

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

June 12, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 23

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Financial gifts to churches on the decline, survey finds

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Giving to churches and other nonprofit groups declined in 2000 and fewer people actually tithe than claim to follow the practice, Barna Research Group has found.

Seventy-eight percent of American adults donated money to a church or other nonprofit organization last year, a drop of 6 percentage points from the previous year and 9 points from 1998.

The average per-person giving to such charitable organizations decreased 15 percent in 2000 to a mean of \$886. The mean was \$1,045 in 1999 and \$1,377 in 1998.

Researchers for the Ventura, Calif., research firm polled a random sample of 1,005 adults and asked them whether they tithe, how much they donated to houses of worship and the amount of their household income.

Although 17 percent of adults claimed to tithe, when researchers compared the amount they gave to their house of worship and their household income, they found that only 6 percent actually donated one-tenth of their income to that religious charity.

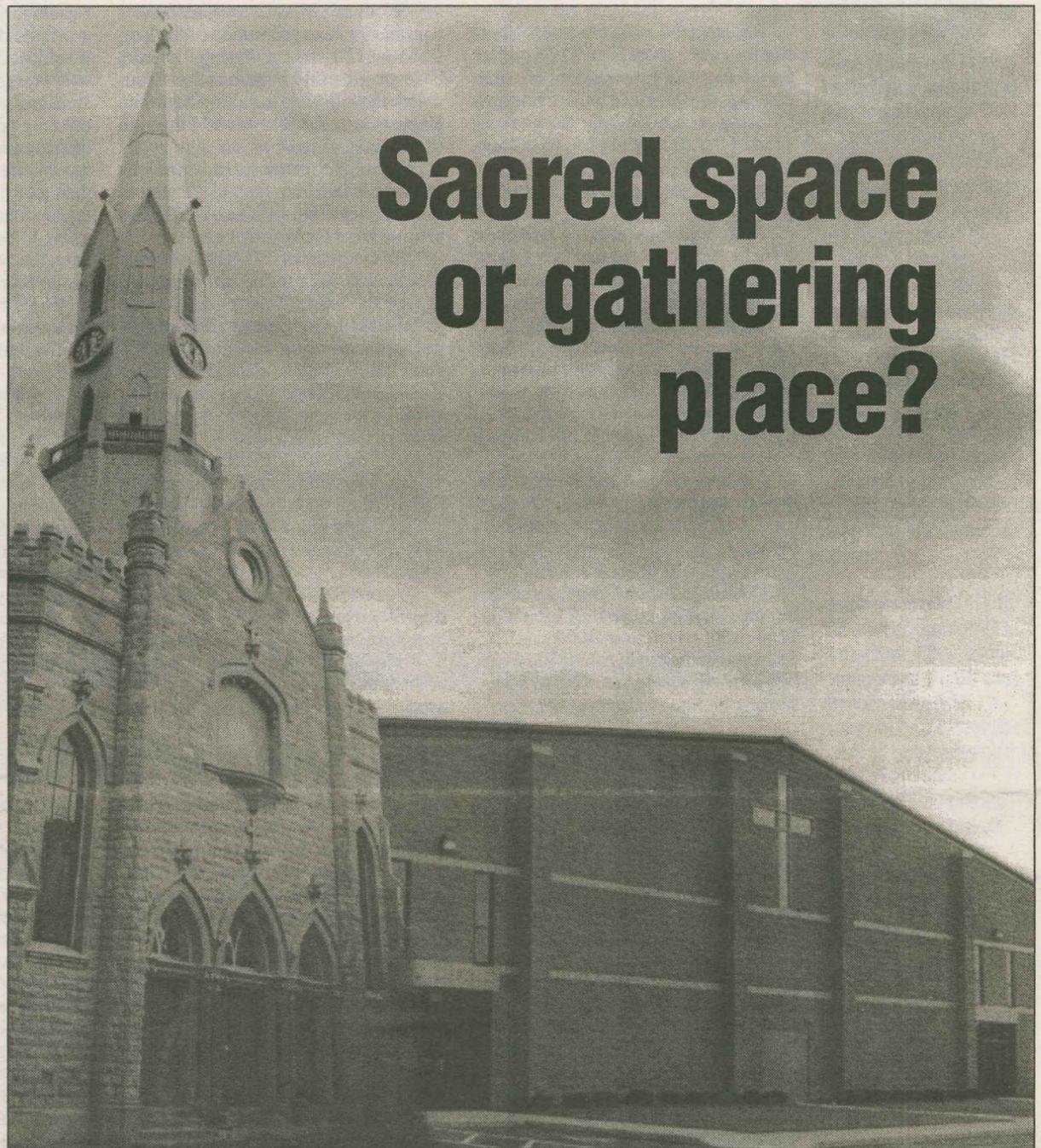
The 6 percent figure is based on a liberal definition of tithing because there is a debate over whether tithing should be based on pre-tax or post-tax income, said David Kinnaman, vice president of Barna Research Group.

Despite the decline in giving, churches remain the most likely groups to receive individual financial support. Sixty-one percent of adults donated money to one or more churches in 2000, compared to 66 percent in 1999. The average church donor contributed a mean of \$649 to churches in 2000, compared to \$806 in 1999.

George Barna, president of the research company, said churches may need to adjust as young adults "barely" give to religious causes and baby boomers—those in their mid-30s to mid-50s—do not always share their generosity with churches.

"They are value-donors, giving to organizations that they perceive to be providing personal benefits or significant, unduplicated value to society," Barna said in a statement. "As these two generations become more prolific within churches, their tendency to give less to churches will challenge ministries to reconceptualize their budgeting, fund-raising and planning practices."

The poll, based on telephone interviews, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.



Sacred space or gathering place?

Church construction trend: Multi-purpose buildings

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Worshippers at Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church can't see the basketball goals on Sunday morning because they're rolled out of the sanctuary. But if they glance at their feet, they might see markings for the free-throw lines.

The suburban Louisville congregation worships in a space that doubles as a basketball and volleyball court, fellowship hall and three election precincts.

Pastor Charles Davis wouldn't have it any other way.

"The building we built was ministry-driven," said Davis, who has seen attendance quadruple since 1992. "I would do it again. I think it was a wise decision with our culture."

Instead of stained glass and vaulted ceilings, the sanctuary features walls of taupe-colored block 10 feet high. Topped by similarly-shaded dry-wall, the upper levels include acoustical sound panels to reduce echoes.

The only window is a clear glass cross to one side of the pulpit, starting

at the ceiling and extending halfway to the floor.

The hunter-green carpet on the platform matches the color of worshippers' plush chairs, each fitted with communion cup holder.

"The platform looks like a traditional church," Davis noted. "If you look up and around, it doesn't look at all like church. With young people and youth, that's a plus. It's very comfortable to them."

Opened in the fall of 1999, the building represents a general trend among Kentucky Baptist churches, according to workers with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

For many new churches or relocations, their first building features multiple uses, said Chip Miller, KBC church architectural consultant.

Although long-range plans usually call for a sanctuary, even those are more functional, he said. That means such features as large stages for bands and praise teams, bright lighting, sound equipment and video screens.

"I don't know of any church spending money on faceted glass like St. Matthews or Highview with beau-

tiful stone and exposed trusses," Miller said of two large Kentucky Baptist churches in Louisville. "To reproduce that (today) would be outrageous. Buildings are far more functional and economical."

There are two forces driving the interest in alternatives to the standard sanctuary, said Bob Martin, a consultant in the commonwealth's western half.

One is the diversity of worship styles, with many medium-sized (100- to 250-member) churches redesigning buildings to meet various tastes, he said.

The other is explosive growth. Churches like Olive Branch Baptist in Hanson, Second Baptist of Charleston and Enon Baptist near Mayfield are expanding or discussing plans, said Martin, director of missions for Little River Baptist Association.

Flexibility is a must when considering how new buildings will be used, Martin added. He pointed to Ponderosa Baptist Church near Cadiz, which began as a mission in 1995.

Its sanctuary can seat 105 people, □ See Function over form ..., page 8

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST DIGEST

Lottie Moon offering hits \$2 billion milestone

By Brittany Jarvis
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists gave more than \$113 million for the cause of international missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in 2000. While the goal fell short of the 2000 goal of \$115 million, gifts pushed the offering's 113-year cumulative total past the \$2 billion mark.

"This generous offering will meet critical needs overseas," said Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. "It means being able to keep pressing forward with the unprecedented opportunities to reach a lost world and continue to appoint record numbers of new missionaries."

The \$113,175,191.96 offering is a 7.3 percent increase over last year's total of more than \$105 million. The growth also represents the second-largest dollar increase since the offering's inception in 1888. Total receipts since 1888 stand at almost \$2.1 billion.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering provided 46 percent of the IMB's \$263 million budget in 2000.

Much of the credit for the \$113 million offering belongs to Woman's Missionary Union, said David Steverson,

IMB vice president for finance and treasurer.

"Woman's Missionary Union takes a primary role in promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," he said. "We are grateful for them and the leadership they provide in calling Southern Baptists to reach a lost world through sacrificial giving."

The annual international missions offering is far more than just a way to raise money, said national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee.

"At the heart of WMU is our support for missionaries here at home and around the world," she said. "We are grateful for the increase in gifts this past year to the offering and commend the churches for their selfless giving."

"The LMCO symbolizes more than a fund-raising activity; it is a call to stewardship of all that we are and have," Lee added. "Only when our prayers are offered consistently on behalf of those who have followed His call to go and tell will we truly discover the joy that comes with sacrificial giving."

At least \$111 million of the offering will go toward the IMB's overseas operating budget, while the remaining \$2 million will fund the overseas capital budget. The entire amount will be used exclusively for missionaries and

their ministries, Steverson said.

The annual offering is crucial for missionaries to be effective in their work, said Avery Willis, senior vice president for overseas operations.

"This is very important to the missions mandate because the Lottie Moon offering goes to fund the basics of our missionaries being on the field and of having the means that they need to do their jobs," Willis said. "They are waiting anxiously to know whether they are going to have funds to do the evangelism, the church planting and the leadership training that needs to be done."

Willis noted that the IMB counts on the entire offering goal when projecting the budget each year.

"Since we did not reach our goal there will be many other needs that will go unmet," Willis said. "The Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon offering are the lifelines of Southern Baptist mission efforts for almost 5,000 missionaries in 154 countries working among 1,200 people groups."

For Christmas 2001, WMU and IMB leaders have set a \$120 million offering goal.

"As we anticipate the next offering, I am hopeful we can measure our gifts not in comparison to the year before, but relative to what is needed to fulfill the Great Commission," Rankin said.

IMB worker, age 34, dies unexpectedly in northern Africa

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Lisa Varnado Olson, a representative of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in northern Africa, died May 31 at age 34.

Olson had been hospitalized the morning of May 30 after two days of flu-like illness. Medical tests failed to reveal the cause of her symptoms. She died the next evening while plans were being made for a medical evacuation.

Olson and her husband, Dan, have four children: Philip, 8; Paul, 6; Mary, 2; and Julia, 1. They began their service with the IMB in 1996.

"We're all very grieved over Lisa's tragic death," said Madelyn Edens, an associate director for IMB work in northern Africa. "Lisa was a wonderful wife and mother whose passion was first for Christ. She had a deep love for the people to whom God had called her and faced any risks secure in that call."

Born in Austin, Texas, Olson considered Albuquerque, N.M., her hometown.

Trustee boards of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies and Southern Baptist of Texas Convention have unanimously approved an agreement that provides convention funding for the college and gives the convention access to the facilities and resources of the school. Southern Baptists of Texas, a conservative breakaway group from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will contribute more than \$600,000 to the college over the next three years. The new convention also will nominate three people to serve on the college's board.

Ed Thiele, director of Seminary Extension since 1997, will retire June 30. He previously was professor of discipleship and director of field education at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Seminary Extension, based in Nashville, serves extension centers in more than 500 locations nationwide.

International Baptist leaders affirm Christian unity over nationalism

BERLIN (RNS)—International Baptist leaders meeting in Berlin have issued a declaration saying their common Christian identity is more important than individual national and cultural divisions.

National ideologies that "exalt one nation over others, or are used to exclude others, are forms of idolatry and not compatible with our Christian beliefs," the leaders affirmed in the Berlin Declaration.

The statement was adopted during a May 26-29 meeting sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, the European Baptist Federation and the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany. Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, and Kim Strubind, pastor of a Baptist church in Munich, co-chaired the meeting.

The statement noted the leaders' regret for the many ethnic conflicts across the globe.

"We acknowledge with sadness that many of our societies and communities are marred by an intolerant nation-

alism, racial and ethnic hatred, suspicion of foreigners, and discrimination on the grounds of race, culture and religion," the statement reads. "We confess that as Baptist Christians and churches we have often been complicit in this."

The leaders called all racial discrimination "sinful" and urged Baptist churches and denominations to "confront our own history and guilt regarding these issues" and work toward reconciliation.

Baptists are asked "to work for justice and peace for all, and to actively oppose war and violence as a means of settling national disputes and ethnic conflicts."

While culture is extremely important to both personal and national identity, "the mission of the churches is to witness to cultures in the name of Christ, and to work for transformation according to the values of the kingdom of God," the declaration states.

The statement also urges Baptists "to uphold the Baptist concern for reli-

gious freedom," especially for "minority groups, which often feel themselves to be powerless."

"When the Berlin Wall fell," Lotz noted, "we were going to have a new world order, but this dream failed and the world has exploded with many wars of ethnic and religious origin."

Andrea Strubind, a Baptist professor of church history in Heidelberg, described how German Baptists increasingly gave up the principle of the separation of church and state during the Nazi period and ultimately many supported Adolf Hitler.

Because of the German Baptist involvement, delegates who attended the Fifth Baptist World Congress in Berlin in 1934 were indirectly involved in the support of the Third Reich, Strubind said. She recounted that when German Baptists sought to cancel the congress, the German government put pressure on them to hold the event as a sign of support for Germany.

Strubind noted, however, that the BWA Congress Report of 1934 shows

a strong resolution opposed to nationalism and racism.

"We all confess that Jesus Christ is Lord," said Thorwald Lorenzen, former chairman of the BWA Human Rights Commission and pastor of Canberra Baptist Church in Australia, "but when it comes deep down, I suspect we all face a challenge."

"Culture is extremely powerful," he added, "but it can be transformed or changed."

