



WESTERN RECORDER

July 17, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 27

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
"Crossover" evangelism projects are planned for the Purchase area before this fall's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Murray. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Take time to celebrate life's simple pleasures. *Page 5.*



Missions
Missionaries are employing methods to make disciples, not just converts. *Pages 8-9.*



Disaster relief
Kentucky volunteers are needed as workers expect to be in West Virginia responding to flood damage for at least a month. *Page 10.*

Books
Will marketing cause the "Chronicles of Narnia" to lose their Christian character? *Page 11.*

Jabez
In Kentucky, it's not just a prayer, but also a community. *Page 13.*

Hazard pastor: Old church learns new tricks with block party outreach

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

HAZARD—First Baptist Church of Hazard is a traditional Kentucky Baptist congregation with a 103-year history.

But after its first block party led to 49 conversions, Pastor Alan Dodson said the church intends to schedule more unconventional evangelism projects.

"The main thing we've learned is for a church to be successful and effective it has to do some non-traditional things," said Dodson, who came as pastor to the church early last year. "As far as mass evangelism, we learned an event like this works much better than the revival we did in the spring."

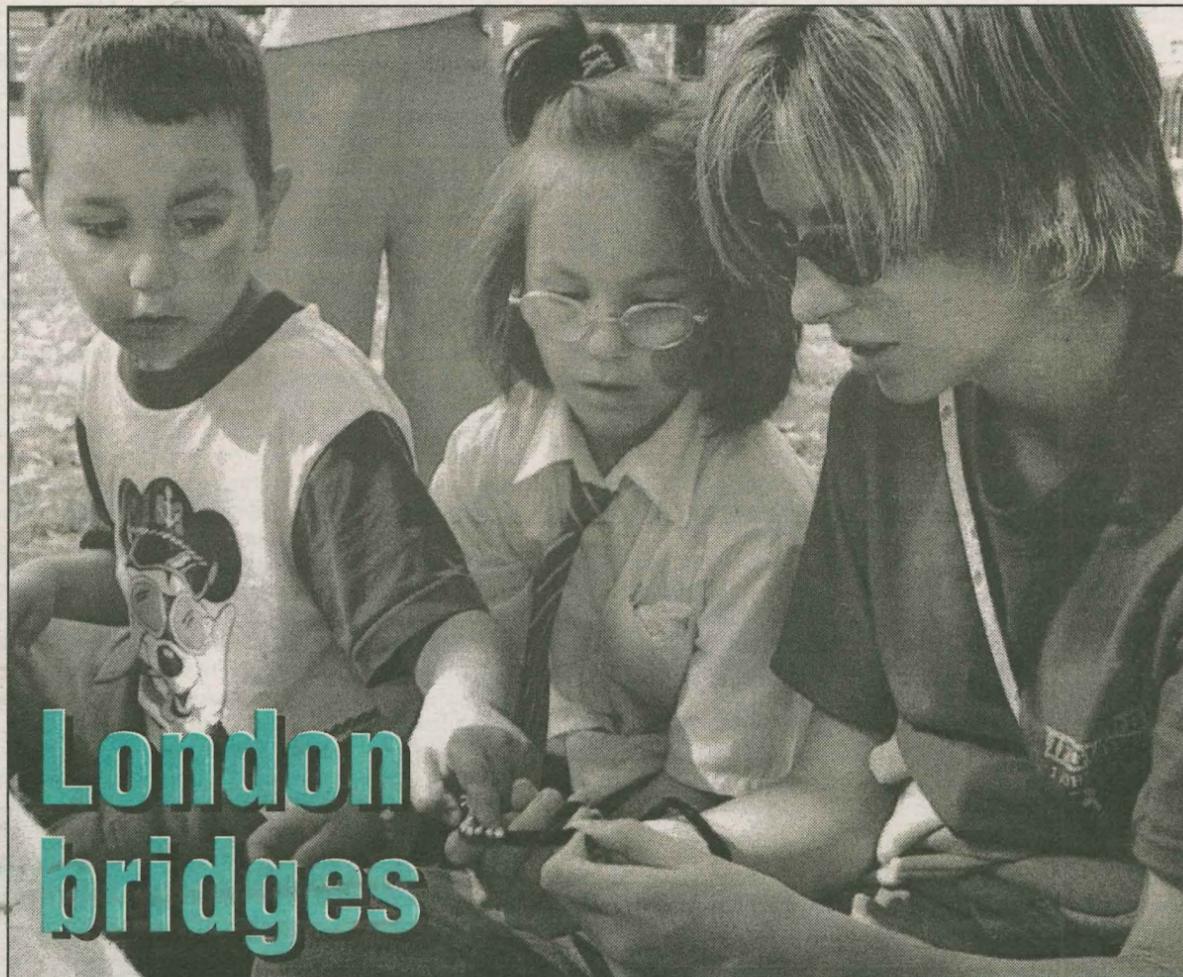
Held on June 23, the same weekend as the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade, the party didn't draw nearly as many as the record crowd in Louisville.

But in a town of 6,000 people, the response was considered a rousing success. In addition to the block party, six children received Christ as Savior at First Baptist's vacation Bible school the following week.

"There's a lot of excitement," Brotherhood chairman Melvin Clutts said. "We'd be glad to do another one next week. I think we'll make this an annual event. It's a blessing to all of us."

Roy Cooper, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association, said the event was well-planned and implemented.

□ See *Old Hazard church ...*, page 3



More than a dozen teenagers from Owensboro and New Castle recently traveled to London, England, for M-Fuge, a missions camp week that combines spiritual development with missions opportunities. One-on-one conversations helped create bridges of friendship, allowing teens to distribute the "Jesus" video. More than 1,200 follow-up visits are planned because of such contacts, Southern Baptist missionaries reported. ■ Above: Sheana Pryor, of First Baptist Church of New Castle, makes bead bracelets for children in a north London park in a neighborhood filled with immigrants and refugees. Face painting and crafts were ways to break the ice so families would accept copies of the "Jesus" film in their native languages. ■ Left: Brandon Berry, left, of Philpot, talks with an Asian boy during a break in basketball at a city park in north London. Berry, a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, found sports provided opportunities to talk about his faith. □ Stories on page 6 (IMB photos by Denise McGill)

Ailing church diagnosis doesn't have to be fatal, author says

By Charles Willis
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—The gap between what a church is and what it can be is the difference between a diagnosis and a prognosis, an author and evangelistic ministry leader told pastors during the National Conference for Church Leadership, June 25-29.

"All of us have stories of what the church is. Some of those stories bring delight; others bring sorrow to the heart," said Steve Macchia, speaking at the conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. "While most of us spend our time playing 'Woe is me,' we don't have to be stuck in the reality of what is, but we can be thinking on what can be."

Macchia, president of Vision New England in Acton, Mass., and author of "Becoming a Healthy Church," said

that just as a diagnosis of a personal illness does not have to lead to a terminal prognosis, churches don't have to stay where they are.

"Your church can become healthier, but it has to start with you as a leader believing in a bright and promising future. We need to be a part of changing hearts that change words that change attitudes that change the culture."

In the late 1990s, Vision New England conducted several research projects, recognized today as the Healthy Church Initiative, with a goal to move churches from the Great Commandment to the Great Commission.

"The singular agenda is love—loving God, loving one another," Macchia said. "Who we are on the inside is reflected in how we love and serve on the outside."

Visits to 100 churches were a part of the process toward his discovering characteristics of healthy churches,

Macchia said. Among practices he discovered are:

- Love, acceptance and forgiveness.
- Relational integrity.
- Hunger for growth and an adherence to truth.
- Worship shifts from traditional to contemporary or a mix of both.
- A priority of prayer.
- A shift from programs to relationships.
- Celebrating the power of the story of lives changed through Christ.
- Empowering others to fully use their gifts in ministry.

In a follow-up survey with individuals, approximately 1,900 people affirmed 10 characteristics drawn from the study, ranking them in three categories: how I relate to God, how I relate within my church family and how my church ministers to others and manages its ministry.

Macchia said churches were perceived as doing their best in practical

areas of budgets, planning and equipment; doing reasonably well in pointing people to God; and doing poorly in relationships, such as handling internal conflict, developing leaders, reaching out to neighborhoods and connecting with other churches.

He told the pastors that churches can achieve the goal of reaching the world for Christ through the singular agenda of love acted out in several ways, such as:

- Being prayerful in all endeavors.
- Repenting.
- Engaging in meaningful worship experiences.
- Changing old church structures that hinder effectiveness.
- Building and empowering strong ministry teams.
- Uniting with like hearts and minds.
- Enduring for the long haul.
- Being the community of faith.
- Engaging in creative, effective evangelism.

BAPTISTS

BWA addresses religious liberty, debt, AIDS

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

CHARLOTTETOWN, Canada (BP)—Leaders of the Baptist World Alliance approved actions on religious liberty, the forgiveness of national debts and the HIV/AIDS epidemic during the international Baptist organization's July 2-7 General Council meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. More than 570 delegates from 48 countries attended the week-long meeting.

BWA leaders welcomed five new member bodies, increasing the total number of member organizations worldwide to more than 200. Among membership requests put on hold was one from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a 10-year-old organization of moderates opposed to the conservative shift of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Citing religiously motivated conflicts around the world, Baptist leaders called on fellow Baptists to be vigilant in defending and promoting religious liberty for all people, work for reconciliation and pray for those who suffer religious persecution.

Council members encouraged continuing conversations among Christian denominations as a way to support Baptists in minority situations in many countries and to enhance each other's understanding of faith.

Baptists from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are among millions of people around the world who suffer because their countries cannot pay their national debts. The BWA has supported Jubilee 2000 and in 1999 congratulated the G8 nations for adopting a \$100 billion debt forgiveness package. BWA leaders want to see the process speeded up for more immediate economic and social relief for the world's poorest nations.

Through Baptist World Aid, the BWA's relief and development arm, Baptists already are involved in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Baptists are asked to serve HIV/AIDS victims with Christian compassion, pray for them and support ministers, health care workers and governments in combating this disease.

The resolution on HIV/AIDS emphasizes, however, that "a Christian lifestyle and sexual values including the biblical model of chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage is a significant means of limiting the spread of HIV/AIDS."

With the acceptance of five new member bodies from Asia and Africa, BWA's member bodies grew from 196 to 201. The new groups include approximately 500,000 members.

Four of the new member bodies are from Africa. The largest is the Sudan Interior Church that has congregations in the south of Sudan. Due to ongoing war there, accurate Baptist membership numbers are not available.

The Baptist Association of South Africa, formerly the Natal Baptist Indian Association, has 26 churches with 3,500 members. The Baptist Union of Gambia includes five churches and 479 members. The Bi-

ble Baptist Churches of Madagascar has 55 churches and 3,000 members.

The Orissa Baptist Evangelistic Crusade is the new member body from Asia. It includes 1,117 churches and 350,000 members.

Four applications for BWA membership, including the CBF, will be addressed at a future date for reasons ranging from lack of information to need of a longer history.

BWA Membership Committee Chairman Ian Hawley, general director of the Australian Baptist Missionary Society, explained that the committee "felt the CBF did not meet certain criteria and especially in the area of their identity."

"We felt that the line was not clear," he said. "We felt they are still defining their identity and are closer to a well-run missionary society at this stage than a convention."

In other actions two new directors were elected and a new division was established.

Alan Duke Stanford, pastor of Leesburg Baptist Church in Leesburg, Va., was elected director of promotion and development. His work will include raising funds for and coordinating the work of the division of freedom and justice. He also will serve as regional director of the North American Baptist Fellowship, one of the six BWA fellowship groups.

Alberto Prokopchuk of Buenos Aires, executive secretary of the Union of Baptists in Latin America, was named BWA regional secretary for Latin America.

Delegates also approved the creation of a new division of administration and finance. Ellen Teague, who already is responsible for BWA finances, was elected division director.

In other actions General Council members endorsed a centennial endowment fund of \$10 million and approved a funding goal of \$2.5 million for Baptist World Aid.

Mohler hosts radio talk show to 'arm church'

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Seminary President Al Mohler, a frequent guest on radio and TV talk shows, has moved from guest to host.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, recently began hosting "Truth on the Line," a weekly 30-minute show devoted to the contemporary culture and its interaction with the gospel message. The show can be heard Wednesdays at 10 a.m. on Louisville's WLSY-AM (94.7), as well as throughout the week on the station's Web site (www.rivertalk.net).

Each Wednesday, Mohler comments on current events and interviews guests. Guests during the show's first month included Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt and University of California-Berkeley professor Phillip Johnson.

One of the show's goals, Mohler said, is to equip Christians to defend their faith.

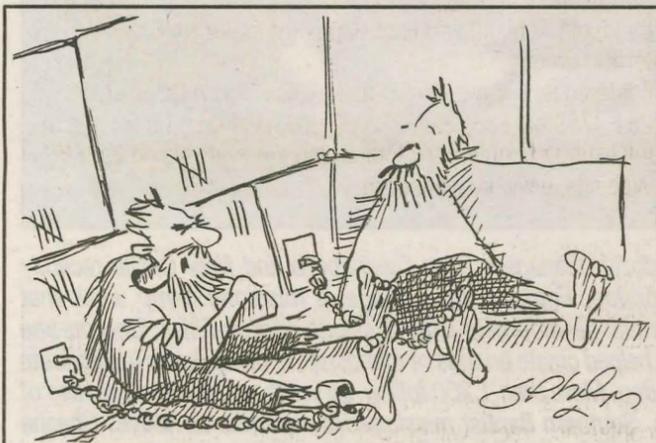
"We want to help Christians to think like Christians, and we want to help arm this generation of Christians to be able to think in ways that are distinctively Christian," he said during the show's inaugural broadcast. "We will look at how the gospel intersects with contemporary culture. These days Christians must be quick-witted and careful thinkers. Otherwise, we're going to be out-thought by the world. That is one of the real dangers—that Christians will simply be intellectually lame while the world is intellectually strong."

The basis for such a show, Mohler said, is found in the New Testament.

"Peter wrote to the church in the first century, and he told them that they must prepare their minds for action," he said. "That's what we really need to do. Too many Christians are simply intellectually asleep at the wheel and unable to come up with a good argument when truth is on the line. We want to help arm the church."

As the culture has declined, Mohler said, the need for courageous Christians has risen.

"In our generation, we are called to address issues that the founders of the SBC could not have imagined," he said. "The SBC takes a position on homosexuality. That's a fairly new thing, because in 1845, no denomination in America had a position on homosexuality. ... It would have been considered absolutely unnecessary. But that is one of the frontline issues in America in the 21st century, and a denomination that does not speak clearly and biblically on that issue is simply absent without leave."



"I edited the gender-neutral Bible and you?"

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Board ties BF&M to hiring.** The Executive Board of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey unanimously approved a proposal calling for candidates for board-elected staff positions to affirm the Southern Baptist Convention's 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Prospective staff members also must "explain any points of disagreement" with the faith statement and if elected, "work within the parameters of the current Baptist Faith and Message." A related resolution notes, however, that "Baptists have consistently honored the Christian faith as a non-creedal people" and that the Bible is "our sole authority for faith and practice."

