Most Eligible Bachelors for 2000 admits that his lifestyle is hectic now, but desires to be married someday in the not-too-distant future.

"Not that a woman is suddenly going to cure all my ills, but it does say in the Bible that it is not good that man should be alone. I've tasted that pretty deeply."

Yet in spite of all that's good about Martin, he admits that God has some work to do in his life before he'd be a great husband.

"There are times when I'd make a bad one," he admits. "God has

The Martin chronicle

Height: 6'2"
Weight: 170 lbs.
Birthdate: June 2, 1972
Birthplace: Eugene, Ore.
Residence: Eugene, Ore.
Favorite Scripture:
 Proverbs 3:5-6
Favorite food: Pizza with Canadian bacon and pineapple
Favorite hobbies: Following Oregon Ducks' sports and playing Sony PlayStation.
Golf tip in one sentence or less:
 Keep it simple.
Last book read: "Intimacy with the Almighty" by Charles Swindoll.

"I've been trying to figure out God and what He's going to do next. I'm zero-for-28-years."

Professional golfer Casey Martin

been exposing some things in my life that aren't exactly the greatest, some anger, things that I need to work through.

"But at the same time, God is grooming me and preparing me. He has preserved me for someone. I'm a virgin," Martin says. "I trust God will be faithful and make me a good husband. I know that I just need to trust Him, but it gets difficult at times."

Struggling at the game that is Martin's very public profession, living out of a suitcase and struggling with loneliness, it's easy to see how a guy could get discouraged.

Fortunately, he's been able to battle through many of the tough times in his young career on the strength of his relationship with Christ.

"He jokes around and has a real good personality, but he's also got a real good handle on things. He's always had a real commitment to Christ," Massengale says.

"His faith in Christ is the foundation for everything he does," adds Steve Burdick, a close friend and former college teammate who caddied for Martin during his Nike Tour season. "He's not afraid to share (his struggles) and be honest. He's real. He's authentic."

Like his relationship with others, Martin's relationship with God is very honest. He tells God his frustrations, his hurts, his disappointments and his angers. But Martin also has a deep understanding of God and a healthy view of His goodness.

"I have been blessed beyond my wildest dreams. He's the one who's given me everything that I have," Martin explains. "Yet I struggle a lot. I can't say it's always the easiest road. All the circumstances in my life point to my weakness. I'll fail all of the time. My reliance on Him is increasing, my recognition that He is in control and that I need to trust Him."

He adds, "Throughout my lifetime, I've been trying to figure out God and what He's going to do next. I'm zero-for-28-years. But He is faithful."

From Christian Single magazine, June 2001. © Copyright 2001 LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CHURCHES

Is your church playground safe?

Continued from page 1

measure, he noted that some companies will provide a supervisor to work with church members in building or setting up the equipment.

"The right way to install equipment is as important as the design and purchase of the equipment," he said.

For churches to protect themselves, he suggested surrounding playgrounds with six-foot fences and posting signs specifying the age group for which the equipment is designed and stating the playground is not to be used without adult supervision.

Also, he suggested use of a frequent inspection form that Sunday school teachers or daycare workers should fill out at least weekly. Any problems should be fixed immediately, with repairs documented.

"You are safer (from lawsuits) if you have proof of maintenance," Dempsey said. He also suggested routine replacement of moving parts such as S-hooks on swings.

In addition to traditional playground equipment, he urged providing large blocks or other items that can be moved around and used inside a church building. Items for dramatic, imaginative play also should be included, he said.

While churches are not required to provide playgrounds that are accessible for the physically handicapped, Dempsey urged doing so.

"When you create a playground, you should build accessibility in," Dempsey emphasized. "It's the right thing to do."

Adviser has serious tips about playgrounds

NASHVILLE (BP) Jim Dempsey isn't playing around in listing 13 common playground safety issues.

Dempsey, a partner in Grounds for Play Inc. in Mansfield, Texas, led a session on playground safety May 19 during a conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said safety issues include the following:

- Falls onto non-resilient surfaces around climbing and swinging equipment.

- Inadequate or improper fall zone (depth, size or type of surface) around equipment.

- Head entrapments and entanglements where children could be injured in a fall.

- Inappropriate protective barriers on climbers.

- Crush, pinch or shear points on swinging or moving equipment.

- Falls from upper portions of equipment onto lower portions of equipment.

- Inappropriate placement or spacing between equipment.

- Swings attached to climbing structures or improperly placed on the playground.

- Inappropriate slides (too steep,



PLAY TIME Children play on the playground of Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah. Playground consultant Jim Dempsey recommends that churches make sure their equipment is appropriate for the development level of children who will use it. (Photo by Bryan Powell)

- no existing region parallel to the ground or unshaded bare metal slide bed).

- Inappropriate hand rails or hand grips for steps, climbers and slides.

- Developmentally inappropriate equipment.

- Supervision difficulties related

- to playground design or equipment placement.

- Improper maintenance.

For more information about playground safety, visit the Web site for the National Program for Playground Safety at www.uni.edu/playground/home.html.

Campbellsville University in Louisville!

Campbellsville University's School of Theology Center at St. Matthews Baptist Church provides an extensive selection of courses that are *convenient, affordable* and led by a *distinguished faculty* of Christian scholars.

Registration is now taking place for Fall 2001 classes. Coursework may be applied toward an associate's or bachelor's degree in Christian studies or a master's degree in theology. For more information, contact Jimmy Rowland by calling 502.899.1915, or by emailing jrowland@campbellsvil.edu; or simply write: Campbellsville University School of Theology, Louisville Center, c/o St. Matthews Baptist Church, 3515 Grandview Avenue, Louisville, KY 40207.

Campbellsville University is an affiliate of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, telephone number 404.679.4501) to offer the associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

ENG 111XS	Freshman English I	Taylor	2:00-3:15 pm	TR
MTH 110XS	College Mathematics	Staff	TBA	
PHI 241XS	Intro to Philosophy	Becker	8:30-9:45 am	WF
PSY 111XS	Gen Psychology	Rainbow	5:30-8:20 pm	R
SOC 110XS	Intro to Sociology	Cubine	5:30-8:20 pm	T
TH 120XS	Fund of Speech	Pile	1:00-3:50 pm	W

CHRISTIAN STUDIES COURSES

CHS 111XS	Intro Old Test Study	Gutmann	5:30-8:20 pm	M
CHS 121XS	Intro New Test Study	Fulton	8:30-9:45 am	TR
CHS 130XS	Religion in Life	Wyndham	1:00-3:50 pm	M
CHS 252XS	Intro Bivo Ministry	Hough	5:30-8:20 pm	R
CHS 352XS	Pastoral Ministries	Rowland	11:30 am- 12:25 pm	TR
CHS 353XS	Min of Proclamation	Higdon	2:30-5:20 pm	R
CHS 362XS	Teach for Life Change	Johnson	10:00-11:15 am	TR
CHS 432XS	Intro Christian Theology	Hawkins	1:00-3:50 pm	F

GRADUATE COURSES—SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

CHS 510XS	Old Test History & Interpretation	Smothers	9:00-11:50 am	M
CHS 571XS	Pre-Reformation History of the Christian Church	Hollon	2:30-5:20 pm	T
BA 612XS	Human Behavior and Organization	Griffin	10 am-noon/ 1:30-3:30 pm	SAT



www.campbellsvil.edu



Education for Time
and Eternity

Oneida Baptist Institute

2001 Father's Day Offering ♦ Father to the Fatherless

WHAT IS ONEIDA?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns. We have been ministering to young people for 101 years.

At Oneida, we teach respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards and responsible behavior.

ANNUAL OFFERING

This is the seventh year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. The offering is named in memory of our longtime president, Dr. Barkley Moore, who died in 1994.

FUNDING

Approximately 9 percent of Oneida's funding comes from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

35 percent comes from student fees.

The remaining 56 percent comes from churches and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people. These gifts are the financial backbone of our ministry.

FOR TIME AND ETERNITY

Every school deals with the mind of man, but few, like Oneida, minister to the soul as well.

Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year, many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance.

Meet some of the class of 2001

Roy: His hard work paid off

Roy has been a student at OBI since the fifth grade, the year his parents joined our staff. By eighth grade, he had determined to be valedictorian.

"It was like my own drive. My goal was to graduate with a 4.0," he said.

The summer before his freshman year, he had a three-wheeler accident. He spent five days in a coma and two weeks in rehabilitation, learning how to walk and speak. Roy wanted to begin his freshman year on time, but his parents and doctors felt he should wait. Persisting, Roy was allowed to enroll. With tremendous effort, he earned all A's that year. "All I did was study," he recalled. "As far as I know I had a 100 percent recovery."

Roy believes OBI provided the curriculum which helped prepare him for Georgetown College this fall. He explained, "For being a small school, we have a lot of upper end and AP classes. ... We have honors classes for almost every subject." He enrolled in these upper-level courses whenever possible.

One of two students enrolled in AP calculus this year, he noted, "Most schools wouldn't even offer a class for two students, but Oneida does." He added, "I'm the type of student who likes to go above and beyond. ... Even if some of my teachers got tired of dealing with me, they still took the time to help and answer questions."

Roy's academic honors include earning the highest GPA of his class each year of high school and being voted by the faculty Most Studious in grades 6-11, Most Outstanding several years and Mr. Oneida his senior year.

He was a 2000 Kentucky Governor's Scholar. "That was probably my biggest honor. It was really a great



HIGH ACHIEVER Roy always went beyond course requirements to get the most out of every learning experience.

experience," he said.

One might imagine this academic achiever as a "bookworm," but Roy believes OBI's well-rounded program kept that from happening. "At Oneida, you have to get involved," he explained. "People say they're bored, but that's because they're not involved. There's a ton of activities and clubs here."

Senior English teacher and club sponsor Dan Stockton observed, "Roy is one of the most meticulous students I have ever worked with. He has a wonderful serving attitude ... and never backs down from a chal-

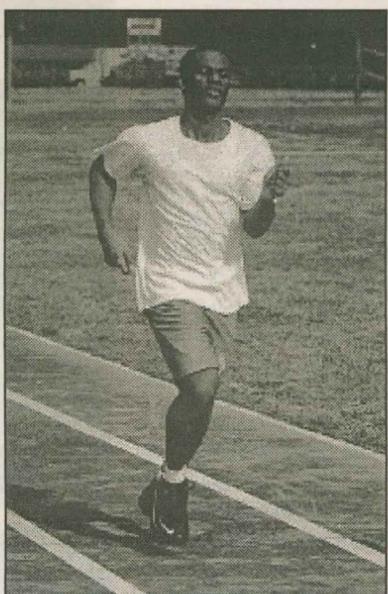
lenge."