Gerald Borchert, professor of New Testament at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Chicago, told participants, "Human beings are created to experience unashamed fellowship with God and each other and all separation of people is not the original intention of God for the world."

A Christian is "a displaced person who works for the betterment of this world but looks for another and critiques this world," Borchert said. "We must challenge the world with the model of Jesus."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Arizona Baptist investors picket auditor's office

PHOENIX (ABP)—About 50 people braved 100-degree heat May 30 to picket accounting firm Arthur Andersen's Phoenix office.

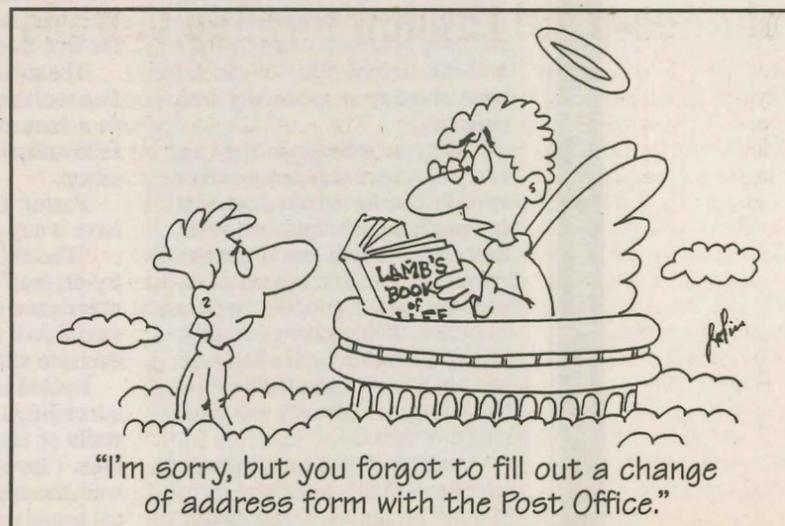
The protesters, most of them lifelong Southern Baptists and older than 65, represented a fraction of some 13,000 investors with funds locked up in the failed Baptist Foundation of Arizona. It was one in a series of organized protests to draw attention to alleged negligence by Andersen that court documents say allowed Foundation officers to defraud investors out of millions of dollars.

Andersen has been named in both civil suits and administrative actions for issuing clean audits while Baptist Foundation officials allegedly

conducted a Ponzi scheme, recruiting new investors to pay off old ones. Several Foundation officers, meanwhile, face fraud and racketeering charges over allegations that they hid losses from potential investors.

Owing investors about \$590 million, the Foundation declared bankruptcy in November 1999 and is now liquidating its assets. To date, investors have received about five cents on the dollar of their investment.

Protestors said they invested their life's savings with the Foundation because they believed their money was being used to further God's work.



Graham crusade sparks memories of 1956 emphasis

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—The last time Billy Graham held a major crusade in Louisville, he was a young, energetic, 37-year-old evangelist. When the 82-year-old Graham returns to Louisville later this month, it will mark 45 years since his monthlong 1956 crusade in Freedom Hall.

Graham's first crusade in Louisville came just seven years after he gained international prominence during the 1949 Los Angeles crusade. Since then, he has preached to more than 210 million people in more than 185 countries.

Hundreds of thousands of people have responded to Graham's gospel invitation, including more than 6,800 people who made spiritual decisions during the 1956 Louisville crusade.

The 2001 Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade will be held June 21-24 at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. As the event draws closer, it has sparked vivid memories for many Kentuckians who attended the '56 crusade and other Graham-related events.

Jo Ann Booker, a member of

Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, was 22 years old during Graham's previous crusade here. Although she had no formal responsibilities as a counselor, choir member or other volunteer role, Booker faithfully attended every night of the monthlong crusade.

"It was just very inspiring to me—the music, the message," she recalled. "I think my mother and probably my father also went almost every night. I can remember the crowd; Freedom Hall was nearly filled. It was something I just didn't want to miss."

Booker, who was a member of Rockford Lane Baptist Church in 1956, noted that "there were so many people experiencing spiritual renewal and so many people who were accepting Christ for the first time. That was very inspirational to me."

Jim Lewis, who retired in 1989 as pastor of Louisville's Westport Road Baptist Church, was pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin in '56. Noting that people traveled from throughout the region and state to attend the crusade, he added, "The whole region was electrified by what was going on. It was a time of expectation."

Lewis served as a counselor during a one-day crusade Graham held in Louisville in 1964. "My motivation was not just to hear Billy Graham, but to be a part of something that involved the moving of the Holy Spirit," he said. "I came away with a great sense of feeling that God was indeed at work among His people and in our community."

Nell Bruce, in prayer consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has attended several Graham crusades over the years, including last year's crusade in Nashville.

Bruce said she and her late husband "have been prayer warriors for Dr. Graham just about since day one. It has been amazing to see how God has touched this man."

Affirming the impact of prayer in Graham's ministry, she added, "People need to realize the power of praying. I hope there will be a continuation of prayer meetings" after this month's crusade.

Citing the gradual change from a monthlong format to a four-day crusade schedule, she added, "The world is so different now. We're too busy. I think it's wonderful they have zoomed

in on fewer days so they will have the full blast of the thing."

John Catlett, a member of Westport Road Baptist Church, was a counselor during the '56 crusade. "I thought it was a good opportunity to do some work for the Lord and to work under somebody I admired very much," he explained.

Catlett said his experience as a counselor "gave me the courage to identify with Christ openly regardless of where I was and to speak to anybody about it."

As he prepares for the crusade, Graham said in a written statement, "I believe that God has a spiritual harvest ready in every neighborhood and among every community."

Challenging Christians to pray daily for the spiritual needs of family, friends and co-workers, he added, "This will be a very challenging crusade, and only a mighty moving of God's Spirit will open people's hearts and minds to the gospel of Christ."

For information about the June 21-24 crusade, contact the crusade office at (502) 412-0977 or visit the Web site at www.LouisvilleCrusade.org.

"I believe that God has a spiritual harvest ready in every neighborhood and among every community."

Billy Graham

Mainstream Baptists group mobilizes for KBC annual meeting

By David Winfrey
News Director

SHELBYVILLE—The nearest meeting was more than 100 miles from Murray, but the Western Kentucky town was on the minds of everyone meeting for five regional events hosted recently by Mainstream Kentucky Baptists.

Murray will host the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 13-14 and Mainstream organizers said they hope their organization can rally people to attend the meeting to prevent a fundamentalist takeover of the state convention's leadership.

"We want to be seen as a proactive group, but we recognize we have a need to defend who we are," said Bill Shoulta, a host for last week's Mainstream meeting in Shelbyville. "We want to oppose those who want to establish a fundamentalist takeover of the convention."

The group's specific goals, according to printed promotional material, include "resisting organized efforts to control institutions and agencies, elected offices and policies of the Kentucky Baptist Convention" and

"encouraging dialogue, inclusiveness, doctrinal integrity and non-creedalism in the KBC."

The Shelbyville event drew just 13 people to the Claudia Sanders Restaurant, but Shoulta said the group's organizers were pleased with the total attendance of about 100 people at the five meetings, which also were held in Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Lexington and Northern Kentucky.

Shoulta, vice chairman of the organization and pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, said leaders also hoped the Mainstream Baptists group could rally enough supporters to Murray to prevent the revised Baptist Faith and Message from being adopted as the official statement of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A nine-member KBC study committee currently is preparing a recommendation about how Kentucky Baptists "can best relate" to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Messengers to last year's KBC annual meeting instructed the committee to release its report by Oct. 1.

Shoulta added that Mainstream Baptists also would oppose an effort

to adopt the 1963 version of the doctrinal statement because the group opposes any statement other than the Bible being used as a doctrinal creed to define who could and couldn't be Kentucky Baptists. "It goes against who we are and where we come from," he said.

By contrast, Shoulta led an unsuccessful effort in 1999 to affirm the 1963 faith statement. His motion described the 1963 document as "a sufficient confession of faith which enables freedom of thought within biblical and historical Baptist parameters." KBC messengers narrowly defeated his motion by a vote of 408-374.

Mainstream Kentucky Baptists organized after last year's convention. Leaders cite the work of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network for spurring them to action.

The laymen's network distributed materials during the annual meeting opposing the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and encouraging messengers to fight liberalism in the KBC. The laymen's group also is holding a series of meetings across the state in preparation for the November convention.

Mainstream leaders say "liberalism" is a false rallying cry by those seeking to be elected to power.

Shoulta noted that some Mainstream members are involved with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and its Kentucky affiliate. The Fellowship was established as an alternative missions funding group for Baptists who are dissatisfied with the current leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I can assure you that it (Mainstream Kentucky Baptists) is not funded, aligned with or organized by any of those organizations," Shoulta said.

Jim Holladay, another host of the Shelbyville meeting, said the group plans to focus on educating Kentucky Baptists in the hope that the KBC can remain strong and assist Kentucky Baptists in missions and ministry. "A lot of people in Kentucky don't even know what it means to be a Baptist," said Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville.

Although it has not endorsed a candidate for state convention president, Shoulta said the group would not hesitate to endorse someone whom it feels is in line with its principles.

Volunteers aid London tornado victims

LONDON—A crew of 15 Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers responded last week to help London residents recover from a tornado that damaged 123 homes June 2.

Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said the crew was requested by London's public works director. Koch said the team was expected to work about a week.

The volunteers worked in residential areas, cutting downed trees and cleaning up debris.

"We believe that helping the community of London is a visible way of bearing one another's burdens during this devastating time in their lives,"

Koch said. "We look forward to helping and showing the love of Christ."

The KBC disaster relief ministry was begun in 1984 and works to minister to people in disaster situations by offering physical, emotional and spiritual help, Koch said.

KBC volunteers receive training in multiple aspects of disaster relief and often are called on to assist after natural disasters. Earlier this spring Kentucky Baptist volunteers assisted flood victims in Massachusetts.

For more information about KBC disaster relief ministry, contact the KBC Brotherhood department at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5720.

KBC to host commissioning service in 2003

LOUISVILLE—The Kentucky Baptist Convention will host a commissioning service for Southern Baptist missionaries Nov. 11, 2003, at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

The commissioning service will occur in place of the regular Tuesday night session of the KBC's annual meeting, which will be held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Nov. 11-12, 2003.

The service was approved by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in May.

"We are so pleased to have this special honor," said KBC President Jim McKinley, a retired IMB missionary. "I believe that if Kentucky Baptists were to see our state convention participating in this commissioning service and

see the people (missionaries) that they are praying for, perhaps more people would be encouraged to become career missionaries."

An IMB commissioning service has not been held in Kentucky since 1987. That event, also held at Rupp Arena, drew a crowd of more than 13,000 people.

"Kentucky Baptists have been faithful to support almost 5,000 missionaries through giving to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," IMB President Jerry Rankin wrote. "It is your prayers that undergird our gospel witness around the world. It will be a tremendous affirmation of our partnership and your dedication to our Great Commission task."

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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Be inclusive

Rick Warren consistently offers interesting food for thought on the subject of evangelism (even though I usually disagree with the conclusions he draws about linking evangelism and worship styles).

The article in the May 29 issue of the Western Recorder is no exception. However, I sometimes wonder if Warren, and others of his ilk, really listen to themselves:

■ "There's no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to fishing, and the same is true in fishing for men."

■ "The goal is not to make it as difficult as possible but to make it as easy as possible for the unchurched to hear about Christ."

■ "What matters is that your style matches the people you are seeking to reach."

In light of those comments, one would think that using gender-inclusive language in everyday speech, song and biblical translations would be near the top of Warren's list of modern techniques to attract women to the gospel. For centuries, women have been forced to adjust to "one-size-fits-all" patriarchal language, having to interpret when "man" or "men" referred to a male or to everyone.

This constant use of such dated language is inexcusable for modern Christians trying to evangelize today's world. Ignoring for a moment that biblical writers were influenced by ancient patriarchal, hierarchical society, translations such as the NRSV and CEV are at least intentional about clarifying gender meaning as they translate Hebrew and Greek into easy-to-understand language.

Yet there is great resistance to inclusive translations. And those who ask why are quickly dismissed as "feminists."

Warren's words identify the real problem: "Unfortunately, many churches don't take the time to understand the people they want to reach."

"Many churches offer only two choices: Take it or leave it."

With the SBC pronouncements about women and the resistance to inclusive translations, it's no wonder that many women remain uncertain about whether the full gospel is truly for them.

Naomi King Walker
Frankfort

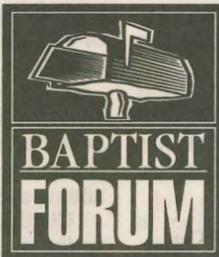
Holy humor

Thank you for publishing Craig Bird's article, "Holy laughter: What role does humor play in Christianity?" in the May 22 issue of the Western Recorder.

Humor is an often overlooked tool that can be used by a speaker to break the ice, lessen feelings of tension and make an emotional connection.

Jesus often used Hebraic humor to make points, especially when responding to questions by the Pharisees seeking to trap Him with His own words. I remember reading an article about Jesus' use of humor, using Matthew 19:24 as an example: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." To Jesus' disciples, the imagery of a camel, stripped of its saddle, blankets, bags, etc., slinking down on its knees to try to slide through the "eye of a needle" (one of the small openings through the walls of Jerusalem) was a poignant story with more than just a touch of humor.

I also remember the humor of Franklin Owen, former Kentucky Baptist Convention executive secretary. He had a knack of quickly connecting with his audiences by using self-deprecating



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

Build on your strengths

In his book "Soar With Your Strengths," Donald Clifton states that one of the most valuable discoveries any teacher can make is unearthing one's personal strengths and those of others. "Not working on everything but rather emphasizing selected strengths is the route to excellence," he writes.

Clifton developed Selection Research Inc. in 1969 and acquired the Gallup Organization in 1988. Today his organization serves more than 1,000 clients.

He goes on to say that nothing happens until someone expects something of you in ways you can achieve—matching internal and external expectations. Could it be that people are not successes or failures but merely individuals in the right or wrong expectation environment?

I have thought for years how nice it would be if pastors and church staff could have the freedom to build on their

strengths. A church will move forward on the strengths of staff, not weaknesses. If you have a great preacher, celebrate that gift and invite the community to come hear your wonderful preacher.



Bill Mackey

If your pastor is very relational and caring, celebrate the fact that he can relate to unchurched people and help bring them to faith in Christ. If you have a great leader as pastor, celebrate the fact that God might want your church to dream new dreams and take giant steps forward to fulfill your mission.