■ **Yates to head WMU division.** Becky Yates has joined the staff of national Woman's Missionary Union as publisher and director of New Hope Publishers, WMU's trade publishing division. Yates moved to New Hope from LifeWay Christian Resources' Broadman & Holman Publishers where she was a vice president. WMU launched New Hope Publishers in 1997 as a separate publishing division to market WMU products outside Southern Baptist life.

■ **Texas leader earns heritage award.** Texas Baptist leader James Culp received the 10th annual Black Southern Baptist Convention Heritage Award July 4 at LifeWay Conference Center in Glorieta, N.M. Culp joined the staff of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1982 as black church relations consultant. He will retire this year as coordinator of the BGCT's black church development division.

■ **Ethics center marks first decade.** The Baptist Center for Ethics celebrated its 10th anniversary of ministry during a banquet held in conjunction with the recent Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Atlanta. The moderate organization, led by Executive Director Robert Parham, provides conferences and resources on Christian citizenship, family and other ethical issues. "BCE is both pastoral and prophetic," said board member Bob Setzer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Macon, Ga. "It helps people follow Jesus without fear."

■ **Castle receives education award.** Leon Castle, a former church staff member in

Kentucky, received the 2001 Smyth & Helwys Excellence in Christian Education Award June 28 in Atlanta. He is the sixth recipient of the award which is presented annually to a Christian educator. Castle has worked in Christian education for more than 30 years, including several years as editor and supervisor of children's Sunday school materials at the former Baptist Sunday School Board. Castle, who retired last year as minister of education at First Baptist Church of Memphis, also served churches in Georgia and Virginia.

■ **Veteran Baptist journalist dies.** Barry Garrett, 85, a veteran Baptist journalist, died June 20 at a nursing home in Franklin, N.C. He was noted for his service as the first Washington bureau chief of Baptist Press. Garrett, a native of Oklahoma, joined the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in 1958 as director of information services. He opened the first bureau for Baptist Press that year and later gained press credentials for Congress and the White House. Prior to that, he served more than 10 years as editor of the Arizona Baptist Beacon.

KENTUCKY

Crossover projects planned before KBC's Murray meeting

By Tim Beauchamp
Kentucky Baptist Convention

MURRAY—Kentucky Baptists will reach out to the Purchase—the area of Western Kentucky included in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase—with acts of love and kindness just before the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in November.

Crossover the Purchase, Nov. 10-11, is a community outreach weekend planned in conjunction with the KBC meeting, Nov. 13-14 at the Regional Special Events Center in Murray.

"We want to make a positive impact upon the community," said Dan Garland, the KBC's evangelism

growth team leader. "This is an opportunity for the public to see what Kentucky Baptists are all about, loving and helping people."

This is the first time the Kentucky Baptist Convention has sponsored a Crossover weekend. The event is patterned after similar ones held for more than 10 years in the host cities of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, Garland said.

"I wanted to go into the convention with our focus on missions and evangelism, doing what Southern Baptists are about and getting people involved," Garland said.

Most Crossover activities involve service teams operating simultaneously on the Saturday preceding the convention.

Garland said the service teams will focus on four types of projects: conducting community needs surveys, participating in prayer walks through neighborhoods, conducting social ministry projects and distributing videos about the life of Jesus.

In addition to the service teams, there will be a Saturday night rally at First Baptist Church of Murray and one-day revivals at several area churches on Sunday.

Crossover the Purchase will focus mostly on eight counties: Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Marshall and McCracken.

Garland said he believes Crossover the Purchase will serve as a catalyst for unity among Kentucky Baptists

and provide a positive image of Baptists for the community.

"Crossover the Purchase has two implications for us as Kentucky Baptists. It is an opportunity for us to reach out with the gospel to the local communities and also provide an avenue for people across Kentucky to come together and work for a common goal," Garland said.

So far, 77 churches have committed to participate in Crossover, Garland said, adding that he expects more to sign up as the date draws near.

For more information contact Garland at (502) 254-4737 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5722. Information also is available on the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org/annual meeting.

"This is an opportunity for the public to see what Kentucky Baptists are all about, loving and helping people."

Dan Garland, KBC evangelism growth team leader

Old Hazard church tries new evangelism ideas

Continued from page 1

Petrey Memorial Baptist Church has sponsored several similar parties at a local housing project, he said. But he doesn't think anyone expected the kind of reaction that First Baptist experienced.

"Revivals don't produce much excitement these days," Cooper said. "In terms of a planned event with results, this is probably the most successful thing I've seen in the (10 years) I've been here."

Held on a Saturday afternoon, the event featured free food. First Baptist members served up more than 600 hamburgers and 500 hot dogs, soft drinks and cotton candy.

Other attractions included a "Dunk-a-Deacon" dunking booth and a moonwalk for children.

Entertainment included magician Doug King, who also is youth pastor at Beaver Dam Baptist Church, and ventriloquist Mitch Bradshaw, pastor of Okolona Missionary Baptist Church in Nancy. Kevin Rice and "Forecast," a contemporary Christian band from Manchester, capped the program with a concert.

At the end of the concert, Dodson explained the "Romans Road," a series of verses from the book of Romans that review how to accept Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior. He said that when he finished, he was surprised when adults and children streamed forward.

"They flew up to the stage," he said. "I've never seen anything like it



DUNK-A-DEACON Greg Baker, deacon and Hazard dentist, pulls his shift in the "dunk-a-deacon" booth during a block party at First Baptist Church of Hazard. The church registered more than 40 professions of faith during the June event. (Photo by Melvin Clutts)

in Hazard."

Planning for the party began last January, and Dodson said prayer and promotion were the keys to its success. During the month before the party, members went door-to-door distributing flyers about the event.

The church also advertised on a local television station during the week of the event, with the station offering a matching amount of free time.

In addition to the excitement of having new Christians converts, Dodson said he hopes the party helps change the public's perceptions of First Baptist.

As one of the largest churches in town, some people think they don't

have the right clothes or make enough money to attend, he noted.

"We prayed about an event we could do to overcome that negative stereotype," Dodson said. "We thought this might be a way to overcome the stained-glass, high-church look of the auditorium. This is a place where you can come as you are."

"The atmosphere in the church right now is fantastic," he added. "If we're not evangelistic, we're missing the boat. I feel this is the beginning of a great move of God in the area, bringing people to Christ."

"This isn't regular fare in the mountains," Cooper said. "The spiritual dimension was very unique."

Ugandan 'missionary' arrest prompts federal investigation

HARRODSBURG—The "theft by deception" case against Daniel Lubowa of Uganda has expanded to include a federal investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Lubowa, who reportedly posed as a missionary under the alias Mark Phelps, received thousands of dollars in donations in recent months from churches throughout Central Kentucky. He was arrested June 9 and faces a Mercer County grand jury hearing Aug. 15. He remains in jail with bond set at \$25,000.

U.S. postal inspector Roberta Bottoms said the postal service "launched an investigation based on requests for assistance from the Kentucky State Police who coordinated the investiga-

tion that led to the state charge here in Kentucky."

Postal inspectors are seeking to determine if Lubowa and Grace Ministries in Rochester, Minn., have committed mail fraud or wire fraud which violates federal law.

"At this point, we're not indicating they have done anything wrong," Bottoms said. "We have several indications there may be a problem but we are very early in the investigation."

Seeking "concrete leads that (Lubowa) misused funds for his personal gain," Bottoms said church members who have cancelled checks, money order receipts or other evidence of contributions to Lubowa can contact her at the U.S. Postal Inspec-

tion Service, Box 11710, Lexington, KY 40577-1710. She said investigators also are seeking letters, brochures, tapes or other information that show how Lubowa presented himself to area churches.

Braxton Crenshaw, Lubowa's attorney, declined to discuss details of the case. During a preliminary hearing last month, however, he indicated the charge against Lubowa of theft by deception is the result of misunderstandings fueled by cultural differences.

Although Lubowa might face more charges as the investigation unfolds, Crenshaw said, "At this point, I have not been informed of any additional charges against Mr. Lubowa."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Super Saturdays scheduled for six cities.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth team will host Super Saturday church leadership training conferences in six Kentucky cities starting Aug. 11. Conferences will be held Aug. 11 at Highview Baptist in Louisville; Aug. 18 at Immanuel Baptist in Lexington; Aug. 25 at Central Baptist in Corbin and First Baptist of Owensboro; and Sept. 8 at Unity Baptist in Ashland and First Baptist of Paducah. Registration for the event costs \$10 in advance and \$14 on the day of the conference. For more information, call Cheryl Davis at (502) 254-4780 or (888) 254-5710. A pre-registration form and a full listing of conference topics also are available on the KBC Web site, www.kybaptist.org.

■ **Secretaries to meet in Campbellsville.** Kentucky Baptist church secretaries are invited for a "TIME" of encouragement and instruction at Campbellsville University July 19-21. The acrostic represents the theme for the 15th annual Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association summer conference, "Together In Ministry Effectively." Two conference tracks will provide certification training, and a third will offer seminars ranging from copyright laws and public speaking to Bible study and dealing with difficult people. For more information, call Jenny Byrd of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth department at (502) 245-4101 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5710.

■ **Senior adult choir festival in October.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department will host a senior adult choir festival Oct. 15-16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Speakers will include Steven Skaggs, music minister at Valley View Baptist Church in Vine Grove, and Phillip Landgrave, retired professor of music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and music minister at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville. In addition to a mass choir, the festival will include opportunities for individual choir singing, fellowship and worship. Early registration fee per choir is \$50 by Sept. 21. Afterward, the fee will be \$65. For more information, call (502) 254-4727 or toll-free in Kentucky (888)-254-5707.

■ **New KBC video available.** A video describing the work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board staff is now available at no charge to Kentucky churches. "People Sharing a Special Love" is a 12-minute production designed to introduce the viewer to the work of the Convention's Executive Board staff teams. The teams work to assist churches in a wide variety of ways to be healthy, vital and effective in their ministries. For more information, call the KBC communications/media department at (502) 254-4731 or toll-free, (888) 254-5713. The video also can be ordered online at the Convention's Web site, www.kybaptist.org.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN
Partnership Editions
Editor

*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.

To subscribe: Send \$11.66 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.25 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@ntr.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Charles Midkiff, Greenville, chairman; Barry Howard, Corbin, vice chairman; Mike Harmon, Princeton, secretary; Laura Beville, Bowling Green; Mark Boes, Cecilia; David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville; Ken James, London; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; David Proffitt, Salyersville; Bill Thurman, Lexington; Kenneth Wells, Somerset.

Prayer connection

While attending the Billy Graham crusade, I met a lady in her 30s from Indiana who had come with some friends and had gotten separated from them on the way to the stadium. We had a nice conversation while the gospel singing was touching many hearts.

When Billy Graham began the message God laid on his heart, she began to weep. I don't know what her problem was, but the Holy Spirit moved me to ask her if she knew Jesus as her Lord and Savior and she nodded her head yes. It was a very touching experience for me.

I will never know whether or not she gets a chance to read this letter, but I have been praying for her.

Berman McKinley
Taylorsville

Long-distance blessing

My husband and I were thrilled to be able to sing in the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade choir on Thursday and Friday nights. Then on Saturday we left Louisville for a family trip to Alaska. We were deeply sor-

ry that our daughters would miss the Concert for the Next Generation on Saturday night, and that we would miss a Saturday reception with Franklin Graham to which we had been invited.

Our itinerary in Alaska included attending the Sunday service at Anchorage Baptist Temple on July 1. Imagine our delight when we learned through a TV ad in Anchorage that the guest speaker for that service would be none other than Franklin Graham. We were blessed to hear him

preach a wonderful sermon (much like his father's sermons in Louisville). We also heard a wonderful report about the crusade on a Christian radio station in Fairbanks.

We felt that God had, in a way, extended the crusade for us all the way to Alaska. What a wonderful and unexpected blessing.



Gail Yonts
Louisville

Eternal gratitude

The Greater Louisville Billy Gra-

A piece of paradise

I have just returned from a wonderful week as a counselor at Cedarmore. I cannot begin to express what the week meant to me as well as the youth from the group. The Spirit was there with us and we were truly blessed.

I also want to say how great the place looked. Boone Lodge and Byrdwell Conference Center look fantastic. I am very thankful for the work that has been done. I encourage it to continue.

For me Cedarmore was a piece of paradise for a week. To sit on a hillside and watch the sun come up brought peace to my soul. At the same

time, a deer came to the edge of the woods and stood watching me. Yes it was a mountaintop experience but it sure made coming back to the valley much easier.

Thanks to all who make Cedarmore possible. And I encourage everyone to make use of this facility. You might find more than you ever planned on when you do. I know I did.

Vicky Fleming
Carlisle

Doctrinal debate

In the June 26 issue of the Western Recorder there was a letter that dealt with "Left Behind" fiction. The writer took issue with the fact that the im-

pression given was not accurate as it related to the doctrinal assumption of the Rapture.

The problem presented with this refutation is that there are many Christians who do not believe that the Bible contains any information that could support the notion of the early departure of Christians, prior to the second coming of Christ. This topic has been debated for many decades and those who believe in it are immovable and those who do not are comfortable with the notion that Christ will return to reign here on earth for a time prior to the dissolution of earth.

Each Christian must decide what role this doctrine will play in life and in their faith. But it cannot be assumed that the Rapture is certain.

John Dye
Louisville

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

KBC staff committed to serve

In recent days Kentucky Baptist Convention staff members have demonstrated their commitment to service through the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade and staff performance reviews.

I was encouraged to watch members of the KBC staff serving during the crusade. Tim Bender, the KBC's pastoral missionary to the deaf, served as co-chairman for the deaf ministry. Lowell Ashby, KBC business services team leader, served as a co-signer of checks with crusade treasurer Charles Barnes. Ashby and KBC accounting department director Cathi Roy-Sanders served on the counting committee until 2 to 3 a.m. each morning.

Executive Associate Steve Thompson was a counseling supervisor. Robert Reeves, Brenda Smith and Denise Withers of our communications/media department, served in the crusade newsroom. Larry Brannin, KBC media production associate, captured

some excellent crusade video footage.

Brotherhood department director Randy Foster arranged for buses to bring 50 people from Fleming Baptist Church in Letcher County to the crusade. Other staff members served as counselors and choir members. Still others prayed, invited guests and followed up.

In addition to KBC staff involvement with the crusade, Trennis Henderson and David Winfrey of the Western Recorder served as counselors each night in addition to fulfilling their reporting roles. And La-

Raine Dail of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union assisted with collaborator work late each night.

I received a letter this week from Al Mohler, general chairman for the crusade, expressing thanks for the significant support of the KBC. I am very pleased that so many KBC staff members participated through their churches and as individuals. It was a privilege for me to serve on the crusade steering com-

mittee, to participate in preparation meetings and counselor training, to invite friends and to attend every night.

Also, I am very pleased that due to the KBC staff commitment to excellence, the executive professional staff has participated fully in a performance assessment process adopted by the Executive Board. I am grateful that the staff is committed to being the best they can be, empowered by Jesus Christ and encouraged and assisted by their supervisor.

Additionally, I am grateful for department directors meeting with me, along with their team leaders, to share their objectives, goals and special challenges.