Roy was active in drama and sports. He was editor of the yearbook and president of the Beta Club, student council and senior class. The faculty named him the Most Versatile senior boy.

Roy experienced another potential setback his senior year. Driving on wet roads, he rounded a corner too quickly and rolled down an embankment. He does not remember how he got out of the car.

His mother said in an update to the OBI staff, "God has other plans for this young man."

Zangar: He focused on his future



INCREASED MATURITY Zangar believes the Oneida experience prepared him well for college.

Born in Liberia, Zangar moved to Pennsylvania when he was 8. A few years later, he followed the lead of a friend who had enrolled at Oneida.

"My dad decided it could be good for me too," Zangar said. "I could be more focused on my school work."

Zangar had some difficulty obeying the rules at first. When he was expelled at the end of his freshman year, he began to think about his future.

"I knew that here, it was going to help me do good and finish high school," he said. "I just wanted to do whatever it took to get back in."

He wrote four letters of apology to OBI and was allowed to return under strict conditions.

Zangar, usually an honor roll student, was pleased to get back on track academically. He also was glad to rejoin his friends.

Said Zangar: "Once you come and settle down, make friends and start

to be involved in stuff, it's easy to stay out of trouble here. ... I'm more mature now, because at first I wanted everything to be based around me. Now I understand that there are other people."

Zangar worked on a classroom cleaning crew when he was not playing sports. He lettered in basketball, soccer and track. He was named to the All-Conference team in basketball and the All-District team in soccer.

Varsity basketball coach Larry Allen Gritton (Oneida '93) said, "I've watched Zangar grow as a person in a lot of different ways in the past four years. ... He was a real joy to coach, a very hard-working young man."

Zangar would like to play basketball in college and said he is ready "to go into the big world."

He added that the self-reliance he learned as a dormitory resident at Oneida would help him greatly in college.

Liza: Her life changed

Liza came to OBI from Missouri as a freshman. Once a stellar student, she had been skipping school and earning failing grades.

"Growing up, it never really bothered me that I didn't have a dad," she said. "When I hit seventh grade, it became obvious to me why God designed a family with a mother and a father. ...

"I started hanging out with the wrong crowd. Then, me and my sister ran away from home. ... [Our mother] figured we didn't have enough structure and discipline. She thought we would be better supervised here and stay out of trouble."

Liza's impression of OBI was favorable, but "I wasn't used to having to answer to anybody. I felt like all my freedom was being taken away."

In the spring of 10th grade, Liza said her interest in God was "sparked" at a Baptist Student Union meeting. A surprising transformation began to take place in Liza's life. The following year, she became Student of the Week, Student of the Year and Most Improved Junior Girl.

With a 4.0, Liza earned the highest GPA of the junior girls. High school secretary DeAnna Rigney observed, "Liza has done a total change. She's a more honest person. She's much more caring."

The faculty named Liza the senior girl who is Most Likely to Succeed. She shared her story at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"I like what (Oneida's) done for me, Liza said. ... I didn't have a dad here on earth, so [God] brought me to Oneida to give me a lot of the same structure a functional family would have."

"If I hadn't come here," she added, "I probably would have dropped out."



TRANSFORMED LIFE Liza believes God guided her path to Oneida.

Oneida Baptist Institute

A FEW FACTS

- ◆ Our average enrollment is 400.
- ◆ We have approximately 150 full-time faculty and staff.
- ◆ Our classrooms have an average 1:12 teacher/student ratio.
- ◆ Oneida has a 200-acre farm and a full agriculture program.
- ◆ Our student body consists of young people from the local community, across Kentucky, throughout the United States and around the world.
- ◆ We accept students year-round.
- ◆ OBI provides Christian education at an affordable rate.

Will: He has strong ties to Oneida

Will lives in Leslie County and attended OBI as a day student his whole life.

His family ties to Oneida include his parents, both 1977 OBI graduates, and his uncle, former OBI President Barkley Moore (OBI '58).

"This is where I went to school since I was in kindergarten," Will said. "That's something most kids here at OBI don't get to experience."

Beginning in middle school, his classmates became mostly dorm students. Yet he built strong relationships despite his status as a day student. "I was just like anybody else," he said.

Will enjoyed the chance each day to spend quiet time with God. "I think daily chapel is a good thing, he observed.

"It gives everybody a chance to go in and worship, if they want to. Even if they don't want to, it gives them some spiritual and moral instruction."

Will has been a high academic achiever all his life. He earned the Highest GPA award and was named Most Outstanding of his class. His senior year, he was voted Most Academic, Mr. Oneida and Most Likely to Succeed.

Will believes education quality is connected to personal application. Oneida gives students the opportunity to excel, he said. "I think I've gotten as good an education here as I could have anywhere."

Throughout high school, Will took advanced and honors classes, including advanced placement biology and

physics taught by Nathan Crawford.

Crawford said Will "approaches all aspects of his life with tenacity." He called Will "remarkably good natured and an unparalleled respectful person."

Will has enrolled at the University of Kentucky to major in biosystems engineering. "I've always been interested in forestry, and that goes hand in hand," Will said.

He became interested in this field when he learned more about the career possibilities at the 2000 Kentucky Governor's Scholar camp.

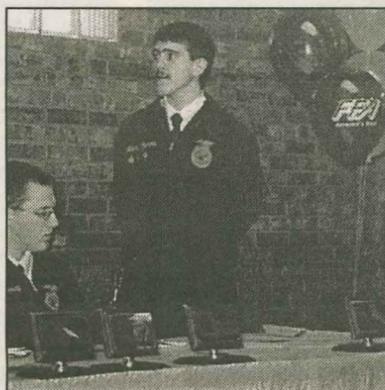
Will said he is ready for graduation, though it will be strange to leave OBI after 13 years.

"Life is just a series of steps, he said. "I'm ready to go on to the next one."



ACADEMIC ACHIEVER Will plans to study biosystems engineering in college.

Adam: Hard work helped him succeed



FARM WORKER Adam, an FFA leader, loved Oneida's farming opportunities.

Adam was struggling academically at the school near his home in Central Kentucky.

The school simply didn't have what he needed to succeed, he said.

When he enrolled at OBI, he spent three periods a day in the tutoring lab for math, reading and supervised study hall. "I was so low in those skills," Adam explained.

OBI tutoring lab director Charmaine Nichols said he lacked academic skills. Yet she said his greatest challenge was frustration. Encouragement from his teachers during daily lessons became crucial to his progress.

A love of animals prompted Adam

to choose the farm for his after-school job. He said the farm helped him with his attitude and taught him respect for others. "The farm helped me in so many different ways," he noted.

Adam went on to earn numerous awards as a charter member of FFA. He was an officer and committee chairman his senior year. "I've accomplished a lot in FFA, and it kept me out of trouble," he said. "It kept me busy."

Adam's commitment to the farm was evident to many. "His work ethic and responsibility were unparalleled, and his recognition for that as well as his work in FFA helped him cope with his academic frustration," Nichols said.

After just one year with the farm,

Adam seemed to have gained control of his anger, and he made more progress in the classroom.

He worked hard, but his grades were still barely passing. Then the farm manager and students began tutoring him during farm hours and in the dormitory. As a result, Adam was named Most Improved Junior.

OBI guidance counselor Myrtle Cooke (OBI '60) called Adam "an OBI miracle." Through perseverance and hard work, he met the requirements for graduation and even made the honor roll his senior year.

The faculty voted him Most Studious. Adam said he plans to find a job he enjoys and "settle down."

What do students say about Oneida?

- ◆ "I feel the faculty and staff really care for each individual."
- ◆ "I have had good people to influence me in a positive way. They have helped me to make right decisions."
- ◆ "The staff here gives and gives everything they have to the students."
- ◆ "They care about you, no matter who you are."

Come and see for yourself what God is doing at Oneida

Campus tours are available.

Worship with students and faculty in our daily chapel services. See our dormitories, classrooms and historic Anderson Hall. Enjoy a meal in our dining room. Walk across the swinging bridge to the farm. View our state-of-the-art swine complex.

Stop by the craft house to shop for bargains before you return home.

If you would like to schedule a visit, or if you have any questions about our school, you may contact us at P.O. Box 67 Oneida, KY 40972. Phone: (606) 847-4111. Fax: (606) 847-4496. Web site: www.oneidaschool.org.

Alicia: She got her life back on track

Alicia spent all four years of high school at OBI. Prior to coming to Oneida, her school record in California was plagued by chronic absenteeism.

"My grades suffered from that," she said. "My parents decided I needed to go somewhere where they could make sure I was going to school."

Alicia adapted easily to the OBI schedule. She soon discovered the reason so many people say there are no friends like Oneida friends.

"Probably the best friends you can have are your roommates," she said.

She took her place on the A honor roll and remained there almost her entire time at OBI.

"My grades improved drastically," Alicia noted. "They went from C's and D's to A's and B's just because I was in school all the time."

With her grades back on track within her first quarter, Alicia still chose to return to OBI each year. She explained, "I liked being away from home, [and] I believed it would keep my relationship with my mom on good terms. ... Now we get along great."

When presented with after-school work options, Alicia chose sports. "I was never involved in sports or any-

thing at my old school. I thought, 'I may as well try it.' Every season I did something different."

She lettered in basketball, track, softball, cross country and swimming. She made the all-conference team and went to state competitions two years.

Alicia said she enjoyed the fresh air and sense of accomplishment in athletics. "I felt a personal gain from it. I had an increase in self confidence," she observed.

Softball coach Angie Gritton (OBI '91) said, "Alicia was a pleasure to coach. ... She had a great attitude and always gave 110 percent."

Alicia was a member of the Beta Club for two years. This year, she helped to author and present a bill for Kentucky Youth Assembly (KYA), a statewide Beta Club competition.

The bill, which would impose penalties for invasion of privacy by electronic means, was passed.

Alicia was named first runner up in the annual Yearbook Queen pageant, and later, she took a role in the spring play.

"I wanted to try something different. I wanted to experience everything before I left," she noted.

Alicia plans to attend college in California.



VERSATILE YOUTH Alicia, an honor roll student, lettered in five sports.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Roman: She found a new home at Oneida

A native of Ethiopia, Roman came to the United States in 1995 for heart surgery. After returning in 1997 for a check up, she remained in the U.S. with a family friend to be near medical care.

"It was kind of hard and painful for a while, Roman recalled. "I missed my family."

Roman, a high school freshman, began looking for a school. None tapped her interest until OBI.

"When I heard about Oneida, I was like, 'Wow!' And I wanted to go. I thought it would be a really nice experience."

She was surprised by the number of international students attending OBI. "I knew I wasn't going to be alone here, even though I didn't know them," she said.

When she considered staying at home for her senior year, she realized, "Oneida has become like a home far away for me."

Roman acknowledged international students face difficulties. "It's kind of hard," she said. "We can't just see

mom or dad on every break."