Have faith that God has given you the pastor He wants to use to meet a critical need in the life of your church and community. It will be rare for you to have a pastor who can be equally strong in all areas. A church will lose momentum and effectiveness when church expectations of the pastor do not match his strengths.

The church can complement the

humor interspersed with a few "Baptist jokes." It takes someone with a big heart to be able to laugh at oneself, and Owen was not above doing that. He came along when there was some turmoil among the ranks of the KBC. Through his people skills and his use of humor, he was able to defuse a lot of that turmoil and tension.

Let us always remember that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was God in the flesh, but He also was human and had emotions and feelings just as we do. I am sure that humor is something Jesus not only enjoyed personally, but used effectively to advance God's Kingdom.

Benny Bivins
Williamstown

Which translation?

I would be interested in knowing which translation of the biblical text in the Jabez story was used. As noted in the Revised Standard Version, New International Version and King James Version, the verse is nothing like the one used in the June 5 article in the Western Recorder.

In those accounts, the prayer would seem to be a very selfish one (personal gain and no pain), while in the one in the Western Recorder article, the prayer is for personal gain and not causing pain (whatever that means)—still kind of selfish, but maybe not as much as in the other translations.

Jim Clark
Lexington

Editor's Note: The prayer quoted in the article is taken directly from Bruce Wilkinson's book, "The Prayer of Jabez." The Scripture passage (1 Chronicles 4:10) is from the New King James Version published in 1984 by Thomas Nelson.

CHURCH

Questions help churches decide 'when not to build'

By Doug Strader

Architect Ray Bowman teamed up with Eddie Hall to write the book, "When Not to Build." I use this book in consulting with churches that come to me with questions about their building plans.

The book is helpful because it poses the questions each church needs to ask as they contemplate building a new facility. The questions are designed to be answered with a "yes" or a "no." If your church is discussing the possibility of a new building, take this test and see where you stand:

■ Do you expect a new building to attract new people to church?

■ Is your goal to design a new building that will inspire people to worship?

■ Do you expect your members to be more motivated to reach out to others once you have a new building?

■ Do you think a new building will motivate your people to give more generously to the work of the church?

■ Do you expect the building program to unify your people behind a significant challenge?

■ Do you hope that a building program will involve more people in the work of the church?

■ Do you see the building as a way to make a statement to the community about the church's importance?

■ Do you need a larger sanctuary so the entire congregation can worship together at one time?

■ Do you need to add more educational space so all your classes can meet at once?

■ Could your space needs be met through more creative use of your present facilities?

■ Are you still paying debt on your last building?

■ Would you have to borrow a major part of the finances for a building program?

■ Would payment for the project depend on the church's future growth?

■ To help pay for the building, would you explore ways to cut spending on your present ministry programs or staffing?

Every "yes" or "maybe" is a possible reason for not building, or at least to delay until the need for a new building is more acute. If you have further questions, contact me at (888) 254-5708 or by e-mail at douglas.strader@kybaptist.org.

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department



Determine difference between wedding jitters & real concerns

Q: My fiancé and I are planning to be married this summer. I've bought my wedding dress and sent the invitations. As the wedding gets closer, I have doubts about getting married. My mother and friends tell me it's just wedding jitters. I don't know what to do—calling off the wedding seems too dramatic. Can you help me with this dilemma?

Your mother and friends are right in identifying wedding jitters as something that can happen even with the right marital choice. The key for you is determining whether you're stressed about all the wedding details or have legitimate doubts about the rightness of your upcoming marriage.

Our emphasis on gala weddings is enough to start off even the strongest relationship with too much stress. In our culture, we often focus on having the perfect wedding with little thought about preparing for the marriage after the wedding.

Hopefully, you and your fiancé are involved in premarital counseling with the minister performing the ceremony or a pastoral counselor. If you're not involved in premarital counseling, find a competent Christian counselor to help you and your fiancé evaluate your doubts.

Involve your fiancé in your struggle. If you marry each other, you'll have many hard decisions to make. Starting now to truly share struggles will lay a foundation for the future.

I once counseled with a young woman who was divorcing her husband before their first wedding anniversary. At the same time, she was still paying off an elaborate wedding. That was a sad situation that might have been avoided with some careful reflection. With some professional counseling, prayer and thought, I wish you well as you evaluate your upcoming wedding.—*Suzanne Coyle*

Q: What Scriptures can be helpful to share with someone going through a divorce? I have a co-worker struggling through this experience, and I don't know what to say.

As with other kinds of grief, it's not what you say as much as just being there for the other person. Let them know that in the midst of their abandonment and rejection, you will not leave them as well.

Still, it is good to be familiar with certain Scriptures. Especially helpful might be for the divorcing person to read through the Psalms. Every emotion common to human experience is expressed there, and it might give them permission to express those emotions to self and to God.

Andy Morgan, one of the pioneers of divorce recovery ministry and a minister to single adults in Oakbrook, Ill., suggests the following Scriptures in the book "Counseling Single Adults." They're quoted here with my comments.

■ *Psalm 27:10*—"If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up." This can be a great comfort to a teen whose parents are going through a divorce, who feels forsaken by one or both parents. By extension, when someone who has promised to "love, honor and cherish" for life suddenly forsakes me, I can depend on God to sustain me.

■ *Psalm 42:5*—"Why are you cast down, O my soul...? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my help and my God." Shock, anger and depression are common emotions accompanying divorce. For the believer, even in the midst of pain, there is power in praise. Hope and help come from God.

■ *Lamentations 3:32*—"He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love." In the midst of grief, it helps to know that God's love is steadfast.

We will examine several New Testament passages in a future column.—*James Stillwell*

Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, 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.



Oneida offering is fitting Father's Day focus

It hasn't amassed the decades of heritage associated with special offerings named in honor of Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong and Eliza Broadus. Nor does it receive the level of financial support generated by those annual offerings for international, North American and state mission efforts.

But Kentucky Baptists' seventh annual Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute certainly is worthy of support. The offering is named in memory of Moore, the long-time president of Oneida who died in 1994.

The Christian boarding school, founded in 1899, serves students in grades 6-12. With 80 percent of Oneida's students coming from broken homes or single-parent families, many of the young people Oneida seeks to help have academic struggles or difficult family situations. Others simply desire to attend a school with a strong Christian environment.

Even with the school's century of service, President W.F. "Bud" Underwood points out that "we struggle each and every day to meet the emotional, spiritual, financial and academic needs of our boys and girls."

Amid those struggles, Oneida faculty and staff strive to provide consistent Christian examples to the 400 students who attend Oneida each year.

"At Oneida, we teach respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards and responsible behavior," noted an Oneida insert in last week's *Western Recorder*. "Day after day, our students hear the gospel message. Each year, many boys and girls make positive decisions of eternal significance."

Oneida's students come not only from Kentucky and throughout the United States but also from several other countries, including Bosnia, China, Japan and Zimbabwe. "Some are Christians; others may be Muslim or Buddhist," Moore explained. "All will hear the good news of Jesus Christ at Oneida."

Oneida currently receives approximately 9 percent

of its annual funding through the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Student fees provide about 35 percent of the school's operating budget, leaving 56 percent to come from interested individuals and churches.

Last year's Father's Day Offering generated just over \$19,000 for the school. By contrast, Kentucky Baptists gave \$3.2 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, \$1.5 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and more than \$770,000 to the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering.

While mission needs on the state, national and international levels require significantly more funds to keep thousands of missionaries on the field, surely Kentucky Baptists can find creative ways to increase their support of Oneida's Father's Day Offering. An additional \$10 per church would more than double last year's offering total.

This year's offering theme is "Father to the Fatherless." It is a reminder that Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to help Oneida faculty and staff provide a positive educational environment for young people in need.

"The Oneida experience is an opportunity for teens to leave their mistakes behind and begin again," the school's promotional material emphasizes. "In a safe, structured environment boys and girls can grow in character, knowledge and skills."

As families throughout the state celebrate Father's Day 2001, take time to reflect on the value of fatherhood and Oneida's commitment to being a "Father to the Fatherless." If you haven't finished this year's Father's Day shopping, perhaps a financial gift to Oneida in memory or in honor of your father would be a fitting Father's Day tribute.

For information about ways you or your church can support the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering, call (606) 847-4111. For additional information about Oneida Baptist Institute, visit the school's Web site at www.oneidaschool.org.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Treannis Henderson

1920 editorial examines the 'curse or blessing' of automobiles

By Joyce Martin

Evolution. Denominational ownership of Baptist state papers. The world interchurch movement. The Seventy-five Million Campaign. Baptist higher education.

The frightening pace of economic growth. Women's suffrage. The evils of Bolshevism.

Those topics were among issues tackled by *Western Recorder* Editor J.D. Porter in his editorials in the early 1920s. While each is interesting and insightful, none caught my attention like his Nov. 11, 1920, editorial. It was simply titled "The automobile."

"One of the most ingenious inventions of modern times, yea, of all times, is the automobile. Probably no better description of this flying wonder could be given than is found in the words of the prophet:

"The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broadways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like

lightnings."

"...It has come to a point where many are asking whether the auto is a curse or a blessing. Whether it be from Heaven or of men, it is proving a mighty factor in the life of our people. That it has come to stay no one doubts. ...

"A pretty good idea of the financial value of this traveling device may be gained from the fact that a bank will not accept it as collateral. This, to say the least, is a sad satire on its commercial worth. Really we cannot recall any one who has become wealthy by the use of the automobile. To the contrary we have known not a few to whom it has meant financial ruin. In most cases it is the man who makes the machine and not the one who uses it that is profited.

"More and more it is becoming a menace to life. The number of (those) maimed and killed by automobiles grows with each passing day and already far exceeds those killed or injured in railroad accidents. ...

"Even worse than debt and death

entailed by them is their prostitution for immoral purposes. A magistrate is quoted by one of our exchanges as saying that of 200 cases of delinquency among girls which had lately been brought before his court, 95 percent of them had been occasioned by automobile rides. In the early stages of the automobile the libertine discovered that it was a valuable aid in plying his unspeakable devilry. Without doubt it is the mightiest factor in the destruction of virtue.

"Not only the opportunity it offers but the recklessness of rapid driving excites the dare-devil spirit. We feel assured that a psychological study of speeding would prove illuminating. Recklessness in one line naturally begets the same spirit in some other line.

"That this monstrous evil has reached alarming proportions will not be doubted by those who have given even scant attention to the matter. Certainly the time has come to speak plainly on this question. We dare not sit by in silence in the presence of this deadly evil. Some means should be speedily devised for its suppression at all costs."

Joyce Martin is partnership editions editor for the Western Recorder



BAPTISTS

2000 BF&M revision remains 'watershed moment' in SBC

"Churches and conventions are autonomous and they must make choices and decisions based on what they think is right."

Bill Merrell, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention relations

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—As messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting gather this week in New Orleans, there will be one less local church on the denomination's rolls—and dozens of others that officially have severed ties in the last year.

By a vote of 104-13, members of St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church decided May 27 to end the relationship they had with the nation's largest Protestant denomination since the church was chartered in 1898.

Pastor Steven Meriwether said such a move had been discussed for years, as the denomination grew more conservative and the congregation maintained more moderate stances. The church has ordained women ministers since 1980 and has had a long-standing friendship with a Reformed temple across the street. Such practices conflict with Southern Baptist officials' opposition to women's ordination and view that Jews are among those who should be evangelized.

But the adoption of a revised statement of faith at last year's annual meeting was the deciding factor for the New Orleans congregation.

"That was a significant thing last summer that moved some people to say, 'That's it. That's the last straw,'" said Meriwether. "That's when the congregation said, 'Bring us something to vote on.'"

The church on St. Charles Avenue is not alone on the road away from the SBC. Bill Bruster, networking coordinator for the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said close to 80 churches that were dually aligned with the CBF and SBC have voted since last June to formally sever ties with the denomination.

Changes in the Baptist Faith and Message marked a watershed moment for those who remain with the convention as well as those who left.

The addition of a phrase about "doctrinal accountability" was interpreted by moderates to mean the statement had become a creed, something Southern Baptist leaders deny.

Southern Baptist leaders say they are sorry to see churches depart but respect their desire to go their separate ways.

"We are concerned when any Baptist church that is committed to the Word of God, to evangelism and missions is unable to be happily involved in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention," said Bill Merrell, the SBC

Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations.

"But we also believe that churches and conventions are autonomous and they must make choices and decisions based on what they think is right."

Although SBC messengers may view their adoption of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message to be finished business, some critics hope its opposition to women pastors and homosexuality might be reconsidered this week. But denominational leaders insist that is unlikely.

Soulforce, a pro-homosexual network, plans to stage a "jazz funeral" outside the Louisiana Superdome during this week's SBC meeting.

"Because Southern Baptist teachings turn even our friends and families against us, we weep when their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children are born," said Mel White, executive director of Soulforce.

Merrell said of the planned protest, "They have a right as citizens in this free land to express their opinion. We have the obligation as people under the lordship of Christ and the Scripture to state what we believe Scriptures teach."

Merrell noted that as some churches leave, far more are being added to the denomination's rolls, including

about 1,700 new Southern Baptist congregations last year. He said the convention's goal is to start 2,100 more this year.

Nancy Ammerman, a sociology professor who served on the CBF's coordinating council in the early 1990s, said most of the churches that are making a final break are doing so after a slow process rather than a sudden change of heart. But she said the revisions in the statement of faith may prompt significant numbers to take that step for the next several years.

"I think what it did for the denomination was to crystallize all of the changes that had taken place over the last decade in one document and finalize those changes ... give them a kind of sacred status," said Ammerman, a professor at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut who wrote the book "Baptist Battles" about the Southern Baptist conservative resurgence.

Bruster said with grumbling about the SBC "in the rearview mirror," dozens of congregations are flexing their autonomous muscles. But leaving the denomination prompts congregational questions about everything from where they will get Sunday school materials to possible concerns about future retirement benefits for their staffs.

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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



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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.

MISSIONS

Christmas in August impacts missionaries year-round

By Becky Nelson
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

HENRIETTA, N.Y. (BP)—Soap and shampoo can open the door for leading someone to Christ. Just ask Steve Fromm, director of church and community ministries for Baptist churches in Henrietta, N.Y.