The KBC staff provided training conferences for more than 30,000 Kentucky Baptists last year. As valuable as these conferences are, however, the KBC staff is available to assist individual churches as well.

Too many church leaders think their church is too small for KBC staff to come. The best way to overcome this is to call and give us an opportunity to serve you and your church.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



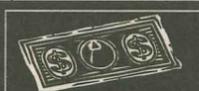
Bill Mackey

CHURCH

Churches should evaluate 'when not to borrow' money

By Doug Strader

This article is a sequel to the column I wrote last month that was



based on the book, "When Not To Build." "When Not To Borrow" also was written by Ray Bowman and Eddie Hall.

In today's economy, many churches mirror the practices of many of their members—they spend more than they receive, resulting in a heavy debt. Is it wise for a church to be in debt? There is no one answer. There are many variables that must be considered. Bowman and Hall share good information with any church that is considering borrowing money, including:

■ **Four consequences of church debt:**

■ By presuming on the future, borrowing puts the church at unnecessary risk.

■ Borrowing tends to undermine contentment.

■ Borrowing can deprive a church of God's timing.

■ Borrowing can blind a church to people's needs.

■ **When to borrow:**

■ It might be better to borrow when renting would cost more.

■ Sometimes it pays to borrow to buy income-producing property to provide space for future growth.

■ Churches often must borrow during a transition from a debt economy to a provision economy.

■ **When not to borrow:**

■ When borrowing would cause a church to be overloaded with debt (more than three or four times its annual receipts).

■ When borrowing would cause a church to go off course from its mission and purpose.

■ When borrowing would cause a church to be under-funded for its ministry.

■ When building to enhance the church's image in the community.

■ When expecting to grow and gain new members to finance the building.

■ When better stewardship would be a better use of the current facilities.

Bowman shares his guiding principle when consulting with churches on when they should incur debt: "A church should build only when it can do so within the income God has provided and without using funds needed for the church's present and future ministries."

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

Coping with the stress of aging: Preventive measures cut risks

Q: My husband is 57 years old and has had a very stressful job for many years. As he grows older, I am worried that the stress will not be good for him. Are there ways to reduce his stress level?

From early studies 50 years ago on the mind-body connection to stress, Dr. Hans Selye concluded that stress is "the non-specific response of the body to any demand placed upon it." Selye suggested that it is not stress that harms us, but distress. Distress occurs when we prolong emotional stress and don't deal with it in a positive way.

The body's response to stress is known as the general adaptation syndrome. There are many causes of stress that affect aging adults. These causes can produce a variety of responses that include both physical and emotional effects. There are preventive measures and coping methods that can help reduce the effects of stress.

There are several risk factors that lead to stress among aging adults. These include a past history of depressive illness, inadequate social support, serious illnesses such as a stroke and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Some reports indicate life stress also might be related to late-life depression.

There also are many internal and external stresses that many men are susceptible to in their 50s. Some of these possible strains are fear of widowhood, divorce, declining income, aging and developmental changes.

Stress is inevitable in our lives as we age. As a person grows older there is more stress that can appear and cause extreme physical and emotional side effects. The effects are not to be taken lightly since some of the affects result in very serious health problems.

If preventive measures are taken and coping methods are learned, the effects of stress can be reduced.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: I'm a single woman about to turn 30, and would like nothing better than to be married. I strongly desire companionship and passion, yet I don't want to compromise my Christian beliefs. Help!

Remember that God's ultimate revelation of Himself was as a never-married single adult. He has transformed the world through such single people as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Francis Asbury, Lottie Moon, Corrie ten Boom and Isaac Watts.

The apostle Paul instructs in 1 Corinthians 7:32 that single adults use their singleness as an advantage in serving God.

That being said, God created you with a unique set of attributes and desires, and might be leading you to match those attributes with someone else with whom you can serve Him in the context of a Christian marriage.

As people around you get married, be careful not to just "jump on the bandwagon" in a too-quick relationship. This can lead to disaster.

Adult educators refer to an "age 30 transition." For many, it is a kind of mid-life crisis, sometimes especially for those who have not yet achieved the dream of being married. It is possible to "dream a new dream," and to discover the possibilities God has right in front of you as a single adult.

If you desire to pursue a mature, God-guided search for a lifelong companion, read psychologist Neil Clark Warren's book, "Finding the Love of Your Life." He also has a Web site (eharmony.com) that uses key aspects of compatibility to help match single adults. The site includes an in-depth screening process to avoid the dangers inherent in typical Internet dating services.—*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.



Take time to celebrate life's simple pleasures

Vacation: (n) A period of rest and freedom from work or study, a time of recreation. **Vocation:** (n) A trade, profession or occupation; especially a career to which someone feels called.

One little letter can make a world of difference in the meaning of a word. People typically gain a significant amount of personal identity and fulfillment through their vocation. A vacation, by contrast, often is viewed as a luxury that doesn't connect to the rest of day-to-day life. In reality, an occasional vacation—a time of rest, relaxation and renewal—is vital to help keep one's vocation fresh, focused and fulfilling.

In mid-July, halfway between summer's bookend holidays of Memorial Day and Labor Day, many people already have enjoyed several days of leisure or are eagerly anticipating their summer recreation plans. Other folks, however, treat vacations like an unwelcome interruption of their career plans, goals and schedules. A week or two away from the office or business conjures up images of unanswered mail, missed business opportunities and lost revenue. Others worry that they simply can't afford to take time off and spend their hard-earned money on frivolous pursuits.

One problem is that many Americans have lost a healthy theology of rest and renewal. "Free time" throughout the year often is carefully scheduled with health club appointments, tee times, sporting events and other time-driven activities. True relaxation—sitting on the front porch on a warm summer night, sipping lemonade and watching fireflies without constantly glancing at one's watch—apparently went out of style about the time Andy, Opie and Barney sauntered off from prime-time fare to nostalgic re-runs.

Even society's definition of a vacation can be exhausting and overwhelming. The tendency to make

every experience more spectacular and expensive can create tension and turmoil for many families. The idea of relaxing on the beach, hiking through the woods or fishing on a quiet lake doesn't seem exotic enough in today's fast-paced MTV world.

Although today's concept of a vacation didn't exist in first-century life, the gospels note that Jesus frequently retreated to a solitary place to fellowship with His Father and renew His spirit. Jesus even told His followers in Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

While Christ's focus was on spiritual renewal, physical and emotional renewal can help pave the way to pursue spiritual refreshment—especially for 21st century Americans who are "weary and heavy-laden."

So where does that leave us in the summer of 2001? For individuals and families, it's a matter of making quality recreation time a priority. For congregations, it's important to make sure that ministers receive ample time to focus on their families and time away

from church responsibilities.

That means more than just giving your pastor a few days to travel to the Southern Baptist Convention or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship annual meeting each summer. While denominational involvement, professional development opportunities and even occasional sabbaticals or study leaves are worthwhile, ministers and their families also need true free time to spend as they choose. Investing in your pastor's physical, spiritual and emotional well-being will allow him to better serve your congregation and the cause of Christ.

Another vital element of vacation time is to ... Well, on second thought, never mind. Instead of adding one more point, I think I'll grab a good book, climb into my hammock and ...

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Flood of '37: Kentucky Baptists respond with ministry spirit

By Jack Birdwhistell

If the Great Depression was the most enduring obstacle in Kentucky Baptist life in the 1930s, it was not the most dramatic. That dubious honor belongs to the flood of '37, that great onrush of water that invaded Kentucky's river cities and towns in January 1937.

Damage was severe in Ashland, Dayton, Covington, Ghent, Carrollton, Owensboro, Milton, West Point, Lewisport, Frankfort, Lebanon Junction and Paducah. Special offerings were taken in February and March that year to help damaged churches rebuild.

Baptist life in Louisville also was severely affected. Nearly two-thirds of the city's 350,000 residents had to be evacuated from their homes. Classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary were interrupted for two weeks as the campus was used as headquarters for relief operations. Children from the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home, housed temporarily at the seminary, later were transported by Baptist volunteers to Columbia, Ky.

West Broadway, Portland, Twenty-Third and Broadway, Calvary,

Parkland, Victory Memorial, Ormsby Avenue, Baptist Temple and Shawnee churches suffered the most flood damage, and water reached a depth of nine feet in the basement of Walnut Street Baptist Church. Churches on higher ground were used as relief centers.

The Western Recorder temporarily suspended publication as the rising flood waters turned its offices in the Baptist Building into a "small peninsula—almost an island."

George Raleigh Jewell, a long-time Recorder employee, described how "this writer, seeing his house in Portland threatened by the encroaching waters from two directions, evacuated on Sunday night and moved with his family to the Western Recorder office, where we were above the waters." From there he was "able to serve as an improvised central bureau of information for our Baptist people as they crept in from the Land of Nowhere to the Known. Likewise he served as a watchman of our Baptist property against flood and plunderers."

The Western Recorder published a special "flood issue" and later issues in February contained accounts

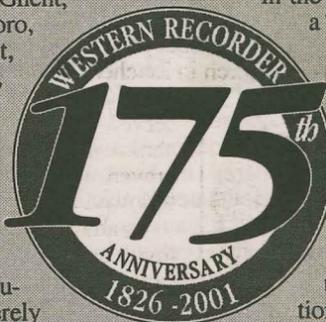
of flood damage from churches all across the state. A later report noted, "In common with all other plants and industries throughout the city, the Western Recorder continued to pay its employees—at a cost of probably more than a thousand dollars during this time."

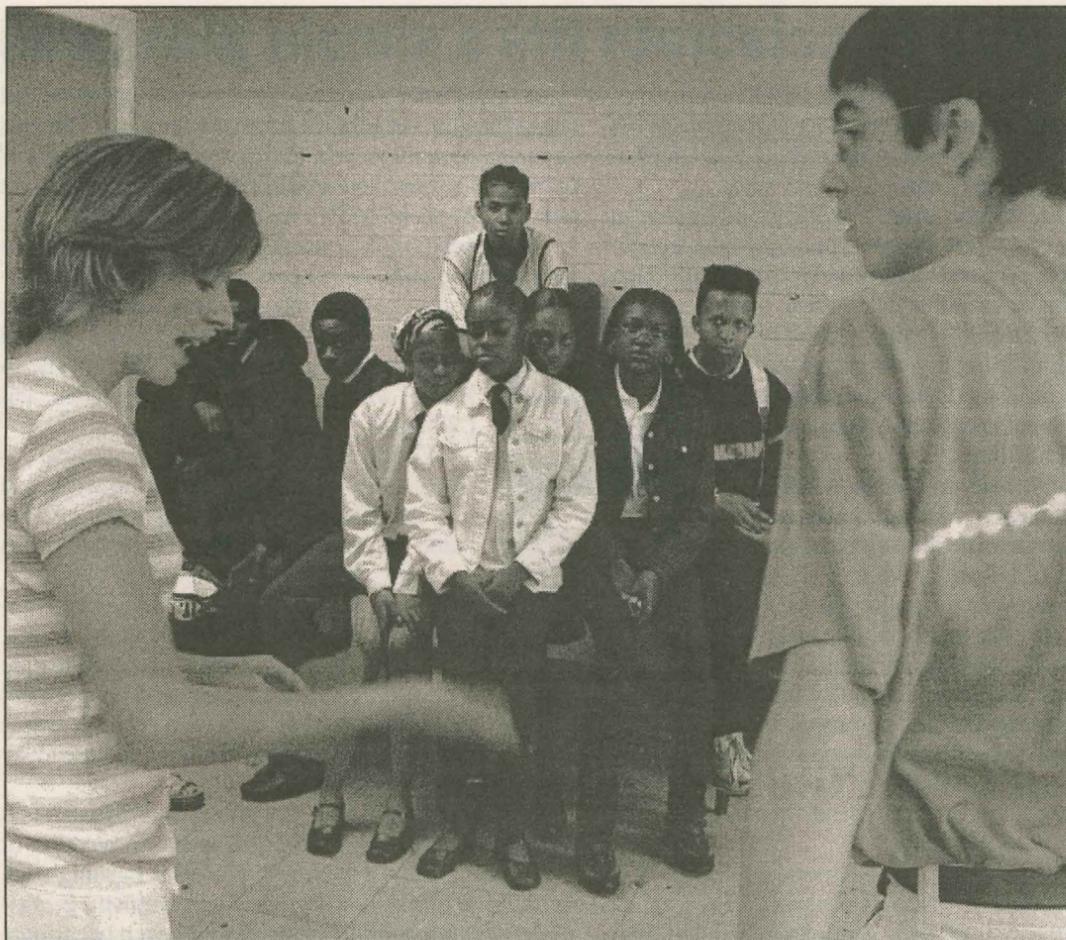
The ravages of the flood still were on people's minds when the General Association of Kentucky Baptists held its annual meeting in November at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. One report noted that during the flood, "all business of every nature and kind was suspended, all public services were suspended, bring chaos to half a million people."

Yet the 1937 meeting also was observed as the centennial of the General Association. Special reports and addresses recounted the tremendous Baptist progress in Kentucky since 1937. Historian Duane Bolin recounted that the number of Kentucky Baptist churches had tripled with a nearly tenfold increase in the number of church members (from 39,269 to 351,555) and an increase of giving to cooperative causes from \$640 in 1837 to an astounding \$380,000 in 1937.

Kentucky Baptists had once again proven to be remarkably resilient.

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





ACTING UP ■ Above: Sheana Pryor, left, of First Baptist Church of New Castle, and Brandon Berry of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, perform a drama about the Good Samaritan at a north London secondary school where most students are immigrants. M-Fuge participants performed skits and distributed the "Jesus" film at several London schools. ■ Inset: Berry plays basketball at a city park. Playing with local teens helped create bridges of friendship that allowed the "Jesus" video to be distributed. More than 1,200 follow-up visits were planned because of such contacts, missionaries reported. (IMB photos by Denise McGill)

Owensboro, New Castle teens find England a vast mission field

By Mike Creswell
SBC International Mission Board

LONDON—More than a dozen Kentucky Baptists found that London's 9 million people are vastly different from the British castles, Big Ben and Parliament most Americans see on tours of England's capital.

Instead, teams of students and leaders from Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro and First Baptist Church of New Castle met non-Christians who have never heard the gospel.

They also met immigrants and refugees from many so-called "Last Frontier" countries, which have no access to hearing the gospel though traditional means.

Teams from the two churches went to London in late June to take part in the first week of M-Fuge, a camping program that blends Bible study and worship with hands-on missions experience.

The first week, 75 adults and students took part and the second week, 86 participated. They distributed more than 1,500 videos on the life of Christ in nine languages and spent hours sharing their Christian faith with people, including many Muslims. Participants also visited public schools to discuss their faith with students.

M-Fuge is a program jointly sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention and the SBC International Mission Board.

Of almost 20,000 students who will take part in Centrifuge this year, about 1,500 will serve overseas this summer in England, Wales, France,

Mexico and Venezuela.

Southern Baptist missionaries who work with groups of M-Fuge students in London say the program doesn't just give students a missions experience. Those students' mission work ultimately will help get churches started among some of the world's hardest-to-reach people.

As Bellevue student leader Lisa McFarland and others distributed the videos door to door in north London, they met people in two different houses who said they wanted to start Bible studies.