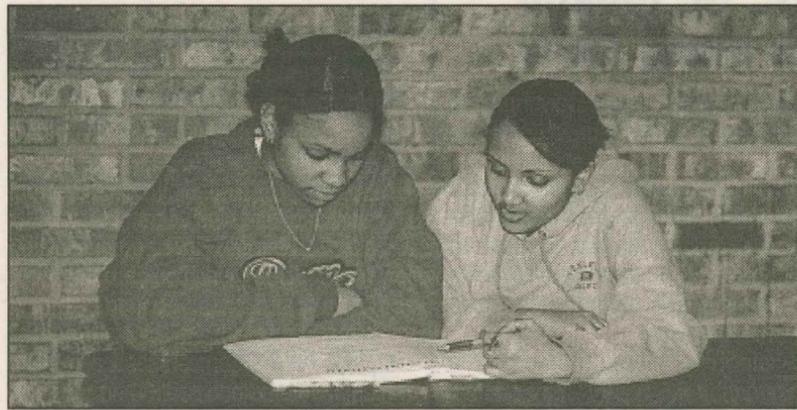
Nevertheless, she is grateful for the guardians of international students. "Our guardians are like a second family to us," she said. "I could not have done this without them."

International students share common bonds that contribute to their sense of community at Oneida, she said: "We understand each other. We know we don't have an actual immediate family here. I think that brings us closer to each other" (in the U.S.)

Roman, an only child, said her parents grieved her absence from home. Still they are happy she received good medical care, a solid high school education and a better chance to go to college, she said.

Academically, Roman is ranked in the top five of the senior class. She was on the A honor roll throughout high school and was voted the Most Studious Sophomore.

"You have help (at OBI)," she said. "Whenever you don't understand something, faculty and staff are there to help."



STUDENT HELPER Roman (right), a native of Ethiopia, was committed to helping students in nightly study halls.

Home economics teacher Becky Kendrick said Roman has a positive attitude and is a pleasure to teach.

"She is a responsible, mature young lady who is eager and enthusiastic about work and life," Kendrick said.

Roman worked as a tutor in study hall her junior and senior years. She joined the Beta Club and was voted the senior class student council represen-

tative. The class also named her Most Academic.

Roman worked in the dining hall and dorm, played volleyball and managed the softball team.

"You have to be on time and take responsibility on your jobs," Roman said. "It's hard at first, but you learn."

Roman will study international business at Lindsey Wilson College.

FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

One of our greatest opportunities is also one of our biggest challenges: to father the fatherless. Not all young people who come to Oneida are fatherless, but many do not have the family support that God intended.

Eighty percent of OBI students come from broken or single parent homes. A substantial number need a father figure in their lives. Many mothers tell us, "My child needs positive adult role models, especially men."

At Oneida Baptist Institute, our faculty and staff strive to live out the unconditional love of God. OBI is a place where teenagers can find adults to nurture them, guide them and help them prepare for the future.

Natalie: She excelled as a scholar & athlete



POISED PERSON Natalie was crowned 2001 Oneidian Yearbook Queen.

Natalie has a long history with Oneida and a long list of impressive accomplishments.

Natalie is one of only three students to have completed grades K-12 at OBI since the inception of the elementary school for staff children.

"This is where I've been for all but four years of my life," she said. "I didn't realize that things were different here than anywhere else until about third or fourth grade."

At Oneida, Natalie enjoyed the unique opportunity of meeting people from around the world who attend OBI.

While in high school, she was a 2000 Kentucky Governor's Scholar and

the 2000-2001 Oneidian Yearbook Queen. She ranked third in her graduating class.

Natalie demonstrated her capabilities and commitment in co-curriculars. She was a member of the student council in grades 9-12 and a member of the Beta Club.

Natalie's involvement in sports began in elementary school. She won state medals in track and qualified to run at the state cross country meet each year. She made the all-conference team in both sports. A two-time Most Valuable Swimmer, Natalie was described by swim coach Scott Self (OBI '93) as "one of the top five female

swimmers in OBI history."

Track and cross country coach Michelle Mau said, "Natalie has a determination and a drive that one rarely sees in an individual. When most would have quit ..., she continued. She's very inspirational to me."

With practices and travel, she worked hard to maintain an A average. "You just have to do whatever it takes, if you want to get to a certain level."

Though learning is admittedly easy for her, she noted, "There were definitely some classes that I had to work hard in to get the grade I wanted."

Natalie will study forensic science at the University of Central Florida.

Scott: He matured quickly at OBI

Scott was in 10th grade when his parents told him about OBI.

He was not impressed with the prospect of attending Oneida. "They presented me the option, and I was like, 'No way!'" Scott recalled.

Though not a troublemaker, he admitted he talked too much in class. He was not doing his work, and his grades had dropped.

Scott, who is from Northern Kentucky, said the decision gnawed on his mind all summer. He worried that the school would be boring, and he would have to work on the farm.

He was sure he would dislike the rules and get in trouble a lot. Despite his fears, Scott said, "Gradually, my mindset changed, and I realized it would be a good opportunity to learn, change and prepare for college and real life. God just changed my mind. He worked with me. Once I got here, I matured a lot, quickly."

Scott earned a 3.5 GPA his first semester at OBI, and he stopped his ex-

cessive talking in class.

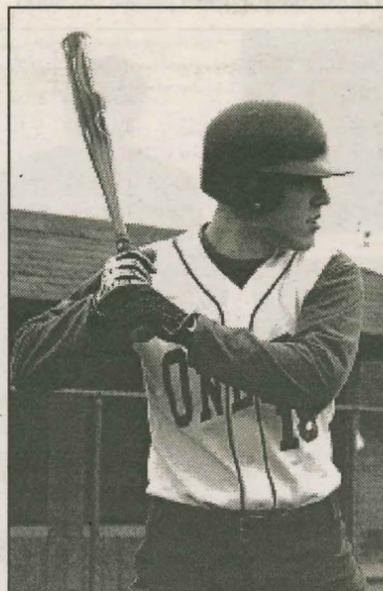
"I just improved so much," Scott said. "Starting over with a clean slate at OBI helped. I already had a chance."

Scott also felt his relationship with God deepened through his involvement in student ministry groups. He became a Baptist Student Union small group leader to "help people."

Campus minister Michael Spencer observed the changes. "When he first arrived, he was the profile of the class clown," Spencer said. By the end of his first year here, there was a dramatic increase in personal maturity."

Scott was varsity baseball captain and all-conference team member. He played soccer his senior year. He joined Beta Club and was on the writing team that authored a bill that passed KYA, a state Beta Club competition.

Scott plans to attend Western Kentucky University to combine his love of sports with his strong verbal skills. "I've been wanting to broadcast sports games since I was a little kid," he said.



SERIOUS COMPETITOR Scott overcame his reputation as class clown and excelled in athletics and academics.

Ministering to the whole person

Oneida prepares young people for life by equipping them in mind, body and spirit.

At OBI, students can find a sense of purpose that may be the key to excelling academically, socially and spiritually.

◆ Our small classes: Tutoring lab and nightly study hall give many young people a needed educational boost.

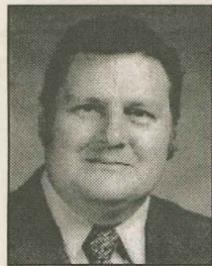
◆ We teach boys and girls the dignity of labor and satisfaction in a job well done. Oneida's unique student work program and many co-curricular activities offer opportunities for success with new-found talents and abilities.

◆ Through Bible classes, daily chapel and Campus Ministry programs, we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and nurture our students' growing faith.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Barkley Moore: He looked for the best in every child

The Father's Day Offering for OBI began as a way of honoring Dr. Barkley Moore, Oneida president from 1972 until his death in 1994.



Barkley Moore
OBI president,
1972-1994

Moore was valedictorian of Oneida's class of 1958 and a graduate of the University of Kentucky. He was assistant to the president at OBI, then spent six years in the Peace Corps before returning to Oneida as president.

Moore always looked for the best in every child. He once noted that when students came to OBI, "They have failed time after time, and they see themselves as a failure."

He saw Oneida's unique environment as a means of changing the lives of young people. "We not only tell these

young people that we care, but ... we show them that we care," he said.

Through your prayerful support of the Oneida ministry, Moore's legacy lives on.

Oneida strives to minister to those who lack fathers

When I came to Oneida in the fall of 1961 as a junior in high school, I was not fatherless, but I desperately needed a father figure.

My stepfather was not a positive role model, and my father chose not to be a part of my life. It was my houseparent in the boys' dormitory at Oneida who stepped in and provided the positive male role modeling I needed and wanted.

He had a listening ear and a sympathetic heart. He gave me financial assistance and supported me with words of encouragement. He was a real friend and the father figure I had longed for.

When my son was born in 1965, it was my privilege to name him after this wonderful friend and father figure.

We struggle each and every day to meet the emotional, spiritual, financial and academic needs of our boys and girls. Your support helps make our ministry possible. Will you help us as we endeavor to "father the fatherless?"

—W.F. Underwood,
OBI president

Ways you can support the offering

- ◆ Make sure your church has received our box of offering materials.
- ◆ Offer to take charge of displaying posters and distributing brochures in your church.
- ◆ Tell others about the Oneida ministry.
- ◆ Pray for a successful offering.

Deonne: She developed her musical talent

Deonne enrolled as a freshman at OBI in March 1997. Peer pressure had contributed to her poor performance in her previous school, and she needed a change.

The Northern Kentucky native had never been away from home and leaving her twin sister was especially difficult. She remembers struggling through her first week at OBI.

Her second week, she experienced a "180 (degree) turn" and thought, "Maybe I can do this."

She noticed OBI's smaller classes with not more than 15 students in one period. "I saw a big improvement in my grades," she said. "Here at Oneida, the teachers go all out to help you. I decided this was the place that was best for me."

Deonne also benefited from evening study hall and the teachers who offered extra help.

While home on summer break, Deonne decided not to return to Oneida. Though she would miss her OBI friends, she wanted to go back to her old school in the fall.

When she saw her bad grades return, she realized that OBI's daily

schedule had played a role in her academic improvement.

She returned to OBI part way into her sophomore year. Her senior year, she was voted class secretary and the girl with the Most School Spirit.

As a junior, Deonne made the honor roll for the first time. Even as an honor roll student, she still attended evening study hall when she needed extra help.

Besides her academic improvement, Deonne said, "Oneida has brought me so close to my family. Now my mom and I have a really good relationship, and it's brought me and my sisters closer."

She added that living in the dorm taught her to share. Deonne recalls not liking the "work part" of OBI at first. "I had house chores, but nothing compares to dorm chores."