Fromm received packages from 70 churches as a part of last year's Christmas in August missions project sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Volunteers used the items in the packages to assemble 350 school kits to distribute to schools throughout the association. In addition, more than 500 hygiene kits were assembled for the homeless and needy. The hygiene kits were distributed through food cupboards, shelter ministries and soup kitchens.

Fromm recalled one kit given to a young girl in a city. "A missions volunteer from one of the churches in the association had met her on the street. The volunteer asked why she wasn't in school and the girl replied, 'I'm not going to school. They call me stinky and won't play with me or sit by me.' ... The young girl didn't have soap or shampoo at home.

"The next day," he continued, "the missions volunteer found the young girl and gave her a hygiene kit. They talked about Christ's cleansing power. The girl has begun attending church with the volunteer."

Fromm is one of 36 North American missionaries from 22 states featured in WMU magazines for the Christmas in August emphasis.

Each year the North American Mission Board selects missionaries to be featured as Christmas in August missionaries. WMU contacts the mission-

aries and publishes information about their ministry and a list of items that they need.

Now in its 74th year, Christmas in August has become a summer tradition for Southern Baptist churches throughout the United States.

The missions activity began in 1927 when the children's Sunbeam Band of First Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Va., began collecting Christmas gifts for missionaries Hundley and Elizabeth Wiley. The missionaries gave the gifts to women and children in Shanghai, China.

The project grew and was soon adopted by Virginia WMU for all Sunbeam Bands in Virginia. Because of the war in China and problems in shipping overseas, in 1937 the decision was made that the Virginia Sunbeams would send their gifts to home missionaries now called North American missionaries.

In 1950, WMU began featuring the Christmas in August missionaries in its magazines. Baptist Women were asked to help the young people have a Christmas in August missions activity in their churches.

Like Fromm, missionaries often share that Christmas in August is very meaningful to their ministry.

Among reports from the 2000 group of missionaries:

■ Pastor Tom Anderson in McAlester, Okla., received gifts that were used among five Indian associations in eastern Oklahoma.

■ North American missionary Kay Bennett reported that the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans has been blessed with gifts from 140 churches that sent more than 1,000 boxes of hygiene products. "We had Christmas in August, September, October, November, December and January 2001. What



a blessing!"

■ Tommy and Liz Stevens expressed gratitude for their Christmas in August experience. Cochise Baptist Association in Tombstone, Ariz., received gifts from 133 churches in more than 20 states. Nine churches in the association, in cooperation with the Caring and Sharing Ministries in Tucson, assist two orphanages in Mexico. "We feed almost 1,000 children two meals a day, five days a week. These churches also provide Bible studies for the children and many come to know Christ."

■ Max Malone, a Native American catalytic missionary for western and northern Oklahoma, writes, "It is difficult to give a total at this time. I am still receiving Christmas in August gifts.

Mission groups from over 40 churches have responded. The gifts received have been distributed among 29 Indian Baptist congregations. WMU, through Christmas in August, helps remove some of the barriers to sharing Jesus Christ with these unchurched peoples."

■ Doug Chanco of Savannah Baptist Association's language and seafarer's ministry, said: "Salamat Po' (thank you). Your Christmas in August gifts went all over the world. Seafarers from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle and Far East along with migrant and contract workers from Mexico and South America were recipients. The gospel of Jesus Christ was received by some and heard by all."

■ Efrain HortaCastro, a catalytic multiethnic language missionary in Birmingham, Ala., was not only the recipient of Christmas in August packages from Acteens across the country, but he also received more than 200 letters when his name appeared in the missionary prayer calendar on his birthday in November.

■ John Ashworth, associational missionary in Savannah, Ga., said, "We received enough soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toiletries to supply a small army. When you add crackers, cookies, snacks and prizes, we found ourselves prepared to touch the people of the Savannah Baptist Association with the love of Jesus." In addition to the Savannah seafarer's outreach, a multi-housing ministry, the association also sponsors a camp ministry and seven language mission churches.

"Let me assure you," Ashworth wrote, "when WMU asks Baptists to give through Christmas in August, Baptists find a way to outdo themselves! Our ministries were greatly enhanced by your contributions. But more, our hearts were greatly touched by your generosity and prayerful support."

For more information about the Christmas in August program, call Barbara Massey, at Woman's Missionary Union, (205) 991-4057, or bmassey@wmu.org.

BOXES OF BLESSINGS
Volunteers help unpack Christmas in August boxes that filled the closets and available rooms last fall in the offices of Savannah (Ga.) Baptist Association. (BP photo by Joe Westbury)



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CHURCHES

Function over form is growing trend in church construction

Continued from page 1

but by removing temporary walls erected for Sunday school, the main room can be enlarged to 250.

"When I talk to people, I tell them don't build for today or tomorrow, think about the future," he said.

Tastes are changing in eastern Kentucky, too, said Bill Simmons of Lexington, KBC's architectural consultant for that region.

Recently a church near Somerset removed its pews in favor of chairs. It wanted to be able to rearrange the setting for various programs.

Simmons said that action reflects a common desire for multi-purpose buildings. He said most congregations planning expansions tell him they need a family life center.

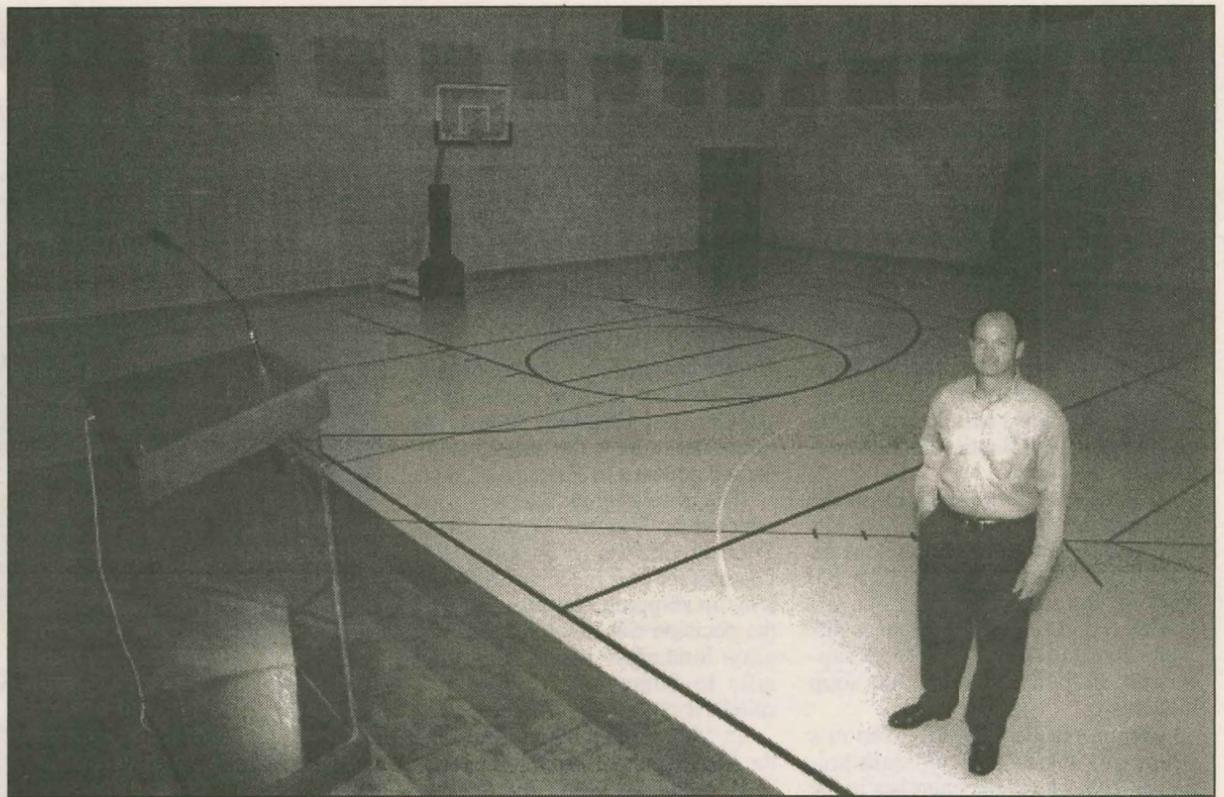
"It's not church to a lot of people because it doesn't have pews and stained glass, but more churches can meet needs of people in these kinds of buildings," he said. "In a traditional type building, which a lot of these churches have, they can't take care of the people."

People who favor multi-purpose structures often cite the need for ministry space.

Pastor Davis noted that when he was younger, families attended worship services as a unit. But in the past 30 years churches have specialized, with multiple ministries requiring more room, he said.

Finances are another consideration. For \$1.7 million, Hunsinger Lane built 25 classrooms, offices, work room, conference room, prayer room and a multi-purpose room that holds up to 600 people for worship.

By comparison, a traditional, 250-



BIBLES & BASKETBALL Charles Davis, pastor of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, leads worship services each Sunday in the congregation's multi-purpose facility which also is used for recreation and fellowship.

seat sanctuary would have cost more than \$1 million and already be filled to capacity.

"There was no dispute over this course," Davis said. "When they saw what we could get for the money versus the traditional sanctuary, they could appreciate that. They understand dollars and cents."

While in the planning stage, Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood is looking at similar plans for 30 acres of property about 1.5 miles east of Interstate 71.

A new church there won't open before the fall of 2003. But a strategic planning committee is looking at ways to maintain ministries like Upward Basketball, said pastor Troy Dobbs.

"It's no good to be in a sanctuary

if you can't do ministry," he said, pointing to its cramped quarters in town.

With a 500-seat sanctuary, the church now has three Sunday services and two Sunday schools to handle attendance. Four acres of ground provide no room for expansion.

Even when churches choose a conventional sanctuary, they include unconventional wrinkles.

In Paducah, longtime downtown church Twelfth Street Baptist hopes to break ground at a new, suburban location. The red brick exterior with limestone accents will be more suited to the nearby country club and mall than a bucolic, rural setting.

There will be a steeple and possibly some stained glass. But the sanc-

tuary includes a large pulpit area to accommodate a praise team and band.

The baptistry will be on the side, near the edge of the platform, so families can enjoy a closer look at the ceremony.

Instead of its current three sections of pews with 20 rows each, the new, fan-shaped design will have four sections of 12 rows each. Outside will be a 1,500-square-foot foyer with chandeliers and space for a welcome center.

"It's practical but not ornate," said pastor James Holloway. "I call it 'user-friendly.' We want to make sure it fits the area we're in. We know with the trends that George Barna and others mention, people look at the restrooms, nursery and music, and don't care about the preaching."

'Challenge to Build' offers churches guidelines for building debt-free

By Tim Beauchamp
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—When churches begin to explore the possibilities of construction, obstacles often spring up to challenge such efforts. Through the Challenge to Build program offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, however, many churches are discovering a way to build without developing major financial worries.

Challenge to Build is a pledge-based, debt-free stewardship program offered by the KBC to help churches build new facilities. Based on a three-year commitment of pledge giving, the program offers a way for churches to overcome financial obstacles associated with building, explained Doug Strader, director of the KBC stewardship department.

Munfordville Baptist Church in Lynn Baptist Association, a church with an average attendance of 225 people, is a recent success story for the program.

Pastor Brian Curry said the church needed to improve the education building, add Sunday school rooms and build new

office space along with a new family life center.

"Our biggest obstacle was that we hadn't built anything in over 30 years and we sure didn't want any debt hanging over our heads," Curry said. "Challenge to Build has helped us raise the money that we need in order to build. That is exciting for our church."

He said the church already has collected \$245,000 toward a goal of \$392,000 since their Victory Sunday service in 1999.

Strader affirms the giving potential Challenge to Build can bring to churches seeking to build. After six years of leading the stewardship program, he has seen 31 churches build debt-free.

He said basic Challenge to Build principles are:

- Faith promises are over and above regular giving.
- Financial commitments are made over a three-year period.
- Participants are encouraged to share equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.
- Faith promises are made individually,

typically in the privacy of one's home.

■ Every effort is made to make the decision and the giving meaningful spiritual experiences.

Strader said he believes churches profit from using the principles of Challenge to Build by saving money and therefore providing other opportunities for service.

"Churches that utilize this program are saving a lot on interest because they are paying up front instead of borrowing from a bank," Strader said. "That saves the church a lot of money and that is money that they can use for other avenues of ministry."

Ministry is exactly what drove the Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church in Midway to consider a building program. Established in 1788, the church has experienced significant growth over the last three years under the leadership of Todd Lester. The church has grown from 35 people to an average attendance of nearly 350 people on Sunday mornings.

Such growth is thrilling, Lester said, adding that he realizes the growth is the result of God moving in the hearts of his

congregation.

"We have seen God moving tremendously among us here at Forks of Elkhorn," he explained. "We are running out of room, literally."

The church currently meets in a single building, which has a sanctuary and a basement. Plans are to build an entire church facility on land across the street—land that was paid in full through money raised within the church.

"We don't have a lot of wealthy people in our congregation and we do have limited resources, but God is challenging us to give and we have been stepping up to the plate," Lester said.

"Financially, what seemed impossible is becoming possible. People are giving faithfully," he added. "It is an awesome joy to see God in control of these people's lives and their response."

For more information about Challenge to Build, contact Strader at the Kentucky Baptist Convention at (502) 254-4716 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5708. Information also is available on the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org.

CHURCHES

Church designs seek balance between reverence, function

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Robert Long understands that the future of church architecture doesn't include many Gothic-style sanctuaries. But that doesn't mean the pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church has to like it.

The Louisville congregation saw few alternatives to its sanctuary renovation, which will maintain its century-old look. But the pastor said a sound reason for doing so is to keep its divine focus.

"When possible, you want to dedicate a space to worship that is worshipful, that calls attention to the character of God," he said.

As many churches tend toward multi-purpose buildings, Long said their utilitarian nature can run contrary to what churches seek to teach people about God and worship.

"If you ingrain that (utilitarian sense) too deeply in people's minds, the moment they don't perceive some immediate benefit from worship, they question (its) value."

So, the refurbishing that will be unveiled Sept. 9 means the dark walnut pews and burnished wood trim—familiar to some 50,000 regional television viewers—will still be there.

Yet there also will be modern touches, including a new \$300,000 sound system and brighter lighting.

Performers in the next "Living Christmas Tree" will have triple the floor space, thanks to a new platform measuring 26 by 69 feet. The organ and piano also are being refinished and raised to platform level.

The seven-month, \$3 million project is one many churches

couldn't undertake. In addition to an average of 1,000 people in attendance, Walnut Street had space to shift services and activities during the renovation.