Local missionaries will follow up in weeks ahead on these and approximately 1,200 other contacts made by the M-Fuge teams, said missionary David Moench who is heading up the London M-Fuge pro-



gram.

London is a spiritual desert compared to Kentucky, according to Bellevue member Brandon Berry, 15.

"It's spiritually cold, because you might find one house that's Christian or Baptist out of 50 you walk past. It's kind of hard to look at people's lives and know that if they die tomorrow they won't be with Jesus later," he said of his work handing out "Jesus" videos door to door.

"We had plenty of doors slammed in our faces. We met atheists who told us we were wrong. We met one Satanic guy who took the 'Jesus' video but said he wasn't too sure he would watch it—because he worships Satan," added Berry, a sophomore at a high school in Utica.

For more information about the M-Fuge program, check LifeWay's Web site at: www.lifeway.com/fuge.



MIRACLE
RECREATION EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Playground Problems? Are They Safe?

Miracle Recreation is the oldest and largest recreational equipment manufacturer in America. We can inspect your existing playground or build you a new one. Contact us today for a FREE consultation, catalogue and brochure.

Call toll-free (800) 251-5578
(877) 529-5365

E-mail tami@miraclekytn.com

Visit our Web site at www.miraclekytn.com

LifeWay's Exclusive Bus Source

CARPENTER
BUS SALES, INC.
Since 1953



Capacity: 41 Adults or 37 with Rear Luggage



20' to 28' models • 15 to 30 passengers

- ◆ LifeWay Discount
- ◆ 12 to 47 adult capacity
- ◆ 15-passenger Vans
- ◆ We buy used buses
- ◆ More than 40 buses in stock
- ◆ "No-CDL" buses and raised-roof vans

(800) 370-6180

www.carpenterbus.com

Check our Web site for new & used inventory

328 Southgate Court, Brentwood, TN 37027

Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

Protests help derail NEA's pro-gay resolution

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Opposing what it sees as an attempt to promote gay and lesbian lifestyles, Focus on the Family leaders rallied some 500 supporters July 3 to protest a resolution before the 2001 meeting of the National Education Association.

The resolution, which would have supported "programs that promote a safe and inclusive environment" in light of the needs of "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning students," was tabled by the teachers union during its July 2-7 meeting in Los Angeles.

NEA officials dropped the resolution and instead formed a task force to explore the matter "in a holistic, reasoned way," according to USA Today. NEA officials said the matter was dropped at the request of the NEA's Gay and Lesbian Caucus, not as a result of the Focus on the

Family demonstrators.

Still, Focus on the Family accused the teachers union of a radical pro-homosexual agenda that would corrupt school children.

"Under the guise of teaching tolerance, our public school system wants to teach our children about homosexuality rather than academics," said Karen Holgate of Capitol Resource Institute, a Sacramento-based family advocacy group. Describing itself as the "California eyes and ears of Focus on the Family," the institute co-sponsored what organizers called "The Whole Truth" rally.

The NEA resolution would have encouraged curriculum to address the special concerns of students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. It also urged "programs and information that include the contributions, heritage, culture and histo-

ry" of people from these groups.

Protesters expressed fears the document effectively promotes homosexual lifestyles. Rally speakers and audience members believe the proposed change would adversely affect even the youngest of public school students.

"They seek to implement a radical social agenda beginning at the age of 5," said Alexandria Coronado, an Anaheim, Calif., school board member, who spoke at a rally press conference. "Whatever happened to protecting the innocence of American children in today's society?" she asked.

Conservative groups immediately claimed victory after the NEA tabled the resolution. "The NEA tried to bully Christian kids and their parents," said Lou Sheldon, head of the Traditional Values Coalition. "Christian parents pushed back."

Court rules Christian jail program unconstitutional

DALLAS (RNS)—The Texas Supreme Court has ruled that a Christian studies program in a county jail, which was designed to rehabilitate prisoners using biblical principles, is unconstitutional.

The Christian Education Unit of the Tarrant County Jail began in 1992. The voluntary program offered Christian instruction that included the belief that a person must be "born again" to gain salvation.

The sheriff's office closed the program, commonly known as the "God Pod" within hours of the de-

cision, although it had been changed from its original form, Associated Press reported.

Two former inmates, one Jewish and the other a Jehovah's Witness, and a county resident sued, stating they believed the Christian-oriented program violated state and federal constitutions.

The court ruled that the program effectively gave an official endorsement of the religious beliefs of the sheriff.

Former Sheriff David Williams began the program and Jim Willett,

current chief deputy of the county sheriff's department, described it as "a creature of the previous administration."

The court said some religious programs, such as the hiring of a chaplain to aid inmates in practicing their faith, are permitted.

The American Jewish Congress, which defended an inmate in the suit, called the decision "a dramatic victory for church-state separation which should have repercussions nationally although it came from a state court."

Judge: Conn. town must allow home-based prayer meetings

NEW MILFORD, Conn. (RNS)—A federal judge has ordered officials of a Connecticut town to allow members of a family to hold prayer meetings in their home.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Holly Fitzsimmons issued a preliminary injunction July 5 against officials of New Milford, Conn., saying they placed a substantial burden on the family's exercise of religious beliefs when they ordered a halt to the meetings.

The American Center for Law and Justice, a law firm founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, filed suit last December on behalf of Robert and Mary Murphy, who had held weekly prayer meetings and Bible studies in their home since the mid-1990s.

After neighbors complained about traffic from the gatherings, the town's zoning enforcement officer ordered the family to halt the meetings. The officer testified that a large assembly of people was not allowed in the neighborhood. In their testimony, family members said some people had stopped attending the prayer meetings for fear of arrest.

Fitzsimmons cited the First Amendment and the new Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act in her 39-page ruling.

"The court finds that the allegation that people are afraid to attend a prayer meeting because they fear being arrested is a substantial burden that the defendants have imposed on the prayer group participants," she wrote.

Kathy Castagnetta, New Milford's zoning enforcement officer, could not be reached for comment.

Vince McCarthy, senior counsel for the ACLJ, said he will ask the court to make the preliminary injunction permanent.

"This ruling sends an important message that the government cannot act as the 'prayer police' and censor legal and lawful religious expression," he said in a statement.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Measure protects newborns.** The U.S. Senate passed a measure providing legal protection to newborn babies. In a 98-0 vote, senators approved the Born Alive Infants Protection Act as an amendment to the Patients' Bill of Rights. The measure grants federal protection to any newborn fully outside the mother's womb. The bill was proposed last year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a state ban on partial-birth abortion and after congressional testimony was heard describing an abortion procedure in which newborns who survive partial-birth abortion procedures are left unattended to die.

■ **Court upholds contraceptive policy.** A California appellate court has ruled that a law requiring employers to offer contraceptives in their prescription drug plans does not violate religious freedoms. The case, brought by Catholic Charities of Sacramento, elevated a debate between the Roman Catholic Church, which prohibits contraception, and women's reproductive rights advocates. The California law, the Women's Contraception Equity Act, became law one year ago. It exempts church-based organizations but not policies for their secular affiliates. Attorney James Sweeney, who represented Catholic Charities, said the ruling "substantially burdens the religious freedom rights of the Catholic Church in California." He said his clients are considering an appeal.

■ **Land opposes surgeon general.** Conservative Christian leaders are calling on President Bush to remove U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher from office following Satcher's recent report on "responsible sexual behavior." The report fails to support abstinence-only programs for young people and asserts there is "no valid scientific evidence that sexual orientation (including homosexuality) can be changed." Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called Satcher's report a flawed approach that demonstrates why he should be replaced. Ken Conner, president of the Family Research Council, also has called for Satcher's removal. Bush has given no indication he plans to replace Satcher before the surgeon general's term concludes in February.

■ **Christian product sales top \$4 billion.** Retail sales of Christian products exceeded \$4 billion last year, according to industry officials. A survey of 539 member suppliers of CBA, formerly the Christian Booksellers Association, included book and Bible publishers and firms specializing in music, gifts and apparel. Product sales included: books and Bibles, \$1.77 billion; gifts, \$822 million; music, \$747 million; and other products such as church supplies, curriculum and apparel, \$661 million.

■ **Jewish leaders assail Christian report.** The American Jewish Committee criticized a group of Christian leaders who met last month with Secretary of State Colin Powell, claiming the group expressed anti-Israel sentiment and bias toward Palestinians. The Christian group, which recently traveled to Israel, wrote in a letter to Powell that "Israel's practice of assassination and the economic strangulation of the fledgling Palestinian state are counterproductive to either security or peace." American Jewish leader David Rosen said that view is "terribly unbalanced," noting that the group failed to cite violence by Palestinians.

■ **Word Publishing changes to 'W.'** Word Publishing, a Nashville-based Christian company, has changed its name to W Publishing Group. The name change, which became official July 1, is the result of a four-year-old business arrangement. Gaylord Entertainment acquired the long-term rights to the original name as part of the 1997 sale of Word Records and Music by Thomas Nelson Inc. W Publishing Group is now a division of Thomas Nelson.

■ **Fire destroys medical supplies.** An estimated \$600,000 in donated hospital supplies was destroyed July 1 in a warehouse fire in Falls Church, Va. The medical supplies, collected by Crosslink International, a Christian humanitarian aid

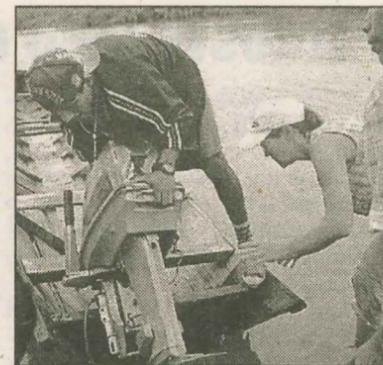
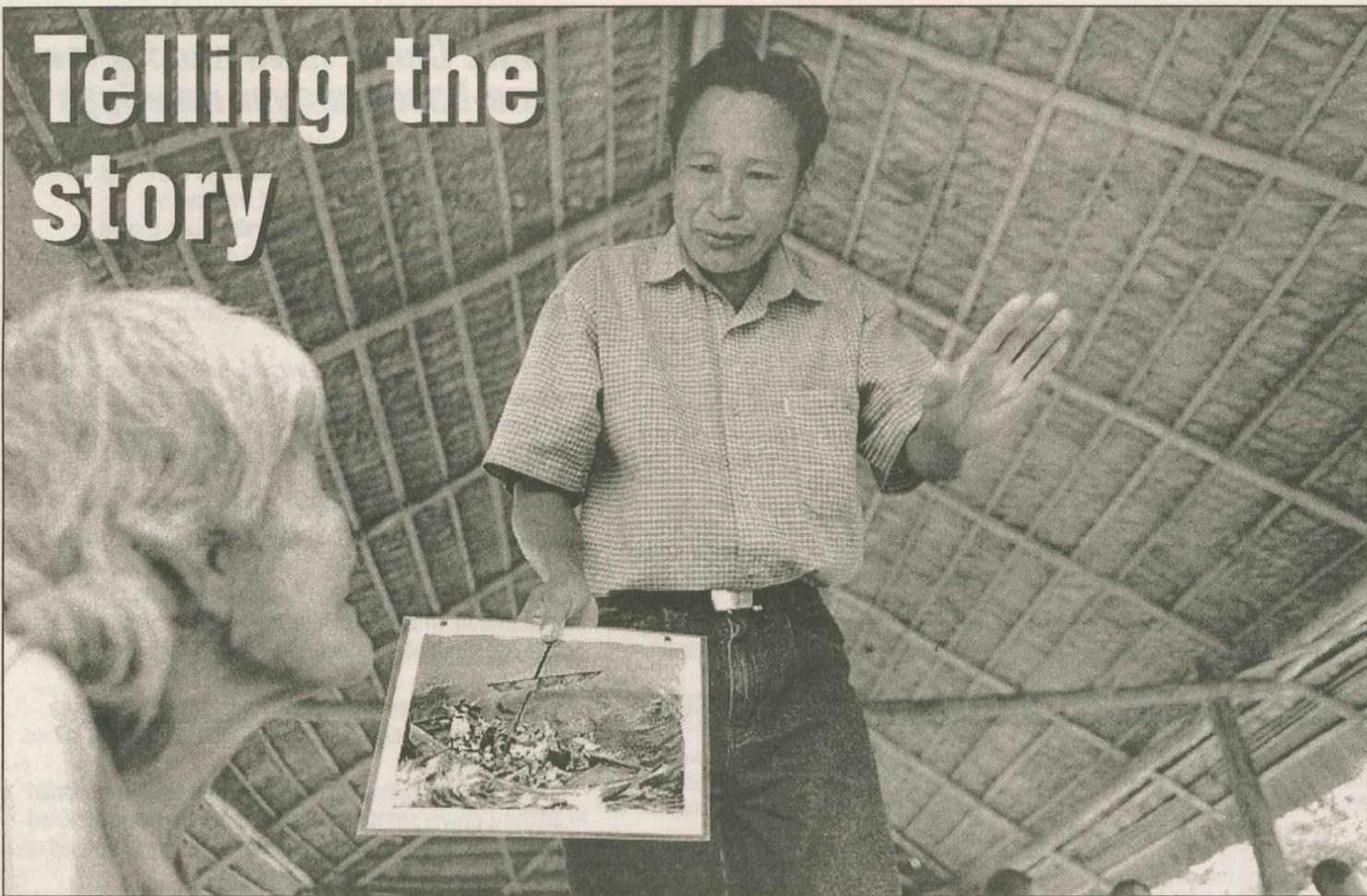
group, were to go toward 55 missionary efforts in Third World countries. The three-alarm fire, which also destroyed property owned by 11 other businesses, caused total damages estimated at more than \$3 million.

■ **NRB acquires permanent facility.** The National Religious Broadcasters is making plans to move into its first permanent headquarters building. Officials of the broadcasting group signed a purchase agreement for a \$1.8 million building in Manassas, Va. They hope renovations of the 18,100-square-foot facility will be completed in time for the staff to move in by early September. Future plans include housing a museum of religious broadcasting, the NRB Hall of Fame and a library at the site.

■ **Protestant Hour names new president.** The Protestant Hour, a 56-year-old ministry run by four mainline Protestant denominations, has a new home and a new president/executive producer. The organization recently hired Peter Wallace as president and moved to the campus of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta. Wallace is an author, former advertising executive and editorial director of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries. The Protestant Hour is a radio and Internet ministry co-sponsored by Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists and Presbyterians.

MISSIONS

Telling the story



MISSIONS STRATEGY
Southern Baptist missionaries are working with local Christians and the "storying" method in an effort to launch longer-lasting churches. ■ **Above:** Alejandro Santos Barbaran, an Asheninka Indian, tells others about his Christian faith through "chronological storying," a technique in which the Bible is broken into succinct stories accompanied by illustrations, this one showing how Jesus commanded a storm to cease. ■ **Above right:** Missionary Pam Ammons (right) examines a sputtering outboard motor at the onset of a seven-hour boat ride from Puerto Bermudez to the remote Asheninka Indian village of Belen. The village is accessible by pontoon plane, but Ammons and her husband, Chris, insist on arriving as the Indians do. (RNS photos by Tyrone Turner)

Missionaries employ methods to make disciples, not just converts

By Mark O'Keefe
Religion News Service

BELEN, Peru (RNS)—It's time for the Sunday church service in Belen, Peru, a remote village of the Amazon. At 6-foot-1, a full head above the native Asheninka Indians, the white man with the scraggly beard can't be missed.