Nevertheless, she earned the Outstanding Worker award as a kitchen and dorm aid supervisor. She spent one season as a softball manager, and she worked in the daycare for OBI staff children.

The campus chores got easier as she matured, she said.



CAMPUS TRUBADOR Deonne developed her academic skills and her singing talent.

Deonne loves to sing and at OBI she sang in the choir, in chapel and at student functions.

House parent Judy Lawson called Deonne "my little songbird because she will sing anytime for anyone."

In the fall, Deonne plans to attend college and major in social work.

Matt: He found many benefits at Oneida

Like many OBI students, Matt followed the footsteps of a family member to Oneida.

His older brother, Ben, graduated from OBI in 1995. "Neither one of us had any problems," he said. "My brother always told me really good things about OBI, so I had a really good impression."

Matt, who entered OBI as a freshman, was interested in playing basketball, and he was not sure he could make the team at the high school that served his Central Kentucky community.

The opportunity to build close friendships was another plus, he said. "It is real easy to meet people. As soon

as I got involved in sports, I met a lot more people."

He said he had no problems with fitting in or being homesick. "I always enjoyed it," he said.

Matt accepted Christ during his first year at Oneida.

Although he always had believed in God, Matt said he never had surrendered his life to Christ.

He made a profession of faith at a Sunday service. "It was sort of an unconscious decision," he said. "It just happened."

Matt began to see evidence of his spiritual growth by his junior year. He began to feel more comfortable shar-

ing his faith with others.

He attended Baptist Student Union and was a small group leader. "I think it's a good organization on campus," he observed. "It opens up a lot of doors for people to do things."

Matt is a four-year veteran of OBI basketball and was captain of the team his senior year. He broke the school record for the most charges taken in one season.

Matt roomed with two of his teammates. "I'm sure we'll keep in touch forever," he said.

Matt played soccer and participated in track for three years and joined the golf team for one. He earned the Coach's award in golf, the Best Attitude award in soccer, and he went to the state meet in track.

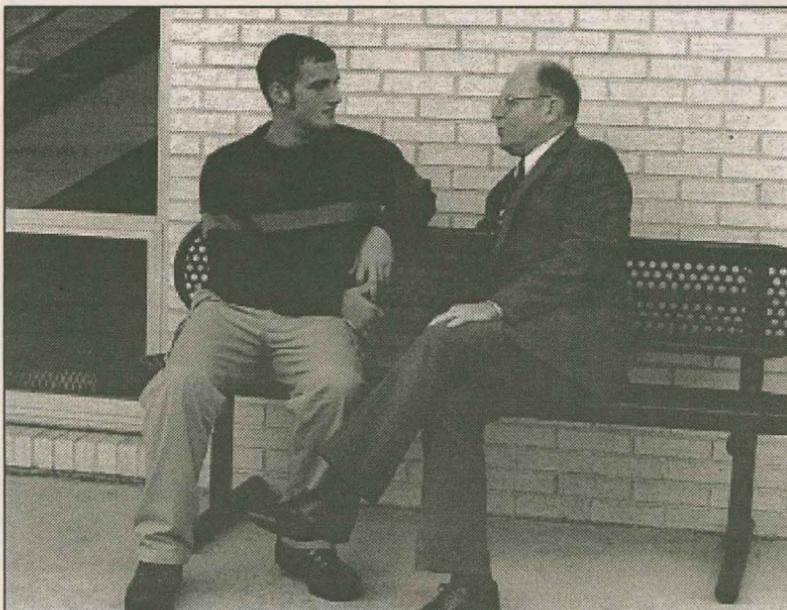
He plans to attend Eastern Kentucky University to become a teacher and coach.

Matt was an officer in both Beta Club and student council. He was also editor of the student newspaper.

"I have had Matt for three years in different classes and have seen a great deal of growth," said journalism and English teacher Edmund Shelby. "I have observed his concern for others and desire to do the job. Because of these qualities and others, I selected him editor of the student newspaper."

Despite his busy schedule, Matt was a hall monitor and an honor roll student.

Oneida's faculty taught him lessons that extend beyond academics, Matt said. "It's a real good atmosphere when you have faculty that will help you out—not just with school work, but your life."



CAREFUL PREPARATION Matt listens to words of encouragement from OBI President W.F. Underwood prior to Matt's address at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In Memoriam

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2000, the Lord called Rev. James Lonnie Bradley from his labors on earth to his heavenly reward, and;

WHEREAS, Brother Bradley during his lifetime as a minister of the Gospel, served as Pastor of Springfield Baptist Church from 1967-1983, and Pastor Emeritus of Lebanon Baptist Church from 1983 until his death, and;

WHEREAS, during his service and pastorate at Springfield Baptist Church and Lebanon Baptist Church, Brother Bradley accomplished much for the Lord and was a positive, Godly influence in the lives of the members of these churches and the communities of Springfield and Lebanon, and;

WHEREAS, the entire memberships of Springfield Baptist Church and Lebanon Baptist Church wish to communicate to Brother Bradley's widow, Billie, children, Susie and Sam, our heartfelt sympathy upon his passing;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this expression of sympathy, respect, and appreciation be sent to the family of Brother Bradley, published in the *Western Recorder*, *The Springfield Sun*, *The Lebanon Enterprise* and placed in the minutes of Springfield Baptist Church and Lebanon Baptist Church.

The Truth About Estate Planning™

Proper Estate Planning allows you to plan for yourself and your loved ones without giving up control of your affairs.

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- ◆ all at a reasonable cost to you and to those you love

Presented by:
Robert L. Goodin, Jr.
GOODIN & ASSOCIATES, P.S.C.
Counsellor and Attorney at Law
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Call Kathy today at (502) 426-0105 to reserve your spot at one of the following Truth About Estate Planning workshops:

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Wednesday, June 13, 2001 9:00-12:00 noon
Thursday, June 14, 2001 6:30-9:30 p.m.
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Saturday, June 23, 2001 9:00-12:00 noon

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Each workshop will last three hours, and there will be light refreshments served. There is no obligation. Seating is limited. CALL TODAY to reserve your spot!

This is an advertisement.

Gallup poll: More Americans accepting sex before marriage

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Sixty percent of Americans told a recent Gallup poll that premarital sex is morally acceptable.

The Gallup Organization has tracked Americans' views on premarital sex for decades and found that fewer have frowned on the practice throughout the years.

In 1969, two-thirds of Americans said premarital sex was wrong and 21 percent said it was acceptable. By the early 1970s, just 47 percent were critical of sex before marriage.

In 1985, a majority of Americans—52 percent—said premarital sex was acceptable. Now, 60 percent say the practice is acceptable and 38 percent say it is wrong, Gallup found.

When Gallup pollsters specifically asked if sex between an unmarried man and woman is morally acceptable or morally wrong, 53 percent of those surveyed said it is acceptable and 42 percent said it was wrong.

Researchers found that Americans' views on the topic depended on their age. Sixty-seven percent of young

adults find premarital sex to be morally acceptable, 60 percent of those ages 30-49 agree, but only 46 percent of those aged 50-64 and 28 percent of those 65 and older say the practice is acceptable.

Fifty-two percent of Americans consider "living together" to be morally acceptable while 41 percent consider unmarried couples living together to be "living in sin." Three percent said it depends on the situation and 2 percent said they don't consider it to be a moral issue.

Asked if it is morally wrong for an unmarried couple to have a baby, 40 percent said it was, 57 percent said it was not and 3 percent had no opinion.

Pollsters also found that 59 percent of Americans believe divorce is morally acceptable, 28 percent think it is unacceptable and 12 percent said it depends on the situation.

The survey was based on a random national sample of 1,012 adults who were interviewed by telephone May 10-14. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In 1969, two-thirds of Americans said premarital sex was wrong. Now, 60 percent say the practice is acceptable.

Palestinian pastor visits America seeking to educate Christians

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Mitri Raheb sees it, King David was a Palestinian rock-thrower. Jesus' parents were Palestinian refugees. And the Hebrew exodus led by Moses was the original Palestinian liberation movement.

Raheb, pastor of Evangelical Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, is on a U.S. speaking tour, hoping to change the perception many Americans have of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Raheb said he's hoping that, speaking as a Palestinian Christian, Americans will learn that the Palestinian community is not monolithic, and certainly not entirely Muslim.

"For me, it's important to give a face and a name to the problem," Raheb said. "I need to be a voice for the voiceless."

As the Middle East crisis continues to worsen, Raheb said U.S. Christians should stand in solidarity

with fellow Christians in Israel and the occupied territories.

Raheb's family has lived in Bethlehem for hundreds of years, and as pastor of the 150-year-old church, Raheb says he is trying to maintain a Christian presence that was born on the first Pentecost. He shares the frustration of his Muslim neighbors but wishes both sides could find a peaceful alternative.

"We're calling for non-violent resistance, not to win the sympathy of people in the world, but for our own sake," said Raheb, who said street violence is eventually transferred into domestic violence.

Raheb said 30 percent of the students in his church's school have been displaced. Last Christmas, the town of Jesus' birth canceled much of its Christmas celebrations.

"How can you celebrate when your city is getting bombed?" he asked.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Home Depot to change hiring policy.** Under pressure from Unitarian Universalist shareholders, Home Depot has vowed not to discriminate against job applicants on the basis of their sexual orientations. The company originally urged shareholders to reject a resolution on the issue earlier this year. But when customers and employees begged an explanation, the company on May 11 accommodated the request and amended its employment policy. The action does not affect company policy on partner benefits. Only spouses of married employees are eligible for company benefits.

■ **Longtime Graham associate, dies.** T.W. Wilson, a longtime executive assistant to evangelist Billy Graham, died unexpectedly May 24. Wilson, 82, had been recovering from a stroke he suffered two years ago. "Ruth and I

have lost one of the closest friends we ever had," Graham said in a statement. Wilson, a Southern Baptist minister, was an evangelist across the country and abroad before becoming an associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

■ **NCC, Habitat for Humanity partnering.** The National Council of Churches and Habitat for Humanity formally launched a new partnership May 31 to help build homes for poor people. The informal agreement hopes to partner the NCC's humanitarian arm, Church World Service, and its 36 member communions with Habitat crews to help build houses. Since its founding in 1976, the ecumenical body has built 100,000 homes for low-income families in 79 countries. The two groups hope to increase participation by NCC's member churches.

Forgiveness a struggle for McVeigh's execution town

Christians in Terre Haute are struggling with the radical idea at the core of their faith—forgiveness.

By Judith Cebula
Religion News Service

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (RNS)—The people of Terre Haute, Ind., are bracing for the execution of Timothy McVeigh—whenever it occurs.

The most notorious mass murderer in U.S. history is scheduled to die June 11 at the federal penitentiary in the small western Indiana city.