"I sympathize with those who feel they have to have multi-purpose rooms," Long said. "Building costs are so high. It would be cost prohibitive to do a design (like ours) today. We couldn't do it."

"Because of the huge cost of a building like ours, I think the day is past when we will see anything like Walnut Street," he said. "I see the trend tracking between multi-purpose buildings ... to the other end where you have dedicated worship space, but probably not as elaborately done as older buildings."

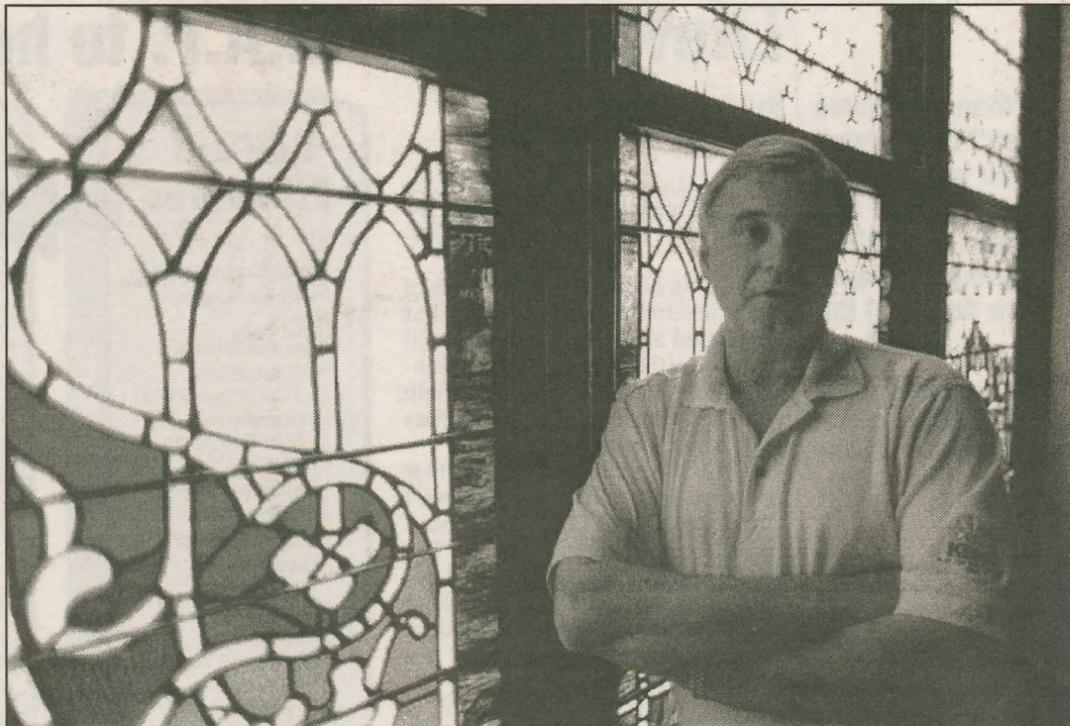
Experts in the field of architecture agree the scene is changing. Like Long, not everyone appreciates it.

Fayetteville, Ark., architect Jay Jones has designed a variety of churches. Among them is one named by the American Institute of Architecture among the 20th century's top 10 designs.

Saying he tries to create a "certain loftiness" in designing sacred spaces, Jones recalls the awe-inspiring experiences of walking into cathedrals like Notre Dame or St. Peter's in Rome.

For his award-winning design in Arkansas, he wanted a church that would remove people from life's daily hubbub and inspire them.

"I've always said that even if an atheist walked in, he would at least think his best thoughts," he said. "Whatever it is, it's 'up there,' not down here. It's the scale, the proportions, the light—all things you can't



WHOLLY HOLY Bob Long, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, believes "worshipful" church design helps "call attention to the character of God."

buy at the lumberyard."

But it's not just cost savings that has inspired the move toward multi-purpose facilities. Architecture professor Thomas Barrie said many churches are more likely to be built close to major highways and attract a regional audience.

"These kinds of churches are no longer rooted in their town or village," said Barrie, a professor at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Mich. "Place and symbolism no longer hold as much value. The architecture becomes secondary."

This conflict between tradition and utility isn't likely to be resolved in the near future. Nor does everyone see the discussion rooted in theology.

Mark Terry, professor of missions and evangelism at Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, agrees architecture can help or hinder worship. But he hesitates to declare that it determines or defines worship.

"The motivation is one of practical necessity," said Terry, who encourages students in church planting classes to start with multi-purpose buildings. "In most cases, I don't think theology drives this issue."

But Chip Miller, church architecture consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said the trend toward less grand designs reflects changing priorities.

While some young people are showing a renewed interest in tradition, most young adults settle for plainer buildings in return for helping people and other priorities, he said.

"All the symbolic stuff is not as powerful as it used to be," Miller said. "People ask, 'Why do we need elaborate pews and trappings?' Rather than stained glass windows, they put money in Power Point, sound systems and lighting for drama. That technology drives them more than symbolism."

Charles Davis, pastor of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, said the design of traditional sanctuaries reflect ideas about God, from the architecture to ceilings to stained glass.

While he wouldn't be opposed to such a structure if his church could afford it, he believes the move to utilitarian buildings reflects a new theological awareness.

"We are God's sanctuary," he said. "I'm not against sanctuaries that reflect (the Trinity), but when you look at people and meeting the needs of people, I don't think the old-style sanctuaries are bringing people to Christ."

Long said he prefers Walnut Street's design over what he sees as bland modernity. Yet, he agrees that people can pay too much attention to surroundings.

"People who become too fixated on facilities aren't thinking of the purpose of the building," he said. "They forget the church is not the building."

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

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RESOURCES

LifeWay offers M.A.P. to help churches plan strategies

"Many churches aren't multiplying their ministry, so the pastor and staff or a select group of people are doing all the ministry."

Gene Mims, president of LifeWay's church resources division

By Linda Lawson
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Is your church looking for a roadmap for evangelism, discipleship and ministry?

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has developed a plan that not only will direct how the agency helps churches in those areas, but it also can help churches visualize what areas they need to be working on.

"We wanted a process that churches can visualize, that isn't complicated and is biblical," said Gene Mims, division president. The model and process, or M.A.P. is included in a revised and expanded edition of Mims' book, "Kingdom Principles for Church Growth," released this month.

Mims emphasized that M.A.P. is not a cookie-cutter approach but a diagnostic tool to help a church identify current practices and determine what changes are needed to see non-Christians become transformed into Christians involved in ministry.

M.A.P. begins with the mandate of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples. The five functions of a growing church—evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship and worship—are delineated. And the necessity for leadership to guide the process and prayer to support it are highlighted.

In the beginning stage, Christians and non-Christians are grouped together for corporate worship and open groups, which might include Sunday school, short-term or ongoing Bible study groups or cell groups. Worship and open groups welcome new people. Worship focuses on celebration, proclamation and evangelism. Open groups include foundational, evangelistic Bible study and opportunities for believers and unbelievers to build and strengthen relationships.

Stage one involves presenting the Christian message to unbelievers, whom, it is hoped, become Christians.

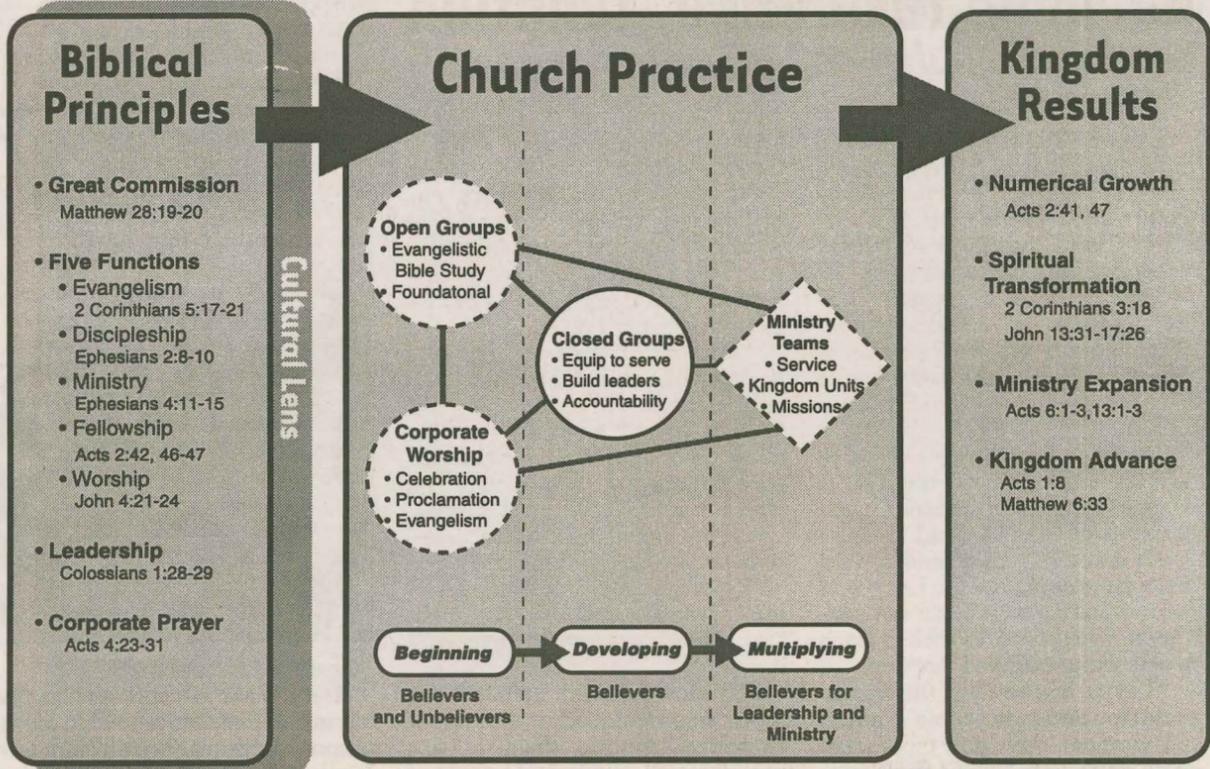
The second stage, developing believers, focuses on closed groups designed to equip believers to serve. Equipping may focus on skills, knowledge or both, along with accountability. After being equipped through closed groups, believers move into stage three where they serve on ministry teams that focus on the needs of the church or on missions and service beyond the church walls and around the world.

Results of effective church practices to reach people, develop believers and multiply ministry then include numerical growth, spiritual transformation, ministry expansion and Kingdom advance, Mims said.

"Many churches aren't multiplying their ministry, so the pastor and staff or a select group of people are doing all the ministry," he said. "It's God's way for the leaders to equip people for ministry out of the pattern of Ephesians 4:11-16.

"M.A.P. is a framework to enable a church to stop and evaluate," Mims emphasized.

"Are we reaching people for Christ? Do our worship services lend



M.A.P. The model and process diagram, or M.A.P., is designed to help churches evaluate their strategies for evangelism, discipleship and ministry. Its focus is helping non-Christians become transformed into Christians who are involved in ministry. The outline will not only be used for individual church diagnosis, but it also will guide how LifeWay Christian Resources assists churches in their strategies. "We wanted a process that churches can visualize, that isn't complicated and is biblical," said Gene Mims, president of LifeWay's church resources division. (LifeWay graphic by Katie Shull)

themselves to having unbelievers come? Are our open groups truly open? Do our closed groups aid people to be transformed? Are we undergirding the spiritual process to see people launched into ministry? Are we multiplying ourselves to reach the whole world for Christ?"

In addition to using M.A.P. as a diagnostic tool, Mims said it also can help people visualize the purposes of the church. "You can show people that the reason we do vacation Bible school is evangelism in an open group that reaches people for Christ. Everything begins to tie together so they have a real understanding of the process."

In addition to helping individual churches evaluate and strategize, Mims said M.A.P. should become a basis for dialogue between churches and LifeWay. "We're going after two things, the needs they have and the solutions they require. What we will have for them will be solutions that are biblically based, needs directed and that will bring about positive Kingdom results."

Mims said M.A.P. can be used in any style of church—traditional, seeker sensitive, seeker-centered and cell churches.

"There's no such thing in the New Testament as the way to do church," he said. "There's no one way to build a church, no one way to do evangelism, no one way to do worship."

"M.A.P. will help a church discover its needs and answer questions," Mims continued. "M.A.P. is a simple framework to determine if the Lord intends us to build the Kingdom of God by making and maturing disciples and multiplying ministry, then how are we going to go about that? This is how to determine what you need to do."

M.A.P. is not "chiseled in stone,"

he added. "There are many ways to draw M.A.P. This is just a beginning pattern."

For more information about the M.A.P. strategy or the book "King-

dom Principles for Church Growth," contact LifeWay's customer service center at (800) 458-2772, or visit LifeWay's online store, www.lifewaystores.com.

'Tis the season

What a week at the Creek. Wow! Camp officially is under way at Jonathan Creek and soon to follow at Cedarmore.

Kids, kids, kids! At Jonathan Creek this first week of June we have about 235 guests. As we get into the heart of the summer, that number swells by another 50 or so. At Cedarmore, the larger of the two conference centers, we have about 300 students each week.

But this is not about numbers. It's about youth experiencing Christ. We are so thankful to be part of a ministry that so impacts these teens who come by the hundreds. After about two weeks of intensive training, the student campers finally arrive and the camp really comes alive.

At Cedarmore, the Discovery Youth Camps are now under way. Jonathan Creek hosts the Crossings youth camps. We are so blessed at both places because every week of every camp both places are filled to capacity. For the first time ever, there is "no room in the inn" for either youth camp. Hundreds of youth have been turned away. This is a landmark happening for our Kentucky Baptist camp and conference cen-

ters. Never before have both places, with regard to youth camping, been full.

To put this in perspective, just a few years ago, we served about 2,200 youth during the course of the summer. This year that number will double to more than 4,400!

I believe that hundreds of teenagers will come to Jesus Christ this summer, and many, many more will make life-changing decisions and commitments during the summer camps at both places.

So pray for us. Pray for us each week that the Holy Spirit will so descend upon these camps that our campers will experience Christ in a way that they never have before.

Pray for strength for our staff at both places. Camp is rewarding, but it is demanding physically and spiritually on all those involved in long, long days.

To God be the glory. It's great to be a part of this ministry.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

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

Promise Keepers announces 2001 event schedule

DENVER (RNS)—Promise Keepers, the evangelical Christian men's organization that began more than a decade ago, will hold two-day conferences in five new areas this summer. A total of 16 events will be held from June through November.

"As we look back on the '90s and even the first part of this new millennium, one could easily become discouraged by the trends and statistics showing a general lack of responsibility among today's men," said Bill McCartney, Promise Keepers' founder.

"But Promise Keepers is still in the business of encouraging men to build stronger relationships with their wives, families and communities, and we'll continue as long as men need some 'spiritual coaching' and encouragement."

Kentucky, which hosted a Promise Keepers' conference last year in Louisville, is not among the states where events will be held this year. Nearby conferences include Columbus, Ohio, July 13-14; Nashville, Aug. 24-25; and Indianapolis, Sept. 7-8.

The ministry also plans to introduce its first "Passage" conference for teenage boys, with a Dec. 15 event in Columbus, Ohio.

Senate shift clouds future of faith-based plan

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Democrats officially took control of the U.S. Senate June 6, leaders promised greater scrutiny and an uphill battle for President Bush's faith-based initiatives, forcing Republicans and the White House to offer concessions to the controversial plan to funnel government money to religious charities.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the new chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, launched the first Senate hearings on the bill with concerns that Bush's desire to expand the "charitable choice" program would lead to "government meddling with religion."

"There is an old saying about a certain road that is paved with good intentions," Leahy said. "Charitable choice may be well intentioned, but I have grave concerns about where it may lead us."

Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., also expressed reservations. "They say if it ain't broke, don't fix it, and I'm not sure we're not going to break something that's already fixed."

With the Senate now in Democratic hands, Bush's plan faces stiff opposition from key Democrats like Leahy who now control the flow of legislation.

House Republicans promise a vote on their bill by Labor Day, but momentum has waned on that side of Capitol Hill as well.

Under the Bush plan, religious groups would be able to apply for government money for social programs, from soup kitchens to after-school tutoring.

The plan has drawn vocal opposition from the left and right among leaders who worry it could jeopardize the separation of church and state and dilute the message of religious groups.

Bush also wants to expand charitable giving by \$15 billion by allowing non-itemizing taxpayers to deduct charitable donations. That proposal currently is split from the more controversial charitable choice provision in the Senate, although the two provisions still are linked in the House.

Critics say there is no safeguard to keep religious groups from using the money for proselytizing and conversion. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., the bill's main sponsor in the Senate, signaled a willingness to bargain by accepting stricter regulations that would force churches to open separate, nonprofit corporations to manage the government money.

"That is certainly something I would be amenable to," Santorum said.

The White House has stepped up its push for the bill, with Bush dismissing criticism "from the halls of Congress" while building a Habitat for Humanity house in Tampa, Fla., last week. "Those who worry about faith in our society, and govern-

ment's willingness to stand side-by-side with faith, don't understand the power of faith and the promise of faith and the hope of faith," Bush said.

The two parties remain largely divided over whether the proposal would result in government-sponsored discrimination because religious groups would be able to discriminate in hiring. Santorum called that "the greatest red herring in this debate."

But Rep. Bobby Scott, D-Va., an outspoken opponent in the House, disagreed.

"The president and supporters of charitable choice have promised to invest resources in our inner cities, but it is insulting to suggest that we cannot get those investments unless we turn the clock back on our civil rights," he said.

Santorum said the program will help small, nondenominational churches expand their ministries, particularly minority churches. While many religious groups have taken a wait-and-see attitude, some are divided down the middle.

In testimony prepared for Wednesday's hearing, the Anti-Defamation League called the program "constitutionally suspect and bad public policy." But another Jewish group, the Orthodox Union, warned that the faith-based plan is a good program that has become a "political Rorschach test, with some interest groups projecting their worst fears upon it."

"Charitable choice may be well intentioned, but I have grave concerns about where it may lead us."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee

David Blakeman

By Robert Dunston

Last week I introduced the recipient of the Berger Award for a graduating female at Cumberland College. This week I want you to meet the recipient of the Berger Award for a graduating male who has excelled in both service and leadership during his time at Cumberland College.

David Blakeman, a native of Burgin and a double major in physics and mathematics, received the Berger Award. He is the son of Robert and Glenda Blakeman of Burgin and the husband of Bridgette Hamilton Blakeman.

Blakeman established an excellent academic record at Cumberland College. He was inducted into the mathematics, physics and education honor societies and into the J.T. Vallandigham Honor Society for his overall academic achievement. During his senior year he also completed Presidential Scholar research in physics and was named the outstanding graduate in physics.

Blakeman has been actively involved in a variety of programs at Cumberland College. He worked in the freshmen orientation pro-

gram, served as a resident assistant in the dormitories and was an integral part of the track team. He also served as president of the BSU Freshman Council, preached on revival teams and participated on several mission trips. At First Baptist he served as recreation director.

Blakeman's service and leadership have been recognized throughout his Cumberland College career. Last year he received the T.E. Mahan Service Award and this year received the Algeron Sydney Sullivan Award. He is listed in Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges.

Blakeman and his wife will be moving to Huntsville, Ala., where he will begin work. He also plans to pursue master's and doctoral degrees. We congratulate him and know God will continue to use him in His service.

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

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Presbyterians in Louisville to debate gay pastors, salvation

As Southern Baptists meet in New Orleans this week, Presbyterians will be making headlines of their own in Louisville.

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

LOUISVILLE (RNS)—Last summer, Dirk Ficca, a Presbyterian pastor from Chicago, spoke at a conference and asked a rhetorical question: "So, what's the big deal about Jesus?"

Ficca's comments have unleashed a whirlwind of controversy in the 2.5 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA) and could potentially dominate the annual General Assembly meeting as delegates gather at the church's headquarters in Louisville this week.

Conservatives say church leaders have not moved quickly enough to silence Ficca and have issued a wishy-washy defense of salvation only through Jesus Christ. Liberals, meanwhile, defend Ficca's right to believe what he wants and say room must be made for theological diversity.

In many ways, the Ficca controversy reaches to the core of Presbyterian identity far more than the annual fight over homosexuality. Last year, delegates narrowly approved a ban on same-sex unions—later defeated in votes by regional presbyteries—and this year, delegates will debate whether gays should be ordained as pastors.

Last year, delegates soundly rejected the notion that the church had reached an "irreconcilable impasse." But heading into the Louisville meeting, it appears the church is deadlocked once again. Taken together, the two issues could reshape and redefine who Presbyterians are—and more importantly, what they believe.

"This is the first General Assembly that gets at the deeper theological issues that have divided us," said Joe Rightmyer, executive director of the conservative Presbyterians for Renewal. "The wraps have been pulled back and we can see how deep the rift really is."

Presbyterians, because they meet every year, sometimes never seem to be able to put divisive issues to rest. Homosexuality is a perennial, painful thorn.

This year, a two-year moratorium on ordination questions expires and two dozen presbyteries are seeking to amend the church constitution, which calls for "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness" for church officers.

Two proposals have been floated as a way for the church to avoid the annual stagnation. One would appoint a theological commission to study divisions in the church and find a "third way" of dealing with sexuality, while another resolution would allow churches to leave the denomination with their property if they cannot abide by church rules.

Clifton Kirkpatrick, who as stated clerk is the highest elected official in the church, said both sides are growing weary of the annual battles.

"People increasingly feel uneasy about people trying to resolve theological and social debates through legislation," he said, adding that he sees little support for allowing churches to leave with their property.

While the gay debate is likely to steal the headlines, a debate on theology and salvation could bring both sides together to explore what issues unite them—and what issues still divide.

John Mulder, a church historian and president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, said the current doctrinal crisis stems in part from the 1983 merger of Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches.

Delegates during the weeklong meeting will also wrestle with a number of other hot-button topics, including:

■ **Abortion.** Several presbyteries have asked the church to express "moral opposition" to abortions of any fetus

older than 20 weeks. The church generally supports the right to abortion, but another measure would prohibit the church health plan from funding late-term abortions.

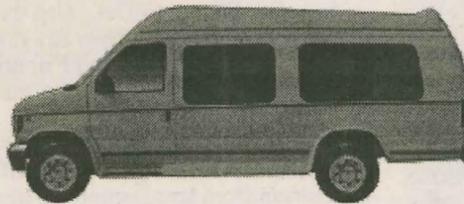
■ **Campus ministry.** The church will consider revamping campus ministry to help channel college students into wider church membership after graduation.

■ **Offerings.** Dueling proposals would affect how individual congregations give money to the denominational body. One resolution would require local presbyteries to make up for churches who do not contribute. Another would appoint a commission to study how to make churches pay.

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A father to the fatherless

As you probably know, Father's Day has been set aside for Kentucky Baptists to learn about Oneida Baptist Institute and her ministry. Since OBI gets the smallest percentage of money from the religious education funds set aside for the three liberal arts colleges, Clear Creek and Oneida, the KBC voted to allow OBI to have a special offering each year. Father's Day was chosen, in part to honor the memory and dedication of Dr. Barkley Moore, who passed away in 1994.

If you have read this column for the past seven or eight weeks, or last week's Western Recorder insert, you read portions of essays written by some of our seniors. Over and over, you heard them say how much they appreciated OBI. Many shared how their grades had gone from failing to A's and B's. This did not come about because we lowered the academic bar, but because of the structure we provide and the committed and caring spirit our faculty has for our students.

Several shared how they had grown spiritually while here. Many who had come from Christian homes had either drifted away from their spiritual roots, or simply had not grown as Christians prior to coming to OBI. They shared how they had grown spiritually while here, and had become interested in knowing more about God's will for their lives. Opportunities to be involved in Baptist Student Union, praise and worship, Salt and Light, and other ministries helped bring them closer to the Lord. Scores of others invited Christ into their lives while here on our campus. It is truly exciting to watch young people grow after allowing Christ to be the center of their lives.

Other students appreciated opportunities to develop self-esteem. Some had come to OBI with

broken spirits. Years of failure and being told of their deficiencies had led to feelings of frustration. Some found success in our athletic program, while others were excited to be included in our fine arts, agriculture program and even the work program. Oneida always has held to the belief that work is honorable and gives one a chance to find success and pride in a job well done.

Several students told of healing in family relationships. Often teens come to us with these relationships frayed or broken. Separation, along with the other things I have mentioned, gives students opportunities to excel in various areas. It also lets parents dwell on their child's successes instead of failures.

What price could be put on the success of these and hundreds of other students? Where but Oneida could they have found the opportunities they experienced here?

Our many friends know that we rarely ask for financial support. You do not get constant reminders in the mail, or pleas for help with projects. We have always held to the conviction that if people see and hear about our students' success, they will be generous with their financial support. If you have missed reading this column in the past two months, it is not too late to go back and read the success stories of some of our seniors.

Ask your pastor to share with your congregation the literature that we sent to your church last month. Then, if you find this ministry worthy, consider a gift that helps us "Father the Fatherless," a gift that lasts "For Time and Eternity!"

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

The Class of 2001

This is the last of a series of articles on our May graduates. We are so thankful for the 36 men and women who completed the course God set before them. Pray for them as they follow God's leadership.

Jason Nichols, of Kentucky, came to Clear Creek with the encouragement of Owensboro pastor Odell Beauchamp. Jason declares, "My experience has brought me closer to God and given me self-confidence. I have grown closer to my wife and family." We'll have to ask Jason to tell us the rest of the story on one memory: "Doing the YMCA dance with Jim Barnhouse at the family life center basketball league."

Tim Smithheart, of Virginia, learned to rely on God and His faithfulness to meet his needs. He

and his wife, Michelle, are grateful for opportunities to know the professors and their wives. He was interim youth pastor for a year at Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Middlesboro. Tim will attend Southeastern Seminary.

J.C. Stepp, of Kentucky, earned a bachelor's degree in bivocational ministry. His pastor, 1973 alumnus Joe Blevins, was a major influence on his coming to Clear Creek. J.C. took eight hours of Greek, all the

courses we offered. "Before I came to Clear Creek, I had lived alone for most of my adult life and had very few friends. At Clear Creek everyone welcomed me and showed a friendly spirit. I gained self-confidence and became more talkative," J.C. said. He plans to attend New Orleans Seminary.

Ku Kyoseong, of Korea, appreciates the many good families who encouraged him, his wife, Lee, and their two children. He cites his major accomplishment as completing classes in Greek and gaining more Bible knowledge. Ku transferred to Clear Creek from Lincoln Memorial University. He has advanced skills and training in computers and looks forward to a bivocational ministry in Korea.

Graduates who lived on campus will have moved by July 1. We are preparing campus housing for a new class. Twenty-four students already have been accepted, and we are working with many others. We also plan to open an East Tennessee training center in Kingston and pray for 30 students to enroll in the three classes we will offer.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

A ministry has found a unique way of getting money to overseas missionaries

By Nancy Caver
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (RNS)—It's 6:30 on a Tuesday morning. Some young men have just finished a breakfast of bacon, egg and cheese biscuits and are gathered around a television watching a video about Christian dating practices.

When the tape is over, they share worries, joys and the schedule for the week ahead. They pray for each other and then head out to classes at the University of Arkansas, just up the hill.

These young men are taking college courses, planning their lives and spending time hanging out—just like any other students. Their basic supplies include computers, video games and television. Their clothes are in style. Their drinking water is clean. They probably never have worried that infection in a minor wound might rage out of control and cost them an arm.

They've probably never been to Sudan. But these young men aren't ignorant of the plight of Third World countries, and they aren't sitting idly by, letting the world proceed as usual.