Yet in the context of missionaries' long history of storming the ends of the Earth to convert indigenous people, Chris Ammons' restraint—he's sitting on a corner bench, listening—says more than his presence.

An Asheninka leader, Alejandro Santos Barbaran, tells the story of how Jesus calmed the wind during a storm at sea.

"Tsikama okenakeka pawentaane?" Santos says, echoing in Asheninka (ah-SHIN-uh-kah) the words of Jesus found in Luke 8:25, when He asks His disciples, "Where is your faith?"

The scene represents a quiet revolution in the way many Christian missionaries spread their faith.

A Southern Baptist, Ammons is in the vanguard of a more sensitive approach, one that counters the worst stereotypes of preachers forcing Western values on vulnerable peoples. If it takes hold, the new methodology could reshape the exporting of Christianity, which has more than 118,000 American missionaries in foreign lands.

Ammons' message is still the gospel—a story that has contributed to the change of entire cultures, the rise and fall of empires and, most recently, to the fatal shooting of an American missionary and her baby, mistaken for drug smugglers in the skies of Peru.

But unlike missionaries of the past and of popular culture, Ammons and his wife, Pam, don't make themselves the center of attention. They don't push a Bible that few in this illiterate culture could read. They don't preach sermons on spiritual laws in a pedantic style the Indians would find as puzzling as MTV. And they don't ask for Billy Graham-like altar calls.

"We could go into every Asheninka community and preach something they don't all understand," says Ammons, 44, who has a doctoral degree. "We could ask them to raise their hands if they accept Jesus Christ, and every single hand would go up."

"Then," adds Mrs. Ammons, "we could write down that we have seen 400 confessions of faith on the Apurucayali River. But how many disciples would we have?"

"We will measure by future generations," Ammons says, repeating one of his favorite lines. "Our fruit can be real or imaginary."

Chris Ammons is an evangelical. But Ammons has concluded that in places like this jungle, Jesus shouldn't be portrayed as a fair-skinned messiah. If Christianity is to advance on new turf, people from other cultures must make it their own, building their churches, singing their songs and living their lives in their style—unless that flatly contradicts the Bible.

Ammons also contends that Jesus was a storyteller, romancing His audiences with parables that touched their hearts rather than pounding them with fundamentals aimed at their heads. He calls the technique "storying." It works anywhere, advocates say, but particularly in oral cultures.

Growing up in Carteret, N.J., Ammons' passion was baseball, not mis-

sions. He adored Mickey Mantle from the cheap seats of Yankee Stadium's upper deck, "where you almost need oxygen," and played catcher for Carteret High School.

His father was an electrical contractor, his mother a homemaker who read Bible stories at bedtime. Together, they helped start five Southern Baptist churches in New Jersey and New York, hardly hot spots for the country's largest Protestant denomination, whose members now number 16 million.

"I just thought that's what Christians did, plant churches," Ammons says. "That's the way I was raised."

Then he went to college. At Gardner-Webb University, a Baptist school in Boiling Springs, N.C., two significant things happened: Ammons met and married a vivacious coed from Portsmouth, Va., and took a class in missions.

Mrs. Ammons recalls her young husband coming home for dinner one night and asking, "What do you think about foreign missions?"

"Sure, I'd do it," she replied. And that was that, their life course set.

With her musical ability and outgoing personality teaming with his quiet leadership and determination, they formed a dynamic duo, singing and preaching in Spanish to those who hadn't heard the message. They worked assignments in Spain; in Lima, the Peruvian capital; then Cajamarca, in Peru's high Andes.

But as their own two children left for college, Chris Ammons conducted a midlife review. His sobering conclusion: Despite the blood, sweat and prayers, he and his wife had fallen short.

They had done their jobs as most missionaries had, drawing crowds with fliers, three-points-and-an-example preaching and razzle-dazzle music.

"That approach would usually give us about 250 people at first, enough to start a church," Ammons says. "But in six months, even with us still there, that would dwindle to about 60. When we pulled out, maybe a year later, it might be down to 25."

"So we're ending up with little more than 10 percent of what we started with after a lot of work and time spent with the people. That was demoralizing, but it was pretty much the same story for all missionaries in Peru."

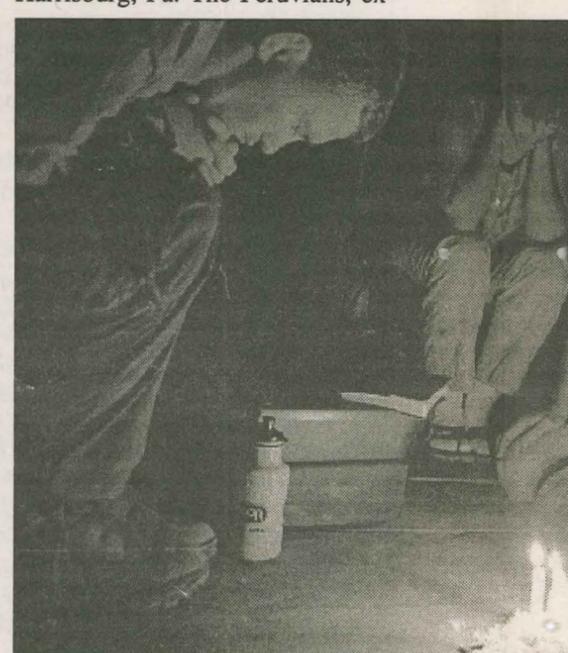
He decided to experiment with a technique first developed by New Tribes Mission of Florida, a non-denominational group whose work is increasingly discussed in missionary circles—telling stories instead of preaching sermons. Then stationed in the Andes, Ammons trained Peruvians making trips to a regional market to take Bible stories and retell them to others in their rural communities.

Not only did the stories go out, the storytellers enthusiastically returned for more.

Excited, Ammons pursued a doctorate in missions at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., to learn all he could about storying. His thesis focused on storytelling possibilities in a place where previous, sporadic missionary attempts had failed—the Amazon region of Peru, home of the geographically remote Asheninka.

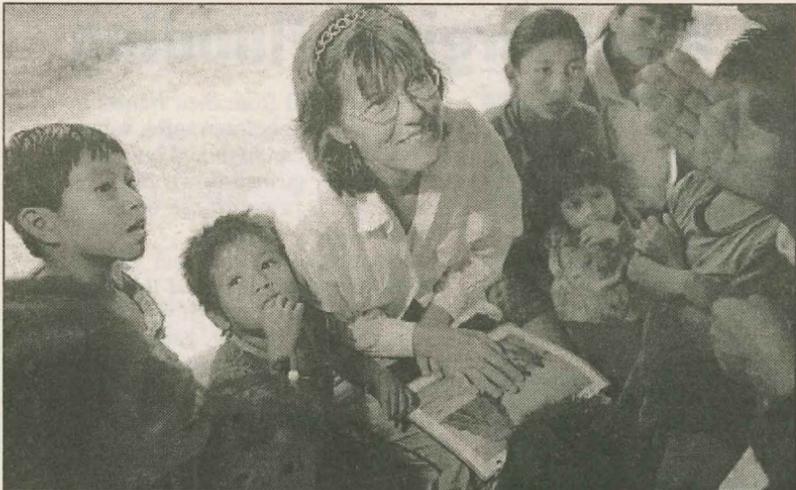
"There's some Asheninka villages we travel two days by boat to get to, whereas in a direct plane line it would be just a few minutes."

On April 20, a Peruvian military jet shot down a similar pontoon plane affiliated with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, based in Harrisburg, Pa. The Peruvians, ex-



PRAYER Volunteer Andy Varner from Valley Baptist Church in prayer after a bedtime Bible study in the Asheninka Indian village.

MISSIONS



pecting drug smugglers, instead found Jim Bowers, a missionary from Michigan, grieving the deaths of Veronica, his 35-year-old wife, and Charity, their 7-month-old daughter.

Ammons didn't know the Bowerses, who worked in another part of the country, but the shooting was a sad reminder of the risks missionaries face, along with terrorist kidnappings, poisonous snake bites and tropical diseases.

Above all, Ammons cites the Great Commission to explain his efforts. According to Matthew 28, the resurrected Jesus' last order was to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

As recently as 1997, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, the world's largest Protestant missionary organization, made maps that put a nation such as Peru in green if even one missionary was in any Peruvian city.

That was before evangelicals scrutinized the word "nations," which is "ethne" in the Bible's original Greek. The IMB decided that Christ's command was to go to every ethnic group, largely determined by language, not just to every nation, defined by political boundary.

That's a far more difficult task. The Southern Baptist database identifies 12,862 ethno-linguistic "people groups" worldwide, of which 2,161 are "unreached," meaning they lack the capacity to grow churches by

themselves. Peru alone has 116 people groups, 64 unreached.

With this, Southern Baptists altered their strategy, focusing on unreached people groups and less on large cities. They also encouraged culturally sensitive approaches—not for political correctness, but for effectiveness.

The journey to Belen begins with a comfortable flight but continues by boat—taking six hours to two days, depending on river conditions and the reliability of motors. Ammons could charter the pontoon plane to land at Belen, where the spectacle would attract a curious crowd. But he insists on arriving as every Asheninka does—by canoe.

The Asheninka—50,000, by Ammons' estimate—had no written language until Bible translators recently created one for them. Their history is sketchy. But they are said to predate the most famous of Peruvian civilizations, the Incas, who ruled much of South America in the 16th century.

Catholic missionaries tried to evangelize the Asheninka centuries ago, but several were killed in the attempt. Protestant missionaries made another try beginning in the 1900s, using Spanish, by then the Indians' trade language. Little stuck.

Without fanfare, Ammons docks at Belen. Asheninka children scurry to the shore.

Ammons greets them in their Apurucayali dialect: "Kitaitirivi, ajininka, ari nopoki." Roughly translated, it means, "Hello, my people, we've arrived."

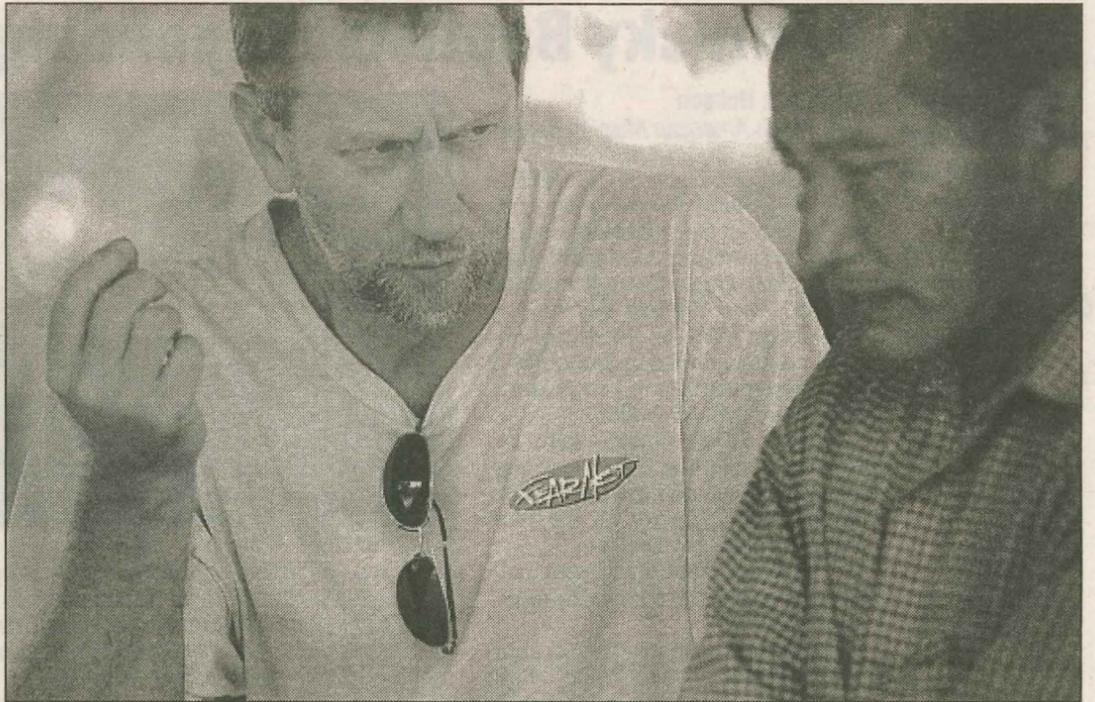
He has been here nearly a dozen times already. His team for this trip includes his wife; a Pentecostal pastor and his son from Puerto Bermudez, a town upriver; and two short-term volunteers from Ammons' partner church, Valley Baptist in Bakersfield, Calif.

They make their way up a steep riverbank and plop their gear in huts built by the Asheninka for such visits. There are no Cokes, no electricity, no plumbing and no roads.

The church catches Ammons' eye. Like nearly all the village structures, it has a thatched roof and a wooden floor several feet above the ground, for protection from snakes and other animals. There are few walls. The Asheninka are so communal they want no barriers dividing them.

Tomorrow is Sunday, a day for worship, for new beginnings.

Morning arrives in a pounding rain that raises the river several feet. When the downpour slows, around 11 a.m., barefooted villagers begin sloshing through muddy paths to the church.



Alejandro Santos Barbaran, 42, arrives from Davis, his home village. It took him an hour and a half to get here by dugout canoe; returning will take three hours against the current. Like most Asheninka men, Santos makes no wages. He provides for his family by hunting with bow and arrow, fishing with a spear and growing the yucca plant that provides 90 percent of the Asheninka diet.

"Belen" means "Bethlehem" in Spanish. If this village is to be the birthplace of Asheninka Christianity, it will happen through this man.

Santos describes his conversion this way: While visiting Puerto Bermudez in a drunken stupor some 15 years ago, he heard music coming from a building. Thinking it was a bar, he stepped in. It was a church.

Brigido Ramirez, the Pentecostal pastor, persuaded Santos to become a Christian. Santos says he eventually quit drinking, but struggled in the faith until three years ago he received a vision: There was a dried, fruitless tree. God watered it, and it bore tangerines.

Santos says the tree represents the Asheninka, the fruit the new life God wants to give them.

Ammons met Santos a few months later. Previous missionaries might have sent a potential leader to seminary to learn theology and Western ways. If he returned in a few years—many would not—he would have changed so much, the villagers would barely recognize him, much less understand his teachings.

Ammons takes a different approach. No seminary, just storytelling. If there's anything the Asheninka can do, it's pass on a story. To Ammons, to the Southern Baptists, their spiritual future depends on it.

With Santos traveling to this and five other villages, and others making storytelling trips elsewhere, Ammons' projections show the gospel spreading slowly at first, then exponentially. It's the same mathematical formula used by multilevel marketing companies.

Only 1 percent of the Asheninka are Christians, Ammons says. But he sees these 500 or so mushrooming to 10,000 before his team pulls out in three years. That should be enough to consider this people group not only "reached," but self-sufficient.