The community and the nation were put on hold last month when McVeigh's May 16 execution date was postponed after thousands of undisclosed FBI documents related to the case surfaced. McVeigh has requested a further delay and U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch has scheduled a hearing this week to rule on the request.

As observers await the outcome of the legal proceedings, Terre Haute remains in the national spotlight. Few in the community of 60,000 people would have asked for such infamy. But in churches and Christian homes, many people are coping through Jesus.

They're turning to what He said about sin and repentance, death and new life. And they're struggling with the radical idea at the core of their faith—forgiveness.

How is it possible to forgive McVeigh? Here's a man who is testing even the most devout opposition to capital punishment. With no regret, he has confessed to killing 168 people six years ago in Oklahoma City.

Terry Clark has a hard time de-

fending McVeigh's right to live. As pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church he has preached in the past about what he calls the injustice of capital punishment. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Clark supports the call for a moratorium on executions.

But McVeigh doesn't fit. He's white. He had a good lawyer. He confessed, with no regret.

"Would I be happy about letting this guy die?" Clark asked. "No. Nobody's death thrills me. But McVeigh, he shows no remorse. He called children collateral damage."

Unfortunately, he said, Scripture offers Clark little guidance. Throughout the Gospels Jesus talks about forgiving enemies. But in Leviticus and later in Romans, the holy book speaks of punishment and justice. Romans 13 tells Christians to follow the civil law.

There will be no calls to end capital punishment from the pulpit at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. Clark will be absent from the many prayer vigils scheduled across Terre Haute in response to the execution.

"I can only urge that people pray for our nation and our community right here," he said.

In contrast the priest at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church has been preaching for months about an end to executions.

"Forgiveness is possible if people are willing to see Tim McVeigh as something more than simply 'the bomber,'" Ron Ashmore said.

That's an idea that brings more pain to the parents of those babies in Oklahoma and the husbands and wives widowed because of McVeigh. But it's exactly what Jesus cried out for at His crucifixion, the priest contends.

"Forgive them, Father," Jesus said of His murderers, "because they do not know what they are doing."

Ashmore can see McVeigh as more than the bomber because he has met with him in prison. The priest offers no details, not even how many times they have talked.

"But meeting him has been a profound journey for me into the redemptive love of God," he said.

Yet, he said, the lesson would be incomplete for Ashmore if he hadn't met Bud Welch, as well. He's the father of Julie Welch, one of the 168 people killed. For the past four years, Welch has traveled the nation in her memory speaking against capital punishment.

Recently Welch told his story in Terre Haute.

His witness was this: On April 19, 1995, his 23-year-old daughter was killed in the bombing. For months after, the devastation fueled rage. To cope, he smoked three packs of cigarettes a day and numbed anger with alcohol.

Five weeks after he buried Julie, Welch saw a picture of McVeigh's father on the television news. He recognized Bill McVeigh's sad eyes and sunken cheeks. This was the pain that was consuming his own life.

Three years later, the two fathers met. At Bill's house near Buffalo, N.Y., they talked about their children, Julie and Tim. That's when the bomber became somebody's beloved son.

"For selfish reasons I want to see the death penalty abolished," Welch said. "It re-victimizes family members. It makes a new set of victims, people like Bill McVeigh and his daughter, Jennifer."

Fathers and Oneida

On Father's Day each year I reflect upon my father, being a father and Oneida Baptist Institute.

My father, who died in 1966 at the age of 43, was a devoted Christian. Having a devoted Christian father and mother made easier my salvation and my spiritual journey. My belief in Christ came as a result of having a Christian father, who took the lead in taking our family with him to Sunday school, worship, training union and mid-week prayer services. He did not take us and leave us; he himself was involved actively in the Lord's work in many ways. His involvement in our church made me feel closer to the church and the Lord's work on a broader scope. By his service he educated me to the reality there is more to be done in a church than just attend. A Christ-centered father was a tremendous asset.

As a father of two sons, I have tried to follow the example my father set before me. Being a father has afforded me many of life's greatest experiences, heaviest responsibilities and richest opportunities. How thankful I am for the joy that has been mine as a father. With the Bible as my source, I tried to relate to my sons in their formative

years by loving them, supervising them and disciplining them.

Love can be demonstrated by thoughtful acts and deeds. It can be shared by words of affection and appreciation. And it can be communicated by one's attitude. Supervision involves guiding a child in developing the character, habits and skills necessary to live life with meaning and purpose. Discipline helps a child turn away from harmful attitudes and actions and to embrace those that are helpful.

Fathering, or parenting, also reminds me of Oneida Baptist Institute. With the leadership of Bud Underwood, our Christian boarding school provides a safe, structured, yet stimulating environment where boys and girls can grow in character, values, knowledge and skills.

As you pray for your father, pray also for Oneida, and join my wife and me in making a contribution of gratitude to the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering to enhance Oneida's special ministry in our behalf.

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

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ISSUES

SBC domestic hunger ministries: More need, fewer dollars

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist hunger ministries in the United States have struggled this past year as giving stayed relatively flat but requests for funding of ministries increased greatly, according to specialists.

Missionaries and churches requested 80 percent more dollars for domestic hunger ministries during 2000, while Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund receipts for domestic work declined about 2 percent, according to Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

According to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, donations to the domestic World Hunger Fund account declined from \$1,507,251 in 1999 to \$1,492,274 last year.

The domestic decline was seen on a greater scale by the overall hunger fund, Nelson said. A total of \$9.6 million was received through the hunger funds in 2000, he said. That compared to \$10.7 million in 1999.

Donoso Escobar, NAMB's director of hunger ministries, said much of the greater need domestically was a result of the federal government's implementation of welfare reform. Thousands of people entered the workplace earning wages too meager to meet their family's basic needs, he said.

"The result has been an unprecedented level of requests for funds," he said.



CHRISTMAS BASKETS Volunteers fill Christmas baskets with food purchased by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Missionaries and churches requested 80 percent more dollars last year for domestic hunger ministries, but giving was relatively flat. (BP photo)

"The net effect has been that many ministries are not receiving as much as they had been to minister to hungry people even though they are in need of more," he explained. "Sadly, we have only been able to give a limited response on some occasions."

Additionally, Southern Baptists' response to several emergency situations was negatively impacted as a result of insufficient funds, Escobar said.

"Assistance was needed for over 400 families in American Samoa after their employer filed bankruptcy," he said. "Baptist ministries in Louisiana needed to assist several hun-

dred sailors who lost their jobs, and a Baptist church in Garden City, Kan., needed to help employees after a fire destroyed a major beef processing plant.

"My heart breaks not only for the hungry, but also for Christians who forfeit the joy of such an opportunity," Escobar said.

A lack of awareness among Southern Baptists is a major problem, he added.

Southern Baptists have supported the Southern Baptist Hunger Fund since the 1970s. Leaders say that despite the struggle, nearly 3 million people benefited in the United States and U.S. territories last year from the

hunger fund. Officials point to 13,600 professions of faith last year as a result of domestic hunger ministries funded by Southern Baptists.

Nelson noted that Southern Baptists have an infrastructure of nearly 10,000 missionaries and volunteers to administer hunger funds throughout the world.

"With such a network, it is tragic when opportunities to show Christ's love are lost," he said.

Often, money is given to the hunger fund and designated to respond to a specific disaster or need, but undesignated funds are distributed at a ratio of 80 percent for international ministries and 20 percent for domestic work, he said.

"Those who support the World Hunger Fund can take comfort in the knowledge that 100 percent of their gifts are used for hunger with nothing taken out for administration or promotion," he added.

Nelson praised the ever-growing interest many Southern Baptists are showing in hunger ministry. At the same time he noted that on average, Southern Baptists give less than one dollar each per year to the World Hunger Fund. He pointed out that if every Southern Baptist gave just one dollar per month, hunger ministries could multiply 18-fold resulting in "saved lives and reached souls."

"Every man, woman and child in our churches has the power to touch a life if you consider that the average cost of a meal through domestic ministries last year was 49 cents," he said.

For more information

■ For more information about the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, visit the Web site www.eric.com.

■ Contributions can be made payable to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund/domestic and sent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 901 Commerce, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203 or to the North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202.

Anita Earle Childers

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's commencement, we present two special awards. Our student awards committee accepts nominations from faculty, staff and students, interviews finalists and then presents the Berger Award to both a female and a male graduating senior who have exemplified outstanding service and leadership.

Anita Earle Childers received the Berger Award for a female graduating senior. Childers is the daughter of Stephen and Sherell Earle of Clinton, Tenn., and the wife of Jonathan Childers of Williamsburg. She graduated as a middle school education major with endorsements in mathematics, English and communication arts.

Academically, Childers has excelled. Her college studies brought her induction into Kappa Mu Epsilon, the mathematics honor society; Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society; and the J. T. Vallandigham Honor Society for overall academic excellence.

Childers also was inducted into Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges and received this year's Middle School Educa-

tion Outstanding Senior Award from Cumberland College's education department. Her student teaching at Whitley County Middle School garnered high praise from students and teachers.

Childers served both on and off campus in a variety of capacities. On campus she participated in our freshmen orientation program helping new students succeed at Cumberland College. She also served as a mentor to area students and worked in our admissions office giving tours and talking with prospective students. At First Baptist Church in Williamsburg she served as preschool choir director and leader of Mission Friends.

Childers will work on her master's degree in education this coming academic year at Cumberland College and serve as a graduate assistant in our education department. She hopes some day to teach in a college, and we would love to have her teach here. We congratulate her and pray God's richest blessings upon her.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Just call it love

Hopefully you read the story in a recent issue of the Western Recorder about the passing of George Lawson. He was the fellow who not only grew up with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, but stayed with us until his retirement.

I hesitate to refer to George as a symbol, because he was more than that. He was a living, breathing person with feelings and hopes. He was someone who contributed to many lives through a childlike spirit and openness.

There wouldn't be enough space in any paper to share all the stories about George, but there is one story that is included in the summer issue of the Baptist Children's Messenger newsletter. I want to share it with you.

When George was 20, Virginia Fields, one of the home's most committed staff, wrote a letter to a couple in Taylorsville, asking them if George could visit their farm for a week. You see, George wanted a vacation "and I see no other way to get it for him," Mrs. Fields wrote. The couple welcomed George to their home and for a week the "city boy" got a taste of what farm life was like.

Mrs. Fields' effort on George's behalf might not sound like a big deal, but when you consider that at

the time there were 150 children at the home, the gesture takes on a different meaning. Think of 150 children to care for, many of them infants and toddlers requiring significant care, yet George was valued enough for Mrs. Fields to write that letter. That kind of nurturing is key to the development of any human being. George's parents hadn't been there to do that for him, but Mrs. Fields, and others, were.

So, yes, George is a symbol. He is a symbol of Kentucky Baptists at our best, standing in the gap for those who have no advocate and no caregiver. George is a symbol to us all that everyone has something to contribute, no matter how they were born or what difficulties have arisen in their lives.