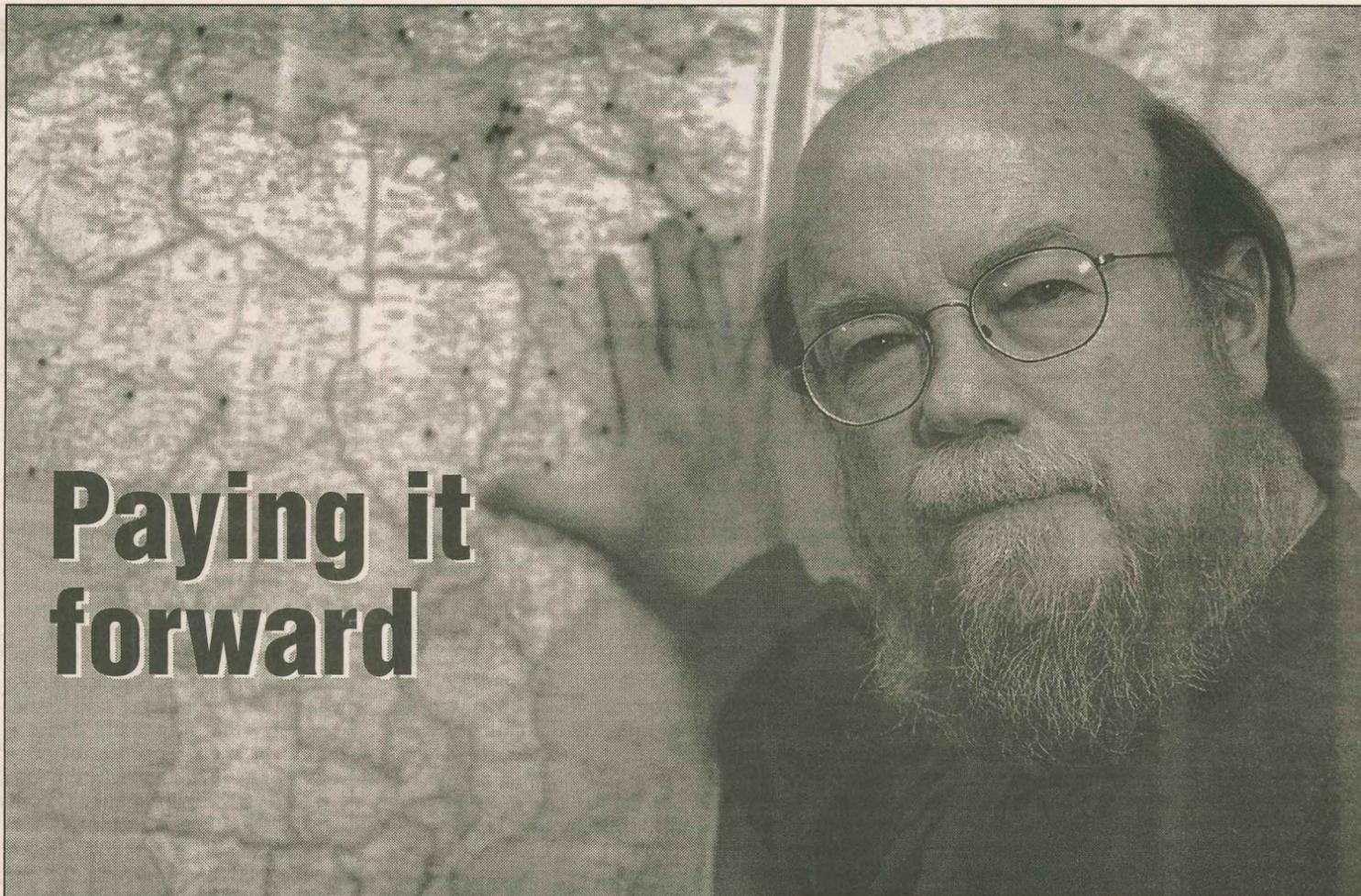
Mike Compton has seen to that.

The students' lives are cemented with those of Sudanese villagers waiting for supplies—Bibles, blankets, soap, medicine. The young men, and others like them, have become an integral part of the plan to relieve suffering through a ministry that began on the campus of the University of Oklahoma.

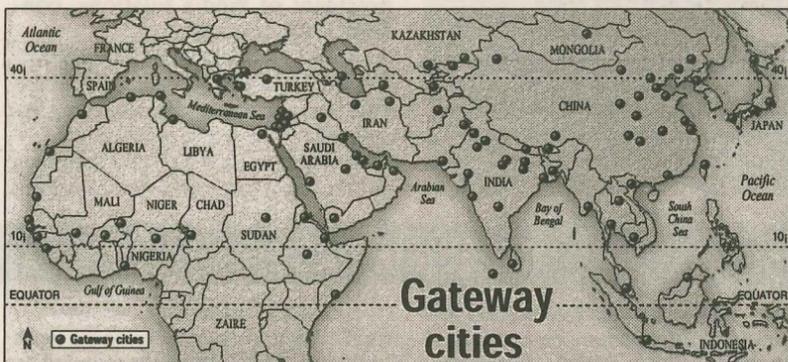
Instead of paying rent to a landlord, the students pay rent to Lightbearers Ministries International Inc., a ministry that Compton established in 1995 "to provide ongoing, renewable financial resources to Christian missions through a network of rented student ministries houses near campuses across the United States." He started with a house in Norman, Okla., when he was on the staff of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla. He was working with college students and was investigating the possibility of a "resident ministry" where he could have an impact on young men 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I wanted us to live together, intentionally with the idea of challenging one another and strengthening their Christian life," said Compton, 53. "The boys frankly bugged me until I found a house."

Originally Compton's vision stopped there. He thought the monthly rent from the students would float the note at the bank and provide the perfect setting to do his ministerial work—especially with freshmen who had not pledged a fraternity.



Paying it forward



SOURCE: Youth With a Mission

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/GREG MOODY

But the pastor at University Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ark., pushed Compton to take it one step further.

"Mike Kirkland challenged me to establish a (nonprofit organization) and pay off the house," Compton recalled. "Now I'm not one of those guys who goes around saying, 'The Lord told me...' But I was driving home wondering what to do with the money" generated by the boys' rent after the house was paid off.

Compton remembered he had been reading about missions and had his National Geographic maps up on the wall. Then he discovered the 10/40 Window, the 100 Gateway Cities and the war-torn country of Sudan.

An area that stretches from West Africa to East Asia, between 10 degrees latitude north of the equator to 40 degrees north, the 10/40 Window is viewed as a part of the world least touched by Christian influences. The 100 "Gateway Cities" have been identified by missions groups as good entry points into foreign countries.

Compton discovered the ultimate goal behind his campus ministries—a way to work with students and at the same time fund opportunities to take the gospel message and relief aid to the areas that need it most.

"It was a no-brainer," he said. "Where does that (rent) money usually go? To line the pocket of a fat-cat slumlord, or you pay interest on a bank note. Bankers are some of my best friends, but when was the last time a bank sent out a missionary?"

Compton, who earned a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Arkansas in 1980, started his ministry by raising money to buy the house in Norman. The note was paid off in the fall of 1999. In the meantime, in the spring of 1997, the two-year-old ministry bought a house in Fayetteville, and in the fall of that year, Compton made an exploratory trip to Istanbul, one of the Gateway Cities. The big picture started to come together.

Compton relocated to Fayetteville, where he still had a network of friends from earlier days, and began plans to find 12 to 15 houses that circle the University of Arkansas campus.

His ultimate goal is to have 200 houses on campuses within a 350-mile radius of Fayetteville. Two houses will partner to send money to fund ministries or relief work to one of the 100 Gateway Cities.

To provide more accountability, each of the houses is paired with a sponsoring church or other religious organization; in Fayetteville, the col-

legiate ministry of University Baptist Church oversees the local house. Lightbearers also answers to a board of directors which is responsible for guiding the ministry's administration.

Carl Grimes has been on the board since the organization's inception. He said he believes in Compton and his vision.

"As a business person, I could see the value of recurring income," he said. "That's the beauty of it. You don't have to make a sale every day."

Grimes also appreciates the barebones administration.

"The money is converted immediately to the flesh and blood and bone that goes to the mission field. The rent comes in, it goes out."

Grimes said he learned this lesson from Gideon's International, a nonprofit organization that distributes Bibles worldwide with little overhead expense. "It is one of the most creative, unselfish ministries I've ever heard of. I don't believe in reinventing the wheel, but this (type of ministry) just wasn't out there."

A small part of the students' rent takes care of taxes, insurance, a home warranty and a contingency fund for any unexpected repairs. Beyond the rent, the students are responsible for their own utility bills and food. The rest of the money is sent in annual chunks to fund ministries, and this is why the young men in Fayetteville are intensely interested in what goes on in the Nuba mountains in Sudan. The rent from the Fayetteville house is designated to hire three charter relief flights a year.

James Farmer is a senior accounting major from Little Rock who has lived in the house for two years.

"The word 'excitement' is the first word that comes to mind," he said, "because you're using the rent money and essentially it's going to a higher cause."

SHARE THE LIGHT
Mike Compton, director of Lightbearers Ministries, at his office in Fayetteville, Ark. Lightbearers rents houses to college students and uses the money to support missionaries and ministries around the world. (RNS/Arkansas Democrat-Gazette photo by Karen Vandonge)

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Six volunteers are needed for a prayerwalk/evangelism project in Mtwara, Tanzania. Dates are flexible. Call the partnership office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention toll-free for details: (888) 254-5724.

■ Jim Wideman, the new executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, and his wife, Sandy.

■ Alanna Davis, church planter in Newton, Mass.

■ A leader needed to assist three young men who are attempting to start a new church on the east side of Dodoma, Tanzania.

■ The Zigua people of Tanzania. About 90 percent of the 500,000 Ziguas practice a mixture of Islam and animism.

■ George and Dorothy Hayner who are serving as interim pastor and wife at International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria.

■ Students and young adults at International Baptist Church in Nice, France, who are trying to reach other students through "Friday Night Live" evenings of praise and worship.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BOAZ**—Freemont Church called **Larry Smith** as pastor.

■ **BROWNSVILLE**—Brownsville Missionary Church called **Wayne Carter** as pastor. Carter previously served as pastor of Olivet Church in Lowes.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host **Son Praise**, a Kentucky Baptist Convention summer ministry team, June 24 at 6 p.m. For information, call (270) 789-2707. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CARROLLTON**—Whites Run Association called **Bob Young** as director of missions.

■ **CLINTON**—**Charles Blair**, director of missions of West Kentucky Association for 19 years, will retire June 30.

■ **CRAB ORCHARD**—**David Sargent**, pastor of Valley Church, resigned to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **GRAEFENBURG**—Graefenburg Church honored **Mary Jo Brooks**, church secretary, for 25 years of service. **Fred Moffatt** is pastor.

■ **HIGHLAND HEIGHTS**—**Jim Hales**, minister of music at Highland Heights, has retired after 40 years of music ministry. Hales served 25 years at Highland Heights and 15 years at First Church, Ft. Thomas.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary June 24 at 9 and 11 a.m. A 1:30 p.m. service will follow lunch. For information, call (502) 839-3415. **Mike Hamrick** is pastor.

■ **LOWES**—Olivet Church ordained **Allen O'Neil**, **Donnie Caldwell** and **Jim Hart** as deacons. **Wayne Carter** is pastor.

■ **OAK GROVE**—First Church called **Todd Gray**, a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Burks Branch Church celebrated its 200th anniversary June 9-10. **Billy Betts** is pastor.

Henderson House Mission will host revival services June 21-24 at 7 p.m. **Fred Moffatt** will be the speaker. For information, call (502) 633-5326. **Jesse Baxter** is pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—First Church called **Gary Hardin** as pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Southside Church hosted a reception to honor Pastor **Billy Holt** and his wife, **Pearline**, for his 79th birthday and the 60th anniversary of his first sermon.

Wickliffe Church called **Jerold Darnell**, from Millsted, Ill., as pastor.

■ **WORTHVILLE**—Worthville Church called **Dennis Hisle** as pastor.

What's going on?

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

ABC cuts religion correspondent, adds partnership with Beliefnet

DALLAS (RNS)—ABC, the network that broke new ground for broadcast journalism in 1994 by adding a national religion correspondent to their news staff, is eliminating the beat in what the network describes as one of a series of cutbacks.

ABC News also has announced a new partnership with Beliefnet, an Internet site focused on religion and spirituality. The partnership will include polling and co-production of news reports.

ABC's Peggy Wehmeyer, the country's first correspondent to report for a major network on religious and spiritual issues, received a phone call from ABC late last month notifying her that her contract, up in October, would not be renewed.

"I am grateful for the seven years I had to tell stories that are really meaningful," Wehmeyer said. "And I am sorry that now there doesn't seem to be much appetite for religious stories in the news."

Based in the ABC News Dallas bureau, Wehmeyer reports for World News Tonight With Peter Jennings and 20/20.

ABC's Jeffrey Schneider, vice president of media relations, confirmed the cutback.

"Mrs. Wehmeyer will be reporting for us until October. ... We are still very committed to covering issues of religion and spirituality."

Wehmeyer named Peter Jennings as "the main force and vision" for the

idea of adding a religion correspondent to the ABC news team in 1994.

Jennings, longtime anchor and senior editor of ABC's World News Tonight, was not immediately available for comment.

During her tenure with ABC, Wehmeyer filed scores of exclusive stories on faith issues and their impact on society. She interviewed national political personalities such as Bill Clinton, Al Gore and George W. Bush and her exclusive introduced the country to the parents of Columbine shooting victim, Cassie Bernall.

Wehmeyer, who lives in Dallas with her family, covered religious and social issues for Dallas' ABC affiliate WFAA-TV for 10 years before going to the network.

The ABC News/Beliefnet poll will be a national scientific survey measuring the influence of religion on newsworthy issues, people and events. Poll results will be reported on ABC News programs and will be available online at the Web sites of both companies, officials announced June 5.

ABC News also will work with Beliefnet on development of stories on religion and spirituality that will appear on Beliefnet's Web site and ABC's reports.

"We will continue to measure on an ongoing basis the significance of religious beliefs and attitudes on the great issues of the day," said ABC News President David Westin. "Spirituality is one of the resounding themes of American life."

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: One week yearly. Diamond Caverns Resort and Golf Club. \$282.15 maintenance. RCI reciprocal. \$8,700. Sleeps 4-6. Near Mammoth Cave, Kentucky Lake. E-mail: trusty@wko.com. Phone: (270) 249-3194.

AVAILABLE: Need a cook or caterer for your Louisville-area church? Delicious meals; reasonable budget; established at local church. Tim: (502) 266-8957.

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: Hammond electric organ and stool. Excellent condition; maple finish. Perfect for home, fellowship hall or small church. \$425. (502) 695-4068.

FOR SALE: 40x22 steel building. Was \$5,695; must sell \$2,860. (800) 292-0111.

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: Full-time pastor for Bardwell Baptist Church in Bardwell, Ky. Resumé must include experience

and/or education in area of ministry and church administration. Please submit resumé to: Pulpit Search Committee, Bardwell Baptist Church, PO Box 147, Bardwell, KY 42023.

SEEKING: Oakland Baptist Church, 12 miles north of Bowling Green, is seeking a part-time minister of music to lead blended worship and fully-graded choirs. PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159. (270) 563-4011. Dr. Tom Stokes, pastor.

SEEKING: Bellfield Baptist Church, 9980 Highway 136 East, Henderson, Ky., is seeking two part-time positions: Associate pastor for worship, associate pastor for youth. Qualified candidates should send resumé to the church in care of Staff Search Committee. Fax: (270) 826-1131; e-mail: bfieldch@henderson.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and worship. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 8645 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Growing church in Northern Kentucky strives to be a purpose-driven, values-led congregation. The candidate should possess strong interpersonal skills, exemplary preaching and leadership development abilities as well as a passion for reaching the lost. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Erlanger Baptist Church, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018. Accepting resúmes through the end of August.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for rural church (50 members) in the heart of the Bluegrass. Parsonage available. Contact Terry Newton, 2367 Munday Landing Road, Versailles, KY 40383. (859) 873-9160.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for a conservative SBC church. Interested applicants should address resúmes to: Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N McWhorter 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: 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: 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: 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: 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 resúmes 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: 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 resúmes to the church in care of Personnel Committee.

PEOPLE

Despite his ailing health, the founder of Campus Crusade still looks

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

SAN BERNADINO, Calif. (RNS)—Though he now has only half his normal lung capacity, Campus Crusade for Christ International President Bill Bright is planning how his already wide-ranging ministry can expand its evangelical message across the world.

Diagnosed last fall with pulmonary fibrosis and already battling prostate cancer, the co-founder of the 50-year-old ministry is editing books, preparing video presentations and making plans to foster the training of future Christian leaders through a university housed at New York's Empire State Building.

His illness has slowed his physical pace, but it has not diminished his faith, Bright said in a telephone interview from Arrowhead Springs, Campus Crusade's former headquarters in San Bernardino, Calif.

"I'm rejoicing and praising and giving thanks to the Lord because He is so wonderful," said Bright, 79. "I've learned that life and death are not that much different and, you know, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, so a Christian can't lose."

Bright's attitude has buoyed his staffers as they adjust to the fact that their longtime leader is ailing.

"His attitude is so consistent and refreshing that it's hard to be sad around him," said Crawford Loritts, associate director of Campus Crusade USA.

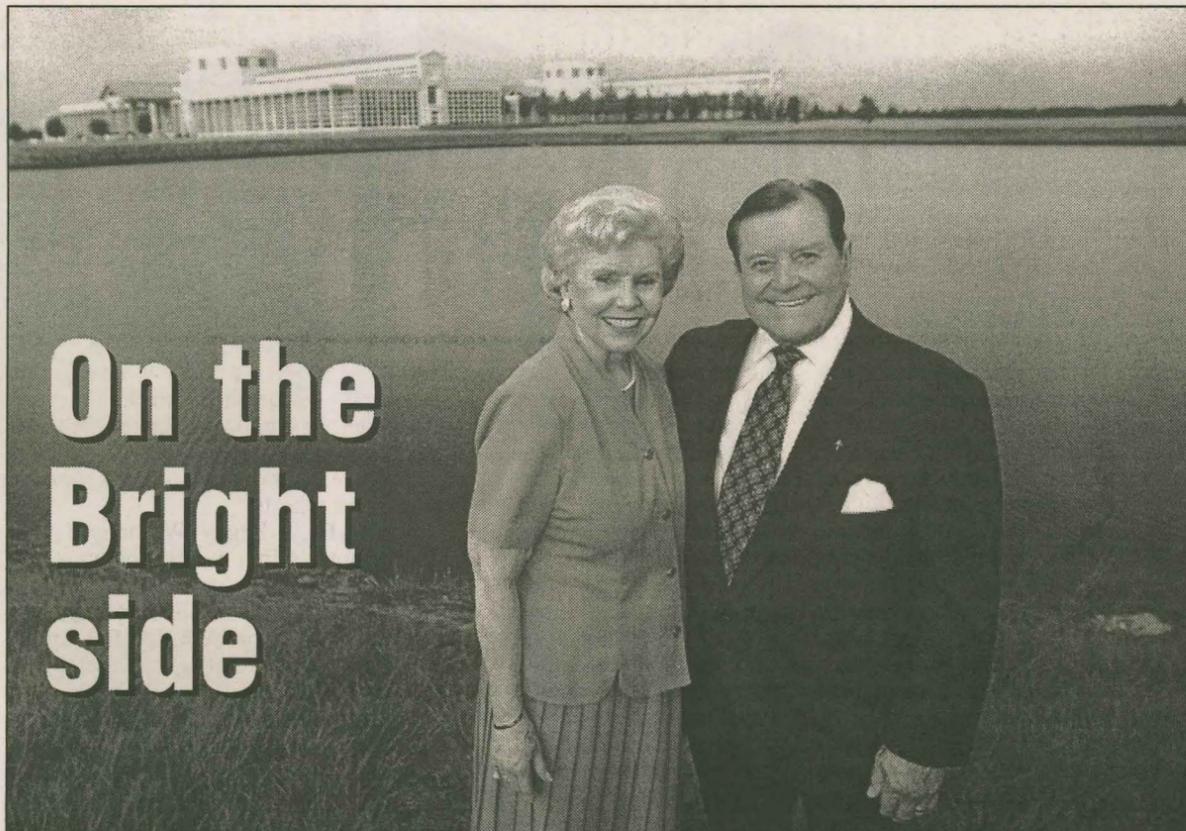
Bright, the 1996 winner of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, is being honored this year by his fellow evangelicals.

The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association is scheduled to give him its Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award in July. The National Association of Evangelicals chose him for its first-ever Lifetime Ministry Award in March. Bishop Kevin Mannoia, NAE president, said Bright maintained his faithful focus when he called to say his health would not permit him to make the association's annual meeting in Dallas.

"The amazing thing about Dr. Bright is that in whatever circumstance he's in, he's always ready to pray, to be interested in the mission of the church and to literally verbalize the ongoing joy of his personal walk with Christ," Mannoia said.

Bright waves off the accolades about his mission and ministry and gives God credit instead.

"I'm not just trying to be superspiritual," he said. "That's Christianity. That's what the Bible teaches we



BILL & VONETTE BRIGHT The cofounders of Campus Crusade for Christ pose for this 1999 photo outside the worldwide ministry's headquarters in Orlando. Despite being diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and battling prostate cancer, Bright continues to stay busy at the 50-year-old organization. (Worldwide Challenge photo by Guy Gerrard)

should do. ... We play games with God when we think we own anything. At best, we're stewards."

Bright said the \$1.1 million Templeton prize money is still being used around the world to promote fasting and prayer, a cause that became his focus after he observed his first 40-day fast in 1994. He has spearheaded annual "Fasting & Prayer" conferences since then.

Bright has worked to encourage unity among Christians, bringing denominations together for conferences.

"This idea of division is not of God," he said. "Criticism and fault-finding and anti-anything in the life of believers on the part of another is wrong."

The former owner of a confections business, Bright takes his ministry's focus on evangelism personally.

In a video presentation at the NAE meeting, friends and family members recalled how he would share his faith with everyone, from taxicab drivers to telephone callers.

"This isn't the wrong number," his son Brad recalled his father telling an unsuspecting caller to their home. "This is a divine appointment."

The evangelistic mission began to drive Bright soon after he converted from a "happy pagan" to a Christian in 1945. In 1951, he and his wife, Vonette, founded Campus Crusade for Christ to fulfill what Bright felt was a calling from God.

"The vision God gave me was for the world, but you can't start on the world level so I started on the campus level," he said. "We now have about 70 ministries and projects all under one label."

Once just a ministry at the University of California at Los Angeles, it has grown to include 22,000 full-time staffers and almost half a million volunteers. Now based in Orlando, Fla., Crusade's U.S. and worldwide ministries include outreaches to diplomats, professors, executives, families, mili-

tary personnel and athletes.

Given its broadened focus, Bright expects that sometime the ministry will change its name.

"We've been developing a name called 'Here's Life, World,'" he said. "One day, we will transition. It's like Coca-Cola changing its name."

And like the soft drink company, Bright has used trademark items to help propel the ministry into the eyes of the general public—across the country and the globe.

"I'm a businessman, and marketing has had special fascination for me," he said.

He devised a little pamphlet titled "Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?", which explains how to become a Christian. It has been printed more than 2.5 billion times in more than 200 languages.

Citing inspiration from God and filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille, Bright conceived the idea of a movie about the life of Jesus. Thirty-three years in the planning, the "Jesus" film now exists in 645 languages.

"I'm sure hundreds of millions have received the Lord," he said of the film. "All I can do is praise God again. I can't claim any credit for it."

Last year, Bright officially announced that Steve Douglass, Crusade's executive vice president, would succeed him by this August.

Bright said Douglass has been the "president in action" since that time, though he keeps Bright informed about major decisions.

Douglass said he is succeeding a man who is "one of the most humble guys I know. And yet at the same time you look at the rather indelible impressions he's left on the Christian community in the area of evangelism."

Douglass recalled being struck by Bright's humility back in 1969—the year he joined the staff—when they made a trip to Japan with an evangelical team and Bright took the worst of the four beds available to them.

"He took the upper bunk in the creakiest old bunk bed you want to see," Douglass said. "The guy does not seek his own. He does whatever's best for the other person, whatever's best for the ministry."

Other staffers credit Bright for serving as a mentor and an encourager of diversity, including his creation of a special fund to help minority staff members raise money for their financial support. The majority of U.S. Crusade staffers—including the Brights—must do their own fund raising for their salaries.

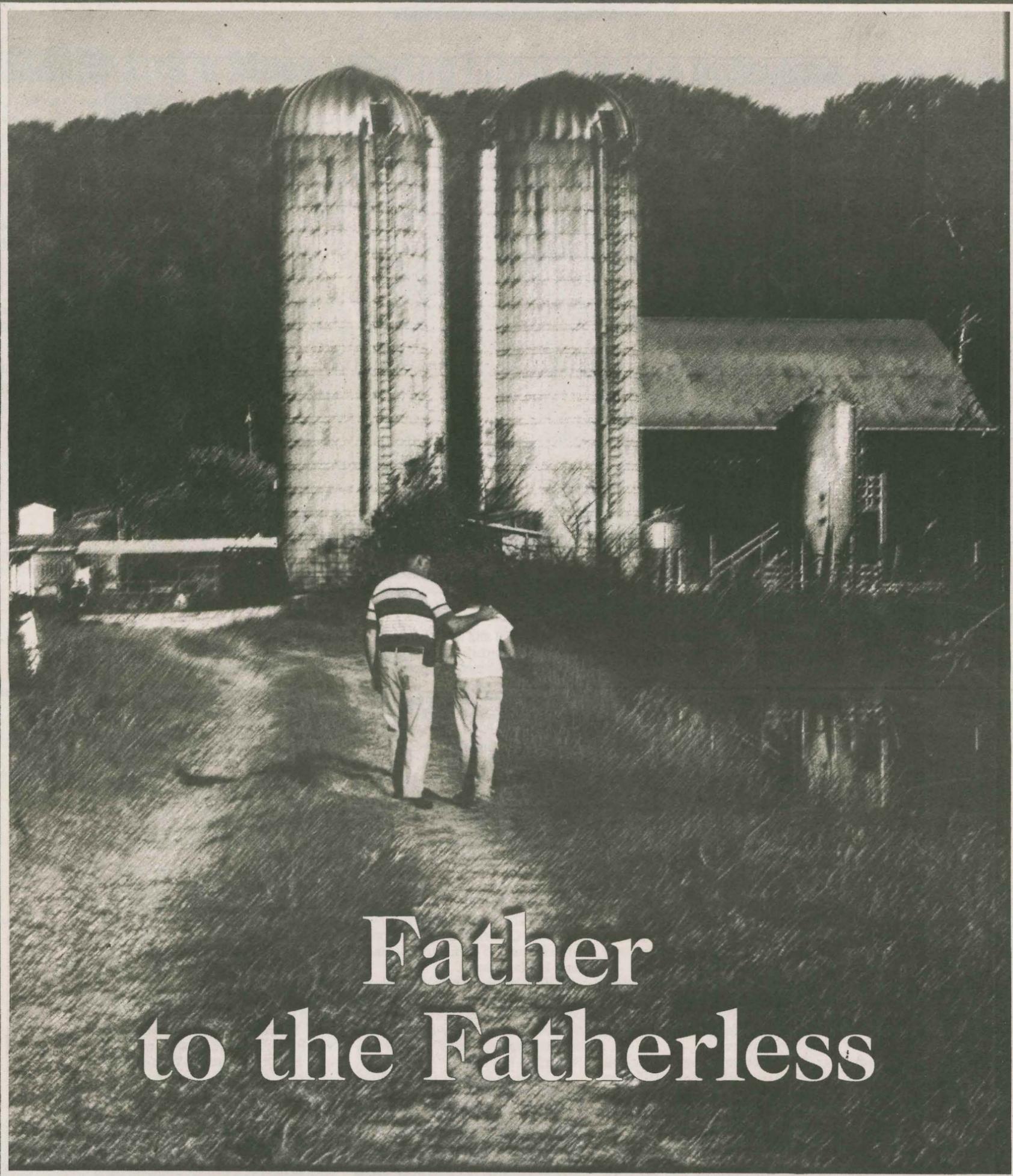
"Bill Bright has brought what I would call New Testament stewardship—and what others would refer to as business practices—into ministry and, in addition to that, he has also brought a visionary faith that has stretched all those around him," said Dennis Rainey, executive director of FamilyLife, a Crusade division focused on supporting families.

U.S. Senate Chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie, Bright's former pastor, recalled how Bright was greeted by a stream of people at the 25th anniversary celebration of Prison Fellowship in February. "He took time for each one," said Ogilvie, who said Bright calls him to encourage him in his work. "He has a wonderful way of focusing in on each person as if that person were the only person in the crowd."

With much day-to-day work now in the hands of younger staffers, Bright, a prolific author, continues to write and edit books and is working on programs to help train people through the International Leadership University, which began with classes at the Empire State Building in 1999. He hopes the university will offer Christian, Internet-based education for future leaders worldwide.

"In a sense the dreams that burn in my heart today are much bigger than they were when we started," Bright said. "There are fresh ideas every day practically."

Once just a ministry at the University of California at Los Angeles, Campus Crusade has grown to include 22,000 full-time staffers and almost half a million volunteers.



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