With the help of the main linguist who wrote the Asheninka language, Ammons has finished 53 stories to be presented in chronological order, beginning with Adam and Eve. They are enhanced by 105 illustrations—of a brown-skinned Moses, Jesus and other Bible characters.

The Sunday service begins with songs. It climaxes not with the usual Baptist sermon, but with Santos' story of Jesus calming the storm.

Women nursing babies suddenly look up. Men transfixed on Santos, even as his wife, Irma, sitting on the floor, loudly elaborates during pauses and even while her husband speaks.

Cladis Shareba, 24, holding her 2-year-old daughter, Merta, turns to Mrs. Ammons and says, "Now we know it's God!"

Like many animistic cultures, the Asheninka explain natural phenomena with tales of spirits. Shareba whispers that they thought strong gusts meant the owner of the wind was angry. In fearful response, they would have planted the wooden handle of a hatchet in the ground, the stone edge of the blade facing the wind as if to cut it. They might have shot arrows at the wind or burned a turtle shell so the pungent smoke would send the spirit away.

Now, Shareba says, they know God controls the wind. They will ask Jesus to stop it.

The response illustrates an Ammons maxim: "The only way to replace a story is with another story."

It also shows what Santos says he now knows of his people: "The stories, combined with the pictures, this is how the Asheninka understand."

When this story ends and the gathering quiets, the missionary stands for the first time. He asks a series of questions.

"Who is more powerful, the storm or Jesus?"

"Jesus," they all shout.

"Yes, Jesus," Ammons says. "Was Jesus scared?"

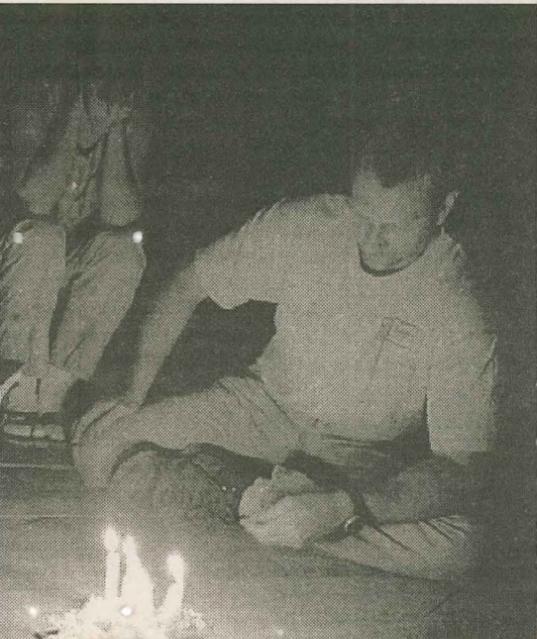
"No," comes the response.

"Why?" Ammons asks.

"Because," answers a villager in Asheninka, "it was He who made the wind anyway."

As if for added effect, the morning storm has completely ended, and the sun begins to appear.

THE AMMONS Chris and Pam Ammons said they tried more traditional church planting work but found that their efforts didn't result in strong churches. ■ Above: In the past, some missionaries made themselves the center of attention while communicating the gospel in foreign lands. But Chris Ammons (left) has taken a different approach, training Asheninka Indian Alejandro Santos Barbaran (right) to become a spiritual teacher and leader. ■ Above left: Pam Ammons radiates enthusiasm about the response she sees when Asheninka Indians tell and retell Bible stories through simple words and pictures.



Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., (left) joins the Ammons Asheninka Indian village of Belen.

Kentucky Baptists responding to West Virginia flooding

"Some of the towns are just completely wiped out."

Leon White, West Virginia Baptist Convention disaster relief director

By James Dobson
SBC North American Mission Board

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (BP)—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers are among the volunteers from six states responding to deadly flash floods that swept through much of southern West Virginia July 8.

Damage from the floods that ravaged mountain hollows and killed at least three people have been estimated at more than \$20 million.

About 1,000 homes were destroyed, and another 2,000 were badly damaged, according to Leon White, disaster relief director for the West Virginia Baptist Convention.

The floods came after seven inches of rain fell in three hours the morning of July 8.

"Some of the towns are just completely wiped out," said White. "It just came through the center of town. In Mullens (where Kentucky volunteers are based), every business in town was destroyed."

White said the area impacted is former coal-mining country where most of the homes and businesses are located in river valleys—largely because that is the only property flat enough to build on. Consequently, most of the property was in a flood zone and was not covered by insurance.

Gov. Bob Wise announced July 10 that President George W. Bush had declared eight West Virginia counties federal disaster areas.

Once calm, barely four-inch-deep



FLOOD DAMAGE A crumpled mobile home sits in the corner of a river bed beside a bridge and road in West Virginia after flash flooding caused extensive damage. Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are expected to remain at least three weeks, providing meals and helping with cleanup. Volunteers from six states have been called in, as President George W. Bush has declared eight counties to be federal disaster areas. (Photo courtesy of West Virginia Baptist Convention)

streams that flowed through people's property transformed into explosive 10-foot walls of water that devastated everything in their paths.

Several of the same towns were struggling to recover from serious flooding that hit the area hard twice in the past two months.

Witnessing so much devastation in such a relatively short period of time has been an emotional beating to many residents. "I have never seen the look on people's faces like I have seen in this—the stress, the anguish, the disbelief," Wise said.

Kentucky Baptists, working with the American Red Cross, helped put

smiles back on some of those faces as they prepared hot meals and grabbed shovels and brooms for the massive clean-up efforts. Describing their ministry, Larry Koch of the Kentucky Baptist Convention said, "Paul said in Galatians, 'Bear ye one another's burdens.' So that's what we're here to try to do. Jesus said, 'Do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.' That's what we're here doing. If we were in this situation, we would want people to help us."

Disaster relief teams from the Florida Baptist Convention are due to arrive this week.

Hundreds of families are reported

to have escaped from their homes in the nick of time before raging water, reportedly 10 feet high and hundreds of feet wide, gushed down hillsides toward them, prying loose boulders the size of pick-up trucks.

One thousand National Guard troops have been activated throughout West Virginia to assist with clean up and prevent looting. Engineering troops brought in front-loaders, bulldozers and dump trucks to clear what used to be homes and businesses off of what used to be roads and highways. More than 40 roads are closed, and bridges are gone throughout the area.

The town of Mullens is so devastated that some of its 2,000 residents have questions whether it's possible to rebuild.

Residents in at least one town, Oceana, do not qualify for Federal Emergency Management Association financial assistance because in 1983 city officials decided not to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

"The people here need help," State Farm Insurance Agent Butch McNeely said. "You couldn't have had a bomb go off and do more than what's happened here."

The threat of tetanus and typhoid is another concern. The tetanus serum is in short supply in several towns, and many doctors offices and other medical facilities were wiped out or damaged.

With additional reporting by Debbie Moore for Baptist Press

Kentucky disaster relief workers busy this summer

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

MULLENS, W.Va.—It's been a busy summer for Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers.

Their recent deployment to West Virginia is their fifth project in 2001, according to organizers, who say their work has resulted in more interest in disaster relief work.

The latest call for help came from West Virginia for trained disaster relief feeding and mud-out volunteers. As of the morning of July 13, 28 volunteers already were on the scene, serving a total of 1,090 meals and completing one clean-up job. Many more clean-up jobs are expected, and volunteers anticipate serving between 1,000-2,000 meals per day for some time.

Volunteer efforts are expected to continue for at least three weeks due to the destruction caused by the flash flooding, according to Larry Koch, disaster relief director for Kentucky Brotherhood. More volunteers will be needed.

The event has been upgraded to a class five disaster, the most serious level, Koch said.

"The devastation caused by these flash floods is overwhelming," said Koch. "One family with four children under 8 is living in a tent beside the creek that took their home completely away. If this had happened in the middle of the night, there would have been mass casualties."

Kentucky disaster relief workers' first response was to help victims of spring flooding in Massachusetts. Things heated up quickly this summer, with volunteers called to respond to the tornado that struck London, Ky., in June. Soon after, more than 50 Kentucky Baptist disaster

relief volunteers helped remove debris and fallen trees in the wake of heavy storms that swept through the Somerset area on July 4. Volunteers had barely finished work in Somerset before they were called to West Virginia.

"This is the fourth (trip) for a lot of our volunteers. We're spread kind of thin in a lot of ways, but God will provide. The Scripture tells us that God will supply all of our needs," Koch said.

The good news for disaster relief volunteers is that despite the challenge of responding to so many calls, each call gives them more opportunities to have a lasting impact on the communities they touch. The volunteers not only have an immediate impact by helping victims through the emotional and physical devastation of natural disasters, they also usually inspire others to become disaster relief volunteers.

After the June tornado in London, many people there have expressed an interest in becoming disaster relief volunteers and a training is being scheduled, Koch said.

In addition to four domestic disasters, disaster relief volunteers also traveled to El Salvador between April and June after an earthquake.

Also, volunteers have been involved with summer camps and other missions work around the state. Feeding units are providing meals for campers at Cedarmore in Bagdad all summer, and they also have provided meals for Kentucky Changers projects in Hopkinsville and Frankfort.

For more information on disaster relief, call the KBC Brotherhood department at (502) 244-6489 or toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5720. Disaster relief information also is available on the Web site, www.kybaptist.org.

Giving baseball cards

Fifty years ago, the Topps Co. introduced its first set of baseball cards. There was no way this little chewing gum company in Brooklyn, N.Y. could have predicted the sale of billions of cards.

The mind-boggling numbers are really secondary to the fact its baseball cards have become what USA Today called an icon of popular culture of the second half of the 20th century as well as the victim of mom's spring-cleaning for generations of young Americans. Topps entered the sports card business to sell Bazooka bubble gum. The company eliminated the gum 40 years later because collectors complained it was staining the cardboard. We baby boomers used them in the spokes of our motorcycle in the 1950s and '60s. Now appraisers seal them in plastic cases that document their condition, and collectors acquire and divest them as in a portfolio.

According to USA Today, the 1952 set in near-mint condition is worth up to \$65,000. The Beckett price guide lists at \$18,000 the original Mickey Mantle card in near-mint condition, non-graded. A professionally graded mint version has sold at auction for \$121,000.

Today, buying and trading is driven by autographs/memorabilia and rookie cards. The next step is owning cards you will never touch. That innovation is e-Topps in which the collector buys and sells on the Internet without taking physical possession of the cards.

From time to time, we have inquiries about the rules related to donating

sports cards to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. There are some Kentucky Baptists who have quite large and valuable collections. Sports cards are classified by the Internal Revenue Service as "tangible personal property," the same as art objects. When donating tangible personal property the big issue for those gifts is whether their use is related or unrelated to the organization's ex-

empt purpose. Related use gifts are deductible at full fair market value when the donor's holding period is more than one year. For unrelated use gifts, the deduction is limited to the item's cost basis. For more information about donating sports cards or other personal property, call Laurie Valentine toll-free.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

BOOKS

Will marketing cost Narnia its Christian character?

By Jacqueline Conciatore
Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—As they aim to capture the lucrative Harry Potter market with a re-release of "The Chronicles of Narnia," publishing house HarperCollins and the C.S. Lewis estate appear intent on a marketing strategy that separates author Lewis from his Christian identity and beliefs.

A memo leaked to the media revealed HarperCollins is making a concerted effort in marketing to downplay the Narnia series' Christian themes.

But HarperCollins has flatly denied news reports that it will rewrite the Narnia books.

"There are no such plans," said Amy Johnson of the publisher's corporate relations department. In a written statement, HarperCollins said its goal and that of the Lewis estate "is to publish the works of C.S. Lewis to the broadest possible audience, and to leave any interpretation of the works to the reader. The works of C.S. Lewis will continue to be published by HarperCollins and

Zondervan as written by the author, with no alteration."

Zondervan is the company's Christian publishing arm.

The much-beloved "Chronicles" is a series of seven books, including "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," one of the major works in children's literature. A central figure in the stories is Aslan, lion and ruler of the wood. Aslan sacrifices his life for a boy who had earlier betrayed his brothers and sisters. He is reborn and saves Narnia from permanent winter and the tyranny of the White Witch.

Confusion over HarperCollins' marketing plan, and headlines that said the publisher was evicting God from Narnia fueled a spate of news stories, commentary and online posts from aghast Lewis fans.

Roman Catholic author Andrew Greeley wrote a Chicago Sun-Times opinion piece deriding plans to "purge the Christianity" from the books.

The reporting "has caused a lot of dismay," said Carol Dean Hatcher, an independent television producer making a film about Lewis. That anyone would rewrite the original books is a "ridiculous" notion, she said.

Hatcher is no defender of HarperCollins or the Lewis estate, however. Zondervan reneged on its agreement to contribute \$150,000 to her public TV documentary, she said, because her script treated the Chronicles as

Christian allegory.

"HarperCollins thought they could dictate what the script said and what scholars had to say about Lewis," Hatcher said.

Hatcher is a graphic artist who has never made a documentary. Her deal with Zondervan also included plans for an illustrated companion book. Things were proceeding, she says, until HarperCollins forged a multimillion dollar agreement with the C.S. Lewis Company making it the primary English-language publisher of C.S. Lewis.

"That is when the estate stepped forward and said, 'We don't like this,'" she said.

According to the New York Times, HarperCollins' priorities were revealed in an executive's memo about Hatcher's script: "Obviously this is the biggie as far as the estate and our publishing interests are concerned. ... We'll need to be able to give emphatic assurances that no attempt will be made (in the film) to correlate the (Narnia) stories to Christian imagery/theology."

Hatcher said Zondervan told her during a February meeting that Simon Adley, managing director of the C.S. Lewis Company, was "negative" regarding her project. Without his approval, Zondervan wouldn't proceed. Still, she said, she was surprised when a few weeks later she received the memo asking her to turn over the eventual final script for approval.

"I didn't understand from the meeting that Zondervan was going to go

along with the whole idea of marketing Lewis as a great thinker, not a Christian," she said.

Adley told the New York Times there was no plan to secularize Lewis and noted that HarperCollins had increased sales of Lewis' "Mere Christianity."

"It's fatuous to suggest that we're trying to take the Christian out of C.S. Lewis," he said. "We wouldn't have made the effort that we have with 'Mere Christianity' if we felt that way. It's just crazy."

The leaked memo also stated HarperCollins wanted the Narnia books to "come across as one of the great creations of fantasy literature, with roots in general myth and folklore," according to the evangelical World magazine.

Though HarperCollins will not elaborate on its marketing strategy, its Narnia.com site offers one illustration: A brief section about Lewis and how he came to write the Narnia books only glancingly mentions the author's Christian concerns.

Plans for the Narnia campaign include licensing of plush Narnia toys and new Narnia books. This latter idea has provoked criticism from fans who believe any new effort will fall short of Lewis' standard.

"As long as the stories have merit they'll continue to sell, but there's no one like C.S. Lewis. His stories were imbued with his beliefs. ... I don't know anyone who could take the same path," said Steve Moyer, co-owner of Chapters Bookstore in Washington, D.C.