And George was also a young man who got to spend a week on a farm with good people, just because they thought he would enjoy the time away. Pastoral and clinical types might refer to that as "ministering to the whole person." George probably just called it love.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Supreme Court denies appeal for Ten Commandments display

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a lower court decision that the display of the Ten Commandments on government property is unconstitutional.

The high court's May 29 announcement left standing a federal appeals court ruling that a granite monument engraved with the Ten Commandments and located on public property in Elkhart, Ind., violated the First Amendment's prohibition on government establishment of religion.

In an uncommon move, three Supreme Court justices joined in a written dissent, explaining they wanted to accept the appeal from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Four justices must agree in order to review a decision.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist stated in his dissent that the high court never had determined that the Ten Commandments "lack a secular application."

The Ten Commandments are religious in nature, but they "have secular significance as well, because they have made a substantial contribution to our secular legal codes," Rehnquist wrote. The "city is not bound to display only symbols that are wholly secular or to convey solely secular messages," he said. "The fact that the monument conveys some religious meaning does not cast doubt on the city's valid secular purposes for its display."

Associate Justice John Paul Stevens said the three dissenters ignored the first two lines of the monument, which appear in larger type, reading: "The Ten Commandments—I am the Lord thy God."

"The graphic emphasis placed on those first lines is rather hard to square with the proposition that the monument expresses no particular religious preference," Stevens wrote.

The monument was financed by a local service organization and has stood on the site in Elkhart since 1958.

Sermon series about Ten Commandments getting strong results

LONDON (RNS)—An evangelical campaign in Liverpool is producing a harvest of returned stolen property.

The campaign is led by "J John," an evangelist licensed by the archbishop of Canterbury, and on Tuesday evenings he has been filling Liverpool's Anglican cathedral to capacity to hear a series of talks on the Ten Commandments, starting with the 10th—"Thou shalt not covet"—and working backward to the first.

May 15 the theme was "Thou shalt not steal," and the result has been two "amnesty dustbins" outside the cathedral—watched over by off-duty police volunteers—filling up with a range of stolen goods: hospital crutches, hotel towels and bathrobes, videos, CDs, library books and about \$600 in cash.

Some items have been returned to their original owners—Liverpool's prestigious Adelphi Hotel has benefited—and those that cannot be traced are handed over to the police.

May 22 the theme was "Thou shalt not commit adultery" and soon pornographic material was filling the bins.

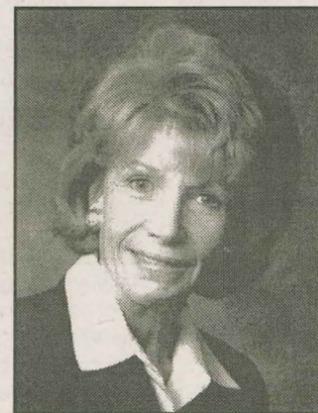
The May 29 sermon was on "Thou shalt do no murder," and J John challenged his audience of between 2,700 and 3,000 people to hand in weapons.

J John is a Londoner of Greek Cypriot descent who has been an evangelist for 20 years. He is known as J John because the English find this easier to pronounce than his Greek name.

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A change of pace

Graduation is over. Most of our students have gone home, so now we can take it easy for a while. Well, not exactly. We simply have shifted gears.

The weekend the students went home, a group of volunteers from Indiana and Kentucky came to do some work. While we already have had a busy spring with about a dozen groups of volunteers, from now until the end of August they will come in much greater numbers.

We began remodeling our youngest boys' dormitory about two months ago. The upstairs is being converted into seven classrooms. The restrooms will be completely redone, and when all is finished the new classrooms will provide a much better learning environment than the ones being replaced.

The lower level also is getting a complete facelift. New windows and doors are being installed in the entire building. There also will be a new laundry room and TV room. Two large storage rooms are being added on each floor, and the restrooms and showers are being completely replaced. The original showers did not provide privacy, and few students liked them. The new showers will provide the privacy most students want.

Work also is progressing on two duplex apartments being built for our faculty and staff. Volunteers from Alabama did most of the work last fall. The vinyl is being installed now, and the rooms are being painted. We hope faculty and staff will be moved in by the end of June. The same group from Alabama will begin construction on another duplex this fall. This structure is being built for staff with children. Many of our faculty and staff still live in small apartments or mobile homes. We have replaced many of our mobile

homes, and have made substantial improvements to the ones we have kept.

We keep inching along with the new agriculture center. We had hoped to have it done several months ago, but various delays have prevented its completion. Nearly all of our building and remodeling projects are being done with a substantial amount of volunteer labor. With that tremendous savings comes the inconvenience of having to wait until people come who have the skills needed to perform the various jobs.

Like most of Kentucky, we finally have gotten some much-needed rain. The corn is growing again, and we have been bailing a lot of hay with the help of our students.

In addition to our volunteers, we have about 40 students working for three weeks. For the most part, these are students who need financial assistance, so we ask them to work three weeks each summer. They will be doing many of the things they do during the school year—cleaning, waxing floors, mowing, helping on the farm, working in the kitchen, helping with maintenance and a lot of painting. There is no better time to do this than when most of the students are gone for the break. However, in three weeks many students will return for summer school.

The students who have been here working will then either be able to go home for the summer or enroll in summer school. Additionally, there are a few international students who simply cannot afford to go home for the summer, so they will stay with us.

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

Graduates share memories

Regina Maynard, of Kentucky, received the President's Award for outstanding leadership in all aspects of campus life. She returned each weekend to teach the college/career class at First Baptist Church of Bel-fry. Regina will enroll at Southern Seminary in August. Lisa Collins, of Tennessee, begins a master's degree in special education and looks forward to mission service with the deaf in Puerto Rico.

Darby Fleenor, of Tennessee, treasures breaks between classes when he would "get down in the creek, sit on a rock and spend time talking with God." Darby works with youth at New Haven Baptist in Oneida, Tenn. Raymond Lorentz, of Ohio, enjoyed "working with the many work groups that

able to share our beliefs with one another; sitting in the Foxes Den and joking with one another; and attending chapel." Roger continues as pastor of New Riverside Baptist Church. Michael Harris, of Kentucky, treasures the close friendships developed at Clear Creek. He is associate pastor of Sunny Acres First Church of God. Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977

a desire "to reach the kids in the mountains of southeast Kentucky." He will work with children at Kentucky Mountain Mission. He and his wife, Karen, are parents to Stephen, 13; Kensha, 10; and Eric, 6.

Russell Baldwin, of Virginia, overcame many health problems prior to attending Clear Creek. "I have gained a great deal of self-confidence. Meeting people and seeing how we all struggle to get through our experiences here has encouraged me as a pastor," Russell said. He is pastor of Cleveland Baptist Church. Dale Colinger, of Kentucky, and his wife, Betsy, were in college together, but he answered the call to Clear Creek. Roger described his fondest memories as

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

'Jabez': A small book that's making a big impression

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—If you've still got a "WWJD" bracelet lying around, it might be time to dust it off for a new application.

"What Would Jabez Do?" is the latest focus of Christian thought and conversation across the nation, due to the soaring popularity of the little book, "The Prayer of Jabez."

The book, written by Bruce Wilkinson, has sold more than 4.4 million copies and has been on the New York Times bestseller list for 12 consecutive weeks. In some Christian bookstores it has sold more copies than any individual book in the blockbuster "Left Behind" fiction series.

Wilkinson offers the prayer of an obscure Old Testament figure as a model for modern Christians to follow in seeking God's blessing on their lives and ministries. It is a prayer, he says, that "distills God's powerful will for your future."

Due to the book's popularity, churches are forming Jabez study groups, and Christians are reciting the prayer of Jabez daily as they seek to "enlarge their territory." Some churches are including the prayer as part of their Sunday worship routine.

The little four-part prayer is tucked away amid a string of genealogy in 1 Chronicles 4:9-10. The roll call of begats stops just long enough to declare that Jabez was "more honorable than his brothers" and to report on a

prayer of Jabez that God answered. That prayer states: "Oh, that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain."

Nothing more is known about Jabez from the Bible.

Yet millions of Americans today have become fascinated with this Old Testament figure and are seeking to emulate his simple prayer in hopes of finding God's blessing and enlarging their territory.

At First Baptist Church of Denton, Texas, Pastor Jeff Williams often closes his Sunday morning pastoral prayer by quoting the prayer of Jabez. The text of the prayer appears weekly on the church newsletter. Many church members have told the pastor how the prayer has made a difference in their lives.

In homes and offices across the land, individuals touched by the book's message have typed out the words to the prayer and posted them in conspicuous places.

Wilkinson's book on Jabez is surprisingly small to be a bestseller. Its 94 pages aren't much larger than a postcard, and the entire book easily slips into a jacket or purse.

So what's the big deal? The book connects with people at a point of need, said Ted Elmore, prayer coordinator for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"The bottom line is there's such a hunger in the hearts of people for the reality of God," he said. "They're tired

of religion. They're hungry for God."

Not everyone is enamored with the craze. Some say the "bless-me" nature of the prayer is selfishly motivated and that just because the Bible says God answered Jabez doesn't mean that He'll rain blessings on anyone else who says the prayer.

Mike Gunn, pastor of the non-denominational Mars Hill Christian Fellowship in Seattle, is among the book's critics. The contemporary congregation with roots in the Bible church movement has posted a bruising critique of Wilkinson's book on its Web site.

Gunn calls Wilkinson's book "a new low in the poor theology department" and nothing more than a fad.

"There are many great books on prayer," Gunn writes. "The Prayer of Jabez' is not one of them. ... Stay away from anyone who pulls out an obscure verse from a genealogy and builds a theology around it."

Elmore said he and other members of his family have found personal blessings through the prayer of Jabez. Yet he understands how the prayer and the book might be misused.

"The danger is not with the prayer of Jabez itself," Elmore said. "The danger would be in interpretation."

Dan Crawford, professor of prayer and spiritual formation at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, acknowledged some people may be prone to see the prayer as a magic formula. But the basic message of the book, rightly understood, is positive, he added.

"You have people reading about prayer who haven't thought about it in years," he surmised. "That's got to

Recorder review

LOUISVILLE—When Jim Holladay reviewed "The Prayer of Jabez" this spring for the Western Recorder, he gave the book just one star out of five.

"It seems that if the content of this prayer were so important to God, then when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He would have referred them to Jabez," wrote Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville and a regular reviewer for the Western Recorder's Faithful Reader column.

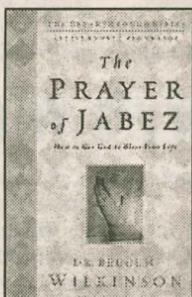
"I would rather devote my life to incorporating the prayer of Jesus into the warp and woof of my life than an obscure prayer in a lengthy genealogy."

have some positive effect."

