



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Volunteers to be needed for some time after West Virginia flooding

By David Winfrey
News Director

MULLENS, W. Va.—About 60 Kentucky Baptists volunteers have helped West Virginia flood victims, but more workers are expected to be needed for some time, according to the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood director for disaster relief.

Volunteers currently are focusing on feeding residents devastated by the floods, with mud-outated by the floods, as they are available, Larry Koch said. By the beginning of this week, the disaster relief team was expected to be down to nine volunteers.

The group needs 18 workers to properly handle the mobile kitchen, he said.

After feeding, the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists will coordinate clean up and rebuilding work, Koch said.

The Kentucky group is trusting God to provide the necessary workers to continue their work, Koch added.

"God has been good and has met all of our needs here," he stated in a message to Kentucky directors of missions, requesting more volunteers. "Every time we have been at a low ebb and in need of volunteers, God has provided them."

In Mullens, W. Va., where Kentucky Baptist volunteers are headquartered, flood waters reached as high as nine feet inside many businesses in early July, according to Jim Milam, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

Power was out for about 24 hours, and the town had no drinkable water for five days, he said. A portable water plant is in use and the city water plant was partially operational by last week, he added.

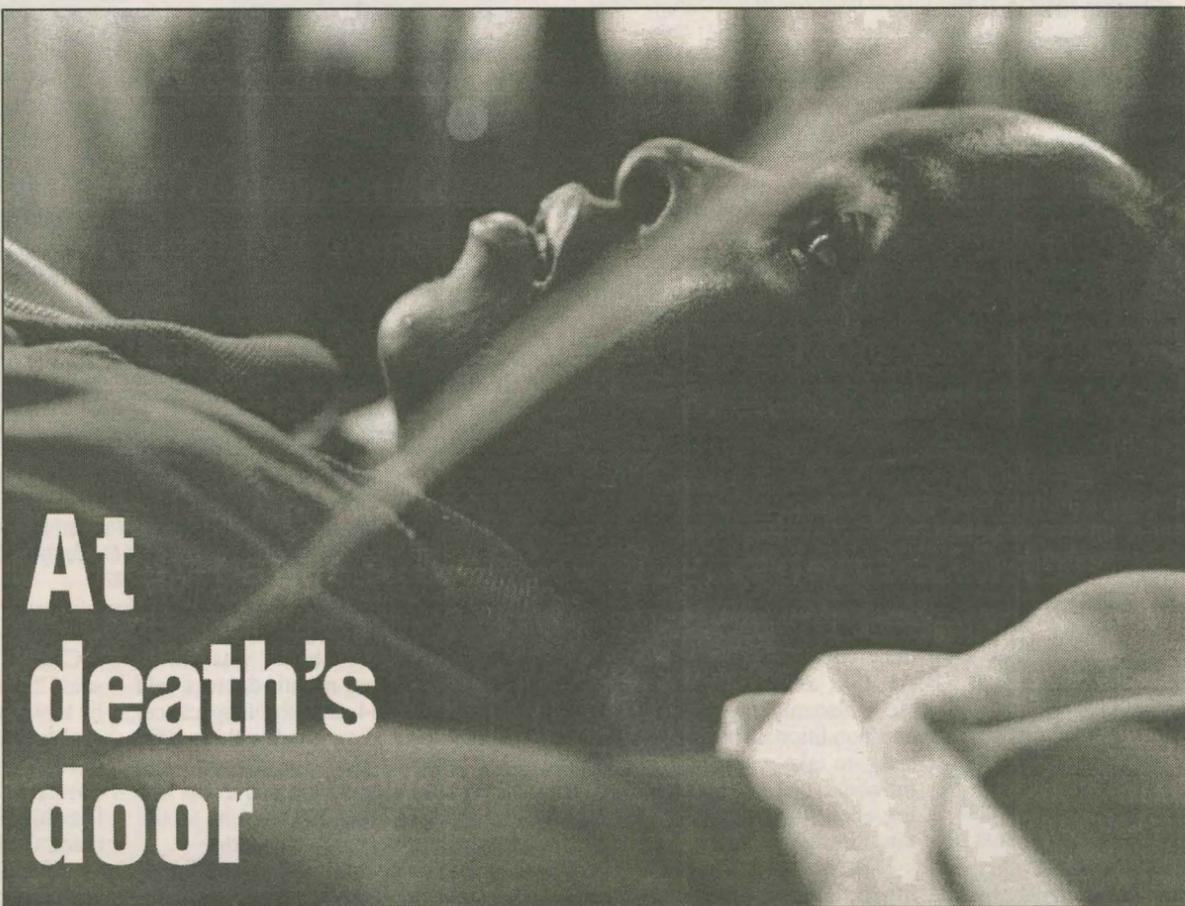
Koch added, "It's a muddy mess. A lot of floods you have just water. But this one, you had mud that settled after it left."

"The businesses in this town are pretty much gone," he said, noting that the buildings still are standing but it will be months before many reopen.

"It was sad just to see bobcats running inside buildings and spinning around pushing shelves and anything else out into the street for the National Guard to haul off," he said. "It's the first time I've seen anything like that."

He recalled a trip to nearby Oceana to visit the Ohio Baptist Convention feeding team. "The entire trip was nothing but more destruction and devastation."

□ See *Kentucky Baptists* ..., page 3



At death's door

WAITING TO DIE Eva (above), a patient at Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Zimbabwe, is in the last stages of AIDS. Confused, incontinent, refusing food, no longer talking, she will leave a child to be cared for by her sister. In Africa, few families are untouched by the plague, and Christians, including Southern Baptist missionaries such as Sharon Pumpelly (below), are sharing the good news of God's love and working to turn the tide. (IMB photos by Denise McGill and Matt Jones)

Christians share hope amid Africa's epidemic

By Sue Sprenkle
SBC International Mission Board

SANYATI, Zimbabwe (BP)—The elderly woman sits in silence just outside the hospital's open door. The electricity is off, but she doesn't notice the darkness.

For the past few days this elderly woman sat next to her daughter, holding her hand, coaxing her to eat. When the daughter shivered from burning fever, she added an extra blanket. As visitors came and went, the mother made sure everyone greeted her daughter, even after she was comatose.

When the room filled with the sickening, sweet smell of death, everyone left but the mother. Still smiling. Still hoping.

In the hallways of Zimbabwe's Sanyati Baptist Hospital, no one dares to mention the cause of this death. But knowing and experienced eyes speak. Here it is called "slimming disease." AIDS.

Most patients do not know how or when they caught the virus. Many never know they have it. And many who do know don't tell. Doctors and obituaries don't name it as a cause of death.

AIDS in Africa bears little resemblance to the disease in America. It does not just affect individuals, but entire societies. Few families remain untouched.

Thirteen million Africans already



have died of AIDS. Ten million more are expected to die within the next five years.

In Kenya, where one in seven people is HIV-positive, the list of the dead grows by 500 a day. In Zimbabwe, nearly one in three people carry the disease; in Botswana, it is one in four.

On a continent ravaged by wars and mired in poverty, AIDS is wiping out much of a generation. Families are being destroyed, and the most educated and skilled workers in the history of the continent are being cut down in their prime.

It is estimated that, due to AIDS, sub-Saharan Africa will have 71 million fewer people by 2010 than it would have. United Nations AIDS statistics project that by the year 2010 there will be 40 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone.

In 20 years, AIDS has killed 22 million people worldwide—most without a knowledge of Christ.

Chaplain Philemon Satiya counsels

hundreds of them each week. "By the time I see the patients, most are already wondering about life and death," he says.

"Most pray to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior," he adds. "Even though it's too late for them to physically survive, it's never too late for God to welcome another child into His kingdom."

Last year Satiya prayed with more than 740 people to receive Christ. "We have to leave this in God's hands," he says. "No one knows how AIDS will end. But we do know that God is in control and through Him, we always have hope."

Hope is what Zacchaeus has found. His sunken, tightly drawn face is identical to most AIDS victims, but there's something different about him. Zacchaeus has a contagious smile that never ceases.

He doesn't sit around and think about death. He walks around talking and singing about life.

"Sure, maybe it is my fault that I have it," he says. "But you know, God doesn't look around and see if you have one leg or two. He wants you as you are."

God is Zacchaeus' strength and hope.

"God has rules," Zacchaeus says. "If you follow them you don't get AIDS."

AIDS education is on the rise—in the schools, on the next generation and television. As the next generation learns about prevention, Christians join the crusade with "True Love Waits" campaigns teaching "God's rules."

□ More stories on pages 8-9.

Baby's arrival is 'miracle' for cancer-stricken missionary

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Abigail Clara Beaty came into the world very early July 10—6 pounds, 4 ounces and 19 and a half inches of precious new life.

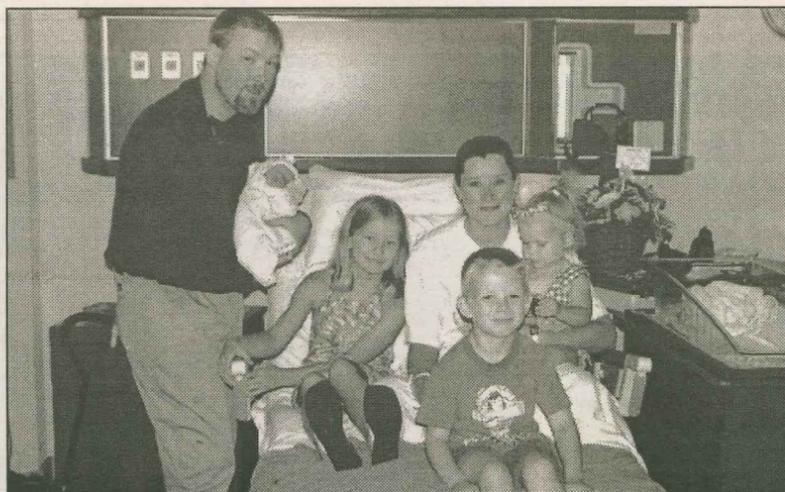
And her dad, cancer-stricken Southern Baptist missionary Charles Beaty, lived to see her born.

In fact, he was about the only one to see it besides Mom (missionary Christy Beaty) and Grandma.

"She really surprised us," said a smiling Beaty, cradling Abigail in his arms later that day at North Kansas City Hospital. "The baby arrived before the nurses or doctor could get in the room. I was freaking a little and yelling, 'Get in here!' And the next thing I heard was a cry. She's doing wonderfully. Praise the Lord I was there to see her."

If the Lord wills, Beaty hopes to see a lot more of Christy, Abigail and their other three children, Amanda, 8; Alex, 4; and Ashleigh, 17 months. He's also making plans—tentative and conditional, but plans nevertheless—to take a seminary class in the fall and to do more speaking and writing about the truths God has taught him through suffering.

The Beatys spoke last month during the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's report at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, where he challenged listeners to go into the world "and not wait, because we are not promised tomorrow."



BLESSED EVENT Cancer-stricken missionary Charles Beaty holds his new daughter, Abigail Clara Beaty, who was born July 10. Beaty—who was told in November that his lung cancer is terminal—and his wife, Christy, had prayed he would live long enough to see their new baby born. Also pictured are the Beatys' other three children, Amanda, 8; Alex, 4; and Ashleigh, 17 months. (BP photo)

The missionary couple learned last November that Abigail was on the way. The same month doctors told Beaty, now 34, that the lung cancer he had been diagnosed with in 1998 had returned after a remission—and there was little they could do to stop its growth. They predicted he would die within six to eight months.

The outer limit of that deadline is in sight, but Beaty is still alive. He has good days and bad. He leans on a cane, coughs frequently, experiences nausea and shortness of breath. Yet he seems to be getting stronger, not weaker.

"We thought it would be a miracle if Charles lived until the baby came," said Christy. "Not only is he here, but he looks better than he did when they said he didn't have long. The doctor has told us people who are dying of (Beaty's type of) cancer don't look like this. It's supposed to spread. We thank God for every day it doesn't."

After learning of her husband's grim prognosis at the same time as her pregnancy, she experienced a range of emotions: shock, disbelief, fear. "But we knew God had brought this new life, and we knew He could see the big picture and was going to do some-

thing amazing," she said.

Instead of despairing, the Beatys took an emotional "farewell tour" in February to the country in North Africa where they had served—both to share God's love once more and to challenge others to go to the region.

When they came back, Beaty figured God would quickly "take him home."

That time will come one day. But in the meantime, unexpected chances keep coming for the missionary to communicate his passion for God, and he's seizing as many as he can.

"I have no goals and objectives for the future but to love and glorify my Lord. And if I'm going to be on U.S. assignment mode indefinitely, I'm going to be a force for seeing that message get out," he said.

"The doctors don't know why I'm still alive. My doctor said, 'God's got something else for you.' When I hear things like that, it helps me to keep going."

For the Beatys, the birth of Abigail is both joyful and bittersweet.

"It's hard to look at this baby and not know whether Charles is going to be here or not," Christy admitted. "But we have peace and confidence in knowing no matter what happens God is going to provide our needs."

"Our hope is that Charles is going to be healed and be a father to our children. We've decided to live like he's going to be here and yet plan for the likelihood that he won't."

"God has not yet revealed what He's going to do."

Baptist Faith & Message cited in conflict over woman's ordination

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Southern Baptists' 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement has been linked to a dispute over the ordination of a woman minister in Gainesville, Fla.

Lynn Williams, minister of education and students at Parkview Baptist Church, was ordained earlier this year. In response, three churches alleged that the Gainesville congregation is out of fellowship with Santa Re River Baptist Association and called for the church's removal.

In addition, Williams' dismissal from two consultant positions she held with the Florida Baptist Convention has raised questions about whether ordination was connected to her loss of work with the state convention.

The churches say Williams' ordination goes against the revised faith statement adopted last year by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The faith statement reads in part, "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture." While members of the committee drafting the new language said it was intended to address only women as senior pastors, some are reading it as applying to all ordained ministers.

Wayne Harvey, the association's director of missions, said the association has "not established any statement of faith," which includes never hav-

ing endorsed the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. But Parkview's opponents claim that a section in the association's bylaws automatically puts the church out of fellowship.

The section states, "The association reserves the right to withdraw membership from any church found to be out of fellowship with the association, the Florida Baptist Convention, or the Southern Baptist Convention in their doctrine, principles, practices, policies, and programs, and deny voting privileges and seats to messengers from such churches."

Harvey said a credentials committee is expected to report at the association's annual meeting in October.

Williams said she believes she also has been denied leadership opportunities on the state convention level due to her ordination.

Williams said she was told that she would no longer be used as a FAITH consultant for the Florida Baptist Convention or as a state Sunday school consultant at the request of John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Barbara Denman, a spokesperson for the state convention, said Williams was an independent contractor who concluded her commitment. "Just because we are not using her now may not mean we will not use her in the future, but as a contract worker, we have no legal obligation to her," Denman added.

European Baptist leader rejects idea of forming alliance with CBF, others

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The president of the European Baptist Federation says the organization has no interest in being part of a new "alliance" suggested recently by former President Jimmy Carter.

Carter, who renounced ties with the Southern Baptist Convention last year, recently called on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other "traditional" Baptists to combine efforts for missions, education and other causes.

In an interview in Atlanta, Carter told reporters he already had met with moderates on the losing end of a two-decade struggle for control of the SBC. He said he now wants to expand the dialogue to include other Baptist groups in the United States and Europe, naming specifically the European Baptist Federation.

Ole Joergensen, president of the EBF, responded that 51 European Baptist unions and conventions are satisfied to be affiliated as the EBF and with other Baptists through the Baptist World Alliance.

He said the EBF has no interest in being part of or forming a new alliance, because it might be perceived as taking sides in controversy between Baptists in the U.S.

"We understand the necessity for the different Southern Baptists

to find a clarification in the long, ongoing division," Joergensen wrote in an e-mail to Associated Baptist Press. However, he added, "We have not had and we do not have any intention to take part in any dialogue about forming a new alliance apart from EBF and BWA."

Carter said he hoped Baptists from the U.S. and Europe would discuss his proposal at an August meeting in Europe.

Joergensen said the EBF has invited missionary agencies from Europe and North America, including some Baptist state conventions that have established partnerships with some union or convention in Europe, to a "consultation for networking in partnership in Europe" in August.

"Its purpose is to discuss ways we can be better stewards to serve the Great Commission," he said. "It has nothing to do with forming any new alliance."

"I will as strong as it is possible bring my denial that the EBF has any intention to be part of forming a new alliance," he added.

Carter said he has met privately with leaders of the CBF, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Baptist General Association of Virginia and Baptists Committed about possible joint efforts. He said no merger is being considered but suggested a "partnership" to enhance missions.

Kentucky native among IMB's new mobilization staff

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Kathy and Terry Sharp are among new leaders seeking to help the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's office of mobilization enhance its services to Southern Baptists.

Mrs. Sharp, a native of Louisville, will direct the IMB's printing department. She will guide the development of print and print-related products and services.

She previously served at LifeWay Christian Resources in editorial and administrative roles with HomeLife and other discipleship family magazines. Before joining the LifeWay staff, she served as minister of education with two churches in the Nashville area.

Her husband has been named director of the IMB's state and associational relations department. He will work with leaders of state conventions and associations to develop strategies and products to mobilize Southern Baptists for missions.

Sharp, a native of Tennessee, worked seven years with the Tennessee Baptist Convention as leader of the partnership and volunteer missions team.

The Sharps also served seven years as IMB missionaries, two years in Spain and five years in Brazil.

The IMB also named Jerry Daniel to direct its church services team.

He will help congregations find ways to increase missions awareness and involvement. He previously was vice president of Global Focus, an organization that trains pastors and church leaders to personalize their congregations' global missions involvement.

Little Bend church rises from ashes of arsonist's fire

By Karen Owen
Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer

LITTLE BEND—A Satanist on an eight-state arson spree torched a small church near the Ohio-Butler counties line more than two years ago.

God took those ashes and created something even better than before, the church's pastor says.

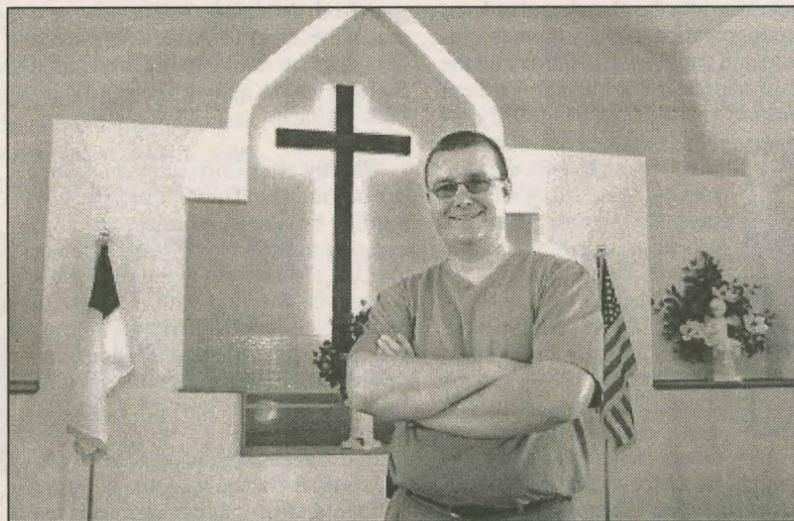
New Harmony Baptist Church recently had a dedication service and open house to show off the new church building. It's bigger and more accessible than the old, Depression-era building with a 1980s addition that Jay Scott Ballinger burned to the ground, said Greg Hillard, the church's pastor.

The new building is designed with modern technology and future growth in mind. "God works all things out for good," said Hillard, who grew up attending New Harmony. "I looked at it as a challenge. I looked at it as an opportunity."

New Harmony stands along Kentucky 269 at Little Bend in Butler County, but several members live or work in Ohio County. Hillard is also an agriculture teacher at Ohio County High School.

The church was set ablaze Jan. 18, 1999, according to Ron Turk, resident agent in charge for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Bowling Green.

Ballinger, 38, of Yorktown, Ind., later confessed to setting the fire. He hit three churches in the Bowling



NEW HARMONY Greg Hillard stands in the new building for New Harmony Baptist Church at Little Bend. A satanic arsonist burned the old building down. "God works in mysterious ways and normally for the better," Hillard said. "I want to write a book about this experience." (Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer photo by John Dunham)

Green area that weekend, striking New Harmony as he drove north while headed back to Indiana, investigators say.

Although the Satanist hated Christianity and wanted to destroy it, Ballinger didn't choose his victims because of race or denomination, Turk said. Instead, he looked for churches in isolated areas he could burn without being caught.

"It was physical or geographical location," Turk said.

He even passed another church on Kentucky 269 because there was a house across the road, Turk said.

Ballinger was sentenced to 42 years in prison for burning 26 churches in eight states. He also is facing charges in Georgia stemming from the death of a firefighter responding to one of those blazes, Turk said.

New Harmony, meanwhile, "stayed a burnt pile of church for a long, long time," said Tom Shelton, director of missions for Ohio Baptist Association.

"It's a small church. Nobody expected it to be rebuilt or to have the money," Shelton said.

The congregation held services at nearby Point Pleasant Cumberland

Trail rider says gift restores faith in God & man

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—Horse enthusiast Rick Majors says that the final trail ride of his life has affirmed his faith in God and people.

Diagnosed with fatal lung cancer two years ago, the disabled welder is on a 1,700-mile trail ride with help from a ministry of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

After departing in mid-May, he plans to finish by Aug. 31 in Pagosa Springs, Colo., 30 miles north of the New Mexico border.

During the first 900 miles the 48-year-old Bowling Green native has met hundreds of well-wishers. Most were alerted to his trip by telephone or messages sent through the Internet.

"I know if God wasn't here it wouldn't be happening," he said of the food, lodging and veterinary help provided along the route.

"The people you meet out here, it restored my faith in mankind," said Majors, a former stable owner. "They're nice, genuine people. They help and do what they can and call ahead to get someone else to help."

Speaking via cell phone recently from Nash, Okla., Majors said he had dreamed all his life of traveling to the Rocky Mountains on horseback, but began praying about it six months ago.

In February, he reached another crucial decision. Although he grew up in a Kentucky Baptist church and was

baptized at 16, he didn't attend church regularly or think much about God.

"I made the decision to follow Him," he said of renewing his commitment to Christ. "I decided it was time to do something right."

About the same time, a bout with pneumonia led a doctor to estimate his life expectancy at three months. In late April, a friend went to the church to relay his request for financial assistance for a ride to the Rockies.

The church referred the request to a newly-formed trail riding ministry, "Horses on the Hill." After the group prayed, the next day someone donated a pack horse. Two days later, nearly \$1,000 in donations came to the church.

"We said, 'Isn't that just like the Lord?'" commented Joanne Pearson, overseer of the group. "This is a God thing."

Although Majors set out with a couple of friends and three pack horses, sores sent the pack animals home after five weeks. In late June, son Wes replaced one of the friends.

The trio is riding parallel to U.S. 60, following country roads 10 to 12 miles either side of the highway.

Majors' wife, Lori, has visited her husband three times. During Memorial Day weekend she rode with him through the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri.

She said when he first discussed the idea with her, she told him, "Pray about it. When God guides, He provides." And boom, it happened.

A member of Hillvue for three

years, she said her husband's final request has been the hardest thing he ever asked her to do.

"It's difficult but not unbearable," Mrs. Majors said. "There are days I hear the devil saying that he's being selfish and he should be with me. I have to fight that."

Her husband prays for strength.

"That's one of the hardest things out here," he said. "Lori is so far away. I've never been that far away from home before. I pray to God that I'll be able to do it and make it through. I'm hoping we can spend some time together when I'm done."

Still, he relishes the time he's spending with Wes, whom he adopted soon after marrying. He said they've grown much closer during the ride.

The younger man has been helpful, too. Weakened by his illness, Majors is unable to lift his saddle onto T.J., his Tennessee walking horse. Sometimes Wes also helps his father into the saddle.

There have been other obstacles, like Oklahoma temperatures as high as 111 degrees. That calls for riding early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

Despite the challenges, Majors said he is finding joy and intimacy with God.

"You can see out here for 50 miles," he said of the Oklahoma countryside. "I just feel closer to God here. I can talk to Him by myself and He talks back to me. Without Him, I wouldn't have made it this far."

Presbyterian Church, but attendance had dropped from 60 to 70 people on Sunday mornings to 30 or 40 by the time he became pastor there 10 months later, Hillard said.

He said he had to give members time to grieve their loss before motivating them to replace the building.

"It was like losing somebody," Hillard said.

Once members knew what they wanted and felt they knew what God wanted, it was apparent the \$70,000 insurance settlement wouldn't be enough, he said.

More than 70 volunteers, including several members of Campers on Mission—a group of mostly retired Southern Baptist volunteers who came from as far away as Texas in their campers and motor homes—helped erect the new church.

Without the volunteer labor and some donated supplies, the new building with its 120-seat auditorium probably would have cost \$500,000, Hillard estimated. Instead, the small congregation had to borrow only about \$30,000.

Attendance is back up to about 48 people in worship, and members were able to hold their first service in the new building on Mother's Day, even before all of the finishing touches had been completed.

"That's the way God works," Hillard said. "He took that tragedy and turned it into a triumph."

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BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** will host a banquet and silent auction Aug. 18 in Owensboro at the Executive Inn. Proceeds will support the KBHC Family Services Center, home for Cornerstone Counseling, foster parent training and adoption education classes. Radio and TV personality Nick Clooney will be the speaker. Tickets cost \$40. For information, call Joann Mason at (270) 685-0110.

■ **Campbellsville University** will host a winter Bible study preview Aug. 2. Bob Dunston, chairman of Cumberland's religion department, will lead the session focusing on Genesis 1-12. The study will begin at 1 p.m., and the \$10 cost includes supper. For information, call Betty Hatfield at (270) 789-5039.

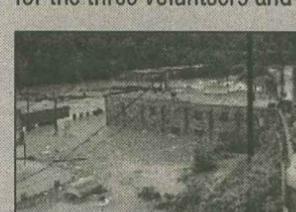
Kentucky Baptists continue relief work after West Virginia floods

Continued from page 1

Despite the hard work and devastation, workers continue to meet the needs, Koch said.

"Friday evening (June 13), we were all gathered in the church for our devotion/debriefing time and Harold Moore (a disaster relief volunteer from Ashland) walked in and asked for three volunteers to cook an extra 50 meals," he recalled.

"We had all our equipment cleaned and were ready to retire for the evening after the meeting. When Harold asked for the three volunteers and told them that the chief of police



MULLENS, W.VA. No business was left undamaged in this town of 3,500 people after flooding rains earlier this month. Mullens is now the base for Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers. (Photo by Jim Milam)

had found this group that had not had a meal in two days, all 22 present got up and began to prepare those meals," he said. "I cry every time I tell this story."

In addition to being the base for disaster relief volunteers, New Hope, which has an average attendance of about 35 people, also has become a distribution point for food, cleaning supplies and fresh water, Koch said.

Amid the destruction, residents are amazed by the generosity of Kentucky Baptists and others, Milam said.

"It's a great witness for the church. Lots and lots of people have told me that after they get through this and get back in their homes they're going to start coming here," he said.

For information about volunteering immediately, contact the Kentucky Brotherhood's command center in Mullens at (304) 294-8812. For information about clean up and rebuilding opportunities through the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, call (304) 757-0944.

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

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Human rights abuse is personal

By O.W. Efurd

Naw Aung is a 23-year-old Burmese citizen who literally has been stuck in American Samoa since November 1999. His pilgrimage illustrates the desperate and sometimes seemingly futile efforts of people suffering human rights abuses as they seek to find freedom.

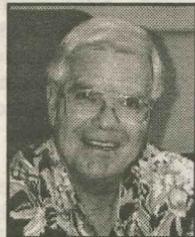
Naw Aung's situation first came to the attention of Hawaii Pacific Baptist leaders when an uncle who resides in Virginia contacted the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention office seeking assistance to bring his nephew from Samoa to Hawaii.

He lived with his family in the Kachin state of Burma where they attended a Baptist church. During his university years, students across Burma went on strike to pressure the government to move toward democracy. When the government closed the schools, Naw Aung went to work with his father at a jade mine.

One Sunday morning while he and his family worshipped at a small

church near the mine, Burmese soldiers came into the church and ordered the congregation to carry their ammunition and supplies. His father and the pastor begged the soldiers to let them continue to worship peacefully. A struggle ensued and the soldiers began to beat the pastor and Naw Aung's father with their guns. This was too much for him and his friends. They began to hit the soldiers.

COMMENTARY



O.W. Efurd

During the confrontation, soldiers began firing their guns and Naw Aung and his friends ran. One of his friends was shot and left behind. The others hid in the forest until the next morning. When they returned they were told that the Burmese soldiers had taken the pastor and Naw Aung's father. He learned later that his father was executed.

They decided to go to Rangoon and hid inside a freight train to make the journey. Upon arriving in Rangoon, Naw Aung contacted a friend who contacted his family.

They warned him not to return and sent money to secure a passport for

him to leave Burma. After hiding out for a month, a passport was secured and he went to Thailand. He met a man from American Samoa who said that if he went to American Samoa first then he could go to the United States. He was able to fly from Thailand via Japan and Hawaii to American Samoa.

Shortly afterwards the man he met in Thailand asked him for money, saying that he would go to Honolulu to make arrangements for him to enter the U.S. The man never returned. Naw Aung now is living with a family in Samoa. His applications for a U.S. visa have been denied. He was instructed to apply to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees for refugee status.

In the meantime, Naw Aung waits in American Samoa for some glimmer of hope that he can connect with his family in Virginia, fearful that if he is returned to Burma when his passport expires his life will be in danger.

Aug. 5 is Human Rights Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention. Pray for Naw Aung and others around the world who are victims of human rights abuses.

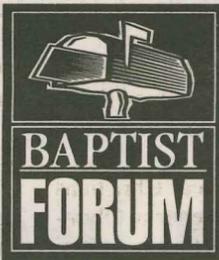
O.W. Efurd is executive director of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention

Evaluate priorities

An Associated Baptist Press article by Mark Wingfield in a recent issue of the Western Recorder featured an interview with John Williams about his book, "The Cost of Deception." It was about legends and myths passed on by anxious Christians.

Among the "common Christian myths" in a sidebar accompanying the article was "the well to hell." In 1989, a Christian TV network newsletter claimed a team of Russian geologists had drilled a very deep hole and heard human screams

and sensed extraordinarily hot temperatures. But this distortion was traced to a Finnish prankster.



Though not quite as wild as this tale, well-meaning believers continue to flood the Internet with cheap stuff at best and lies at worst. This comes about in part by the chain-letter gimmick. Blessings will come to the one who passes on these tales, and by implication, curses will befall the one who dismisses the message.

So help me, I've received on my e-mail as many as 30 such messages in one day. I couldn't have dealt with

many of these even if I'd had nothing else to do. I had no choice but to set my inbox assistant to "not download" such messages.

Were Christians involved in even 10 percent of the urgent ministries of applied Christianity, they would have no time for such foolishness. For example, if they studied emotional issues like contraception, they would learn that millions of women around the world are dying in childbirth and their already-born children are suffering. Their mindset would begin to see through the simplistic answers and cheap messages that bring a reproach on the name of our Lord.

*Don Cassidy
Premium*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

New work needed among Kentucky Baptists

The history of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is filled with unselfish examples of churches that were willing to "dismiss" members to start new churches.

On a recent Sunday I was present for the 188th anniversary celebration of Yelvington Baptist Church in Daviess-McLean Association. The church was organized in 1813 with just 11 charter members. Then in 1815, seven members were granted letters to organize Old Panther Creek Church in Ohio County. Later, during one week of 1835, the church dismissed members to organize First Baptist Church of Owensboro and Pleasant Grove Church. Other churches were started by or assisted by Yelvington when they dismissed 22 to 35 members to start the following churches: South Hampton, 1854; Chestnut Grove, 1867; Yellow Creek, 1889; Dawson Memorial, 1896; and Maceo, 1905.

But that is only part of the story, as Wendell Rone, preacher and histori-

an, emphasized during his message at the celebration. All of these new churches started other churches that started yet other churches.

Yelvington Baptist Church has a wonderful heritage of church starting, but the need for new work continues today. To maintain our ratio of Baptist churches to population in Kentucky, 15 strong new churches are needed each year.



Bill Mackey

The KBC extension-ministries department with Tony Hough as director has helped start 26 new works in the 2000-2001 convention year (19 Anglo, six Hispanic and one Korean). Fifteen Anglo works and 11 language works are anticipated for 2001-2002.

In addition, Alan Witham, the KBC's new work consultant, in consultation with directors of missions in 15 associations, has identified another 40 possible new Anglo works.

The fields definitely are white unto harvest with finances seemingly the biggest obstacle. Right now, support

of recent starts is absorbing this year's budget which makes getting new churches started this year more difficult. As examples, three new works currently are on hold until the new KBC budget year begins Sept. 1.

We are grateful to Woman's Missionary Union for its commitment to new work through the overage from the Eliza Broadus Offering. The offering goal has been exceeded and so far about \$17,000 will be applied to new work.

In addition, we have requested additional funds from the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, a strong partner in new work. We also are trusting God for record Cooperative Program gifts from the churches during July and August so there will be enough year-end funds to help meet the needs of these new work opportunities.

The total needed in 2001-2002 for 15 Anglo and 11 language new works is \$350,000. Please pray with us that the great history of church growth and new work in Kentucky will continue throughout the 21st century.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Will I really get a rebate check in the mail from the IRS?

By Jeremy White

The summer rebate checks from the IRS are the most publicized portion of the recently enacted tax bill. If you are single, you will receive a check for \$300. Married couples

will receive up to \$600.

But what's the catch? How many forms do I have to fill out? Do I still get a refund even though I pay estimated tax?

No catch. No forms. You don't have to do anything (unless you have moved—then let the IRS know your new address). All taxpayers who paid tax last year will get a check.

Here's how it works. The IRS will send you a letter in July telling you if you qualify for the payment, how much it will be and when you will receive the check.

The act creates a new 10 percent bracket for income that previously was taxed at 15 percent. However, in lieu of the new 10 percent rate for 2001, the act includes a rate reduction credit. The political intent was to give an instant stimulus to the economy. In essence, you are receiving a reduction in the tax bracket before you file your taxes.

Here are 10 ideas for using your summer IRS check:

- Catch up on your giving commitments to your church or charity.

- Start or add to a Roth IRA for yourself or your spouse.

- Start a college fund for your children through an education IRA.

- Pay down credit card debt.

- Treat your spouse with a one-time professional service (a maid or laundry service for her, a lawn mowing service for him).

- Buy term life insurance and pay the first year's premium.

- Get a medical physical and dental checkup for you and your spouse.

- Make an appointment for tax planning with your CPA to save even more money in the future.

- Add to your car savings fund.

- Pay the first premium on a disability insurance policy.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. Financial tips are available on his Web site at www.consultcpa.com.

Communication rituals can help cut gap between parents, teens

Q: As the father of a 16-year-old son and a 14-year-old daughter, I am baffled at how I feel so included in the life of my son and yet seemingly cut out of my daughter's life, especially when we always have been close. My wife says I am overreacting and that my daughter loves me as much as ever. What do you think?

It is not unusual for relationships to morph significantly from childhood to the teenage years. Your description of your daughter's distance is a rather typical pattern.

A teenage daughter who has been "daddy's girl" often will begin to distance herself from her father as she identifies more closely with her mother. Similarly, many mothers report that they feel increased distance from their teenage sons. "Momma's boy" may pull away and begin to align himself more closely with his father.

Avoid panicking and assuming you have done something wrong. The more you become an "anxious presence" with your daughter, the more difficulty you will have in communicating with her.

Instead, begin by talking with her about your sadness about the distance you perceive. Ask her if there is anything you have done and listen carefully to her response. Let her know of your love and interest in her.

One of the biggest mistakes overanxious fathers make is getting their feelings hurt too easily and distancing themselves. Overanxious mothers often will move to interrogation as a way of trying to gain access to their teenage sons.

If your daughter reports that nothing is wrong, create a ritual with her that will facilitate communication. Whether it is taking her to lunch once a week, playing tennis together or walking in the park, ritualized time together offers an opportunity to talk. Make sure, however, that the activity you choose is something she wants to do.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: How powerful are a parent's words?

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" makes a great rejoinder for a child who has just been made fun of or called a name. In truth, however, words can and do hurt. In particular, they affect how we think and feel about ourselves.

Words are especially powerful in the lives of children. Children who regularly receive genuine praise and affirmation will take those words to heart. Conversely, children who constantly hear criticism or that they are no good or will never amount to anything also begin to believe what they hear.

Children need verbal support and encouragement. They need to be affirmed not only for what they do, but for who they are. Make sure the majority of the words you speak to your child are positive and affirming, far outweighing any negative words you might have to use. Since noticing the negative seems to come naturally, ask God to help you concentrate daily on seeing the best in your child—the many positive qualities, traits, action and attitudes he or she displays each day. When you see something good, say something about it.

When you find it necessary to correct or criticize an attitude or behavior, choose your words carefully. Make sure you target the behavior, not the child. Be especially careful about what you say in front of others. Critical or cutting words spoken in the presence of friends can be particularly devastating to a child's sense of worth.—*David Garrard*

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; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; and Scott Wigginton, director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.



Beijing Olympics: 'sad day' or open door?

The modern Olympics, unveiled in 1896 in Athens, Greece, have witnessed more than a century of human triumph and tragedy. From Jesse Owens' four gold medals in Berlin in 1936 to the 1972 terrorist attack in Munich that left 11 Israeli athletes dead, the Olympics always have been a mix of sports prowess and political statements.

The International Olympic Committee's recent decision to award the 2008 summer games to Beijing is no exception. Many politicians and human rights activists have decried the decision, citing China's flagrant violations of human rights and religious freedom.

Leaders of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said in a written statement that the IOC's action "sends a message to the leaders of China that their appalling and worsening record on religious freedom... does not matter to the rest of the world."

By contrast, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who helped open relations between China and the U.S. in the 1970s, told Associated Press, "This is a very important step in the evolution of China's relationship with the world. It will have a positive impact."

Southern Baptist leader Richard Land also has joined the debate. Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said it is a "sad day for human rights around the world when the regime that is currently trampling the rights of more human beings than any other government in the world is rewarded" by being selected to host the Olympics.

From a ministry perspective, however, that "sad day" offers the opportunity not only to push for human rights reform but also to share a strong Christian witness in a needy land.

Southern Baptists and other evangelical Christians have developed a significant ministry presence in Olympic cities in recent years. Highlighting the theme, "More

than Gold," more than 8,000 Southern Baptist volunteers were involved in ministry efforts during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. They witnessed several hundred professions of faith in Christ. Similar ministry events took place during last year's Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia. Plans also are under way for outreach efforts during next year's Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Sharing the gospel in difficult settings is nothing new in Baptist life. Baptist leaders have cited witnessing opportunities as a key reason to hold Southern Baptist Convention meetings in such cities as Las Vegas and New Orleans in recent years. Crossover evangelistic emphases have resulted in thousands of people professing faith in Jesus, including more than 1,200 people who became Christians last month in New Orleans.

Certainly, the challenges of witnessing in Las Vegas and New Orleans pale in comparison to Beijing. Registered churches are close-

ly monitored, religious proselytizing by foreigners is outlawed and the memory of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre remains vivid. While organized witnessing efforts might be prohibited, the influence of Christian athletes, coaches and spectators hopefully can make a positive impact in the land where legendary Southern Baptist missionaries Lottie Moon and Bill Wallace gave their lives for the sake of the gospel.

"They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick," Jesus emphasized in Mark 2:17. "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." There are few settings around the globe with any greater spiritual need than China.

Yes, Olympic officials, international leaders and human rights advocates should push for reforms in China as the 2008 Olympics approach. But Christians also should pray that increased international scrutiny and government openness will pay spiritual dividends.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

World War II shifts Baptist focus from calmness to chaos

By Jack Birdwhistell

As the decade of the 1930s came to an end, Kentucky Baptists appeared grateful simply to have survived. The worst of the Great Depression had passed, Kentucky had recovered from the devastations of the flood of 1937 and the denomination slowly was beginning to dig out of the crippling debt that had lingered since the 1920s. Controversy centered on the president of Georgetown College, Henry Noble Sherwood, who was criticized for not having been "Baptist-baptized," but otherwise the Baptist waters were fairly calm.

Worldwide, however, things were anything but calm, and few Kentucky Baptists foresaw what would soon happen that would change most of their lives forever—the conflagration known as World War II.

A quick survey of the issues of the Western Recorder from June 1940 through November 1941 reveals a gradual realization that the rise of the Nazi power in Germany and the increasing power of Japan in the Far East might impact Bap-

tists in Kentucky. In the pages of the Recorder, however, there were many more articles concerning such issues as the second coming of Christ, whether hell is a "place" or a "state of mind" and how to increase the circulation of the state Baptist papers.

Longtime editor Victor I. Masters, on the other hand, was very aware of the world picture. In the July 4, 1940, issue, he advocated a "just war" in his article, "The Attitude of Believers Toward War." A similar editorial, "Christians and War," appeared in March 1941.

The Recorder also reported other denominational developments that reflected the world situation. The Baptist Student Convention, meeting in Williamsburg in October 1940, included a seminar titled, "My Attitude Toward War." (A similar student seminar in October 1941 in Hopkinsville was led by none other than Clarence Jordan, who would later found Koinonia Farm, a pacifist community near Americus, Ga.) There were reports of the increasing size of the American armed forces

and notice of the growing need for military chaplains. In November 1940, Charles Maddry, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, wrote of a "Crisis in Our Japanese Mission." (By December 1940, missionaries in the Far East were being evacuated).

Writers in the Western Recorder also seemed to be very aware of the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis. J.B. Cranfill of Texas, a frequent contributor to the paper, warned in April 1941 that nations which harmed the Jews should beware of the consequences.

Throughout 1941, several brief articles referred to the work of chaplains such as former Kentucky pastor Clarence Jones serving on Army bases such as Fort Knox and the work of churches such as Severns Valley in Elizabethtown which were located near these bases.

Amazingly, the two issues of the Recorder published after Pearl Harbor Day (Dec. 7, 1941) devote almost no space to the entrance of the United States into World War II.

Most Kentucky Baptists who remember that day, however, realized when they heard the news that their lives would never be the same. But that's a story for later columns.

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



Poll: Prayer high, evangelism low on Americans' priority list

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—The vast majority of Americans—82 percent—report that they pray regularly, while 24 percent say they shared their faith with a nonbeliever in the last year, a Barna Research Group study shows.

The Ventura, Calif.-based marketing research company found a range of religious activities among Americans and within the largest denominations.

For instance, Bible reading was most likely among attendees of Pentecostal churches—75 percent—and least likely among worshippers at Catholic churches—23 percent.

Surveyors found that Mormons were most likely to have attended church in the previous week—71 percent—and Episcopalians were the least likely—30 percent.

Adherents in three of the 10 Protestant groups examined were found to be more likely than not to have shared their faith in the previous year: Pentecostal churches (61 percent), Assemblies of God congregations (61 percent) and nondenominational Protestant churches (57 percent).

Forty-three percent of Baptist respondents, whose churches long have been known for their focus on evangelism, said they had shared their faith in the last year. The least likely Protestant group to engage in evangelism was Episcopalians (14 percent).

Overall, one in three Protestant churchgoers shared their faith with a nonbeliever in the last year. Ten percent of Catholics said they evangelized in that period.

George Barna, president of Barna Research Group, said the research demonstrates that Americans are comfortable with faith but not especially interested in spiritual growth.

"Most people who are aligned with a Christian church really make a rather minimal investment in religious activity," he said in a statement. "There are those who are completely committed to spiritual growth and invest themselves quite heavily in such development, but they constitute less than one out of every five adults in America."

The survey results are based on a random sample of 6,038 adults who were interviewed by telephone between January 2000 and June 2001. The margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points.

'Faith-based initiatives' faces more hurdles

By Kevin Eckstrom
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Bush's "faith-based initiative" cleared its most critical hurdle to date last week when it was passed by the House 233-198, but it still faces tough tests from both the Senate and promised court challenges.

The House passed the Community Solutions Act July 19 on a nearly party-line vote. Republicans defeated two Democratic attempts to ban religious groups from discriminating in hiring when they receive federal funds.

Under the plan, religious groups could apply for federal money to provide social services under the "Charitable Choice" program. They would be allowed to consider a person's religion when hiring employees and would be exempt from state and local anti-discrimination laws.

President Bush, who made the faith-based plan a priority for his administration, welcomed the House action and pledged to work closely

with the Senate as it considers the bill.

The bill's future, however, is far from certain. Church-state watchdog groups have promised to fight it in the courts, saying the law threatens the separation of church and state.

"This bill joins church and state in unholy matrimony," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "If the Bush initiative becomes law, we'll go to court and file for divorce."

The Bush plan likely will face a much tougher road in the Senate. The Senate version of the bill does not include the "Charitable Choice" expansion and only provides tax incentives for charitable giving.

The bill that passed the House last week was significantly scaled back from what Bush and its chief House sponsor, Rep. J.C. Watts, R-Okla., had wanted. Tax incentives worth \$90 billion were whittled down to just \$13 billion—giving the average taxpayer a \$15 break by 2010.

In addition, Republican moderates changed the bill to encourage chari-

ties to set up separate accounts for government funds—but not necessarily separate corporations—and give participants the choice to opt out of religious programs.

Opposition to the bill centered on worries about possible discrimination. As part of the bill, religious groups would be allowed to discriminate in hiring—a privilege they currently enjoy only when spending private funds. Democrats warned that religious groups could refuse to hire gays, blacks or even unwed mothers because of religious tenets.

Religious groups, however, could not use the federal money to proselytize or seek converts and would be required to keep the secular and sacred programming separate and distinct.

Supporters said the bill does not put federal money in the hands of religious groups but simply allows them to apply for it. They accused critics of jumping on the discrimination questions rather than finding ways to help those most in need.

Proposed 'Federal Marriage Amendment' draws mixed reaction

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (RNS)—A proposed constitutional amendment affirming marriage as a union between a man and a woman is drawing a range of reactions from religious leaders and groups.

The Alliance for Marriage, an Alexandria, Va.-based group representing some Christian, Muslim and Jewish groups, called July 12 for a "Federal Marriage Amendment."

Leaders of the Roman Catholic Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of God in Christ were among those supporting the move.

Proponents say the amendment is

necessary in a time of high divorce rates and increasing acceptance of same-sex unions.

"No one involved in the Alliance for Marriage believes that saving the legal status of marriage in America will alone be sufficient to stem the tide of family disintegration that has resulted from the decline of marriage as a social institution," said Matt Daniels, executive director of the alliance. "But our nation cannot go forward unless our laws send a positive message to children about marriage, family and their future."

Reaction ranged from supporters, such as the Union of Orthodox Jew-

ish Congregations, which called it "reasonable and appropriate," to opponents, such as the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, which said it would "defile the Constitution, enshrining homophobia and intolerance."

The proposed amendment states, "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman."

"Neither this Constitution or the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Sabbath-keeper awarded \$2.5 million.** A Christian who was fired after refusing to work on the Sabbath has been awarded \$2.25 million in a civil lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Administration. Don Reed, 45, suffered from religious discrimination when he lost his job as a Denver air traffic controller in 1995, a jury decided July 17. Reed, a nondenominational Christian, had worked there for five years.

■ **AARP: 'Sandwich generation' turns to faith, prayer.** When people in the so-called "sandwich generation" take care of their older family members, their chief source of support is prayer or faith, the AARP has found. The nonprofit organization of members ages 50 and older released a survey July 11 that shed light on how people ages 45-55 cope with the dual duties of parenting their own children and caring for elderly parents. Sixty-two percent of those surveyed said faith and prayer helped them in their caretaking responsibilities. Forty-two percent said their houses of worship or religious institutions assisted them.

■ **Crystal Cathedral cuts staff.** The Crystal Cathedral, the California ministry of Robert Schuller, has cut 6 percent of its staff, citing a drop in contributions. The megachurch in Garden Grove, Calif., has eliminated or frozen 37 positions during the last month. "Our support of 'The Hour of Power' and the church ministries is considerably below our projections," said Executive Pastor Glenn DeMaster. "Just like a corporation, we have to pay the bills." He said the church's \$50 million budget depends solely on donations.

Recognition of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

The 2001 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased individuals who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including individuals who died during the convention year, Sept. 1, 2000, through August 31, 2001. These should be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypeople, institutional leaders, staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information: Full name of deceased; date of birth; date of death; active or retired status in last position held; name of church, association, city and state of position; service or ministry worthy of recognition (brief description). Please send this information before Sept. 2 to:

Executive Office, Kentucky Baptist Convention
PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253, Attn: Wanda Karolyi

E-mail: wanda.karolyi@kybaptist.org

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2001 KBC annual meeting in Murray. You are an important part of our network for gathering this information concerning those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.



The Campbellsville University School of Theology Presents...

Church staffs, Sunday School teachers, and Discipleship Training leaders are invited to attend the 2002 Winter Bible Study Preview Aug. 2. Dr. Robert Dunston, professor of Old Testament and chair of the Cumberland College Department of Religion and Philosophy, will lead the study on Genesis 1-12.

2002 Winter Bible Study Preview Campbellsville University

August 2, 2001
The Gheens Recital Hall
Campbellsville University
Gosser Fine Arts Center
10:00 a.m. (Eastern Time)
Call (270) 789-5039 for information
or reservations.

Willow Creek launching satellite spots with video screen preaching

SOUTH BARRINGTON, Ill. (RNS)—Willow Creek Community Church, one of the nation's most prominent megachurches, plans to establish satellite churches where worshippers will watch the service from the main location in South Barrington, Ill., via huge video screens.

Church officials plan to open a dozen sites in the Chicago area within the next decade, the Chicago Tribune reported.

While the move is considered unprecedented, it also might raise questions about the realities of church life.

"If all their satellite churches never have live preaching, then they will lack the kind of authenticity of presentation of the gospel that you can have only with a pastor" on site, said Quentin Schultze, a professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., and an expert on religion and the media.

Willow Creek representatives say they hope to reach more people, especially those who live more than half an hour away from the current location.

"We're doing this because our attenders who live farther than 30 minutes from Willow Creek made it very clear that they would like to invite more friends and more actively participate, but distance is a barrier," David Staal, director of communications, told the Tribune.

Currently, more than 17,000 people attend six services each weekend. Screens already are in use: Overflow crowds watch the service on a 20-foot-tall screen in the church's chapel or activity center. Plans are under way for a \$70 million expansion of the main campus.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST MINISTERS' ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 17-18, 2001

The Peninsula Golf Resort

Cost: \$64 per person (Includes golf and cart for both days, award prizes, and banquet Monday, 6:30 p.m.)

Registration: \$10 non-refundable deposit due with registration form (deposit will help defray cost of meal and prizes.) Balance due directly to The Peninsula Golf Resort on date of tournament.

Instructions:

- ◆ Fill out the attached registration form to let KBC know you are participating and send to the address listed.

- ◆ Call The Peninsula Golf Resort toll-free, (877) 249-4747, and make your own tee time for Monday. Remember the banquet will be at 6:30.

- ◆ We will take your score from Monday and flight you for Tuesday's play. There will be approximately four flights. We will have a shotgun start on Tuesday morning around 8:30. Prizes for winners of flights will be awarded after Tuesday's play.

Accommodations:

Option 1: The Peninsula Golf Resort has nice villas. The villas cost \$50 per person with four to a villa. Each villa has two bedrooms with two beds in each room, plus much, much more. A great price! Bring your own foursome and stay on the course. You will need to make your own reservations. Do it soon before all are taken!

Option 2: Make your own reservations in Nicholasville or Danville (the two nearest towns).

Option 3: Drive in for both days and stay at home or with friends. For the course layout, information, and directions visit the course's informative web-site at www.peninsulagolf.com.

Registration for Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Church _____

Church Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Ministerial Position _____

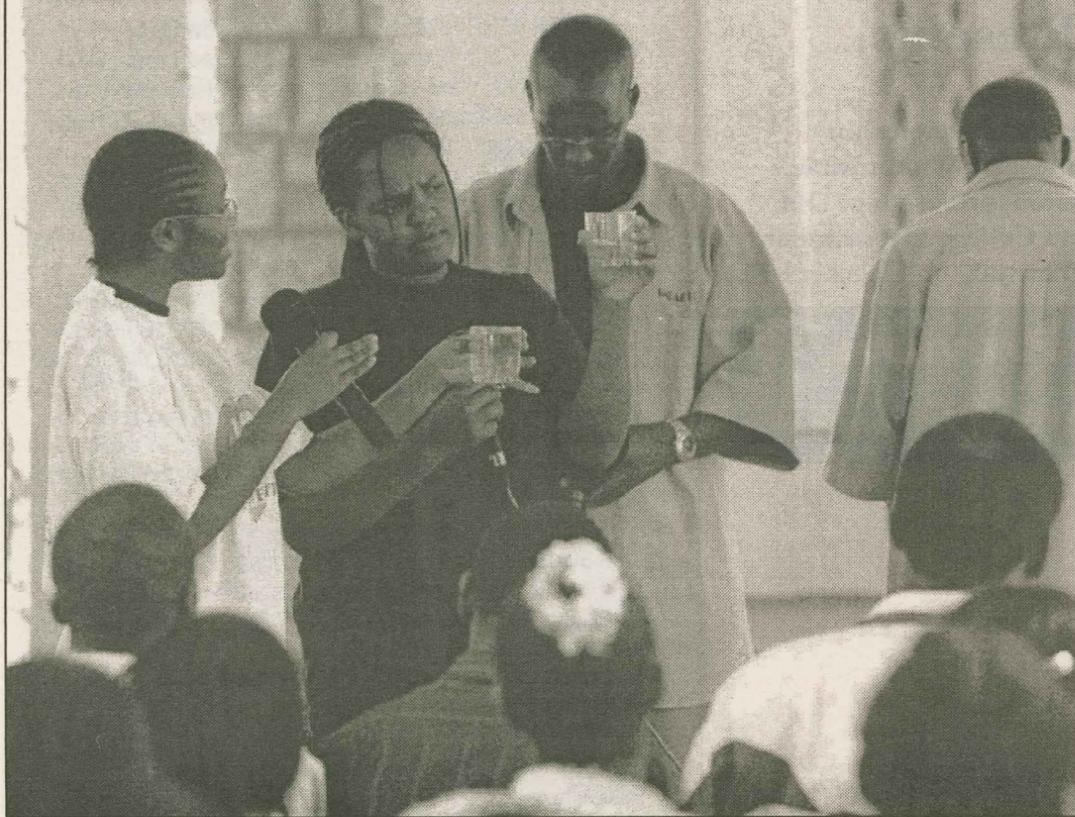
Enclosed _____ \$10 non-refundable deposit due with registration
(balance due at tournament)

_____ \$64 (full amount)

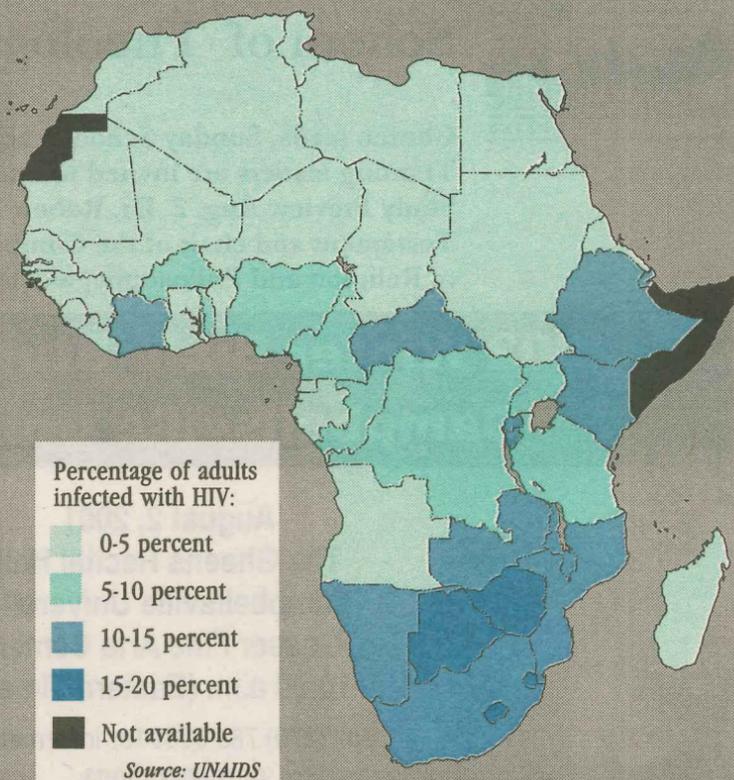
Please mail to: Creative Ministries Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253

Registration Deadline: September 12

'True Love Waits'



Living with AIDS/HIV



A CLEAR CHOICE
 ■ Above: A "True Love Waits" drama team in Nairobi, Kenya, illustrates how sexual promiscuity can kill dreams and muddy future plans. In a country where 500 people die each day from AIDS, Christian workers are urging students to pledge sexual abstinence until marriage.

■ Right: Prince Ngongo Bahati, adviser for Agape, a Christian club at the United States International University in Nairobi, says the "True Love Waits" campaign is making a difference in eastern Africa. "I have seen people change their lives and live sexually pure lives before God." (IMB photos by Matt Jones)

Missionaries taking abstinence campaign to Africa's young adults

By Brittany Jarvis
 SBC International Mission Board

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—Sharon Pumpelly goes to work every day knowing that 500 people in her country will die of AIDS before the sun sets.

It's a race against the clock that Christian workers across Africa are fighting. It is an epidemic that already has claimed 13 million Africans.

But it's one that can be stopped. Southern Baptist missionaries and their African co-workers don't want multitudes of Africans to die before hearing the good news of God's love and forgiveness.

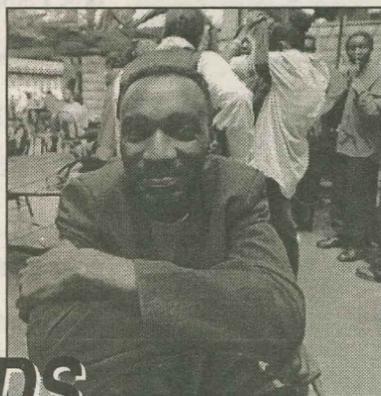
"I keep saying one generation could end AIDS—one generation of young people following God's ways," said Pumpelly, a Southern Baptist worker in Nairobi.

"Either I'm ignorant enough or naïve enough or have faith enough to believe that's how youth should be challenged. They are the ones, they are the hope, and they can make that kind of choice."

That hope prompted Pumpelly and members of the student ministry team in Kampala, Uganda, in 1993 to create a "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence program designed especially for African youth. By that time, AIDS already was sweeping through the African continent, claiming thousands of victims, particularly in Uganda.

"Nobody was giving information to young people to tell them premarital sex was something to be avoided, and that saying 'No' is not bad," said Cecilia Kabanda, who works with the Baptist Student Center in Uganda.

In 1994, Pumpelly shared the "True



Love Waits" philosophy and program with Janet Museveni, the First Lady of Uganda. Museveni eagerly supported the team's efforts to promote "True Love Waits" throughout the country. She hosted a program that

formed government leaders, heads of schools and church leaders about the "True Love Waits" philosophy.

"I just think God wanted to make His way known and He was just putting all the parts together," Pumpelly said.

Soon requests for "True Love Waits" presentations came spilling in. School leaders wanted their students to hear the message about abstinence. Church leaders promoted the program among their youth members. Students shared the philosophy with neighbors and friends.

One young person told Pumpelly that after hearing her presentation he and his brother gathered the neighborhood kids together and taught them the "True Love Waits" philosophy.

"(He) said, 'Thank you for teaching us. You have given us hope,'" she recounted. "It just caught on."

Christian leaders often take the "True Love Waits" message into schools. A student drama team illustrates the effects of sexual promiscuity.

Their work appears to be having an effect, Pumpelly said. One study found a growing number of Ugandan young people are choosing abstinence before marriage. Medical surveys also show that the rate of new AIDS infections is declining.

But the effects are not reflected in statistics as much as in the lives of individuals who pledge to remain abstinent until marriage, said Prince Ngongo Bahati, adviser for Agape, a Christian club at the United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Sexual promiscuity is rampant among the students who come from all over the world to study at the college.

"We've seen God work through 'True Love Waits,'" Bahati noted. "I've talked to so many people and I've seen them make commitments and look to the (program's pledge) cards when they are tempted."

"I have seen people change their lives and live sexually pure lives before God," he said.

When Irene Lwantale was married, she and her husband exchanged the "True Love Waits" pledge cards as part of the ceremony.

"Since we had made a commitment to wait until our wedding day (before having sex) and we had fulfilled that commitment, it was time to start a new life," she said.

But those who work with "True Love Waits" recognize it still is a battle to teach abstinence in a culture that promotes sexual promiscuity.

"The culture teaches the girls to be dependent on men," said Andrew Mwenge, pastor of Kampala Baptist Church in Uganda. "Girls give sexual

Statistics

- 26.1 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have AIDS.
- 5.3 million Africans were infected during the year 2000—a rate of 15,000 infections a day, including 6,500 age 15-24.
- Reduced life expectancy—in Malawi it will drop from 66 to 25.
- 5,500 funerals per day in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 60,000 babies are infected each year in South Africa alone—most of whom will not see their second birthday.

favors to be taken care of. We have to teach the girls how to take care of themselves and about their own value."

For guys, sexuality is something to be flaunted.

"At this age a gentleman thinks having sex is a way of showing they are real men," Bahati said.

Cultural myths and sexual practices complicate matters. Many Africans believe that if someone infected with AIDS has sex with a virgin then the disease will disappear, Pumpelly said. And in a few tribal areas, it is polite for men to share or loan out their wives.

But those who have seen "True Love Waits" work and change lives are not discouraged.

"You just teach the truth and the Holy Spirit takes over," Pumpelly said. "We cannot be lax in calling people to the highest and the best."

"If nobody teaches them or challenges them, then how can they rise to God's best and God's blessing for them?" she asked. "God blesses the nation whose people follow His ways."

Missionary sharing Jesus' love with AIDS orphan babies

By Sue Sprenkle
SBC International Mission Board

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP)—Squeals of delight echo down the hall as the toddlers rush to their friend at full speed.

"Who loves you?" Glenna Francis asks as she bends down to hug the two boys. "Your Father in heaven loves you, that's who."

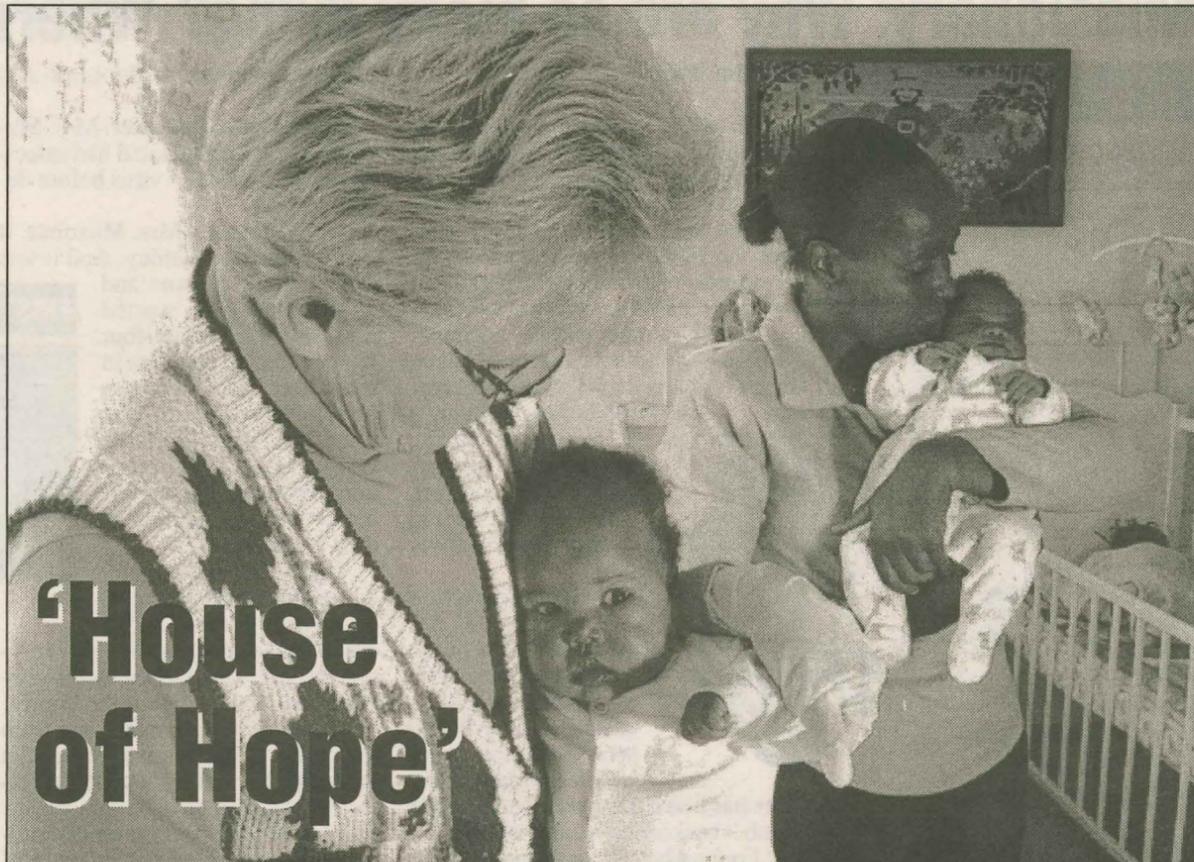
The boys smile and clap with delight. Small hands reach up to grab Francis' finger to lead her outside.

At first glance, this might seem like a normal reunion between grandmother and grandchildren—but it is far from that.

The two boys, as well as the 11 other babies in this home, are orphans. They live in House of Hope, a temporary home in South Africa where Southern Baptists share God's unconditional love with orphaned babies and toddlers.

Many babies have been orphaned by the AIDS epidemic sweeping Africa. Some suffer from the disease themselves.

No one understands their need for a loving touch better than Francis. The Southern Baptist missionary grew up as an orphan, too. Her mother died when she was 13 months old. Her father remarried, but a year later he and her stepmother drowned, leaving Francis and



'House of Hope'

LOVING CARE Missionary Glenna Francis (foreground) and a worker comfort babies at House of Hope in Johannesburg, South Africa. Temporary homes like this one are springing up all over Africa because families have a hard time taking care of the estimated 12.1 million orphans whose parents have died of AIDS. (IMB photo by Sue Sprenkle)

"These children need to know that they are loved."

Southern Baptist missionary Glenna Francis

AIDS in Africa

her younger brother orphaned.

The siblings bounced around from home to home for years. Finally, in her high school years, Francis found a permanent home in Houston

with an aunt and uncle.

"People cared for me when they didn't have to," Francis recounts. "My aunt and uncle did it because they

wanted to touch my life. Now, I am doing the same. I am touching lives that otherwise wouldn't have a chance to know Jesus' love."

The short-term orphanage is a temporary home for babies and toddlers. As social services try to find permanent homes for the children, House of Hope offers them a safe haven.

In Africa, orphans traditionally are absorbed by the extended family and everyone lends a helping hand. But with AIDS leaving behind 12.1 mil-

lion orphans in sub-Saharan Africa, extended families are fast becoming overextended. Temporary homes such as House of Hope are popping up throughout South Africa to meet the increasing needs, Francis explains.

Just then a muffled cry from the baby room draws Francis' attention. The baby crying is almost five months old, but you couldn't tell by looking at her. She still can't control her own head and is about the size of a one-month-old.

She has full-blown AIDS.

As Francis changes the baby's diaper, she sighs and motions for a fellow worker to step up and see the new lesion on the baby's leg.

"My heart just breaks for these kids," she says. "We are close to having a missing generation here in South Africa because of AIDS."

"These children need to know that they are loved even though they may have HIV/AIDS. Some of them are going to die and they need to know Jesus' love before that happens."

Francis notes that many people are afraid to hold and love the children. She knows that stigma firsthand.

"This could have been me," she says. "I could have been any one of these children."

Francis said her goal is to show the children the unconditional love she found through Jesus Christ. She constantly talks to each one about how Jesus loves them and has a big plan for each of their lives.

As Francis sits down, six children immediately crawl to her feet. The grandmother smiles and starts singing "Jesus Loves Me," much to the delight of the toddlers.

"God prepared me for this all of my life," she says. "These children just steal your heart. I pray that someone else will come to love these little feet as I have. They may only be babies, but they need hope, too."



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Missionary: Why are so many dying? Where are laborers?

Prayer requests

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Christian workers in Africa list the following prayer requests for the AIDS-related crisis:

■ Ask God to intervene and stop the onslaught of AIDS that is depriving 6,000 Africans each day of the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

■ Pray for the salvation of multitudes in Africa who are lost and dying without Christ.

■ Thank God for Christian workers who serve on the front lines of the AIDS crisis. Ask Him to give them strength and courage for their difficult ministries.

■ Ask God to touch the hearts of Christians everywhere and send them to meet the urgent need for workers in Africa.

■ Ask God to make the "True Love Waits" sexual abstinence program effective in the minds and hearts of those who hear its message.

■ Pray that churches would minister to AIDS victims and their families, sharing with them the good news of God's love and forgiveness.

■ Pray that Christians with AIDS would be shining examples of God's peace and power in the face of death.

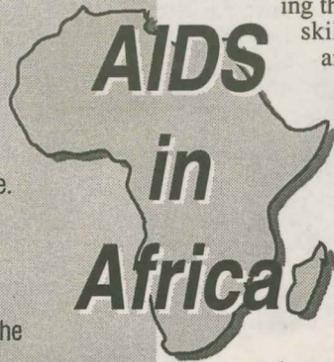
■ Pray that homes and hearts would be opened to Africa's 12.1 million AIDS orphans.

■ Ask God to break through cultural traditions and silence to show Africans the way He wants them to live their lives.

■ Pray that millions of Africans would know God's saving power and find in Him the strength to change dangerous behavior.

■ Ask God to reveal a cure for AIDS to researchers working on the problem.

■ Pray that churches around the world would join the all-Africa global prayer movement, 2001PRAY.



By Kim Davis

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)—As we walked on the pothole and boulder-ridden red-dirt pathway, my prayerwalking partners from the United States and I voiced requests for the Father to open the way for evangelism in a densely populated village outside Zimbabwe's capital.

A few months earlier, a Zimbabwean pastor's wife and I had begun a sewing class for the purpose of sharing the Bible and teaching a skill. Word was getting around that a "murungu," a white person, was telling people about God and His Son.

I wasn't expecting the touch on my shoulder or a quick answer to our prayer.

"Amai (mother), please come with me. Mrs. Muzonza asks that you come to her place.

She has heard that you are telling the truth," beckoned a young woman.

For nearly an hour, I shared about creation, the fall of man, God's tremendous love and His Son, Jesus, with the middle-aged woman who had summoned me. Without hesitation, she became a child of God that day.

During the next year, she led the way in supporting our sewing class and the new Baptist church by inviting people to come. Many of the

villagers believed in the Lord as a result.

A year and a half later, Mrs. Muzonza died. Her husband had infected her with the HIV virus before deserting her.

It was not only Mrs. Muzonza. It was Snodia and Stanley. And it was a dear friend of ours and his daughter who wasted away as well. Twenty-four women died in my class in less than two years—about one-third of the class. We heard mourning wails constantly in our neighborhood during funerals of many others who died around us.

"God, why are so many dying and I can't seem to do anything about it?" I asked. It seemed as though everyone I knew was touched by this disease firsthand or within the family.

A young woman called me from the clinic where she had just had a baby girl, her second daughter. I collected her with that naked, under-sized baby. With extreme difficulty, I forced myself not to cry as I wrapped that precious infant in my own teenage son's baby blanket from years past. A few months earlier, this mother learned she was HIV positive. She also had accepted Christ.

"Amai, will I give my child the virus if I nurse her?" she asked with tears in her eyes.

"Yes," I said quietly.

I've seen the living skeletons, the makeshift graveyards where scores of bodies are laid to rest two feet apart, and the orphans who are left. I've heard the wails and shovels digging incessantly like a bad dream. I've smelled the sickly odor of death as a man breathed his last before my eyes.

I've touched the withered and weak hands of the dying.

If it were not for God's peace in knowing that these accepted the Lord Jesus, I would have been in the depths of despair.

In frustration, however, my questions are these: Where are the many laborers, including volunteers, to help us bring in this harvest? Are westerners too

afraid of AIDS to care that a whole region in Africa is dying, many of whom are innocent? Will all hear the gospel before leaving this earth due to a miserable and humiliating disease?

All I can pray is that God will raise up courageous believers to take the gospel to the downcast and dying in southern Africa before it is too late. For that, my hope soars.

Kim Davis and her husband, Ray, have been missionaries to southern Africa since 1992. Recently they moved to Richmond, Va., where Kim assists Ray as the Richmond associate for southern Africa for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. She can be contacted by e-mail at kimdray@att.net.

FIRST PERSON



Davis

God working at Jonathan Creek

David Voyles is pastor of Fordsville Baptist Church and attended Crossings at the Creek a couple of weeks ago. I asked him to tell his story, which follows:

"On July 8, Fordsville Baptist Church was sending off 29 campers to Jonathan Creek. We knew a great week was ahead, but little did we know of God's plan. Several people in our group were not Christians and had very little Christian influence in their lives.

"There were a great number of obstacles to overcome to get these children to camp. The obstacles ranged from getting parents' permission, financing, transportation and even the problem of how to handle these children after we got to camp. It seemed as if everything was working against this trip. But God truly had full control and worked out every last detail and there we were at Jonathan Creek, all 29.

"I truly wish I could share everything that we experienced at camp, but it would take hours to tell you all that God did for us.

"As we entered for worship service Monday night, God began to work great things. Imagine 275 teens quiet, listening to Rob Turner share God's Word. Rob went straight to his message.

"The invitation was held, and children of all walks of life were answering to God. After service we took our kids to check point and gathered them in a circle and challenged them to listen to God's Word one more time.

"The message was simple and complete, God's great plan of salvation. Then we asked them to bow and pray and let God speak to their hearts. The presence of God was so great that the only thing to do was to give these teens a chance to respond. As all the kids were praying we simply asked if any of them wanted to receive Jesus Christ in their hearts; one by one, hands started to rise. Before the night was over, God reached down from heaven and saved seven of these kids.

"Wednesday night God still was at work, and three more were saved. During our week at camp, 10 people received Jesus Christ as Lord. God's Word is very powerful.

"Please share His Word with the children; they will respond. God truly is great. To Him we give the glory."

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

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Rusty Ellison

A world Baptist

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With local autonomy being one of our Baptist distinctives, it is not easy to unite Baptists of various traditions. Yet, that is precisely the miracle of the BWA. Through its ministry, the world family of Baptists celebrates the unity we have in Christ. It is Christ who brings us together, and it is Christ who sends us out on mission together.

More than 150,000 Baptist churches around the world are members of the BWA through 201 national Baptist groups. The four primary ministry areas for which the BWA exists are: to unite Baptists worldwide, to lead in world evangelism, to respond to people in need and to defend human rights.

My interest and involvement

with the BWA really heightened about 20 years ago when KBC Executive Secretary Frank Owen encouraged Larie and me to attend a world congress in Toronto, Canada. It was the year Duke McCall was elected BWA president. Wayne Dehoney, a BWA council member, arranged for us to attend a luncheon in McCall's honor at which Billy

Graham spoke. Although I have not had any direct involvement since then, Larie and I have been annual contributors, and we use the occasion of BWA Sunday on the denominational calendar in February each year especially to pray for Baptists around the world, for General Secretary Denton Lotz and for the BWA. If your church does not take advantage

of that annual opportunity I urge you to consider an education and prayer emphasis.

Let me encourage you to learn more about becoming a world Baptist through the BWA, 405 Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046; (703) 790-8980; www.bwanet.org.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

RESOURCES

Church architect: Building it doesn't mean they'll come

By Charles Willis
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Just because you build it, that doesn't necessarily mean people will come, according to a church architect and consultant.

"A new church building does not cause growth; it merely permits growth," said Davis Byrd, director of the church architecture department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"The purpose of a church is not a church building," Byrd told pastors and church staff during the National Conference for Church Leadership at

LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, June 25-29.

"Building church facilities is a problem of purpose long before it is an architectural or financial problem," he observed. "Too many churches do property and facility planning as if there were no connection between the kind of space provided and church growth. Others plan a new building with a vague hope that just constructing a building will lead to growth."

Studies of growing churches, Byrd noted, consistently show that property, buildings and space are major factors in sustaining growth patterns. But, he emphasized, "It takes people and planning to make growth happen.

"Your future is what you, under God, set out to do," he continued. "Put a prayer committee to work first before you have a building committee."

Using prayer, God's Word and God's mission for His church are the first steps in a potential church building program, Byrd said. Others include knowing where you are, who you are, who you want to become and what you need to do:

■ Knowing where you are includes a study of your community, people needs, area economy, climate, demographics, codes and regulations, local infrastructure and property surroundings. Knowing local building requirements and existing services, such as roads and utility services, can help a church avoid purchasing the wrong property.

■ Knowing who you are includes the perceptions, attitudes and spiritual health of the church members, a profile of the congregation and church organization and physical circumstances.

"How comfortable are our people with being uncomfortable? Consider if the need to park a distance from the church or if emotional ties to specific buildings or rooms will create problems," he said.

■ Knowing who you want to become includes knowing the mission, purpose and vision of your church. Byrd said the mission is God's eternal intention for His church. The purpose is a contemporary restatement of God's overarching intention that grows out of each church's unique

relationship with God. Its vision is a clear mental image of a preferred future state and behavior.

"Communicate the vision," he urged church leaders. "You can't focus on fog. Know what you need to do. Develop strategies and a schedule, recruit and assign leaders, train leadership and put money behind the process and establish measures to assess your church's health.

"No church is truly ready to deal with property and building issues until it has developed a comprehensive ministry-growth strategy. You don't have a strategy until you have a plan that involves a particular place, a particular time and a specific way of accomplishing your goals," he said. "If you can't build a paragraph around your ministry-growth strategy, don't build a building around it."

Byrd cautioned leaders to "go with your strengths. No church can do everything. Do a few things well. Develop your strategies around your strengths; develop your ministries, programs, activities and events around your strategies; and develop your property and buildings around your ministries, programs, activities and events."

Finally, Byrd said, "Do it. Act, pay attention to the results, learn, modify and act again. When you get to groundbreaking wisely, construction is not hard. It's just coordination of a bunch of tasks that are well defined. It is difficult when the proper planning was not done. There is no right way to build the wrong building."

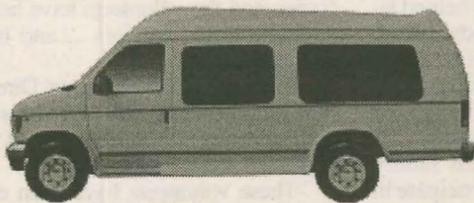
"If you can't build a paragraph around your ministry-growth strategy, don't build a building around it."

Davis Byrd, director of LifeWay's church architecture department

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Beach ministry

For most college students, spring break conjures up visions of going to the beach, soaking up the sun's rays and enjoying relaxing with friends.

During our spring break, 12 Cumberland College students traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., but had little time to relax.

Jenn Dyer led a music ministry team consisting of Stephanie Dobbs, Andrew Dukes, Matt Halligan, Amanda Johnson, Jenn McBay, Darren Murray, Lora Beth Payne, Daniel Plemons, Missy Sterneberg, Jeremiah Tudor and Josh Wilcox.

All of the students minister at Cumberland College through music as part of the groups One Voice, Reflections or Sacred Vision.

The team left on Saturday morning and drove most of the day to reach their destination.

In Myrtle Beach the team worked through Intercoastal Outreach, a ministry sponsored by South Carolina Baptists.

They stayed in a mission house used as a home base for both summer missionaries and spring break mission teams.

On Sunday morning team members performed a sacred music program twice.

That evening they performed the same program.

On Monday they participated in CAN-AM Days on Myrtle Beach. They flew kites, made balloon animals and had a children's mini-Olympics on the beach. Working with children provided wonderful opportunities to speak with them and their parents about Christ.

On Tuesday they performed a concert at a local mall. On Wednesday they did a prayer walk up and down the beach. Thursday saw them on the road back to Cumberland College.

During their busy days in Myrtle Beach they shared their faith in Christ with many people

of all ages.

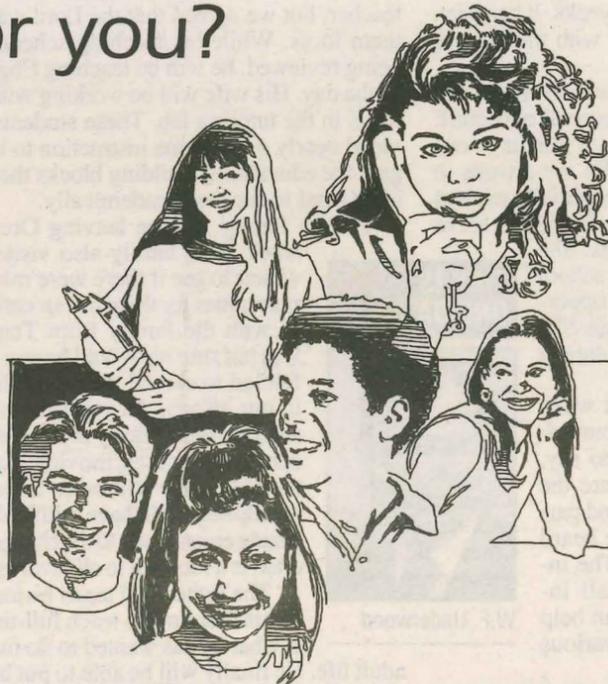
We thank them for using their talents and time to reach out with the gospel.

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

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MISSIONS

WMU launches program to promote families on mission

FamilyFEST is a national project of Woman's Missionary Union that brings families together to work with local volunteers in a concentrated effort to support ongoing missions projects.

By Stella Anderson Prather
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP)—While many parents and grandparents were packing up the kids and heading to the beaches, mountains or favorite getaway spots this summer, a host of Southern Baptist families recently gathered their youngsters and went on mission to share the good news of Christ.

Ministering side-by-side, these mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, husbands and wives, and grandparents and grandchildren united in Central Arkansas to take part in FamilyFEST 2001.

FamilyFEST is a national project of Woman's Missionary Union that brings families together to work with local volunteers in a concentrated effort to support ongoing missions projects.

The June 20-23 event, held in Little Rock, drew more than 100 volunteers to this first-time family missions event. Similar FamilyFEST projects are planned for 2002 in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Chicago.

The following week, another 72 adult volunteers spent June 24-30 in Little Rock taking part in Missions-FEST. This was the third Missions-FEST project sponsored by national WMU. Two others are scheduled in October in Philadelphia.

During FamilyFEST, the families, representing 11 states, participated in various outreach and witnessing projects in several Little Rock metro



FAMILYFEST National Woman's Missionary Union President Janet Hoffman (center) and four members of her family label cans of food in the first FamilyFEST sponsored by WMU June 20-23 in Little Rock, Ark. Pictured with Hoffman are (left to right) daughter-in-law, Terri; daughter, Shelda; granddaughter, Lauren; son, Bill; and Arkansas WMU executive director Julia Ketner.

areas. The missions activities, which assisted area church ministries, included backyard Bible clubs, prayerwalks, light construction, block parties, reading clubs and hunger ministries. Other ministry projects targeted nursing homes and needy residents.

Among the volunteers was WMU national president Janet Hoffman. She was joined by her daughter, Shelda, of Dallas, and her son, Bill, and his family, wife, Terri, and daughter, Lauren, all of Shreveport, La.

The Hoffman family ministered at the Little Rock Rice Depot where they

and several other volunteers helped label thousands of canned goods, as well as packaged chicken products. These food items will be distributed to food pantries statewide and will help feed thousands of hungry Arkansans.

Janet Hoffman called this family affair an opportunity to "participate in hands-on missions." She said her family has always put a high priority on missions, but FamilyFEST was the first time she and her children had joined in a volunteer project out of state.

"Now that my children are adults,

it is such a blessing to see them living a missions lifestyle before their own children," shared Hoffman. "The thrill of three generations of our family working side-by-side on mission for God is fulfilling and bonding beyond description."

In southwest Little Rock, several families joined members of Life Line and Promiseland churches in their outreach efforts in local neighborhoods. Volunteers canvassed the area where they prayed for non-Christians, invited residents to local block parties and helped children with reading skills.

Life Line pastor Don Chancellor said the FamilyFEST volunteers aided his church in kicking off a ministry at a local apartment complex and helped them minister to a growing African-American community.

"They have helped us reach out to the community, 90 percent of which are probably lost and don't go to church anywhere," Chancellor said. "We are seen by many as the big church on the corner, and the volunteers have helped us break down barriers ... and build bridges for the gospel."

Arkansas WMU Executive Director Julia Ketner said the missions teams aided the ministry of local churches, as well as planted seeds for the gospel.

"These volunteers have been extra strength for ministries that are ongoing here in Little Rock," said Ketner. "Many local churches do not have sufficient people to staff these ministries, and these volunteers have helped these churches meet needs ... because they were willing to come here to Arkansas."

Thank God for miracles!

This is the last week of summer school, and the fall term will begin in just three weeks. It has been a very busy summer, especially with the help of several hundred volunteers.

The primary emphasis the past five weeks has been getting housing ready for several new staff. Of the five new families coming to join us in our efforts, two have just arrived. We are always in need of house parents, so I was especially excited when a young lady moved from Florida to serve as one of our girls' house parents. She had been teaching in a Christian school in Florida and was seeking better opportunities to minister to young people. She seems to be settling right in and already is greatly appreciated.

A second family moved last week from Williamsburg to serve in our admissions department. Needless to say, those who serve in admissions are the critical link between our school and parents and grandparents who have heard about Oneida Baptist Institute. The information provided will help all involved to determine if Oneida can help a young person with his or her various needs.

A third family will be leaving California this week. The father will teach Spanish this fall. The mother will be serving as our daycare director. In our school, both parents serve in some capacity in our ministry, so we provide a daycare to meet the needs of our staff's smallest children. This family served at Oneida several years ago and now is returning to serve here again.

Another family also is moving this week; this one from Tennessee. I first met them in February when they visited our campus. He wants to serve in the classroom as an English teacher. At the time,

I was not sure we would need another English teacher, but we agreed that the Lord was leading them to us. While his teaching schedule still is being reviewed, he will be teaching English most of the day. His wife will be working with our students in the tutoring lab. These students are provided nearly one-on-one instruction to help them gain the educational building blocks they desperately need to succeed academically.

A fifth family will be leaving Oregon next week. This family also visited us last winter to see if there were ministry opportunities for them on our campus. Just as with the family from Tennessee, I was not sure we would have a need, but felt led to extend them an offer to join in our efforts. As you can understand, some of their family members are concerned about their moving clear across the U.S. They will be so far apart, and grandparents will have a difficult time adjusting emotionally to the change. Service often is a sacrifice to all involved.

The father will teach history. It will be his first time to teach full-time, but it is what he has wanted to do most of his adult life. He finally will be able to put his educational background to work. His wife will serve in our print shop with the myriad of services they provide to our school.

So why did I title this article "Thank God for Miracles"? Consider that each of these people will receive the grand total of \$5,000 for their services and some literally are moving across the United States. I can think of no other explanation except that it is a miracle.

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

Meet the president's daughters

Our student body president for 2001-02 is Charlie Dean; his wife, Pat, is campus nurse. They have two daughters, Sarah, 12, and Leah, 10.

The Deans moved to Clear Creek from Lawrenceburg, where Charlie was a policeman. They visited the campus in July 1997 and prayed for God to confirm their coming. That night at home, after a vacation Bible school evangelistic service, Charlie led both girls to Christ.

"It was awesome, and we saw that as God's sign for us to move," Pat said.

I recently interviewed Sara and Leah for the college radio program.

"It was kind of tough when we first moved here, the day after Christmas," Sarah remembered. "We had to leave almost all our friends. It was scary, not knowing anyone."

"We had friends who moved in behind us, and they would watch us," Leah added. "We made good friends with them."

Both of the girls like the family life center. "Especially the game room and the swimming pool," Sarah said. Leah enjoys basketball, swimming and skating.

During the spring semester they participated in the children's musical, "Levite Genes." Sara portrayed

a daughter whose mother was pushing the director to give her a leading role in the production. "I learned that we are to boast about Jesus and not ourselves," Sarah said.

The girls also are members of campus GA's. Mom and Dad homeschooled the girls. "That's kind of hard, but you learn more as you go through," Leah said.

"I love it, and we do activities with other homeschoolers," Sarah observed.

Pat added, "They enjoy reading, drawing and writing stories."

Both girls like to fish. Charlie bought them a minnow dip net. "They do better catching the fish with their hands than the net," Pat said.

Sarah tells about one family outing, "I was kicking my legs in the water and scooted over in the pontoon boat to reach the water better. I slipped out of the boat! I grabbed the side and was all right."

Did she catch any fish? "Not that day, but I have caught some," Sarah said.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

BOOKS

'Prayer of Jabez' named Christian book of the year

ATLANTA (RNS)—The best-selling book "The Prayer of Jabez" has been named the 2001 Charles "Kip" Jordon Christian Book of the Year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

The award was announced during the 24th annual Gold Medallion Book Awards banquet, July 7.

The book, by Bruce Wilkinson, is published by Multnomah Publishers of Sisters, Ore., and focuses on a prayer in the Old Testament book of 1 Chronicles.

Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ International, was presented with the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gold Medallion Awards were presented to winners in 20 categories:

Bibles "Zondervan NASB Study Bible."

Bible Study "Just Give Me Jesus" by Anne Graham Lotz.

Biography/Autobiography "Amazing Faith" by Michael Richardson.

Christian Education "What's So Amazing About Grace?" by Philip Yancey.

Christian Living "The Prayer of Jabez" by Bruce Wilkinson.

Christian Ministry "The Guardian System" by David Middlebrook.

Christianity and Society "The Wedge of Truth" by Philip Johnson.

Devotional "Night Light" by James and Shirley Dobson.

Elementary Children "A Faith to Grow on" by John MacArthur.

Family and Parenting "The Five Love Languages of Teenagers" by Gary Chapman.

Fiction "Paul: A Novel" by Walter Wangerin.

Gift Book/Poetry "The Wonder of It All" by Steve Terrill.

Inspirational "He Chose the Nails" by Max Lucado.

Marriage "A Marriage Without Regrets" by Kay Arthur.

Missions/Evangelism "The Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel.

Preschool Children "Mad Maddie Maxwell" by Stacie Maslyn.

Reference Works/Commentaries "Dictionary of New Testament Background" by Craig Evans and Stanley Porter.

Spanish "Mas Que Maravilloso" by Leslie Thompson.

Theology/Doctrine "Resurrection" by Hank Hanegraaff.

Youth "Extreme Faith" by Tim Baker.

The awards were presented in Atlanta, site of the CBA International Convention, the annual meeting of members of the Christian retail industry.

Powers, Weakness and the Tabernacling of God. Marva Dawn. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001. 176 pages. \$14. ◆◆◆◆ (out of five)

The Apostle Paul, in his closing words to the Ephesians, states: "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world" (Ephesians 6:12, CEV).

Who are these powers? Citing Tom Yoder-Neufield, Marva Dawn notes that these powers are "social, political and economic realities ... diffused throughout the culture. Their demonic character rests not so much in their transcendent nature or personal agency, as in their capacity to control the imaginations and behavior of human beings."

Dawn notes that post-Reformation theology has tended to strip Christian theology of the language of powers and authorities, reducing the saving work of Christ to its inward dimensions. Even many contemporary attempts to reintroduce this language have reduced it to notions of personal devils or to human structures without regard to "overarching supernatural dimensions."

Stripped of any sense of the cosmic damage sin has done to God's creation, Dawn argues that the cross has been reduced to a revelation of love and mercy alone. We are missing any sense that in the cross a "decisive, irrevocable defeat of the powers of darkness" has occurred.

Dawn seeks to remind us of the reality of the powers and the church's role in proclaiming the liberation God has provided us through the cross of Christ. In an amazingly concise way, she summarizes and critiques contemporary scholarship on the issue. No one can read this book and remain satisfied with a narcissistic church culture. *Jim Holladay*

Mighty Stories, Dangerous Rituals: Weaving Together the Human and the Divine. Herbert Anderson and Edward Foley. Jossey-Bass, 2001 in paperback. 204 pages. \$15.95. ◆◆◆◆

Herbert Anderson and Edward Foley contend that storytelling and ritual making are interpretive tools that humanity uses to shape perception of the world and to discover their place in the world. These two activities, they write, help us create a world that is "both habitable and hospitable."

But not all the stories of our lives and the rituals we are involved in are constructive. Positive religious meaning comes when we weave our story into God's story, thus connecting the human and divine.

One of the things the authors show is the importance of connecting the human and divine in the use of stories and rituals. At the heart of the issue is the authors' discussion of myth and parable.

The authors also are concerned to deal specifically with certain life transitions and how important story and ritual are to successful passage through the transitions. The authors encourage the creation of new rituals and also revitalizing old rituals with new stories. Especially important is revitalizing the ritual of worship and its components, including music, prayers and preaching. It is imperative that worship leaders successfully incorporate the real-life experiences of the parishioners into worship so that the congregation will grasp the real meaning behind the ritual.

This book is a good blend of the theoretical aspects of story and ritual and concern for pastoral care of the congregation. *Wayne Hager*

Listening Ministry: Rethinking Pastoral Leadership. Susan Hedahl. Augsburg Press, 2001. 124 pages. \$14. ◆

I do not know what I was expecting when I picked this book up, but I was not satisfied when I put it down. Reflecting on why that was, I came to the conclusion that the primary problem with "Listening Ministry" is that it is poorly written.

Susan Hedahl is associate professor of homiletics at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa. In 1997, she led a course on listening for church leaders. The book is an expanded outline for that course, complete with questions for discussion at the end of each chapter.

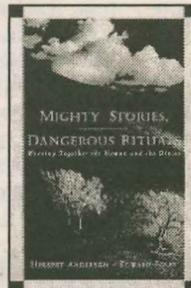
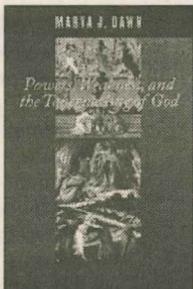
Hedahl argues that though listening is a crucial skill in pastoral ministry, most pastors have had little if

any training in how to listen effectively. She observes that most pastoral care literature, while noting the importance of listening, gives little or no attention to how to listen. She claims hers is the only book to address this topic in any way that merges theory with practical application.

Perhaps that is where I stumbled in reading the book. In pastoral care classes and labs I had as a seminarian, a lot of attention was given to the skill involved in being an engaged listener. Her absolute claims for the importance of her book were overblown, in my experience.

When her inflated sense of importance is combined with the general lack of real help, this book is a disappointment. Too much important information is left out of each chapter, and too much of the theory is repetitive throughout.

"Listening Ministry" promises more than it delivers. It is a good idea that is poorly developed. *Jim Holladay*



Author: Knowing church style can help avoid pastor mismatch

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

NASHVILLE (BP)—After 30 years of ministry, Gene Mims knows that mismatched pastors and congregations can cause both to flounder.

Mims recently wrote "The 7 Churches Not Found in the Book of Revelation," but it has nothing to do with end-times theology. Instead the book explores churches' dominant characteristics.

Understanding a church's characteristics can help pastors adjust their leadership style to fit a church and also help churches avoid calling the wrong pastor, Mims said. Checklists help readers categorize their churches.

"This is a resource for laymen and pastors alike to help identify who they are," said Mims, president of the church resources division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The inspiration for the book came three years ago. Mims was traveling to Los Angeles to teach a leadership class at an

extension campus of Golden Gate Theological Seminary.

Meditating on how to explain why many leaders struggle to lead churches, he recognized congregations come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Each fits into specific, sensible categories, he said.

Mims came up with seven descriptions:

- **A family chapel**, in which relationships are key and the pastor serves as a chaplain. This is the most common kind of church. Despite technological advances and changing worship styles, people still love to be in relationship with others, he said.

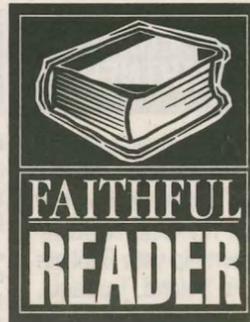
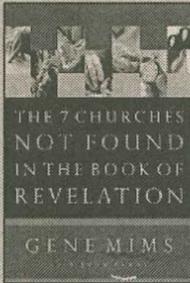
- **A university church**, in which the pastor acts as professor and instruction is the key.

- **An arena church**, which features lots of "experiences" and the pastor operates as a "performer."

- **A corporate church**, presided over by a CEO pastor.

- **A machine church**, in which activity is the most important characteristic and the pastor serves as the manager.

- **A legacy church**, in which the most



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

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:

■ A pastor for Mbingu Baptist Church in Tanzania.

■ Four Christian women of the Barabaig tribe in Tanzania who have been trained to teach other women to read.

■ Barnaba and Rhema Michael, a Baptist pastor and wife in Tanzania who are beginning a new preaching point in Kahama.

■ Anthony Amair, who is moving from India to Boston this summer to work with church planter David Callahan in starting a church among natives of India.

■ A contemporary worship leader needed for Harvest Baptist Church in Norwell, Mass.

■ Pastor Peter Obahor and his wife, Nicole, who lead the international church in Remscheid, Germany. Most of the members of the church are refugees awaiting approval to live in Germany.

■ All missionaries serving in Romania as they deal with new government regulations that allow only for six-month visas instead of the previous year-long visas.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BAGDAD**—Christiansburg Church called **Chris Miller** as youth minister. **Douglas Sturgeon** is pastor.

■ **CRYSTAL**—Faith Church called **James Overbee**, a student at Southern Seminary, as interim pastor. He formerly was pastor of Heidelberg Church.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—Highland Hills will celebrate its 40th anniversary Sept. 9. **Walter Jackson**, dean of the Campbellsville University school of theology, will be the guest speaker. Lunch on the grounds after worship. Reservations requested. For information, call (859) 441-0442.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church will host the **Continental Singers** in concert July 27, 7 p.m. Also, the church will host revival services July 29-Aug. 1. **Larry Burcham** will be the evangelist and **Donna Bonner** will direct music. **Terrence Freeman** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host magician **Felix**

Snipes Aug 17-19, 7 p.m. He will present biblical responses to the occult and the New Age movement. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor. For information, call (502) 367-0218.

Midlane Park Church will host **Anissa Bradley** in concert Aug. 5, 6:30 p.m. **Chip Miller** is interim pastor.

Ninth & O Church will host a reception to honor former pastor **LaVerne Butler**, who served from 1969-1988, and his wife, **Lillian**, Aug. 25, 2-5 p.m. **Bill Cook** is pastor. For information, call (502) 493-3939.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will host revival services July 27-29, 7 p.m. **LaVerne Butler** will be the speaker. **D.L. Brewer** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Seven Hills Church will host **Solomon's Wish** in concert July 28, 7 p.m. **Jerry Burke** is worship pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Mount Vernon Church called **Corey Abney** as pastor. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

Six Kentuckians among Southwestern grads

FORT WORTH, Texas—Six people with Kentucky ties were among 325 students who received degrees recently from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Kentucky graduates, their hometowns and degrees are:

■ **Bradley Cornelius**, Cadiz, master of divinity with biblical languages.

■ **Gerald Howard**, Whitesville, master of divinity.

■ **Laurie Mullins**, Crab Orchard, master of arts in church and community ministries.

■ **Matthew Robertson**, Burlington, master of arts in Christian education.

■ **Keith Sands**, Kimper, master of divinity with biblical languages.

■ **Randall Summers**, Ashland, master of divinity.

Missions video series highlights God's expectations of Christians

By Sarah Zimmerman
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Finish this Bible verse: "Be still and"

Most people answer, "know that I am God," and they're partially right. The rest of Psalm 46:10 says, "I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

That verse is an example of how many Christians know only about half of the Bible, says Bob Sjogren, a missions mobilizer. And the half they know, he adds, is about God's promises to bless them, not about God's expectations of them.

Most Christians have a "bias toward looking at themselves in the Bible. They're so focused on God's desire to bless them, they don't see their responsibility to bless the nations," Sjogren notes in "Unveiled: God's Heart for His People," a new video series from New Hope Publishers, the general trade imprint of national Woman's Missionary Union.

The desire to be blessed rather than to be a blessing makes church ministries an end in themselves, Sjogren says. Instead, church ministries should draw believers to the Great Commission or non-believers to the gospel.

Sjogren has lived and worked among Muslims in North Africa. He now is president of Unveilingglory, a ministry dedicated to increasing

awareness of God's glory.

The video series includes eight sessions, each approximately 30 minutes. A participant's workbook and leader's guide make the material user-friendly for small groups.

Initial response to the material has been "nothing but positive," Sjogren says.

One church that used the material reports that members' prayer requests now are totally different. Members request prayer for world events and people groups rather than only personal issues.

Sjogren suggests that Christians should read the

Bible with an eye for God's expectations of them as well as God's promises to them. He also recommends that Christians pray for opportunities to be involved in being a blessing to other people groups.

Sjogren also stresses that the Bible is one book with an introduction, a story and a conclusion. It is not a collection of 66 books to be studied independently, he says. The theme of the entire Bible, he explains, is that God wants to bless His people so they can be a blessing.

To receive a free introductory video, call WMU's customer service at (800) 968-7301 and ask for item N015020. The video package may be purchased through WMU or by visiting www.newhopepubl.com.



CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

FOR SALE: 33 solid oak pews with white ends, assorted sizes. Excellent condition. Make offer. Falls of Rough Baptist. Contact Roger Allen, (270) 879-8233 or Bill Franks, (270) 879-3079.

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.

SEEKING: Experienced full-time pastor for FBC. Send resumé to: Allen Winchester, Pulpit Committee, PO Box 173, Gideon, MO 63848.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music (20-25 hours/week). Responsibilities include: Assisting in worship planning and leadership; planning a music program for all age groups; and training music leaders. Should be comfortable in a moderate congregation with a traditional/blended style of worship. Send resumé to: Music Search Committee, Lyndon Baptist Church, 8025 New LaGrange Road, Louisville, KY 40222. (502) 425-7150. Dr. Jim Holladay, pastor.

SEEKING: Beechmont Baptist Church seeks a senior pastor who will lead in the service of our Lord. The church was established in 1911 and is located in the south side of Louisville, Ky. The church is blessed with children's, youth and music ministers, plus a full-time office staff to accommodate a membership of 650. Resumes accepted through August 20, 2001. Send your resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Minister of education/youth for growing church. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 206, Bells, TN 37006.

SEEKING: Silverdale Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resumé 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: Teachers for parents' day out, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Contact Debbie Gorbandt at (502) 239-0316.

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

SEEKING: 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 resumé to: South Elkhorn Baptist Church, c/o Laura Farrow, 4867 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40510.

SEEKING: Full-time director of community ministries. Experience in assessing ministry needs in a community. Must speak fluent 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: 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 give to both SBC and CBF causes. 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 resumé through the end of August.

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

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

Keeping evangelism

*Witnessing tool
breaking new
ground with
topical issues*

By Joe Westbury
Georgia Christian Index

ATLANTA (BP)—Joey Hancock believes few Southern Baptists are soul winners because they don't know how easy it really is. Hancock, a former Southern Baptist pastor who spent nearly 30 years trying to convince laypeople of the ease of leading someone to Christ, also believes he has found something to make witnessing more user friendly than before.

A tract.

In a back to the future move, tracts have come into their own as a contemporary way for believers to share their faith. Previously dismissed as poorly written, designed and printed, today's tracts feature a state-of-the-art presentation while still telling the old, old story.

And they are being accepted in growing numbers every year, says Hancock, director of church ministries for the non-profit American Tract Society in Garland, Texas.

Hancock, who lives in suburban Atlanta, travels the nation introducing churches to ways they can share their faith on a small budget. Many people are surprised at how far their money can go and the quality of product they receive.

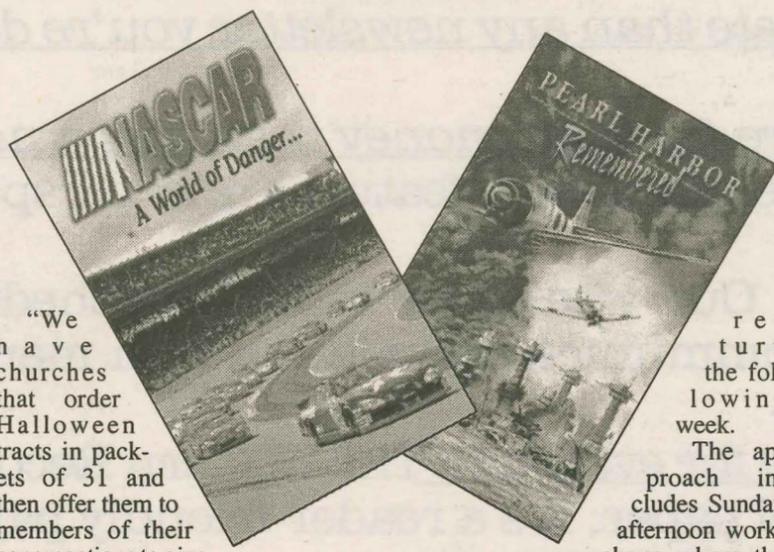
"Over the years, tracts have been proved to be an effective way of winning people to Christ. And the new generation of tracts make it even easier because they are four-color and almost as timely as today's newspaper," says Hancock, who has served Baptist churches primarily in Georgia and Alabama.

Production standards that would have been impossible a few years ago have cast the common tract in a new light. ATS has a quick response team that can produce a tract in a matter of hours to respond to international crises or news events on various levels.

"We were distributing Princess Diana tracts within 48 hours of her death," Hancock says.

"We had a Payne Stewart tract and a John Kennedy Jr. tract on the street within days of their deaths as the world mourned their passing. We have a NASCAR tract that was popular after Dale Earnhart's crash, and a tract called 'The True Force' that has a cover photo from the recent Star Wars movie. We even have a tract titled 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' and 'The Prayer of Jabez.'"

There are tracts for Mother's Day and Father's Day, for Christmas and Easter. But Halloween tracts easily outsell all others offered by the 176-year-old society.



"We have churches that order Halloween tracts in packets of 31 and then offer them to members of their congregations to give along with candy," he says.

The society has even taken the gospel to the Internet. Visitors to its Web site at www.atstracts.org can e-mail a tract to a friend.

With the variety of tracts now available, Hancock is seeing an increase in churches ordering the pamphlets for use for everyone in the church, from teenagers to senior citizens. A "Tigger" tract is especially popular with children, while one on body piercing appeals to teenagers.

ATS printed 30 million tracts last year and has distributed more than 10 billion during its history. It doesn't see any sign of slowing demand, even in a slowing economy.

In a move to try to help churches cultivate more of their members in sharing their faith, Hancock has developed an "On Tract" strategy that has been embraced by several Baptist state conventions and local associations.

"The key to the 'On Tract' approach is that it gets laypersons involved at an entry level where they become more comfortable with sharing their faith," he explains. "It's a simple way for pastors to enlist members of their congregations in soul winning. Anyone can do it, even homebound members who can place a tract in bills or in letters to friends."

"On Tract" is not designed to replace other evangelistic strategies but to enhance them. After individuals become more comfortable with handing someone a tract they begin to build their confidence and eventually are ready to move into more structured approaches such as Continuing Witness Training, the NET or FAITH.

"On Tract" is just a way to jump start laypeople to get them out of the bleachers and onto the playing field, Hancock notes.

The strategy is designed to be introduced during four Sundays and is based on distribution of four tracts. Sermon outlines are available to parallel the tracts being used; each member is given one tract and asked to give it to one other person before they

return the following week.

The approach includes Sunday afternoon workshops where the

pastor explains how to use the Billy Graham tract "Steps Toward Peace With God" to lead a person to Christ. Youth and children also are included in the approach with tracts and church social events—like a pizza party—tailored to them.

The four tracts used may be selected from among titles such as "Survivor," "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and "You've Got a Friend." Other titles can be substituted from among hundreds available in a number of languages and dialects.

"You don't have to form a committee or attend a training session to offer this in your church," Hancock says. "And it is adaptable to any size church, large or small. Many small churches don't have much money for an evangelism emphasis, but they are surprised what they can do, church-wide, for just a few dollars."

Southern Baptist churches that have participated in the strategy report a heightened awareness among their members for the need for soul winning.

Don Whitt introduced the strategy to churches and associations while serving as state evangelism director in Ohio. And now, as pastor of Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Easley, S.C., he's just as pleased with the results he sees in the lives of church members there.

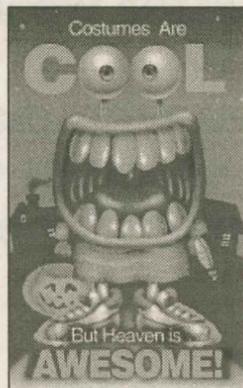
Whitt says more than 200 people who went through the training at his church—and who had never previously shared their faith—now do so regularly. And the 200 professions of faith in the first six months of this year are a direct result of members being faithful to the Great Commission.

"If someone can read a tract, they can lead someone to faith in Christ," he says. "On Tract" helps them lower their resistance level and become more comfortable with the idea of soul winning."

That's the heart of the strategy, Hancock says.

"Fifty-three percent of all who come to Christ worldwide come through the use of printed gospel literature," he adds. "It's a tool that really works."

For more information contact Hancock at jhancock@ATstracts.org or call (888) 376-6720.



Mennonite band performs rock music to proclaim God's peace

By Jill Sell
Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—A Mennonite rock band?

Meet Know Peace, with electric guitars, pulsating speakers and a female lead singer. The alternative Christian rock band is based at Aurora Mennonite Church in Aurora, Ohio. Three of the group's five members belong to the church, and together they perform at events sponsored by diverse faiths.

Music always has been a big tradition in the Mennonite Church, particularly four-part a cappella singing. But in the past, many Mennonite churches did not allow musical instruments in worship services and frowned on the idea of amplification.

"There may be a few members of the church who may not be too happy about a rock band, but they don't understand what good Know Peace is really doing," said Gloria Schwartz, a church member who coordinates the band's monthly meetings and fund-raising activities. "Know Peace is now leading a (youth) workshop for us, and that's a huge step for our church."

Aurora Mennonite Church raises money for the group's travel expenses, additional equipment and provides counseling and support, said Annette Balis, Know Peace's volunteer public relations coordinator.

"There are some misconceptions about Mennonites, and part of what I do is tell people what Know Peace is not," said Balis, also a member of the church.

In the 16th century, the first Anabaptists separated from the Protestant church because of different beliefs about baptism, the relationship of church and state and pacifism. The Mennonites and Amish came from that group, separated by their outlook on life.

Today, only the most conservative Mennonites dress in "simple clothes" and expect women to cover their heads. But some prefer not to watch movies or television because of the violence shown, and other churches don't allow dancing, drinking or smoking.

"I get teased ... when I tell people I go to a Mennonite church," said 28-year-old Amanda Yoder, Know Peace's lead singer. "They ask me if I drove my horse and buggy to work."

The group has been together for a year and a half, originally having formed to entertain at the church's annual harvest festival. They play "blues-driven rock, classic rock, alternative, country and jazz—a little bit of everything except polka and rap," said 27-year-old Jim Boardwine, who sings and plays piano as well as acoustic and electric guitar.

"When you're praising God and spreading His word, it's good to play as many types of music as possible to reach as many kinds of people as possible," said Boardwine.

In addition to Boardwine and Yoder, band members include Jim's brother, Joe Boardwine, 25, who plays bass guitar; drummer Jerry Nemeth, 28; and lead guitarist Curtis Marazzi, 28.

The group has a new CD titled "Know Peace," available at performances and on the Web at www.2knowpeace.com.

Members of the rock group hope that through their music, they can help others to "know peace." But first they had to find themselves.

Starting when she was 15, Yoder sang "lots of Brenda Lee stuff" with a '50s band for three years and performed at an amusement park in Cincinnati.

"Then I sang country-western with Country Wildfire for three years, and my life changed," said Yoder, whose husband, Ben, is the group's sound technician. "There's nothing wrong with country-western music, but I knew (the environment) wasn't good for me. I was doing a lot of things I shouldn't have been doing."

A co-worker at her day job introduced Yoder to the Mennonite Church. Impressed with what she saw, Yoder began private Bible studies.

"I got saved on Dec. 14, 1997, when I was 24," said Yoder. "Now, for once in my life, I feel complete. ... The passion I have for singing is so much more now because it has a purpose."

Top 10 Reasons to Use the Western Recorder's Church Newspaper Plan

10. It's easier to create than any newsletter you're doing now.
9. Members get more for their money than just a newsletter; they get a world of helpful news, features and perspectives.
8. It's on schedule. Our weekly or monthly schedule helps you keep on top of communicating with church members.
7. There's something for everyone. The Western Recorder isn't just a denominational paper; it's a reader-friendly paper full of practical resources for Christian living.
6. It gives perspective. If you're concerned about church members being aware of the world around them, reading the Western Recorder is a must.
5. We'll make you look great. The Western Recorder staff will work with you to create an attractive layout and show you how to keep your newsletter looking great week after week.
4. Church secretaries love us. Church secretaries who make the switch to publishing the church newsletter through the Recorder routinely tell us it was one of the biggest helps they've received.
3. We'll work with the Post Office, so you don't have to.
2. We'll do it your way. The Recorder publishes newspapers a variety of ways and receives newspapers a variety of ways. We can meet your needs.
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