TEN COMMANDMENTS

<http://tencommandments.faithweb.com>
Low wholesale prices on Ten Commandment yard signs and T-shirts for Vacation Bible School (888) 601-2345 for rush orders

Missions in Texas

During our spring break, nine Cumberland College students headed to Arlington, Texas, to minister. Matt Howe led a team of his fellow students including Alicia Daniels, Emily Kress, Zachary Lynch, Tiffany McCoy, Kelly Noel, David Shotwell, Brook Tillett and Angela Turner.

The team worked with Mission Arlington, a mission effort founded 15 years ago by Tillie Burgin. The mission team had the opportunity to meet and work with Burgin while in Arlington.

Burgin initially established a prayer ministry to pray for her city and seek ways to reach the city for Christ. The prayer ministry spread across Arlington. As she and others prayed, they discovered that many people refused to go to a church due to invisible barriers the church did not even know existed. So they decided to take the church to the people.

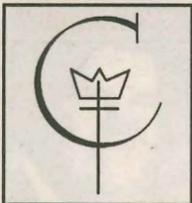
Mission Arlington began worship services in apartment buildings, trailer parks and anywhere people met. They began to minister to those who were hungry, those who needed clothing or transportation and those struggling with language barriers.

Cumberland College's mission

team worked with children through a program called Rainbow Express. In the mornings they led the program in an apartment complex, and in the afternoons they led the program in a trailer park.

None on the team spoke Spanish, which initially posed a problem. But two of the older children

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



became the team's translators. The team felt good about being able to sow seeds for Christ among the children with whom they worked. They even had the opportunity to participate in the harvest when two boys accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

Mission Arlington bathes everything it does in constant prayer. Students on the mission team experienced the power of prayer and adopted the prayer habits of their hosts. They returned to us with a renewed enthusiasm for missions and serving Christ.

We thank them for their commitment to reaching others with the gospel message.

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

Feeling Overwhelmed?



Cornerstone can help!

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Cornerstone Counseling program offers affordable, professional Christian counseling across Kentucky. All counselors have a master's degree or higher and financial assistance is available.

Cornerstone Counseling offices are located in Ashland, Berea, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Corbin, Covington, Frankfort, Harlan, Harold, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, LaGrange, London, Louisa, Madisonville, New Castle, Owensboro, Paducah, Pineville, Somerset and Stanford.

Find out more!

Call 1-800-981-7493

RESOURCES

Author: Churches must adapt to new culture or face extinction

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (ABP)—Churches must adapt to a culture no longer built on Christianity or die, an Episcopalian bishop and author told a recent gathering of American Baptists.

Instead of limiting itself to the vision of past heritage, the Christian church "needs to be focused on the present and what lies before us," said Claude Payne, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

Payne, author of "Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Practical Model for Transforming Denominations and Congregations," said he wants to help restore the missionary power of first-century Christianity to denominations and congregations in the 21st century.

Speaking at a meeting of American Baptist Convention National Ministries, Payne described confronting what he describes as the death of the culture of the institutional church. "In my own denomination, the church was sick, and we didn't realize it."

Payne said the Christian faith is not dying, nor is the power of the Holy Spirit. "What is dying is cultural Christianity," he said. "The Christian faith no longer undergirds contemporary society. In fact, society is increasingly hostile to us."

Payne said the Episcopal Church in Texas has found success in refocusing its efforts on serving the local congregation. New terminology describes the Episcopal Church as "a community of miraculous expectations" and congregations as "missionary outposts."

The new design proposes unity with "spiritual" rather than "institutional" roots, he said.

Payne warned American Baptists of a roadblock his faith group encountered about three years into its new effort. "In order for growth to occur you first must get well," he said. "This is extremely difficult to do when your people don't know your entire culture is dying."



Church Growth Team
10701 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40253-0433

Super SATURDAY 2001

August 11
Louisville, Highview Baptist Church

August 18
Lexington, Immanuel Baptist Church

August 25
Corbin, Central Baptist Church
Owensboro, First Baptist Church

September 8
Ashland, Unity Baptist Church
Paducah, First Baptist Church

Church Leadership Conference

- ▶ Church Growth
- ▶ Church Music
- ▶ Discipleship Training
- ▶ Family Ministry
- ▶ Media
- ▶ Stewardship
- ▶ Sunday School
- ▶ WMU
- ▶ Young Adults

1-502-254-4780 or 1-888-254-5710 Email: cheryl.davis@kybaptist.org
Please visit our website at www.kybaptist.org

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERNRECORDER

+ Your Church Newsletter

Two great publications, one less post office headache. Call us.

Just wanted to say 'Thank you'

It was indeed a pleasant surprise Friday after school, when one of my senior boys walked into my office. Tim (not his real name) said he wanted to thank me for "being allowed to attend Oneida." He said he has had a "complete change" in his attitude about life.

Tim came to us in March. He is from Kentucky and had been having a difficult time at home. Tim did not have a history of problems, but was experiencing real emotional problems over the divorce of his parents.

While divorce is common in our society today, I hope we never think that children accept it as common. For most young people, seeing their parents divorce and go their separate ways is still a very traumatic situation. Even though Tim was a junior in high school, his parents' separating was a very emotional experience.

From elementary to middle school and then into high school, Tim had struggled academically. Prior to coming to Oneida in March, his high school report card showed a total of 23 F's and 13 D's.

Tim did not waste any time. His fourth quarter grades here show one A, two B's and three C's—just making the honor roll. His summer school grade was a high B average.

For varying reasons, before coming to Oneida Tim had not been able to focus on schoolwork. Because he wants to go to college, Tim is working to keep up his grades.

Tim said he also appreciates the many opportunities he has to be involved here. He is an avid baseball player and also likes basketball. He is on the yearbook staff and is enjoying his journalism class. He stated that this was the busiest year he

could ever remember, and he was having a hard time getting everything into his schedule. Historically, the young people who are the happiest and most successful at Oneida are those with hectic schedules.

There are many reasons I could give for Tim's turn-around. We have always felt that the structure and discipline we provide is a great asset to all of our young people. Some see the discipline as a threat while others appreciate having well-defined guidelines. Having an established bedtime, daily chores, required evening study hall and finding out that "no" means "no" is what many young people need.

While many Christian schools have a policy of not accepting students who are not Christians, that has never been part of our admissions policy. Tim is a good example of why we do not have such a policy. Tim had been here for barely a month when he accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. What a thrill it was to see him baptized with 40 other students.

Tim stated that he was experiencing a wonderful relationship with Christ. Knowing how God was working in his life was gratifying. He does not know what is in store, but has a real peace about it, knowing God will direct.

Normally when someone comes into my office after school it is about a complaint or problem. Thanks, Tim, for making my day! Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for helping us share Christ with Tim and more than 500 other students.

Reprinted from WR, Sept. 12, 1995

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

Music minister reached by Sunday school

The evangelistic emphasis of Sunday school helped change Martin Spicer's life.

As a child, the Texas native enjoyed occasional weekend visits with his grandmother in Oklahoma. She always took him to Sunday school and church. "On a visit at age 12 I was saved when the teacher led us in the sinner's prayer," Martin recalled. "Unfortunately, I did not follow up on that commitment until I was married and had a child. We lived in Gainesville, Texas, and a Sunday school class came to our home and got us involved."

Martin worked in the printing business for 33 years. Twenty of those years he was bivocational music minister at Woodbine Baptist Church in Gainesville.

His responsibilities also included coordinating Sunday school.

"God was calling me to full-time ministry, and I needed additional preparation. We checked the Internet for Texas schools, and Clear Creek came up," Martin said. "I sent for information and when I realized this was a Kentucky school I tossed the packet aside. The school followed up and sent us a video. We decided to watch it, and the Lord changed our direction.

"I appreciate the Bible courses because music ministry needs to be Bible-based," he added. "Participation in Clear Creek Singers has strengthened my music reading skills. I also take piano." In May, Martin completed the third semester on the music emphasis track.

In July 2000, Martin was called as minister of music at First Baptist Church of Loyall.

"The people are great and open to different music styles. Attendance has increased in Sunday school and worship," he said. They moved to Loyall in June.

His wife, Beverly, worked in the campus library the past year and recently became secretary for the Robinson Scholars program at Southeast Community College. They have a son and five grandchildren in

Texas.

A member of the Woodbine Church wrote, "Martin is very devout in his Christian walk. We would love to have him back when he is finished at Clear Creek."

Wherever Martin goes, this is one music minister who will strongly encourage Sunday school outreach.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

PEOPLE

In the Bluegrass, it's not just a prayer

By Sharon Thompson
Lexington Herald-Leader

JABEZ—"The Prayer of Jabez" hit the New York Times best-seller list, and almost immediately a little-known Bible character brought attention to an obscure community in southeastern Kentucky.

All across the country, people are quoting the prayer that author Bruce Wilkinson says "contains the key to a life of extraordinary favor with God." Jabez, the community, is becoming a destination for those wanting to pray that prayer.

In Hebrew, the word Jabez means "pain," but the town was named Jabez because the word was thought to mean "paradise."

"I was always told my grandmother's grandpa opened the post office in July 1881, and he named it," local historian Galen Jasper said. "A drummer was there when (John Johnson) got the job of being the first postmaster, and the drummer said to name it Jabez because it was in the Bible and it meant paradise."

No one thought differently until Wilkinson's book pointed out that Jabez means pain.

Rita Smart of Richmond, Madison County extension agent for family and consumer sciences, agrees with both meanings of Jabez.

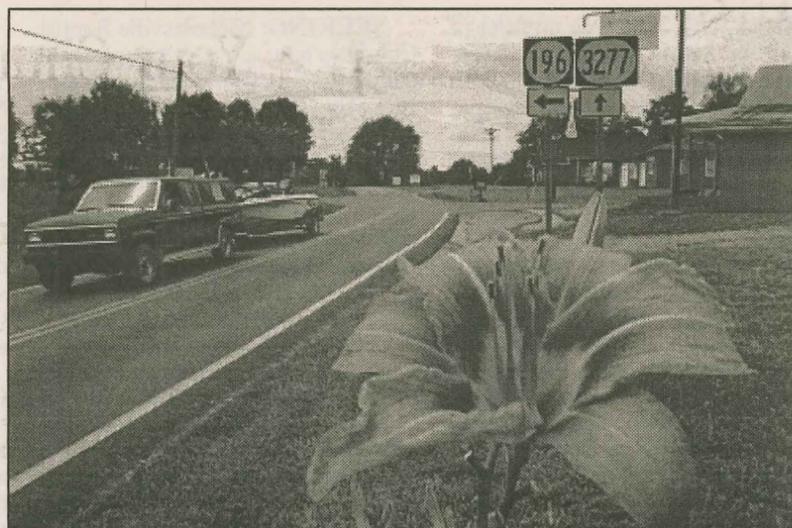
She goes to Jabez for programs at the Kentucky Leadership Center, a residential conference center operated by the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Smart said Jabez is "a pain" to get to, but it's almost paradise when you arrive.

The retreat is about 6 miles from the heart of Jabez. It is open to groups, but not individuals. "We've had some church groups come in and study 'The Prayer of Jabez,'" said Sherlene Gadberry, assistant to the center's director.

There's been more interest in the place since the book became popular, Gadberry said.

The center is in Wayne County, but because there's no other community nearby and it's cut off from the rest of the county by Lake Cumberland, its address has informally become Jabez.

Since Jabez was the last post office in the area to close, in Decem-



ber 1983, the name has stuck. It covers an area from the Pulaski County line down to the lake. "There's only one way in and one way out," Jasper said.

Cindy Rachelle Jasper Lackey of Lexington was the first to bring Wilkinson's book to the attention of Jabez residents. Lackey, who grew up in Jabez, spotted an advertisement for the book in a sales flier from Family Christian Stores. "I saw it right before Christmas, and we bought about five of the books and gave them to my parents and sister as Christmas presents," she said. Lackey's mother, Sue Jasper, took a copy of the book to the Kentucky Leadership Center.

Several books have been given to staff members, and many of the people at the church Gadberry attends, Smith Grove United Baptist in Pulaski County, have the book.

The prayer is a simple one: "And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, 'Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.' So God granted him what he requested." 1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV).

Wilkinson, founder and president of Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, has prayed the Jabez prayer for more than 30 years. He challenges readers to pray the Jabez prayer every morning and keep a record of the changes that occur.

The power, he emphasizes, is not in the prayer itself, but "rather, the power is in what you believe will happen as a result of the prayer, and the action you take."

The book has made an impact on people across the country—it's been No. 1 on the New York Times' ad-

vice list for 14 weeks and has sold more than 6 million copies—but not on the community of Jabez. To most residents, Jabez is just the name of the place where they live. Nothing has changed in the past several years except the building of the leadership center and 4-H camp at the end of Jabez's only main road, Ky. 196. About 1,000 people live in the area, Jasper said.

Jabez is best known to fishermen and boaters as a place to buy bait and gasoline. The only way to tell you're in Jabez is the sign on the G&H Grocery and Deli. The official road sign disappeared long ago. It used to be in Tarah Gaines' grandmother's front yard.

Ten-year-old Tarah has lived in Jabez since she was an infant, and she is eager to talk about her town. Living in Jabez is "really fun. Something that's not so much fun are no sidewalks to roller skate," she said.

Tarah spends several hours a day in the summer at the G&H market, where her mother, Janna, works. She knows her neighbors, and she knows the tourists who spend summers in Jabez.

Joe Scheid of Cincinnati is building a weekend home on the lake. "It's a great place to get away from the city," he said. His cottage is just a few miles from the Jabez market.

People who have lived in Jabez are drawn to return. Twenty-year-old Eric Stephens said, "If you've ever lived in Jabez, the name sticks with you."

Growing up in Jabez was a wonderful experience for Lackey, she said. "My sister and I grew up in an ideal situation. My grandmother ran the post office, and we knew everybody and they knew us. We had so much fun living right there."

(© This story originally appeared in the Lexington Herald-Leader. It is reprinted with permission.)

DESTINATION Lake Cumberland nearly surrounds the community of Jabez, according to local historian Galen Jasper.

"There's only one way in and one way out," he said. That's Ky. 196. ■ Above: A man walks outside the G&H Grocery and Deli in Jabez. The town is known as a place to buy fishing bait and gas. The G&H's sign is the only one that tells you you're in Jabez. ■ Left: A truck pulls a boat through the community. About 1,000 people live in the area. (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Pablo Alcalá)

If you want to go

To get to Jabez, start in Somerset at U.S. Highway 27 South. Turn right (west) on the Ky. 80 bypass and right (west) on Ky. 80; follow signs to Nancy. Turn left on Ky. 196 to Faubush and follow Ky. 196 to Jabez, about 12 miles.

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:

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

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

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

■ Missionaries in language school in Tanzania.

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

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

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host "C.U. Crew," a summer creative ministry team from Campbellsville University, July 22, 7 p.m. Also, the church will host **Billy Gregory** in concert July 29, 6 p.m. For information, call (606) 789-2707. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CLERMONT**—Vine Hill Church will host **David Livingston** in concert July 22, 11 a.m. **Greg Crenshaw** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Central Avenue Church will dedicate its new sanctuary Aug. 5, 2 p.m. Former pastor **Bill Bailey** will be the guest speaker. **Bob Hamilton** is pastor.