Meanwhile, the marketing machine behind Christian publishing is working overtime to develop spin-off Jabez products. Versions geared to women, teens and children are planned, as are Bible study guides and videos. Plaques and cups already are available.

For his part, Wilkinson expressed shock at the success of the book, which began germinating in his mind 30 years ago as a student at Dallas Theological Seminary.

"We can't claim any credit or brilliance," he told the Dallas Morning News. "It's just God deciding Jabez prayed this prayer thousands of years ago, and maybe now it's time to get it answered."



North to write fiction for SBC publisher

NASHVILLE (BP)—Former U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Oliver North, has signed with Broadman & Holman publishing to write a series of novels.

North, a nationally syndicated radio host who served in the National Security Council during the Ronald Reagan presidency, will write a series of action thrillers drawing on his life as a Marine, a covert operative, a family man, a born-again Christian and a media personality, according to B&H President Kenneth Stephens.

B&H is the trade-publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The first book is expected to be released in the fall of 2002, with others to follow at the rate of one per year.

"These will be intensely personal tales of heroes and traitors, of love and

hate, of belief and betrayal," North said. "These will be stories about faith and freedom and the saga of extraordinary human endurance in the face of great adversity and despair. I'll be writing about things that challenge the very core of a man's being and beliefs."

North said the first book of his series, "Mission Compromised," will introduce fictional character Major Peter Newman of the U.S. Marines who is in the White House National Security Council staff position North once held.

"My hope is that these stories will thrill, excite and encourage those who read them," North said.

Today, North is a business owner, newspaper columnist and host of a nationally syndicated program, "Common Sense Radio with Oliver North."

Pastor's books beget Hallmark greeting cards

DALLAS (RNS)—Bishop T.D. Jakes, who has advanced his motivational message through best-selling books, plays and conferences, has entered a partnership with Hallmark Cards to produce a "Loose Your Spirit" line of greeting cards.

The colorful cards in die-cut shapes feature verses from Scripture and quotes from Jakes, a Pentecostal megachurch pastor from Dallas.

The cards will become part of Hallmark's Mahogany brand, which is aimed at African-American con-

sumers. "Greeting cards with religious messages have strong appeal with Mahogany consumers, and by partnering with a respected spiritual leader like T.D. Jakes, Mahogany can help people connect with each other in many ways," said Shalanda Stanley, product manager for the Mahogany brand.

The "Loose Your Spirit" title was drawn from the title of Jakes' best-selling book, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed."

Prayer warrior outlines strategies in WMU book

By Sammie Barstow
Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—When it comes to the role of prayer warrior, Minette Drumwright might be considered a field marshal.

For Drumwright, prayer is strategy. As an ardent pray-er, she shares her views in "The Life That Prays: Reflections on Prayer as Strategy," published recently by Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention.

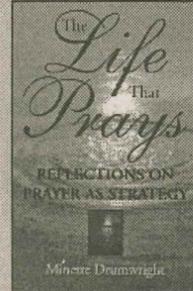
Drumwright seeks to provide fresh insight for anyone desiring a richer prayer life. Through touching and sometimes intimate stories of her own life and that of her late seminary professor husband, Huber Drumwright, she reveals a lifelong journey of prayer.

After her husband's death, Drumwright served as director of the office of international prayer strategy for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

In seeking ways to relate the gospel to unreached people, she found that prayer "rose up as the only strategy we could employ." Retracing her own beliefs about prayer, she realized, with some amount of surprise, that prayer was always God's strategy.

During her years at the IMB, Drumwright

writes, she "had a box seat (although I had to stand on my toes most of the time) to watch God at work in magnificent ways." As a witness to God's work in the far corners of the world, she renewed her commitment to prayer and to sharing the power of prayer with other Christians.



Drumwright says that every strategy must have a goal. She sees prayer strategy as the method whereby individuals, families, churches, communities and even nations are "participating with the Father . . . in accomplishing His heart's desire of making Christ known and worshiped by all the peoples of all the nations."

In "The Life That Prays," Drumwright gives detailed plans for effecting strategies that change situations and the people who pray. The chapter on developing a prayer strategy for the individual Christian leads into chapters on prayer strategies for families, churches and thoughts about prayerwalking as a strategy.

In nine appendices, Drumwright outlines step-by-step guides to praying for distinct groups, such as non-Christians, missionary kids or people groups. "A Parent's Prayer Program" lists prayer topics for 31 days of the month, along with Scripture relating to that topic, as a strategy for parents to pray for their children.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Calvin Wilkins

Many of us will take a few days or weeks of vacation this summer. What a wonderful time to share our faith in Christ with others. For some people, vacations will take you out of your comfort zone, maybe to another state or even another country.

God already has planned some divine appointments for you to share His good news. Perhaps in the campground, amusement park, traveling by air, car or ship, you will meet people who do not know Jesus Christ.

By using a simple gospel tract or verbal witness, God can draw a lost person to Himself.

The late A.W. Walker who served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff prepared a little tract titled "The Way of Salvation." It offers a clear presentation of the gospel. Its points include:

- Note what God's Word says concerning your condition.
 - You have sinned (Romans 3:23).
 - Sin brings death (Romans 6:23).
 - You are condemned to death (John 3:18, 3:36).
 - Christ through His blood makes salvation available to you (Romans 5:9).
 - How to receive Christ:
 - Repent and believe (Acts 20:21).
 - Ask God to forgive you (Romans 10:13).
 - Receive His gift of salvation (John 1:12).
 - Enjoy the assurance of salvation:
 - Enjoy salvation now (John 5:24).
 - Enjoy this continuous relationship forever (1 John 5:13).
- Calvin Wilkins is director of the KBC partnership missions department

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ BENTON—First Church called John Mark Whittaker as youth minister. Whittaker previously served at Cedar Creek Church, Louisville.

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Saloma Church will observe "Day at the Lake" June 10 beginning at 9 a.m. at Green River Lake State Park's amphitheater. A picnic will follow at Cedarcrest Campgrounds. John Chowning is pastor.

■ EAST PITTSBURG—East Pittsburg Church called Ted Morgan as pastor. Morgan previously served

as its pastor more than 10 years ago.

■ ELIZABETHTOWN—Valley Creek Church will host a men's dinner June 16 at 6 p.m. Testimony by Dale Klaber and music by Valley Creek Praise. For information, call (270) 737-9282. Steve Hill is pastor.

■ EWING—Ewing Church ordained Pastor DeWayne Sowell, of Hopkins County, into the ministry. Sowell has served as pastor since June 2000.

■ FAIRDALE—Oak Grove Church members recently completed

remodeling and renovation of the sanctuary and kitchen. Dallas Catron is pastor.

■ FOUNTAIN RUN—First Church ordained Brian Celsor, Ivan Pedigo and Kenny Regan as deacons.

■ GLENDALE—Gilead Church called Nathan Joyce as pastor. Joyce previously served as pastor in Ardmore, Okla.

■ LONDON—Old Salem Church called David Thomas as pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host the Heartland Boys of Nicholasville, in concert June 9 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

■ PEYTONTOWN—Peytontown Church called Jimmy Ashcraft, a stu-

dent at Clear Creek Bible College, as pastor.

■ RICHMOND—Larry Sizemore resigned as pastor of Red House Church to become associate pastor in South Carolina.

■ SALEM—Ohio River Association recognized Debbie Padgett on her 25th anniversary as receptionist, secretary and treasurer. John East is director of missions.

■ SOMERSET—High Street Church called Max Brand as pastor. Also, the church ordained Mike Hamby to the gospel ministry. Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Bible College, gave the charge.

■ WACO—Bethlehem Church called Mark McGuire as pastor.

23 Kentuckians among Southern Seminary's recent grads

LOUISVILLE—Twenty-three students from Kentucky were among 153 students who received degrees May 18 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The Kentucky graduates, their hometowns and degrees are:

- Ricky Adams of Lexington, master of theology.
- Allen Baker of Versailles, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.
- Larry Baker of Hopkinsville, doctor of ministry.
- David Bell of Rumsey, master

of divinity.

■ Gregory Conway of Carrollton, master of divinity.

■ Christopher Crady of Louisville, master of arts in Christian education.

■ Gary Durham of Campbellsville, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Allen England of Middlesboro, doctor of education in leadership.

■ Heath Farmer of Henderson, master of arts in Christian education.

■ Chuck Fuller of Madisonville, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Todd Gray of Eddyville, master

of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Melody Hayworth of Owensboro, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Kimberly Lapatha of Somerset, master of church music.

■ Tracy Marshall of Louisville, master of divinity in Christian education.

■ William McQueen of Lexington, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Mary Nell Nacke of Louisville, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Edward Nation of Shelbyville, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ Matt Neace of Silver Grove, master of divinity.

■ Rebecca Owsley of Cecelia, master of divinity in Christian education.

■ Larry Purcell of Cunningham, doctor of education.

■ Anthony Rodgers of Campbellsville, master of divinity in Christian education and leadership.

■ Larry Sowders of Barbourville, master of theology.

■ David Wilkinson of Louisville, doctor of ministry.

Baptist restaurateur promises franchises won't stray from the faith

ATLANTA—There might be a transition in leadership, but Chick-fil-A Inc. founder Truett Cathy said the company doesn't intend to change any of its principles that are rooted in his Christian faith.

The closely held chicken-restaurant chain, whose chief executive places piety before profits, is moving into a second generation of management with plans to name founder's son Dan Cathy as president.

Jimmy Collins retired last week after 32 years with the Atlanta-based company, according to Bloomberg business news service. Truett Cathy, 80, will remain chief executive and share leadership with his eldest son.

Bankers might see the transition as an opportunity for the seventh-largest private restaurant company to sell shares to the public, but Bloomberg reported that both father and son vow that they won't.

"We're growing at a rate plenty

fast enough," Dan Cathy said of the family-owned chain, which is closed on Sundays for religious reasons. "I'm not trying to make a name for myself here."

Truett Cathy said the company needs neither cash nor faster growth, and has never considered raising funds through an initial public offering.

If Chick-fil-A went public, new management might fire him or want him to contribute less to charity, Cathy said. The company has spent \$16.5

million on college scholarships for employees since 1973 and provides 11 foster homes and camps for children through its WinShape Centre Foundation, Bloomberg reported.

New management also might seek to keep the restaurants open seven days a week to make more money, he said.

Cathy, who has taught Sunday school for 45 years, said his class of 13-year-olds would call him a hypocrite if he worked Sundays.

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: RT-3 Hammond, the largest two-manual organ made by Hammond; two speaker cabinets. \$2,500. Call: (270) 554-2447.

NEEDED: Attention, dead puppet groups: We need hundreds of puppets to take to Poland. Polish youth groups will be taught routines and need to have puppets to take to their churches. Ship puppets to: Destiny/Poland Partnership, 350 West Farthing Street, Mayfield, KY 42066. Phone: (800) 744-8010.

SEEKING: Executive director, Infant Resource Project, a non-profit Christian organization. Send letter of interest and resumé to Elmo Martin, 1302 N Pope Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40299. Call (502) 245-0028.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for a conservative SBC church. Interested applicants should address resumé (until June 11) to: Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N McMhorter St., London, KY 40741. No phone calls please.

SEEKING: Full-time children/family minister. Seeking vibrant individual who is passionate about relational ministry with children (birth through sixth grade) and their families. Minister will develop, coordinate and implement a dynamic outreach/in-reach program for children and families. Seminary degree strongly preferred. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 621 E 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: Full-time youth pastor. Metropolitan-area church looks to develop ministry for currently attending and unchurched youth. Send resumé to Pastor Greg Byman, 2208 N Coliseum Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46805. E-mail: gregbonita@lwol.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth/music. Send resumé to: Double Springs Baptist Church, PO Box 70, Waynesburg, KY 40489, or call (606) 379-2145.

SEEKING: Minister of music for moderate, dually-aligned Baptist church for blended and contemporary services. The successful candidate must have experience, and a music degree is preferred. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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 resumé to: Personnel Committee, FBC of Mt. Washington, PO Box 315, Mt. Washington, KY 40047.

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: 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: 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 resumé to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015.

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: 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 resumé to the church in care of Personnel Committee.

ABC's Wehmeyer seeks to connect media & religion

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Moral and religious issues are among the most significant issues affecting people today, according to ABC News religion correspondent Peggy Wehmeyer.

Despite the importance of religion in Americans' lives, however, no national television network had a correspondent exclusively assigned to religious and spiritual issues until Wehmeyer's position was created in 1994.

Speaking recently at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., Wehmeyer noted that religion affects how people cope with major decisions and life circumstances.

"Studies show that people with religious faith live longer," she said. "I felt that television was out of touch with the people they were covering. My job has been to translate the culture of network media and the culture of American religious life."

Based in the ABC News Dallas bureau, Wehmeyer reports for "World News Tonight with Peter Jennings" and "20/20." ABC remains the only national news network with a full-time religion correspondent.

"If we are to be creative journalists, we must find creative ways to tell the way religion plays a role in people's lives," Wehmeyer said.

"What concerns me the most is the great divide between the religious and the non-religious," she added. "Churches should be paying attention to the balance of religion in places of influence."

Countless communion cups to fill? Here's how

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BRANDON, Miss. (BP)—With up to 1,700 worshipers attending three Sunday morning services, monthly communion preparation at Pine Lake Baptist Church used to take at least an hour.

But the job has been sliced to 15 to 20 minutes with a dispensing system that can fill 40 half-ounce cups in two seconds, said Larry Herndon, executive pastor of the Brandon, Miss., church.

"We're using it and loving the stew out of it," Herndon said. "I would love to have a patent on that thing."

That isn't possible, since retired engineer Wil Greenlee of Louisville acquired one in December. The 77-year-old inventor designed his invention to meet the needs at one of the nation's largest mega-churches.

He claims to have invested so many hours in the project that he will be fortunate if he ever breaks even. He adds, however, that he did it with missions in mind.

"I thought, 'If I can build this and get it into a number of mega-churches, there will be far more missions done than I could do on a one-on-one basis,'" said Greenlee, a member of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville. "If I release people for other missionary work, that's as good as I could do."

Greenlee's invention is a time-saver, said Darren Walter, guest services minister at Southeast Christian. "Several people have had time freed up to be involved in other things."

The church's move into a 9,100-seat sanctuary two years ago provided Greenlee's inspiration. Southeast needed to reduce weekly communion preparation time since it was trimming five weekend services to three.

The Missouri native, who quit

school at age 14 to help manage the family farm during the Depression, spent more than two years perfecting his invention. After scrapping several elements, he settled on brushed aluminum for the innards, with stainless steel layered on each side of the pot. He opted for plastic tubing after running tests that showed it could withstand more than 13 years of use.

However, the system is only half-way complete. By next year he hopes to fine-tune a mechanical device that will load cups into trays prior to filling. That likely will double the \$2,995 cost.

"The Holy Spirit must have helped me," Greenlee said of the tinkering that resolved the invention's initial imperfections. "I can't stand failure and my subconscious just kept going for answers."

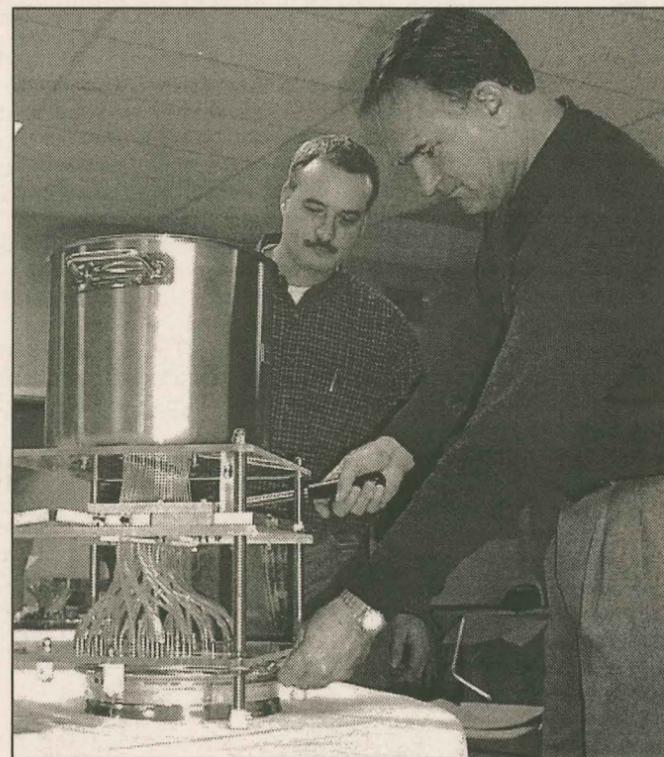
Greenlee began marketing the dispenser last spring, seven months before he finally secured the patent. By mid-January he had sold eight. At his basement workshop he has assembled more than three dozen additional units.

"This is the best thing since sliced bread," Herndon noted. "I don't know that it increases the number of volunteers, but it allows you to utilize their time in a better way."

"This is one of the greatest gifts we've ever received," said Terry Anderson of Christ Church of the Valley in suburban Phoenix, which won its system at a Southeast pastors' conference last spring.

After weekly attendance doubled the past two years, communion preparation had become a challenge, the associate pastor said. Today, instead of three people taking 90 minutes to fill the cups by hand, a single person finishes in half an hour.

"Now we have more people available for serving teams inside the sanctuary," Anderson said.



At North Atlanta Church of Christ, Joe Gage and his wife used to spend two hours pouring juice before each Sunday morning service. Last summer the congregation added a second service, increasing the cup count by 41 percent. But with the dispenser, they finish in just over an hour.

Greenlee, who accepted Christ as Savior after a failed marriage in the 1950s, sees his triumph over early setbacks as a sign of God's faithfulness.

"I think everything comes from God," he said. "But life is given to us in a raw state. We have to refine it by prayer and effort. If you put your all into it and pray, you're going to win."

Information about Greenlee's invention is available by calling Greenlee Communion Dispensing Systems at (502) 425-5023.

FILL 'EM UP Larry Herndon (right) and Jack Donald of Pine Lake Baptist Church in Brandon, Miss., fill communion cups with a time-saving dispenser designed by inventor Wil Greenlee of Louisville. (BP photo by William Perkins)

Peacemaking panel explores ways to connect offenders, victims

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—It took 600 stitches and several years to piece Ellen Halbert's life back together after a brutal assault.

In 1986, an 18-year-old intruder, covered head to toe in a black ninja suit, broke into Halbert's home and lay in wait for her. He sexually assaulted her, stabbed her four times, beat her with a hammer and left her for dead.

Halbert's experience with the criminal justice system in the months that followed convinced her that a punitive system built solely on retribution is pointless.

"Punishment by itself does absolutely nothing," Halbert said. It offers no healing for the victim, and it does nothing to instill a true sense of accountability in the offender.

Halbert, who was appointed by then-Gov. Ann Richards to a six-year term on the state Board of Criminal Justice in Texas, now works in the Travis County District Attorney's office.

In that role, she has been instrumental in introducing "circle sentencing" to Austin in the last two years.

Circle sentencing is a hearing that brings all involved parties face to face during the sentencing phase of a criminal case.

"Circle sentencing brings together the victim and his support group, the offender and his support group, and representatives from the system and the community, all in the same room. They literally sit in a circle and talk," Halbert said.

"I have seen miraculous things happen in the circles as empathy is created. It's an amazing process."

Halbert talked about alternative criminal justice programs in a peacemaking panel discussion on "Connecting Offenders and Victims" at the 8th annual Restorative Justice Ministry Convention in Austin. The Baptist General Convention of Texas co-sponsored the recent meeting in conjunction with the Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

Another panelist, David Doerfler of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said the main problem with today's system is that it focuses solely on the criminal and abandons the victim.

A mediation process involving victims and offenders can bring about healing, but the victim must initiate the process, he said.

"Victims and offenders each have their own stories—stories of pain that will buckle your knees and shame that will send you to the darkest corners," Doerfler said.

Only when those stories are told and offenders come face to face with the harm they have caused can they truly understand the severity of their crime, he added. "How can one be truly accountable when the offender does not know all the pain he has caused?"

Compassion for victims demands that society also take steps to restore "excluded and alienated" offenders, added Judith Fullingim, a volunteer prison minister and non-practicing attorney in Lubbock. Otherwise they will continue to victimize others, she said.

"Unless we keep our eyes on the necessity of restoring those who have offended, we have not done the victim any service. There will only be more victims," Fullingim said. "We continue to be in the victim-manufacturing business unless we set that right."

Fullingim discussed the Victim/Offender Reconciliation Program piloted by the Mennonite Church in Fresno, Calif. That community-based model not only involves the parties directly involved in the criminal offense, but also brings a volunteer mediator from a local church into the process.

Participants in the Fresno-based program report reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement in 98 percent of the cases.

"The process itself is transformative," Fullingim said. "It engages both parties in the process of repairing the harm. And the victim holds absolute veto power over the resolution."

The proper place for the church is in the middle of community conflict, said Jim Young, director of community ministries with the BGCT. That is where transformation takes place, he added.

"Peacemaking is intentional in nature. The church needs to step forward and work in the middle of conflict, to make peace take place," Young said.

"Jesus never said, 'Blessed are the peace lovers.' He said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.'"

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