Valley Creek Church will host the Journeymen in concert July 29, 7 p.m. For information, call (270) 737-9282. **Steve Hill** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Karen Elizabeth Lee** received the master of arts in intercultural studies degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church women's ministries will host **Kathy Troccoli** in concert Oct. 25,

7 p.m. For information call Cinda King at (502) 896-8882.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Sharon Church called **Ed Burge** as music director. **Tony Steele** is pastor.

■ **NORTONVILLE**—Nortonville Church will host homecoming Aug. 19. Former pastor **Duncan Smith** will be the guest speaker. **Lynn Smith** will follow the morning worship. For information, call (270) 676-3243. **Bobby Reno** is pastor.

■ **PETERSBURG**—Petersburg Church called **Jim Whaley** as minister of music July 8. Whaley previously was associate pastor and minister of music at West Covington Church.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church called **Art Rogers** as minister of youth and children/associate pastor. Rogers, who currently serves in North Carolina, previously was on staff of the Russellville church. **Randall Neal** is pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—**Ashley Mofield**, children/youth minister at Westport Church, has resigned to accept a youth ministry position at First Church, White House, Tenn. **Lynn Traylor** is pastor.

NAMB appoints 5 Kentuckians for service

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—Five missionaries with ties to Kentucky were appointed recently by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

John and Lori Bailey serve as missionaries in Hamilton, Ohio, where Bailey was named associational missionary for Southwestern Baptist Association.

Bailey has been pastor since 1992 at Monterey Baptist Church in Owenton, and he previously served as youth pastor of churches in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Mrs. Bailey, a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and the University of Louisville, has led such church activities as children's choir, children's church and youth ministry.

Timothy and Linda Bender serve as church planting missionaries in Louisville, where Bender is deaf ministry consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Bender, in addition to being pastor of Louisville Baptist Deaf Church, has served as a KBC consultant since 1998. Previously he served as director of church planting for Deaf Opportunity Outreach in Louisville.



Baileys



Benders

Mrs. Bender, a Minnesota native, is a graduate of Riverside Community College in Riverside, Calif. She has been active in churches as a Sunday school teacher and song leader.



Cruse

Penny Cruse serves as a student evangelism missionary in Lexington, where she is a regional collegiate evangelism coordinator.

Cruse has been a Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism consultant since October. She previously served as an area director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a revival and conference speaker.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Experienced pastor seeking interim position. Excellent references. Available after July 15, 2001. (859) 238-9398; e-mail: mickeyf@eaglecarriers.com.

FOY 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: Allen organ, model T-622, with speakers, wiring harness and owners manual. Excellent condition. \$3,700. Call Tog at Valley View Church, (502) 935-5142.

NEEDED: Bibles to give away at crusades and rallies. Please help me bless other people by giving away God's Word to people who need it. Evangelist Jerry Shepherd, (502) 543-5260.

NEEDED: High school history teacher. Certification required. Christian school. Call: (606) 272-1217 or (606) 273-8658 for interview.

SEEKING: Minister of education/youth for growing church. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 206, Bells, TN 38006.

SEEKING: First Baptist, London, is accepting resúmes for a minister of youth and recreation. Please send to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 804 West Fifth St., London, KY 40741, or fax to (606) 864-4195.

SEEKING: Teachers for parents' day out, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact Debbie Gorbant at (502) 239-0316.

SEEKING: Red House Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky., is seeking a full-time senior pastor to lead a growing congregation averaging 350. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Team, Red House Baptist Church, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Southern Baptist church, willing to work with preschool, children and adult choirs, lead congregation on Sunday mornings and evenings. Seasonal cantatas. Send resumé to: Greenwood Baptist Church, 5165 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104.

SEEKING: Mercer Association of Kentucky Baptists is prayerfully seeking a director of missions. The position will be part-time or a partnership with another association. Please send resumé to: Mercer Association DOM Search Committee, c/o Rev. Kirk Greenfield, 2471 New Dixville Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330. For more information, contact Bro. Greenfield at (859) 734-5700.

SEEKING: Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resúmes for a full-time director of children's ministries. Must have full-time ministry experience to guide large children's program. Benefits. Send resumé to: Search Committee, 7236 Bonny Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421.

SEEKING: Full-time director of community ministries. Experience in assessing ministry needs in a community. Must speak fluently in Spanish. Position includes enlisting and training volunteers to organize and administer ministries to a local community. Male and female welcome to apply. Send resumé to: Bob Swift, First Baptist Church, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

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 resúmes to the church in care of Staff Search Committee. Fax: (270) 826-1131; e-mail: bfieldch@henderson.net.

SEEKING: Nicholasville Baptist Church is now actively seeking to fill the position of youth/children's minister. This is a part-time position (20 hours per week). Nicholasville Baptist Church, in downtown Nicholasville, is an SBC church with a heart for serving Jesus Christ. All interested applicants need to send a resumé with cover letter describing your call to ministry to Nicholasville Baptist Church, 131 S Main St., Nicholasville, KY 40356, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Children's pastor/director (grades 1-5). Bellevue Baptist Church is a fast-growing contemporary congregation averaging 1,000 in attendance in three Sunday morning services. We seek a full-time, experienced, energetic and visionary person with strong leadership, creativity, innovation and the ability to recruit and motivate a growing volunteer team. Contact Dr. Greg Faulls, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 West Byers, Owensboro, KY 42303. Fax: (270) 685-5134. Web page: www.bellnet.org.

SEEKING: Minister of music. Shades Crest Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., is seeking an experienced person to coordinate our music ministry. We are a congregation of 1,500 members, affiliated with both the CBF and SBC. Send resúmes to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Shades Crest Baptist Church, 452 Park Ave., Birmingham, AL 35226, or e-mail our pastor, Dr. Dennis Foust, at dfoust@shadescrest.org. (205) 822-1360.

SEEKING: Full-time student minister to lead junior- and senior-high ministries in a mid-sized Southern Baptist church. Must display genuine love for Christ and teens. College education, seminary preferred. Please send resumé to: Lewisport Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Lewisport, KY 42351.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Sand Spring Baptist Church. This position can become full-time. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Sand Spring Baptist Church, 1616 Harrodsburg Road, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342. Phone: (502) 839-3415.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth/music for 500-member Southern Baptist church. Please submit resúmes to: South Elkhorn Baptist Church, c/o Laura Farrow, 4867 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40510.

SEEKING: Erlanger Baptist Church, located in Northern Kentucky/Greater Cincinnati area, seeks an experienced full-time pastor. EBC averages 650-800 in worship, has three other full-time and two part-time ministerial staff members. Members of the candidate should possess strong interpersonal skills, dynamic preaching and leadership abilities. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018. Accepting resúmes through the end of August.

SEEKING: Full-time minister for small, rural Southern Baptist church. We are looking to grow with you. Accepting resúmes through Aug. 1. Send to: New Banlick Baptist Church, 10719 Banlick Road, Walton, KY 41094.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Paris, Ky. We are located in the heart of the Bluegrass. Our resident membership is 548. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362-0327.

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

'In His hands'



SURVIVORS Jim Bowers sits with his son Cory. Bowers' wife and 7-month-old daughter were killed when a Peruvian military jet mistook their missionary plane for a drug flight and gunned it down in April. Killed in the incident were his wife, Roni (below), and daughter, Charity. The Bowerses were working with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. (RNS photos)

Missionary: Faith eases pain of Peru tragedy

By Clayton Hardiman
Religion News Service

MUSKEGON, Mich. (RNS)—There is no shortage of memories from the events of April 20 to haunt Jim Bowers' dreams.

There was the moment when he and pilot Kevin Donaldson realized their plane was under fire. There were those tense minutes Bowers spent battling the flames in the cabin before the plane plunged into the Amazon River in Peru.

And there was the sight that confronted him from the rear of the plane—his infant daughter, Charity, dead from a visible head wound; and his wife, Veronica, slumped over, lifeless. It is the stuff nightmares are made of.

And yet the nightmares fail to come. Bowers doesn't think they ever will.

"Maybe some day I'll be traumatized by it," Bowers said in an interview during a visit to Muskegon, "but I don't think so."

It is now two months and counting since a Peruvian military jet shot down their missionary plane, killing Roni and Charity Bowers. And still Muskegon missionary Jim Bowers talks of an inexplicable peace he and his 6-year-old son Cory have found.

Cory Bowers still plays with his favorite toys—models of military jets. He still pantomimes their flight patterns, sometimes making the ta-ta-ta sound of machine gun fire.

And Jim Bowers still makes it through the night without nightmares—although not always without tears.

"I'm actively and confidently trusting and depending on God," he said. "I'm trusting that God is in control. I'm leaving it in His hands."

The last time he was in the Muskegon area, Bowers stood at a podium in Fruitport's Calvary Church. Several feet away was the white casket containing Roni's and Charity's bodies.

Bowers characterized the single shot that killed them as "a sovereign bullet." Fired by a Peruvian jet, he



said, it was nonetheless part of God's plan.

"How could something so terrible be so good?" he asked the funeral gathering. "Of course, I can say that now and maybe next month it may be different."

More than two months later, in the living room of his friends Rodd and MaryBeth Rexford of Norton Shores, Bowers said his conviction hadn't changed.

"So much good has come out of this," he said. "If Roni and Charity were in hell, then I would be asking why." But Bowers said he believes they are safe in God's presence.

In the meantime, the ranks of missionaries and other Christian workers have been growing, a reaction in part to the public interest generated by the deaths of Roni and Charity Bowers.

"I have been getting e-mails from a lot of people whose lives have been changed. I have more confirmation of the good that's been happening," he said.

"I can't come out and say it was worth it. Obviously it hurts. But God works mysteriously to give me comfort so that I don't have to be sad all the time."

Bowers, who currently is living in Garnery, N.C., with his mother, will return to Peru in September. He will meet a family of six from California who are considering taking the Bowerses' place.

If they do so, after prayer and consideration, they will be provided the houseboat in which the Bowers family lived and worked.

Bowers said he does not plan to return to the South American country permanently.

"I can't live there because of Cory," he said. "Cory always liked Peru, but he

said he doesn't want to live there. He won't say why."

But the work that Roni and Jim Bowers did along the Peruvian Amazon continues to bear fruit, Bowers said. He said he has received word that ministers and colleagues from the area already have taken up the work.

"The Peruvians are covering for me, which I always wanted," he said.

But he was most eager to talk about his feelings for Roni—warding off the possibility that people might interpret the peace he felt as indifference.

"I loved her," he said. "I want people to know that."

His military tour of duty, which opened their 15-year marriage, was, in his words, "a four-year honeymoon—from Paris to Berlin, from London to Casablanca, from the Greek Isles to the Swiss Alps."

"We shared in our long struggle with infertility, lost an unborn baby together, and shared in the heartache of missing all of our dear family and friends as we left them behind ...," he wrote in his journal.

Then, when they started their mission work in South America, "We shared the feeling of isolation from the outside world and people more like ourselves as we spent long months in the jungle."

"We shared the tremendous joy of leading many people to Christ and watching them grow in the Lord."

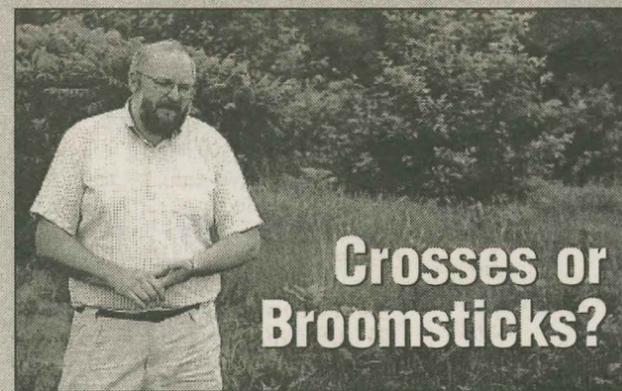
Bowers said he had no regrets. But he said he wished he had paid more attention to Roni.

And in some ways, he said, he still feels her presence.

He said he hears her voice, speaking "after the fact," in her Bible and journal, which are filled with personal observations and insights about her relationship with God. He said he hears Roni in the couple's friends, who frequently quote her.

"I miss Roni as she was, not as I wished her to be," Bowers wrote. "I lost my very best friend and my main co-worker and deck hand, a big part of me and who I am. Her absence touches nearly every area of my life."

"I'm thinking much more about her now than when she was around," he said.



Crosses or Broomsticks?

GALLOWS HILL Salem State College historian Emerson Baker gives a tour of Gallows Hill in Salem, Mass., where 19 colonial-era men and women were hanged as witches. (RNS photo)

'Forgotten five' were Christians, not witches, Salem group claims

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

SALEM, Mass. (RNS)—They died in 1692 under shameful circumstances: convicted of witchcraft, hanged before a hillside crowd, cast into unmarked ditches where animals prowled for food.

Since then, Massachusetts has exonerated by name 14 of the 19 men and women whose fates were sealed on Gallows Hill. But a "forgotten five" who always lacked a public advocate still have not escaped the shadow of shame.

That could change this year as the Massachusetts Legislature considers a bill to erase the last of the 309-year-old convictions. A small but tireless group of descendants and historians insists it's time to set the record straight: These were not witches. They were heroic Christian martyrs who refused to renounce their faith.

"If they had confessed (to being witches), they would have been spared," said Bonnie Johnson, an 11th generation descendant of hanging victim Bridget Bishop. "But they were so committed in their Christian faith that they refused to lie."

Witchcraft struck terror in the hearts of 17th century colonists because practitioners were believed to be in league with Satan to cause harm and suffering, according to historian Emerson Baker. Perpetrators were apt to incur God's wrath not only on themselves but also on their entire community.

Such a scar of notoriety still marks those on record as colonial-era witches: Susanna Williams, Wilmot Redd, Alice Parker, Margaret Scott and Bridget Bishop. And as long as their names are wrongly associated with evil intentions, bill supporters say, they will not rest in peace.

The process of making amends for the witch hangings began almost as soon as the nooses came down. Within a few years, 12 presiding judges apologized in writing for being "sadly deluded and mistaken" in finding "guilt of innocent blood." In 1711, a formal exoneration named 13 victims "and others." The legislature named a 14th in 1957 after 10 years of lobbying from a zealous descendant, but the case is still not closed.

Meanwhile, a diaspora of descendants from Maine to Utah feel a sense of duty to those who never had an advocate during previous exoneration proceedings. Several descendants said their goal is to end what they see as three centuries of injustice.

"It's a matter of saying, 'Yes it happened and we're sorry that it happened,'" said Malcolm Williams, an 83-year-old descendant of Bridget Bishop.

The possibility that the forgotten five might truly have been witches is a remote one, Baker said. The women knew they would save themselves if they confessed, he said, but they refused. The only plausible explanation in his view is that they were unwavering Christians.

"Those who were executed were those who had such strong Puritan faith that they wouldn't lie," Baker said. "The irony is that the most devout were the ones who were executed."



Can you afford to throw this away?

Didn't think so.

The Western Recorder's newsletter program can save you money. For less than the cost of a post card, you can mail your newsletter on the back of the Western Recorder to your members. What's more, we'll handle all the post office rules for non-profit group mailings. Want more information? Call Mauri at (502) 244-6473 or (888) 254-5728.

 PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER