



# WESTERN RECORDER

July 31, 2001  
Vol. 175, No. 29**FOR THE RECORD****Kentucky**  
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## Judge rejects discrimination claim against KBHC officials

By **Trennis Henderson**  
*Editor*

LOUISVILLE—The Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's decision to fire a lesbian employee nearly three years ago did not constitute religious discrimination, according to a July 23 ruling by U.S. District Judge Charles Simpson.

In the same ruling, Simpson declined to dismiss the plaintiffs' claim that state funding of KBHC services violates the First Amendment's Establishment Clause.

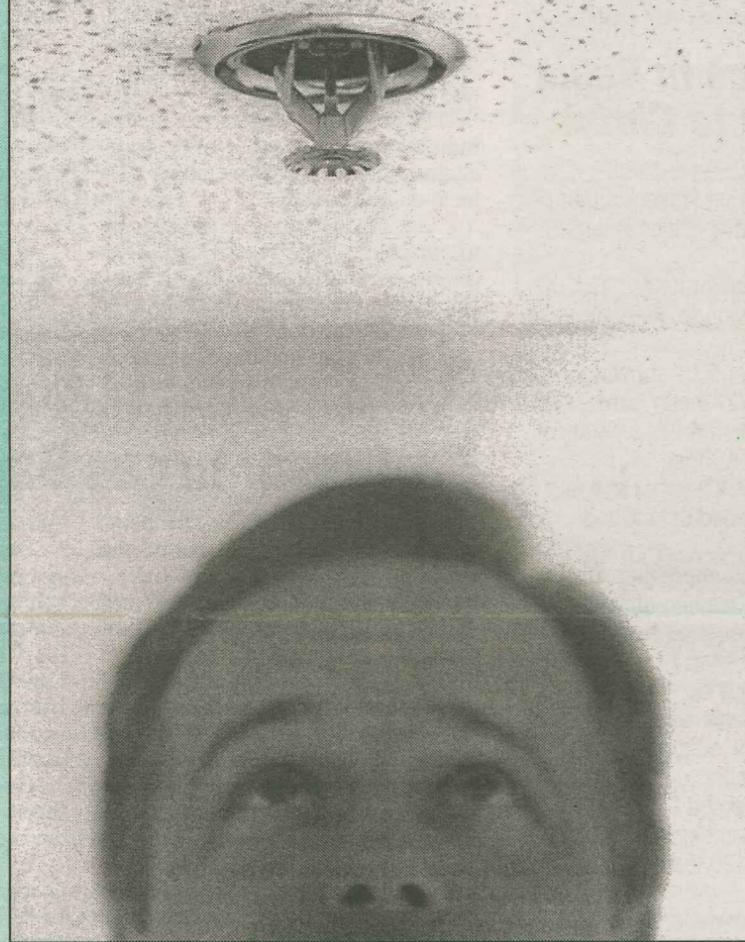
KBHC administrators dismissed Alicia Pedreira in 1998 after they were informed of her lesbian lifestyle. The letter terminating her employment as a family specialist stated that she was being fired "because her admitted homosexual lifestyle is contrary to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children core values."

Simpson's ruling noted that the KBHC's "intentional exclusion of homosexuals from employment does not run afoul of Title VII (of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) unless it constitutes discrimination on the basis of religion."

The children's homes' "code of conduct, although requiring behavior which is consistent with KBHC's values, leaves the religious freedoms of employees and potential employees unfettered," he wrote. "The civil rights statutes protect religious freedom, not personal lifestyle choices."

Simpson dismissed religious discrimination claims by Pedreira and  
□ See *Judge rejects ...*, page 3

## Building blocks?



**WATER DELAY** Skip Alexander looks at a sprinkler head in the recent expansion of West Broadway Baptist Church in Jeffersontown. Fire inspectors told the church the sprinklers were necessary six months after architects said they weren't needed. The change resulted in both delays and increased costs, Alexander said.

## Kentucky church leaders say good planning helps avoid red tape

By **Ken Walker**  
*State Correspondent*

JEFFERSONTOWN—When West Broadway Baptist Church dedicates a 26,000-square-foot addition on Aug. 12, the new gym, Sunday school rooms and fellowship hall will more than double its usable space.

Pastor Skip Alexander insists the experience overall has been positive, although completion of the \$2 million expansion took five months longer than expected.

The start of construction was postponed when the sewer district required installation of a drainage basin and pump station.

Six months later, a fire marshal demanded installation of sprinklers, an item architects didn't think would be needed.

Besides the delay, the unexpected change orders cost the church more than \$50,000.

"What's frustrating is the apparent lack of continuity and authority," Alexander said.

"Thankfully a church like ours had an architect and a builder who were advocates," he said. "There are mountains of red tape you have to go through, and that can be frustrating to many churches."

Despite West Broadway's frustrations, the construction manager for a Louisville architectural firm said churches in the commonwealth don't face many of the burdensome building regulations or zoning disputes  
□ See *Kentucky builders ...*, page 8

## Adviser: Leading church to change takes patience and time

By **Linda Lawson**  
*SBC LifeWay Christian Resources*

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Leading a church to change is a monumental challenge that can be faced only with time and patience, a director of missions recently told pastors and church leaders.

"Churches tend to be static, stable institutions. Leading a church through change is one of the most difficult things to do, especially if the church is plateaued or declining," said Lyman Alexander, director of missions for Crescent Bay Baptist Association, Inglewood, Calif.

Speaking at Black Church Leadership Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, Alexander introduced a change process he has used for three years with churches in his association.

The process was developed by Union Baptist Association, Houston, and outlined in a book, "Leading Congregational Change" by Jim Herrington, Mike Bonem and James Furr.

To successfully implement change, Alexander said, a trusting environment must exist in the church. "People have to believe leaders have their best interests at heart."

Also, members must "see pain in their present or great reward in their future" to be motivated to change. And the church must be characterized by spiritual and relational vitality, he said.

"Only when people are in love with God and with each other are they in a position to be thinking about change," Alexander said.

But churches won't change overnight, he warned.

"It takes a minimum of three to five years to bring about significant change in a church. That's why pastors must make a long-term commitment to the church," Alexander said.

To establish a climate where change can occur, he said, leaders must "create urgency by creating a clear picture of the church's current state that is widely shared by the congregation. They must make the status quo unacceptable."

While the vision for the church might begin with the pastor, Alexander said it must next move beyond him to a group no larger than 25-30 people comprising the vision community. He emphasized that a church's vision should not be the pastor's vision but God's, and the larger group might change what the pastor initially suggests.

"Working together you will clarify what God's vision is," he said.

Formulating a church vision begins with knowing its mission. For most churches, the mission is the Great Commission stated in Matthew 28:19-20, he said. The vision is then a statement of "what this particular church at this location is to do."

Next, he said, a church must set God-sized goals to implement the vision during three to five years. "Don't set goals that you and your congregation can accomplish with a little effort. Set goals you can't accomplish without God's help."

Finally, the vision community must develop action plans for the first 12 months, all focused on accomplish-

ing the goals, vision and mission. With a vision, goals and action plans in place, Alexander said the next task is communicating them.

"Communication strategies must take into consideration the different ways people learn," he said. Also, just because church members voted on a vision does not mean they understand what is about to happen. Communication strategies must be varied and continuous.

Alexander offered four concluding pieces of advice, beginning with seeking God's vision:

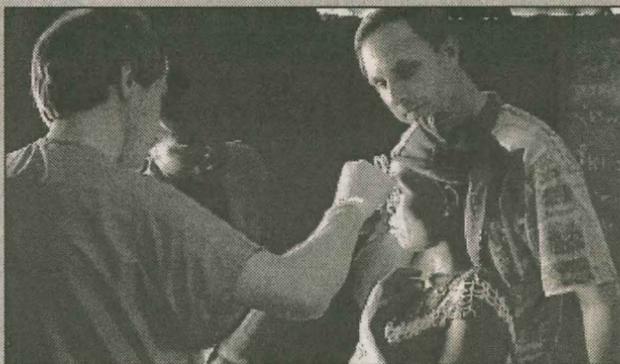
■ "Don't go across town, look at what someone else is doing and come back and implement it in your church," he warned.

■ Share the vision broadly throughout the church. "A vision hidden is no vision at all. Make sure everyone hears about it."

■ "Learn from your failures. This means you have to try new things."

■ Be patient, Alexander said. "If you're trying to change a declining church, it didn't get that way overnight. It won't come back overnight."

# BAPTISTS



**MISSIONS VISION** Jim Butner (left), an ophthalmologist from Oklahoma, worked with missionaries Bob and Becky Coutts to conduct eight eye clinics for Weme people in Benin villages. (BP photo)

## Medical, dental clinics in Benin reap 250 conversions to Christ

ADJOHOUN, Benin (BP)—More than 250 people of Benin's Weme people group accepted Christ when Southern Baptist volunteers conducted eye and dental clinics in eight villages.

Medical outreach plays a key role in the strategy missionaries Bob and Becky Coutts are using to share the gospel with the Weme.

The clinics provide inroads for the gospel by showing compassion and meeting physical needs in Jesus' name, said Mrs. Coutts. After being treated, each patient hears a personal witness and has the opportunity to accept Christ.

Jim Butner, an ophthalmologist from Oklahoma, and Ken Williams, a dentist from Tennessee, provided optical and dental services.

During the eight eye clinics, Butner saw more than 650 patients with eye problems ranging from reading difficulty to serious glaucoma. Many of the patients received free eyeglasses.

"You should have seen the smiles of joy on the faces of several older men and women who suddenly were able to see again when we placed glasses on them," Coutts said.

More than 175 patients from the eye clinics, most of whom had been voodoo worshipers, accepted Christ.

The seven dental clinics experienced similar results. Williams treated 247 patients, extracted 420 teeth and saw 113 people accept Jesus as Savior.

"The devil will take any foothold he can get and go from there," Williams said. "But I've seen answer to prayer on these trips, time and time again. I've seen things happen that it has to be only the work of God."

Many of the dental patients were eager to begin Bible studies the following day.

"The Lord is working and doors are open," Mrs. Coutts said. "Please join us in asking the Lord for wisdom and for laborers in the follow-up harvest."

## Ascol: Unsaved members are 'affront to God'

By Jeff Robinson  
Baptist Press

WILMORE (BP)—Is the Baptist Faith and Message being contradicted by Baptist church rolls? That's the question Tom Ascol posed during the 2001 Southern Baptist Founders Conference, July 17-20 at Asbury College in Wilmore.

Ascol, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla., pointed to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as continuing the historic Baptist commitment to regenerate church membership. In practice, however, the denomination reflects a wholesale departure from it, he said.

The doctrine of regenerate church membership holds that only born-again people may be members of a local church.

"Our practice doesn't measure up to our confession," Ascol said. "The overwhelming majority of Southern Baptist church members give little or no sign of spiritual life. There are countless studies that have been done in the past 15 years that validate this."

As evidence, Ascol cited figures

from the SBC's 2000 church profile and a study conducted by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board which showed that:

- Southern Baptist churches totaled 15.9 million members but only 5.5 million in total attendance on any given Sunday morning. "Only 33 percent of those who are supposed to be members care enough to come," Ascol said.

- The typical Southern Baptist church has 233 members but an average attendance of only 70 people for Sunday morning worship.

- Beyond Sunday morning, only one member in 10 takes part in further church activities.

- Less than one of every 10 people who make decisions through the evangelistic efforts of Southern Baptist churches is active in the church one year later.

Ascol called such statistics a "sham" and "an affront to God."

Baptists have assumed for so long that they understood the meaning of the word "church," yet many members and even pastors are hard-pressed to define the word, Ascol asserted.

"At the heart of our Baptist understanding of the nature of the church is the principle that says church members must be born again," he emphasized. "The belief in a regenerate church membership is one of the foremost ecclesiological distinctives in the history of Baptists."

Still, the more critical test of regenerate church membership is its biblical fidelity, Ascol said. Citing Luke's comment in Acts 2 that "the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved," Ascol said, "The churches of the New Testament were comprised of believers and we don't have any evidence that suggests otherwise."

Two crucial doctrines naturally accompany regenerate church membership, Ascol said: believer's baptism and biblical church discipline. The two are practiced as an extension of regenerate church membership to protect the purity of the church.

"A church is a holy communion," he said. "It is to be comprised of saints, holy people. That is why none but the regenerate are qualified to be members."

## Professor urges Baptists to defend human rights

WASHINGTON (BP)—Incidents of religious intolerance around the world are akin to a "tsunami wave," Paul Dekar told the Baptist World Alliance's Freedom and Justice Commission.

The "global scope of violations of religious freedom, as well as human rights generally, far exceeds the capacity of global institutions, including the BWA, to address them," said Dekar, professor of evangelism and missions at Memphis (Tenn.) Theological Seminary.

"Our concern for religious freedom begins with the Bible," Dekar noted. He said four crucial absolutes are:

- Each human bears the image and likeness of God.
- Through Christ, believers participate in the divine nature.
- In everything, believers are called to do to others as we would have them do to us.
- God hates injustice and oppression, "and God weeps over what we

humans are doing to each other."

Dekar said Baptists played a crucial role in the process by which absolutes of God became encoded in international human rights, including the Charter of the United Nations (1945), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976).

He said all these documents describe religious freedom as including the right to:

- Choose one's religious faith and change it without repercussion.
- Develop religious structures for community building.
- Believe without coercion.
- Worship.
- Practice one's religious faith.

Dekar described situations around the world of ideological strife, such as the recently ended Cold War and continuing situations in China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam and Yugoslavia (Serbia). He also described Chris-

tian-versus-Christian persecution in which minority religions are persecuted by majority religions around the world.

Highlighting those ideological conflicts, Dekar said, "Christians suffer not only in non-Christian regimes but also in countries where Christians are a majority."

He called on Baptists around the world to report religious violations to the BWA. "When we learn of violations so compelling and so immediate they call for a response, the first thing Baptists should do is to pray for both victim and victimizer," he said.

Dekar said it is more important than ever for Christians to obey the command of Jesus to love one's neighbor because religion is a factor in numerous destructive conflicts. "In practical terms it requires that we meet people on their own terms," he said, "and love as Jesus would love, not by simply loving those likeminded faces, but everyone."

## BAPTIST DIGEST

- **LifeWay names sales manager.** Phillip Burgess has been named sales and marketing manager for LifeWay Conference Centers at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C. Director Byron Hill said Burgess' position is part of a plan by LifeWay Christian Resources to revitalize the Southern Baptist agency's two national conference centers. Burgess has worked 20 years in hotel management, marketing and training.

- **ABP bureau chief resigns.** Kenny Byrd, the first chief of Associated Baptist Press' Washington bureau, has resigned to enter law school. Byrd, 28, accepted the newly created bureau position in May 2000. Prior to that, he covered

Washington for ABP four years as lead writer for Baptist News Service, a division of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

- **Beth Moore chat sets record.** A one-hour online session featuring Bible study author and speaker Beth Moore is the largest online chat hosted by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. More than 130 people signed on to the July 18 session to discuss leading effective Bible studies for women. Moore is founder of Living Proof Ministries and author of Bible studies such as "Jesus: The One and Only." Moore led a weekend Bible conference in Louisville last year that attracted 9,000 participants.



"I think I see a pattern, Rev. Downs."

## Judge rejects religious discrimination claim against KBHC

Continued from page 1

co-plaintiff Karen Vance, a lesbian who claimed KBHC's policies prohibited her from seeking employment there.

"It was the behavior—the acceptance and/or practice of a homosexual lifestyle—which constituted the basis for the employment action, not the belief or practice of religion," Simpson wrote. "The religious freedoms of the plaintiffs have not been impaired by the conduct requirement of KBHC."

Concerning the claim that government funding of the KBHC is an unconstitutional establishment of religion, Simpson noted the plaintiffs "allege that public funds are being expended on care and services infused with the teachings of the Baptist faith." They further claim the KBHC's "religious functions are inseparable from its non-religious function."

Simpson rejected a motion by KBHC and Kentucky state officials, also named as defendants in the case, to dismiss the Establishment Clause claims. He ruled those allegations are sufficient for that portion of the lawsuit to move forward.

KBHC President Bill Smithwick said he is pleased with the judge's ruling concerning religious discrimination.

"We've contended all along we've not been in violation of any local, state or federal law. I think the judge's ruling vindicates us on that."

"Any time you have something like that pending, it's a relief to have some clarification," Smithwick said. Though "it is by no means over for us," he added, "It's good to have that part behind us."

Pedreira and Vance were represented by attorneys with the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Eric Ferrero, an ACLU spokesman, said he was disappointed by the judge's decision but pleased that the suit's constitutional questions will move forward. He said ACLU officials have not yet decided whether to appeal the religious discrimination claims.

"Alicia Pedreira was fired for reasons deeply related to religion," Fer-

## KBHC case mirrors national debate over funding faith-based organizations

LOUISVILLE—As national debate escalates over President Bush's proposed faith-based initiatives, a Kentucky Baptist-related court case is tackling the same issue.

Pedreira vs. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, a lawsuit addressing religious discrimination and public funding of faith-based organizations, was filed last year in U.S. District Court. Judge Charles Simpson dismissed the discrimination claims last week but ruled that the funding issue can move forward.

The KBHC, affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has contracted since the mid-1970s with the state of Kentucky to provide social services for children and families. The suit charges that the KBHC is violating the First Amendment by "using these public funds for religious indoctrination of the children entrusted to its care."

KBHC President Bill Smithwick said he believes the outcome of the suit will be "precedent-setting for all faith-based organizations that provide human services."

He added, however, that children's homes officials "don't feel like in the services we've provided that there's been any entanglement

in any way."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said he believes the KBHC case "speaks volumes about the kind of activities we'll see if President Bush's faith-based initiative becomes law."

"Religious groups will be able to pass the collection plate to taxpayers, but still be permitted to discriminate," Lynn said. "That's morally wrong and it should be illegal."

Paul Simmons, a plaintiff in the case, echoed Lynn's views.

"President Bush has made it a crusade to launch an initiative against the separation of church and state, which I think is badly misguided and badly misinformed," said Simmons, a professor at the University of Louisville. "A lot of groups want public funds to ease their own fiscal crunch. The faith-based initiative should be opposed and opposed very strongly."

Smithwick said he believes "organizations like ours can provide a very meaningful social service and not be coercive in our mission and our religion."

"On the other hand," he said, "if too

many restraints are put on faith-based organizations like ours, we lose our identity and our very uniqueness that make us effective."

Smithwick said financial support of the KBHC by Kentucky Baptists "does provide opportunities for children to experience the Christian faith but that in no way is coerced." Emphasizing that "faith is a choice," he said religious coercion "is in contradiction with our Baptist polity."

Smithwick, who was named KBHC president in 1997, said he "didn't come here to get involved in national political issues like this but if we are the ones who must weather this political storm, we'll weather it with the firm conviction that we will not acquiesce to political or financial threats from anyone. ... We are doing our best to be faithful to our mission and our history with Kentucky Baptists."

Describing the debate over First Amendment issues as "a matter of interpretation," Smithwick added, "That's what this is all about: How will the Establishment Clause and freedom of religion ultimately be interpreted?"

ro said. "If KBHC were a private institution, that would be their right. ... Once you're publicly funded things shift a little bit. You don't get to have it both ways."

State contracts to reimburse the KBHC for services to children currently total approximately 75 percent of the children's homes' annual budget. Smithwick noted, however, that the state reimbursements cover only about 80 percent of the actual cost of the contracted services.

Amid questions last year over renewing the agency's contract with the state, Smithwick said, "We made the tough decision that if we had to walk away from contracting with the state to maintain our integrity and our identity, we would do that at the expense of having to close down about three-fourths of what we do."

Smithwick said the current contract indicates the state remains satisfied with the reimbursement arrangement

that dates back to the mid-1970s.

Even with the new contract, Smithwick said the number of referrals from the state has declined from 350 children to 270 over the past two years. Attributing part of that decline to firing Pedreira, he said new approaches by the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children in placing children with private agencies also have impacted the number of referrals.

Smithwick said the KBHC board "has said we will continue to service these children and have this continual relationship with the state so long as it doesn't impede our basic mission. We will continue as we have been doing since 1869 without any variance."

Paul Simmons, one of seven plaintiffs in the suit, said the KBHC "was successful in arguing this was a lifestyle issue, not a religious faith issue."

"In the mind of the court, the issue is based on moral standards and not

religious faith standards," said Simmons, a professor at the University of Louisville and former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "If that is the grounds on which it is determined, that is perfectly understandable and supportable."

He warned, however, that the distinction between moral and religious views about homosexuality remains "a very contentious point" within religious circles.

"We need to be very careful as Christians that we not argue ourselves into a corner in justifying bigotry in the name of faith," Simmons said. "That is a central issue in regard to homosexuality."

Smithwick's response? "I think the thing that really bothers me the most is being perceived as bigoted and narrow-minded when in fact that is not the case at all," he said. "We did the right thing."

## Kentucky volunteers still needed in flood-damaged West Virginia

By Christopher Hedglin  
Special to the Western Recorder

MULLENS, W.Va.—Kentucky Baptists have continued to respond to the call for relief effort volunteers in the flood-ravaged valleys of southern West Virginia.

While 26 Kentucky Baptists currently are working in the Mullens area, their leader stressed that more volunteers will be needed to continue the efforts.

"As long as God supplies us, we'll be here," said Larry Koch, Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood director for disaster relief. "When the volunteers dry up, we'll dry up."

Koch said the relief team, which has served approximately 53,500 meals as of July 27, has stayed strong because of the continued influx of volunteers. About 10 volunteers re-

turned home last Friday, but more came in to replace them over the weekend.

"God is supplying our needs, that's all I can say," Koch stated.

In addition to preparing meals for area residents, volunteers are completing "mud-outs" of local houses and buildings.

According to Koch, a mud-out is a process that helps restore buildings after they have received flood damage. Volunteers shovel mud from a building and then use a pressure washer to clean it. Dry wall is removed, as well as hardwood floors, carpeting and any damaged appliances. Workers then wash the structure with a chlorine solution to kill the mold and mildew.

As of Friday, the Kentucky team had worked on 19 mud-outs in the area.

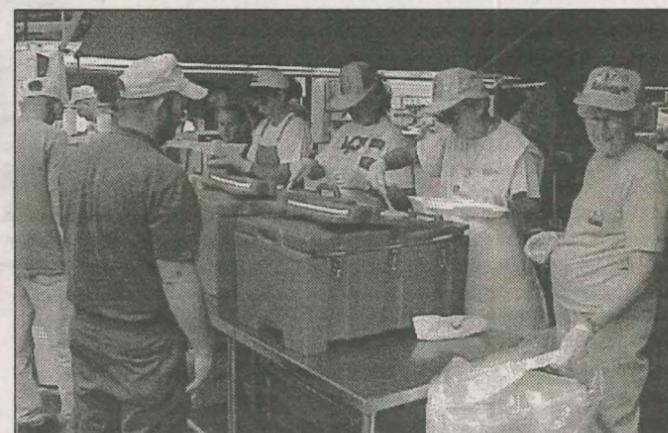
Rebecca Curry of Greensburg spent last week working in the kitchen preparing meals for flood victims. This trip marked Curry's second stint with the relief crew.

"Everybody that has come through the line has really thanked us," Curry said regarding residents' response.

When asked about the impact the workers have had in the area, Curry noted that many people have expressed interest in helping others in need when the time arises.

"They want to do something for someone else when this is over," he said.

While volunteers are still needed, Koch urged people who are interested to call the Kentucky disaster relief team's command center in Mullens at (304) 294-8812. Koch said the team's length of stay is uncertain, and he doesn't want volunteers to travel to



Mullens if the team isn't there.

Information about clean ups and rebuilding opportunities also are available from the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists at (304) 757-0944.

**DISASTER RELIEF**  
Kentucky Baptists serve food in Mullens, W.Va. In addition, volunteers are performing mud-out work. (Photo by Mark Prasek)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Preserve principles

I was very disappointed in Jimmy Carter's statements in the July 10 issue of the Western Recorder.

His views on traditional Baptist beliefs are way off course. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship views are, for the most part, not traditional Baptist beliefs.

We as conservatives believe a denomination must have a basic set of beliefs or doctrine or else we become a generic denomination, allowing too much straying from biblical truth.

It is sad that in order to attract people to a denomination, moderates and liberals choose to lay aside some biblical principles. There must not be a compromise on basic Bible truths.

We have as a nation compromised on moral and spiritual values to the point of almost anything goes. It is imperative that the Southern Baptist Convention stands fast in doctrine and proclaiming the good news to all people.

*Troy Fields Jr.  
Brooksville*

## Flee from evil

I cannot be silent regarding the July 10 article about the "Harry Potter" books. I realize there are proponents who lend support to these books even as tools for Bible study. I have read one of these books myself. It was written in a cleverly crafted way. I did not want to quit reading it. My husband's comment to that effect is what shook me to the realization of how "taken in" we can become.

Every writer has an agenda. The author of these books does not mention God. However, she does tout a higher power other than God. God is the supreme power; any other is of Satan or man. It is dangerous for our children to read or view anything that

elevates humans to super power.

God has a lot to say in the Bible about witchcraft, wizards and sorcerers (see Leviticus 19:31, Revelation 22:15). He tells us to flee from evil; not to see how close we can come to it and still (maybe) escape.

These books make normal working people look bad and evil while the weird and strange are acceptable. They are the "right ones." Saying you can use these books to teach children that covetousness, gluttony, selfishness and arrogance are wrong and show it in the Bible makes me ask, "Why go through a whole pail of garbage for one good apple?"

Comparing Harry's mother sacrificing her life to break the curse on Harry to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was preposterous, in my opinion, and borders on blasphemy.

Bottom line: The Bible says to run from evil. Yes, our children and grandchildren will encounter these books. We should be ready to answer as we would with any other evil in our society. Use God's Word. Don't bring these books into your home or church.

*Sheryl Luken  
Elizabethtown*

## End end-time debate

It is perhaps normal for believers to be concerned with eschatology. Many people in both formal and informal settings have made it a lifelong study, some of them claiming to understand it, as did a letter writer in the June 26 issue of the Western Recorder.

## What are you thinking?

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

*James L. Clark  
Lexington*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Super Saturday: a training smorgasbord

One of the most innovative training concepts developed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff in recent years has been Super Saturday. This daylong smorgasbord of useful workshops has become the premier training conference for KBC church leadership.

Church growth team leader Vernon Cole originated these conferences and continues to do an outstanding work in coordinating them. Last year, more than 3,000 workers representing more than 500 churches participated.

This year's conferences are in easy driving distance for most Kentucky Baptists: Aug. 11—Louisville (Highview Baptist Church); Aug. 18—Lexington (Immanuel Baptist Church); Aug. 25—Corbin (Central Baptist Church) and Owensboro (First Baptist Church); and Sept. 8—Ashland (Unity Baptist Church) and Paducah (First Baptist Church).

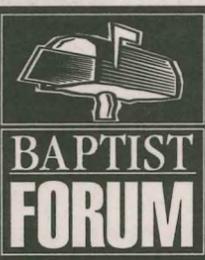
I encourage churches to enlist workers to attend and to register in

advance. Pre-registration enables our staff to be adequately prepared so that everyone will have a great experience.

I also suggest that church groups plan to travel together by bus or van in order to build connecting experiences for your workers through the trip. The more people you bring, the greater the impact the event will have on helping you teach and live the truth of God's Word in your church.

This is extremely important, as I am very concerned that many churches are not focused on developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38). You can be confident when the Lord of the Harvest sends someone He already has done a powerful work in that person's heart. That person has been prepared spiritually and volitionally. The mission is inside out. They do not need someone to su-



## GIVING

### Retirement funds: New rules simplify distribution plans

By Laurie Valentine

Several months ago the U.S. Treasury published new regulations

for the "minimum required distribution" rules governing qualified retirement plans and IRAs. These new regulations provide

simpler rules for calculating the MRD and after-death planning opportunities.

Under prior regulations, one's "required beginning date" (for IRAs: April 1 of the year following the year you reach 70 and a half; for qualified plans: the later of April 1 of the year following the year you reach 70 and a half or the year you retire) was a crucial deadline for the selection of a "designated beneficiary" (individuals and certain trusts qualify, but not charities).

If you had not named a qualified designated beneficiary by your required beginning date, MRDs had to be taken over your life expectancy, or within five years of your death if you died before distributions had begun. This resulted in large MRDs, higher income taxes and potential for exhausting one's IRA or retirement plan account before death.

Under the new regulations, the "required beginning date" rules stay the same, but MRDs are simpler to calculate. The MRD is now calculated for all owners/participants as if a qualified designated beneficiary who is exactly 10 years younger has been identified, no matter who actually is named as beneficiary (unless it is a spouse who is more than 10 years younger). These new rules permit the use of a uniform MRD table which eliminates complex calculations previously needed. This new table also assures that an IRA never will be exhausted.

The new regulations do require a determination as to whether a qualified designated beneficiary is named after the owner/participant's death, but that determination does not have to be made until Dec. 31 of the year following the year of the owner/participant's death (the "determination date").

After-death planning options are provided by the increased interval between date of death and the determination date. If a charity has been designated as a beneficiary of a portion of an IRA or qualified plan benefit, a payout of the charity's share before the determination date will avoid accelerated payout rules for individual beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries also could be changed after death during the interval to achieve other estate and tax planning objectives.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation*



Bill Mackey

## Disagree about having children? Calmly discuss views, seek unity

**Q: My husband and I disagree about whether to have a baby. Before we got married, he said he never wanted to have children. However, I thought he would change his mind. Now six years later, he is still adamant about not having children. I am so unhappy that I am considering divorce. What should I do?**

The decision about whether to have children is a highly emotional process. Some people are sure they want to become parents. Others are ambivalent about the idea.

A painful childhood can make some people hesitant about becoming parents. Some married couples decide not to have children out of personal preference or career or family commitments. Obstacles of infertility prevent other couples from having children.

It sounds like you and your husband have become polarized over the issue. As the years have passed, each of you possibly has become entrenched in your position. As one person pushes his or her partner to change, that partner can grow stubborn. Soon, the original reason for the disagreement evaporates and the resentment remains.

An initial step to resolve the issue between you and your husband is to determine your concerns about having a child. Then, you need to discuss the feelings behind those concerns. After calmly discussing the issue, you and your husband need to determine which roadblocks are negotiable and which ones are not.

The Bible talks about the blessings of having children. It also discusses the heartache of rebellious children. Remember David and Absalom? Christians couples should decide carefully what their real reasons are for having children. Children born in the middle of indecision about their birth have a major obstacle to overcome.—*Suzanne Coyle*

**Q: I work with single adults who have dealt with divorce, death, abuse and other kinds of loss. How do I effectively minister to their needs?**

Be real and be loving. The church can offer a safe environment as it practices the "Jesus model" of interaction.

How did Jesus deal with the woman who had been divorced five times and was in the midst of a cohabitation relationship? John 6 explains Jesus ministered to the woman at the well by intentionally conversing with her, helping her to see beyond her situation to the source of "living water."

Establishing a personal relationship with Jesus often begins with building relationships with authentic followers of Jesus who major on love rather than condemnation.

Christian therapist Paul Tournier said the role of the psychologist is to help wounded people become whole; the role of the church is to call whole people to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. Support groups are a great way to build a bridge so that wounded people outside the Christian faith can become fully devoted and serving followers of Jesus. By being intentional about building bridges with hurting people, good therapists, support groups and friends can help individuals find healing.

Starving people cannot concentrate on hearing the gospel until they have been fed. Those who are psychologically broken might be able to hear the good news about God only from those who have won the right to be heard. A small group of Christians who have "been there" can offer both safety and encouragement, enabling outsiders to experience the presence of Jesus as they work through the painful experiences of life.—*James Stillwell*

*Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, director of Cornerstone Counseling for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; 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.*



## KBHC case: Precedent for faith-based plan?

Should government funds be used by religious organizations to promote spiritual views? No.

Southern Baptists' historic commitment to the separation of church and state is clearly detailed in every version of the Baptist Faith and Message. "The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work," the faith statement declares. "The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal."

What about the right of religious organizations to compete for government funds to provide social services? That's where the debate over President Bush's proposed faith-based initiative grows more complicated.

Bush has emphasized that his proposals "will not fund the religious activities of any group." A version of the measure that passed the U.S. House earlier this month specifies that religious groups using federal funds would be required to keep secular and sacred programming separate. It also stipulates that program recipients must be given the option to not participate in organizations' religious programs.

But opponents of the measure warn of excessive church-state entanglement even with such safeguards. Senate leaders also are hesitant to move forward on the measure, citing concerns over anti-discrimination provisions and other details.

Amid such debate, the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has become a prime example of the fine line between church-state separation and faith-based funding efforts.

A lawsuit filed last year by the American Civil Liberties Union charged KBHC officials with religious discrimination in the 1998 firing of a lesbian employee. Though a federal judge dismissed those claims last week, he allowed charges in the suit to move forward

concerning public funding of a faith-based entity.

KBHC President Bill Smithwick said he anticipates the case will be "precedent-setting for all faith-based organizations that provide human services."

Smithwick noted that KBHC leaders don't believe "there's been any entanglement in any way" in the Baptist institution's reimbursement contracts with the state that date back to the 1970s. "Organizations like ours can provide a very meaningful social service and not be coercive in our mission and our religion," he added.

By contrast, ACLU spokesman Eric Ferrero said government funding of a faith-based organization crosses the line of church-state entanglement. "KBHC is more than free to indoctrinate kids into the Baptist faith as they see fit as a private institution," he said. "But you can't take state funds and try to bring them into the Baptist faith" with programs supported by those funds.

Those divergent views are at the heart of the national debate over faith-based initiatives.

While the KBHC's attorneys successfully have argued that dismissing a homosexual from employment isn't religious-based discrimination, the question over public funding of faith-based institutions continues.

Whatever the outcome of the lawsuit and of federal legislation, Smithwick repeatedly has emphasized that the KBHC's Christian heritage and mission will take precedence over public funding, even if that means drastically curtailing the children's homes' statewide services.

"We will not acquiesce to political or financial threats from anyone," Smithwick declared last week. He said KBHC workers "will continue as we have been doing since 1869 without variance."

In the meantime, vital church-state issues hang in the balance.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Freeman guides Recorder during turbulent World War II years

By Duane Bolin

Tom Brokaw proclaimed the men and women who fought and endured World War II "the greatest generation." Certainly, the generation of my own mother and father, individuals who grew to adulthood in the years of the Great Depression and World War II, included heroic folks who made do in the lean years of the Depression, fought bravely in the European and Pacific theaters of the war, worked and sacrificed on the home front and then, after the war, returned to quiet lives marked by integrity and selflessness.

Even before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, several Western Recorder writers equated developments in Europe with spiritual concerns among Baptists. George Ragland of Lexington compared Hitler's "fifth column activities" with similar diversions that threatened the church from within.

Hoyt Porter of Hyden was concerned about the immediate tragedy of the war for millions of dislocated victims. Porter argued that with "more than 5 million people said already to have been swept from their homes by the fiery lava stream of war," Kentucky

Baptists must "awaken fully to this previously undreamed-of opportunity to witness to the multitudes of helpless, and often hopeless, men, women and children." He ended his pleas with a bold admonition, "LET US PRAY! LET US PREPARE! LET US SEND! LET US GO!"

Only a short article in the Dec. 11, 1941, issue of the Recorder made note of the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor.

"America has been forced to wake up to the fact that the Republic is at war with Japan," the writer declared. "American Christians are under the necessity, along with all other citizens, of adjusting themselves to this vast bulking fact."

It did not take long for the United States, already under a policy of preparedness, to gear up for war. Kentucky Baptist churches provided support and honored soldiers preparing for battle. Thousands of Kentuckians entered various branches of the armed forces, including numerous Kentucky Baptists who fought and died in every theater of the war.

The Western Recorder editor during most of World War II was John Davis Freeman, editor from 1942 to 1945. To fill the shoes of V.I. Mas-

ters after his long and distinguished editorial career was not easy, but Freeman had considerable ability and experience.

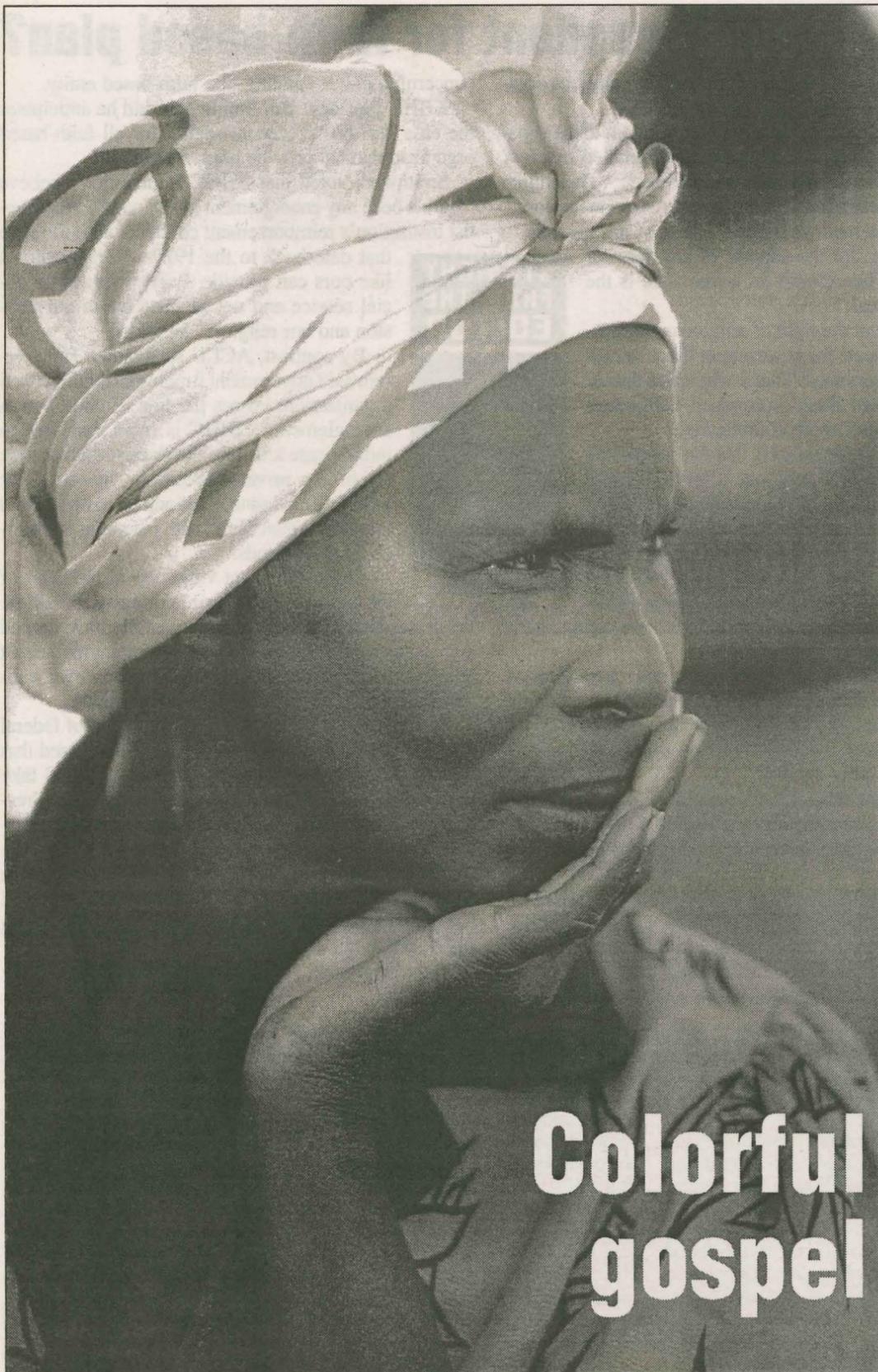
A native of Arkansas, Freeman had served as pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville and at Springfield Baptist Church. In 1925, he became editor of the Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee's state paper, and then in 1933 was elected executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Freeman continued the Recorder's tradition of providing inspirational articles and practical advice for Kentucky Baptists. This period was a bittersweet time for Kentucky Baptists. Numerous obituaries recounted the lives of Kentucky Baptist soldiers killed in the war. At the same time, Freeman reported the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky's victory over indebtedness when the debt, lingering from the failed Seventy-five Million Campaign, finally was liquidated in 1945.

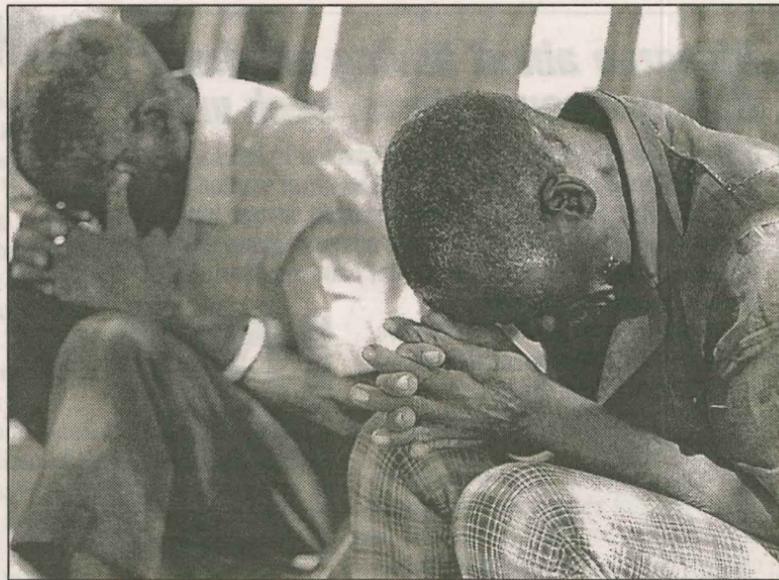
When Freeman resigned as editor in 1945 to join the rural church department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, he could look back with pride on three years of significant ministry in Kentucky Baptist journalism during the challenging years of World War II.

*James Duane Bolin of Murray is the author of "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation."*





## Colorful gospel



### SCENES OF ZAMBIA

■ **Above:** Women of Zambia's Lozi people group are using the colors they find around them—even in the bright Zambian cloth they wear—to tell their friends and children about God's saving grace.

■ **Top right:** As the women tell the color story, the gospel is spreading through the Lozi villages.

■ **Bottom right:** A Lozi woman—her baby on her hip—uses a basket to catch small fish in a marsh. Western Zambia's Lozi people group live in remote villages along the Zambezi River. (IMB photos by Warren Johnson)

## Missionaries in Zambia use story to explain Christian faith

By Jill Pittman  
SBC International Mission Board

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP)—One prayer for the boat, as it carries their family across the river. One prayer for the 4-wheeler, slogging through red African mud. And innumerable prayers for the people at the end of the trail.

This is the pattern followed by Daren and Shawna Davis, missionaries to the Lozi people group of western Zambia.

"To get to the Lozi is difficult. But once we get there, the people are excited that we're there," Daren Davis said. "They're eager to learn the Word of God, and they're eager

to hear the gospel. And then they are eager to tell it to other people."

Encouraged by that eagerness, the Davises work to share God's love with the Lozi, who live in remote villages near the Zambezi River.

They plant churches and train church leaders. They disciple Lozi Christians, teaching them to grow in their faith in Jesus Christ, apply it to their lives and their culture, and share it with others.

Shawna Davis has seen the investment pay off through her relationship with Mary Chipango, the wife of a Zambian missionary to the Lozi.

Mrs. Davis teaches Bible lessons

and stories to Chipango during visits to the Chipangos' village. They review the material thoroughly until she can teach it back to her, preparing Chipango to teach it in other villages.

"I think that has such an impact—so much more than me going and teaching," Mrs. Davis said. "Some people would come and listen in just because I am the missionary. But she is able to really communicate it."

Sometimes that communication takes place without words.

When a recent volunteer group left Mrs. Davis colored fabric to make "wordless books," she felt God had given her a useful tool for ministry.

Wordless books use colors to tell the story of Christ: black is for sin. Red is for Jesus' blood, which cleanses believers, leaving a pure white heart. Green means to grow with God, and yellow is for heaven, when believers meet Christ face to face.

Chipango planned to teach the lesson to village women. She would give a felt book to each woman who taught the lesson back to her, much like her lessons with Davis.

But Mrs. Davis and Chipango worried that when the books ran out, some women would be unwilling to tell the story without a tangible tool. They prayed about using colored beads, knitting with colored yarn, or weaving mats of dyed grass.

"I was just at home and I was thinking about it. And I said, 'You know, there has got to be a simpler way,'" Mrs. Davis said. "I decided

to write the lesson up and get it in Solozi using just soil, black soil, for sin."

Black soil led to other symbols the Lozi can see: red seeds or flowers for Jesus' blood. The familiar white clouds of the rainy season for a pure heart, green grass for growth and yellow flowers, bananas or mangoes for heaven.

Using things the Lozi can see around them allowed Chipango to teach the lesson without carrying supplies to each village. The story itself, rather than books or beads, became the tool.

"Mary said she was able to take the lesson about how to share the gospel with colors to 15 different villages and teach the women," Mrs. Davis said.

The Lozi women easily can remember and use the color story to tell their friends and children about God's saving grace. The women have even begun to innovate, finding the colors all around them—even in the bright Zambian cloth they wear.

As the women spread the salvation story through the villages, Daren and Shawna Davis pray that more Lozi will experience God in an undeniable way.

"I know a lot of people pray for our safety and our health and pray for our family," Mrs. Davis said. "And I would want them to include just praying for this area. Just praying that barriers would be brought down, that the walls would be broken down so that they could see and taste a little bit of what God has for them—that they would know God's love."

Is your church a

Video pirate?

Susan West Richardson  
Let's Worship magazine

NASHVILLE—Hardly a sound can be heard in the sanctuary as a portion of the movie "Braveheart" is shown to introduce the pastor's sermon topic, "Spiritual Warfare."

A church daycare program is delighted it can show a nice, clean movie like "Beauty and the Beast" every Tuesday afternoon. The youth group is hosting a discussion of current topics using movies like "Contact" as discussion starters.

All are interesting ways churches are using the power of the media to grab people's attention. They also are interesting ways of breaking the eighth commandment against stealing unless the church is licensed for public performance rights of these tapes.

Many churches using movie clips without a license think they are immune from the law because they are a non-profit organization, because they don't charge for the viewing or because they don't copy and sell the movie. Besides, some rationalize, who's go-

ing to know?

Enter federal copyright laws, which involve literary, musical, artistic, photographic and audiovisual works.

Many churches first encounter copyright property laws related to their photocopying machines. During the 1970s, several churches learned the hard way that buying and photocopying one set of printed music or Christian education material was not only unethical but illegal. In essence, courts decided that photocopying such material was a way of stealing from the composers and publishers.

Today, that same principle applies to new technology. Nearly any video

or DVD you buy or rent from the corner store is copyrighted, and its use is restricted to home viewing. Most all pre-recorded entertainment will contain a statement—on the box, on the label or on the FBI warning at the beginning of the movie—that the program is "intended for home use only."

That means the only authorized, legal performance rights you get with most videotapes are in your own home. The Federal Copyright Act defines home use as "a normal circle of family and its social acquaintances." Fines for copyright infringement range from \$500 to \$20,000.

A pastor wanting to show the "I see dead people" clip from the movie "The Sixth Sense" could write to Buena Vista Pictures asking for permission, but that would require a lot of advance work.

In 1989, the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation was formed as an independent copyright licensing service exclusively authorized by major Hollywood motion picture studios and independent producers to grant umbrella licenses to businesses, non-profit groups and government organizations for the public performance of pre-recorded home videocassettes and videodiscs.

A license provides one year of liability protection from copyright infringement for most titles. At the same time, the MPLC assures the copyright holder that its rights are honored. The copyright holders on the MPLC list receive a percentage of the annual licensing fees based on market share size. This system is similar to, but not the same as the way ASCAP and BMI track performance and pay percentage to music composers and publishers.

Last fall, Christian Copyright Licensing International and MPLC formed a new copyright licensing agency specifically to serve the needs of religious groups. The new Christian Video Licensing International is a division of MPLC, but as its own division it can work with churches, religious schools and other church-operated sites more quickly and more directly. CVLI also provides more blanket coverage for churches than the previous licensing arrangement.

Licensing fees vary by size and scope. Churches can buy a "Family

Nearly any video or DVD you buy or rent from the corner store is copyrighted, and its use is restricted to home viewing.

## Aren't Christian videos different?

NASHVILLE—Churches showing secular movie clips might need a license from Christian Video Licensing International, but what about videos distributed by religious bookstores or publishers?

A video or DVD's packaging might provide some clues.

Because many of the videotapes produced by these publishers, such as Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, are done so for church use, they often carry a statement to that effect.

Some distributors, such as EcuFilm, state that the performance rights for a church group are included in the cost of their tapes.

The "Veggie Tales" series has a home-use-only statement on the box, but if you visit the group's Web site, [www.veggietales.com](http://www.veggietales.com), the following statement can be found: "We'd be happy to give you permission to show our videos in a public setting, as long as you do not charge admission of any kind, including asking for donations or charging to recover the cost of the viewing facility."

A general guide: Check the packaging, and when in doubt, call the toll-free number that usually is included.

Values Producer Package" license, which includes only materials produced by Christian media groups, or they can buy a "Total Producer Package," which includes many corporate media companies, including Warner Bros. and Walt Disney. While that list is long, it is not exhaustive. For example, neither Columbia nor Paramount films are included. Using a video from either company would require writing or calling that company for permission.

The cost for a CVLI license can be as little as \$45 for a church with fewer than 100 people attending or as much as \$200 for a church with more than 500 people in attendance.

Even with a CVLI license, several actions still are restricted. Material taped off television or cable may not be shown publicly at any time, even if the producing studio is covered by a license. Editing or changing a pre-recorded videotape is never covered by the license.

For more information about CVLI, call (888) 771-2854 or visit the Web site [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org).

This article was adapted from Let's Worship magazine and is used with permission.

## PIONEER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

A very worthy church in South Dakota needs your help. Located near an Air Force base and in a growing community, the church has a vital ministry.

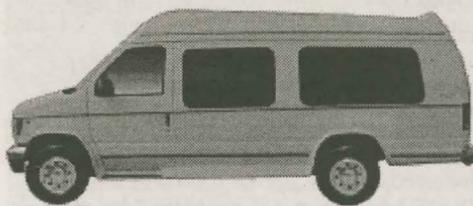
Needs include church builders (carpenters, painters, etc.); leaders for backyard Bible clubs and neighborhood surveys; and financial help as they enter a building program.

For more information, contact Rev. Bob Hower, Westside Baptist Church, 4024 Sheridan Lake Road, Rapid City, SD 57702; phone: (605) 341-4455.

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## Kentucky builders: Planning helps churches avoid red tape

**One official said it's wiser to spend \$10,000 on a master plan than to pay \$20,000 to dig up a parking lot built in the wrong place.**

*Continued from page 1*  
found in many other states.

"Kentucky is a pretty good place to build a church," said Glen Wilson of Danzinger Associates, designer for the pending expansion at First Baptist Church of Somerset. "Most of the small communities we work with have regulations. You have to abide by them, but for the most part they're pretty good folks."

Planning is the first step for any church wanting to expand, Wilson advised.

Hiring a professional architect or designer to make sure ideas fit ministry plans and space is better than simply erecting a metal building and then encountering difficulties, he said.

He noted one official's remark that it's wiser for a church to spend \$10,000 on a master plan than \$20,000 to dig up a parking lot because it built in the wrong place.

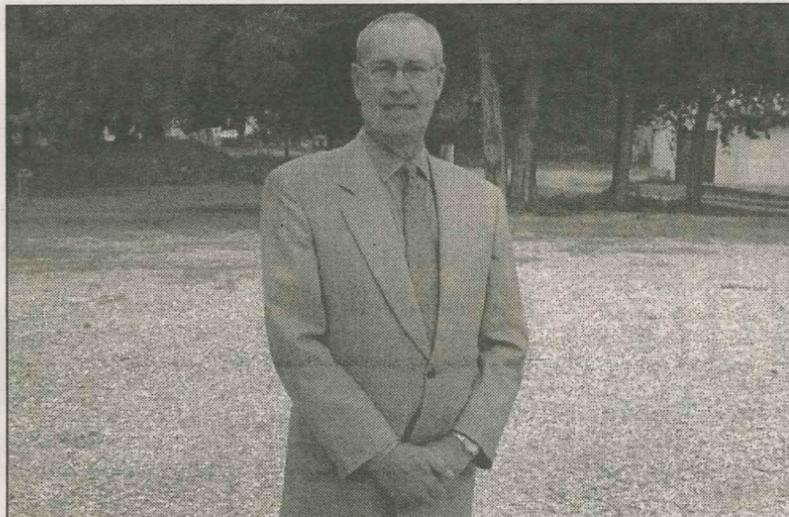
But a Lexington architect said churches with an eye on growth shouldn't assume they can buy 10 to 20 acres in the suburbs to develop a campus-like facility.

For example, Fayette County limits the size of rural churches to 10,000 square feet to prevent encroachment on agricultural land, said Kevin McGuire of Johnson Ramanowitz.

In addition, some subdivision residents have fought churches coming into their area because of fears over increased traffic and congestion.

"Every small town has gone out and adopted regulations larger cities have passed," McGuire said.

"What that entails for churches is ... they can't do anything unless they get



**PARKING LOT** Norris Thomas, a trustee at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, stands on a gravel parking lot near the church. First Baptist bought the adjacent property, only to learn later that the city objected to it being paved because of water drainage concerns.

approval from the board of adjustment," he added. "A church may have been there for 40 years and wants (to build) a parking lot. They have to go to the board and say, 'Can we do this?'"

Churches also need to be aware of parking regulations.

A few years ago when Johnson Ramanowitz designed a Christian life center for Hurstbourne Baptist Church near Louisville, the church had to remove some pews to bring seating capacity in line with parking codes.

Parking studies may be required if a church chooses a commercial location for a new building, said Joe Boone, former projects manager for Baptist Life Communities in Northern

Kentucky.

Boone, who oversaw the building of seven units for the Baptist agency, said churches seeking prime land often aren't aware of the responsibilities that accompany such a selection. "Each time a zoning issue comes up it means another delay. Those issues can be worked out. It just takes time and money to have the research done."

Other issues churches across the state have encountered:

■ **Fire codes.** In Northern Kentucky, fire codes are of particular concern because of a fatal nightclub fire in Southgate in 1977.

Last year, Trinity Baptist Church in Newport encountered construction headaches. It had to tear down two

walls because of structural problems that included a lack of fire resistant measures

■ **Conflicts of interest.** Paul Chitwood, who was a pastor in Owenton before moving to First Baptist of Somerset, suggests employing a separate architect and builder to provide a set of checks and balances.

His church in Owenton could have incurred additional costs when the builder didn't follow blueprints. The architect—a close associate of the builder—didn't mention it, he said. A member who was a building inspector alerted the congregation to the problem, Chitwood added.

■ **Post-construction obstacles.** After rebuilding its fire-stricken sanctuary in 1992, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green acquired several pieces of nearby property for additional parking.

But the new lots remain covered with gravel because the city doesn't want increased water runoff from additional paved lots.

Finance chairman and trustee Norris Thomas said the church experienced two other problems.

First was prolonged delays in obtaining permission to tear down abandoned houses on some of the property. In addition, the church was overly-aggressive in its acquisition and later sold two parcels at less than half what it paid for them.

"I think a church should only buy things they have a foreseeable need for," Thomas said. "Leave the purchases alone that don't fit your master plan. You don't need big buffer zones."

## Nationwide, faith groups running into zoning conflicts with neighbors

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

AUSTIN, Texas—Does Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, really need a second five-story parking garage to accommodate 4,500 Sunday worshippers?

The church thinks so. This spring it sued city council members in federal court, claiming constitutional violations of law are preventing it from proceeding. The action followed a council vote against allowing a facility that would house nearly 500 cars.

"We're not the only church in Austin this has happened to," said deacon Dan Rogers, a spokesman for the 107-year-old congregation. "Others have been turned down for parking garages, but they didn't have an agreement saying they could do it."

The neighborhood association believes otherwise. Co-President Niyanta Spelman doesn't contest the church's right to build. But she said it originally agreed to a building with a smaller "footprint."

She also alleged it refuses to consider other modifications, asking how many neighborhoods would welcome such a massive structure.

Whether the largest congregation in Texas' capital or a storefront assembly in St. Louis, faith groups across America are increasingly embroiled in battles over zoning regulations. Some recent examples:

■ The New Milford, Conn., zoning commission cited a Catholic couple last November for hosting prayer meetings of up to 30 people. After Robert and Mary Murphy went to court, a federal judge issued an injunction preventing the city from shutting them down.

■ In suburban Minneapolis, Advent Lutheran Church is fighting a \$158,000 assessment for road improvements levied late last year by the city of Roseville. Pastor Thomas Basich recently told Christianity Today, "An assessment is a tax. We have to draw a line somewhere, and the line is zero."

■ The Hole in the Roof Ministry Center recently won a court judgment after St. Louis refused to issue an occupancy permit. The city's proposed area redevelopment plan bans social service agencies and storefront churches. Pastor Paul Hamilton plans a federal suit if the latter restriction stands.

■ An Orthodox Jewish couple in Owings Mills, Md., was fined \$1,000 after failing to request a permit for Sabbath gatherings. After a neighbor complained, a zoning official said they had converted their home to a religious institution. The fine was later dropped, but the official vowed to continue enforcing the permit requirement.

Ironically, such disputes appear to be

increasing despite the passage of federal legislation last fall. The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act came after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in 1997.

RLUIPA is designed to protect religious groups from zoning and historic landmark laws that substantially interfere with religious free exercise.

Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said he thinks the legislation will pass constitutional tests.

"One reason the Supreme Court said RFRA was unconstitutional was because it wasn't demonstrated there was a problem," he said. "So we demonstrated there was a problem with land use and prisoners. The fact Congress acted showed there was a problem."

According to a new 23-page booklet on the law available from BJCPA, protections were needed because land-use regulations often were applied more onerously to religious minorities.

The booklet says its land-use provisions consist of two main parts.

The first subjects regulations that substantially burden the free exercise of religion to a "compelling interest" test, one applied by courts to protect constitutional rights.

The second part guarantees equal treatment among different faith groups and between religious and comparable, secular institutions. For example, a city couldn't permit theaters or secular assemblies in an area but prohibit churches.

Still, zoning disputes are popping up across the nation, Walker said, including a couple testing the new law. However, the newest cases still are working their way through the courts.

Rather than an anti-religious move, BJCPA's director said many municipalities' motives for rigid application of statutes originates with a desire for revenue.

"The main motivation is to increase the tax rolls," he said. "From time to time we see, not hostility to religion, but hostility to a particular religion. Some of it does flow from aversion to a minority religion."

Sometimes, churches need to take proactive steps to avoid problems with their neighbors, Walker said.

It is important to work with municipal and zoning officials to avoid litigation, he advised. But sometimes churches might have to resort to insisting the law be followed, Walker added. "Come in with RLUIPA and wave it in their face," he said. "I think it will provide churches with more ammunition in court. But short of litigation, it has a prophylactic effect to make zoning officials more realistic."

# RESOURCES

## Speaker: Start men's group with challenge, not feelings

### Hitting all the bases

Starting a men's ministry group can be compared to running the bases of a baseball diamond, according to Geoff Gorsuch.

"The process starts as we step up to the plate with the desire and the determination to become more like Christ," Gorsuch wrote in his book about men's ministry, "Brothers! Calling Men into Vital Relationships."

At first base, men become acquainted with each other and accept one another, wrote Gorsuch, executive director of men's ministry for The Navigators.

At second base, the relationships progress to the level of friendship where they encourage one another.

At third base, they begin to feel like brothers and consider it OK to exhort or admonish one another.

"At this point, we're brothers, vitally interested in helping each other reach home plate," he wrote.

By Terri Lackey  
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Think you can start a men's ministry group by persuading a bunch of guys to get together and talk about their feelings?

Forget it, said Geoff Gorsuch, executive director of men's ministry for The Navigators, a ministry organization based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"The word 'feelings' is a bad word for men," Gorsuch told men's ministry leaders attending a recent discipleship and family conference. "You avoid that word. You just don't go there if you are trying to start a men's ministry group."

Men are motivated by challenges, Gorsuch said.

"Give him a challenge. Tell them, 'We are going to meet together because we want to take the Christian life more seriously,' 'We want to build better families' or 'We want to change this community,'" he said. "You can't get them there by saying you want to develop a deep, intimate group."

Gorsuch said to reach men, leaders must find out where the men are mentally, emotionally and spiritually and then connect with them.

Unlike women's groups, he said,

leaders can't just stick men in a room together, give them coffee and doughnuts and expect them to relate to each other.

Men are linear and women are integrated, he said.

"Women can integrate feelings and facts at the same time. Another way of saying that is that men have to process facts before facing feelings. Women have to process feelings before they can face the facts."

What that means for men's ministry, Gorsuch said, is, "Don't start off fuzzifying and feeling with men. That comes much later. Women bond face to face very well. Put them in a room with a cup of coffee, and they will figure out how to have a party."

"Put men in a room with a cup of coffee, and they will look around and say, 'Who's in charge? Why are we here?'"

Gorsuch said he believes that men, like Adam in the Bible, are struggling with their identities, their responsibilities and isolation issues.

When the serpent began a conversation with Eve in the Garden of Eden, Gorsuch said, Adam should have taken some authority.

"Instead of telling Satan to 'get out of here,' Adam was silent and passive, and he eventually ate the

fruit."

Gorsuch said Adam did three things wrong:

■ *He had an identity crisis.* "God made it clear who was responsible and what he was supposed to do. Adam forgot who he was. He was dazzled by the seduction of Eve's argument. Like Adam, modern man has forgotten who he is. We should remind him who he is as child of God."

■ *He was passive and irresponsible.* "Adam did not assert his authority, and once a man knows he's been irresponsible, his backbone is gone."

■ *He isolated himself.* "Adam hid himself from God after he had sinned; then he blamed and denied. I think we've vilified Eve a little too much on this. Hey, it was Adam's call. Satan didn't take on Adam because Eve seemed a little more vulnerable. The original covenant was between God and Adam."

Men's ministry groups speak to those who have figured out isolation "doesn't cut it," Gorsuch said.

Gorsuch said it's important for men's ministry leaders to know that men "just need an area of safety. Don't get into too much emotion, intimacy or exposure too soon. I didn't say men wouldn't or couldn't cry, but they have to have a safe place to do it."

"Put men in a room with a cup of coffee, and they will look around and say, 'Who's in charge? Why are we here?'"

Geoff Gorsuch, executive director of men's ministry for The Navigators



## 2001 KBC Annual Meeting November 13-14, 2001

Murray State University  
Regional Special Events Center  
Murray, Kentucky



For more information, contact Denise Withers by phone: 502.254.4731 or 888.254.5713 or e-mail: [Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org](mailto:Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org)

### MURRAY AREA ACCOMMODATIONS

Rates do not include tax (except Jonathan Creek). Taxes vary between 9-10%. Rates and other information not listed below was unavailable at time of printing. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.

#### Murray\*

**Amerihost Inn**  
1210 N. 12th St. (U.S. 641)  
1.270.759.5110  
Free continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 11/1

**Calloway Inn**  
(formerly Holiday Inn)  
641 S. Highway 641 South  
1.270.753.5986

**Days Inn**  
517 South 11th St.  
1.270.759.6106  
\$24 (1-4 persons/dbl or single)  
Free continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/12

**Holiday Inn Express**  
594 North 11th St.  
1.270.759.4449

**Shoney's Inn**  
1503 North 12th St.  
1.270.759.5110  
\$23 (1-4 persons/dbl or king)  
Free continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 9/11

**Draffenville** (I-24, Exit 25A)  
(23 miles from Murray)

**Holiday Inn Express**  
(Exit 25A off I-24)  
1.270.517.5100  
\$70 (1-4 persons/double or single; \$10 for 4th person)  
\$75-\$110 (suites)  
Free continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/10

#### Calvert City/Gilbertsville

(I-24, exit 27)  
(30-32 miles from Murray)

**Foxfire Motor Inn**  
3457 US. Highway 62  
1.270.395.7162  
\$35.88 (1 person)  
\$39.88 (2 persons)  
(Add \$6 for each add'l. person)  
Reservation deadline: 10/25

**Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park**  
166 Upper Village Drive  
(near U.S. Highway 641)  
1.270.362.4271  
1.800.325.0146  
\$45 (1-4 persons)  
On-site restaurant  
Reservation deadline: 10/12

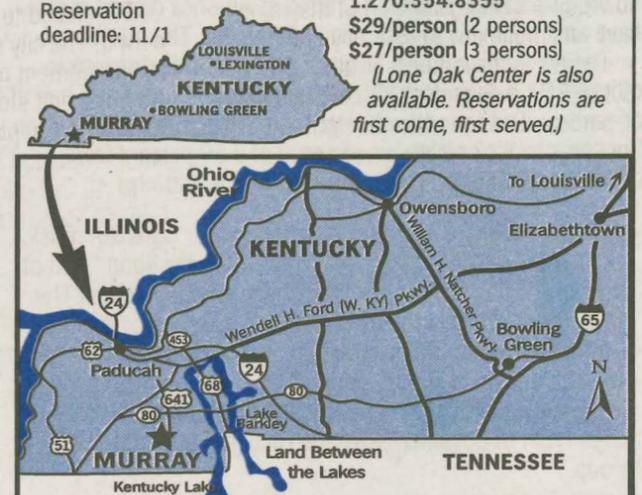
**Ramada Inn**  
2184 U. S. Highway 62  
1.270.362.4278  
\$50 (1-4 persons)  
On-site restaurant  
Reservation deadline: 11/1

**Super 8 Motel**  
3503 U.S. Highway 62  
1.270.395.5566  
\$52 (1-4 persons)  
Free continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/25

**Hardin**  
(17-22 miles from Murray)

**Kenlake State Resort Park**  
542 Kenlake Rd. (off Hwy 68)  
1.270.474.2211 or  
toll free 1.800.325.0143  
\$42 (single) / \$52 (double)  
On-site restaurant  
Reservation deadline: 9/12  
(Requests received after this date will be filled if space is available.)

**Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center** (motel)  
3043 Beal Road (off Hwy. 68)  
1.270.354.8355  
\$29/person (2 persons)  
\$27/person (3 persons)  
(Lone Oak Center is also available. Reservations are first come, first served.)



## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Group issues notice on potential church van rollover.** The National Council of Churches is warning church groups to be careful when using 15-passenger vans after a federal report showed that vans with more than 10 passengers are prone to rollovers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration warned in April that the large vans are three times more likely to roll over when fully loaded. Sudden movements can increase the chances of a rollover, the agency said. Five passengers in a Colorado church van were killed July 9 when their van rolled over 2 1/2 times on a trip through Idaho. Federal records state that between 1994 and 1999, 279 people died in accidents involving 15-passenger vans.

■ **Court upholds moment of silence law.** A U.S. appellate court has upheld Virginia's moment of silence law, which mandates that public school children begin each day with meditation, prayer or other quiet activity. By a vote of 2-1, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled July 24 that the inclusion of the word "prayer" in the statute did not make it unconstitutional, the Washington Post reported. "Virginia has introduced at most a minor and nonintrusive accommodation of religion," Judge Paul Niemeyer wrote for the majority. An ACLU volunteer lawyer said he plans to appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

■ **Study: One-third of college women are virgins.** A new study of college women and dating finds that casual sexual encounters are prevalent, but close to a third of women on campus are virgins. The report, conducted for the Independent Women's Forum by the Institute for American Values, found that 39 percent of all college women said they had never had sexual intercourse. Nearly one-third—31 percent—of seniors said they were virgins.

■ **Judge: 'Corpus Christi' show can go on.** An Indiana judge has ruled that the controversial play "Corpus Christi" can be performed at a state university, denying a request from opponents who said a public facility was being used to attack religion. The play, scheduled to begin Aug. 10 at the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, features a gay Christ-like figure and portrays the Last Supper as a food fight. Chief Judge William Lee of the U.S. District Court in Fort Wayne, Ind., said the performance of the play "would not create the perception of government endorsement in a reasonable observer."

■ **Former trooper sues over casino work.** An Indiana state trooper who lost his job last year for refusing to work inside a casino because of religious reasons has filed a federal lawsuit against the state police department. The lawsuit filed by Ben Endres Jr., a Baptist, claims the police department violated Endres' contract and his civil rights by firing him for insubordination when he rejected a plainclothes assignment at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City. The lawsuit asks that Endres be reinstated and receive \$250,000 in damages and back pay, punitive damages and legal fees.

■ **Lutheran offerings up, membership down.** Membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America dipped slightly last year while giving rose nearly 6 percent. The number of members in the nation's largest Lutheran body dropped to 5,125,919, a decline of 23,749 members, or about one-half of 1 percent. Giving to the church, meanwhile, rose \$126 million last year to \$2.3 billion, an increase of 5.59 percent from 1999, according to figures released by the church.

■ **Christian music makes it to outer space.** Christian music ventured into outer space this month when the song "God of Wonders" awoke the crew of the space shuttle Atlantis. The song from the best-selling "City on a Hill: Songs of Worship and Praise" collaboration woke up the five-member crew on July 13, a mission status report said. The song features the Christian groups Third Day and Caedmon's Call as well as Leigh Nash of Sixpence None the Richer, a pop crossover group.

## Theologians: Don't bash clones

CRAIGVILLE, Mass. (RNS)—Amid widespread concern about the ethics of human cloning, an odd couple of theologians has warned that anti-cloning rhetoric could have disastrous consequences of its own.

Demetrios Demopoulos of the conservative Greek Orthodox Church and Ronald Cole-Turner of the theologically liberal United Church of Christ put differences aside at a conference in mid-July to address what they see as a new problem: clone-bashing.

Human clones—individuals created asexually from another's cells and sharing the other's genetic identity—do not yet exist. Yet they will in the not-so-distant future, said Cole-Turner, and they will be troubled to learn that people once spoke of them in opinion columns and elsewhere as "sub-human."

"The rhetoric of 2001 makes it sound as though (clones) could be more of a machine or an artifact or some sort of a fair project than a person," said Cole-Turner, a professor of ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. "My concern is that by the time they're among us, we will have created a culture that so rejects their production that it cannot help but reject them."

Demopoulos, a priest with a doctorate in genetics, agrees that the language could be unsettling to clones one day, but added that society already is being harmed by the divisive rhetoric in anticipation of their arrival.

"If you're setting up categories where you're putting one group at a

## Committee passes ban

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill July 24 to ban human cloning, but Democrats say they will fight to allow cloning for research when the measure faces a vote by the full House.

The panel passed the ban on an 18-11 party-line vote. Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said, "Opening the door to human cloning—even with good intentions—inevitably will lead to experimentation on the child-to-be."

Under the bill sponsored by Reps. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., and Bart Stupak, D-Mich., violators could face 10 years in federal prison, a \$1 million fine or both. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate.

higher level than another, you're discriminating," Demopoulos said.

Theologians and ethicists have roundly criticized plans for human cloning, albeit on a variety of grounds. Some, including Cole-Turner, have said the technology is currently too primitive, and its use would be "wildly irresponsible."

Others share Demopoulos' additional concern that cloning is "a bizarre form of in-vitro fertilization" which "doesn't bring people together" in accordance with God's will.

## Black pastors fired for ties to Moonies

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As many as 35 black ministers have been fired by church boards that objected to their affiliation with Sun Myung Moon.

In separate cases, the clergy, mostly from the South, have been dismissed for affiliating with the Unification Church leader "because he calls himself the Messiah," Timothy Chambers, an Alabama evangelist, told the Washington Post.

Chambers is urging the Unification Church to help the dismissed clergy. The affected preachers traveled with Moon on his recent tour of the country.

Chambers said Moon's representatives pledged they would establish an independent group called the American Clergy Leadership Conference so the black ministers could have control over their appearances with Moon.

The firings are the latest development in associations between Moon and prominent black clergy. Last year, he co-hosted the Million Family March in Washington with Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

In May, he performed a mass wedding ceremony in New York during which Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo married a Korean woman. The Vatican has said Milingo will be excommunicated unless he leaves his wife, breaks ties with the Unification Church and returns to his vows of chastity and obedience to the pope by Aug. 20.

## Senate Democrats could stall Bush's faith-based plan

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Bush's faith-based initiative could be stalled in the Senate until next year unless problems with anti-discrimination provisions are worked out, according to Senate Democrats.

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said July 22 it is unlikely the Senate will consider Bush's plan to funnel federal money to religious charities this year. The House passed its version of the bill 233-198 on July 19.

Daschle said he has concerns about provisions in the bill that allow religious groups to skirt local and state anti-bias laws. Daschle said the bill, as written, is an "open invitation" to allow discrimination.

"I don't want to be tied to a specific time frame, but I clearly will give the president his opportunity, his day in court, and we'll have that debate," Daschle said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

One of the bill's chief backers in the Senate, meanwhile, said he will take a look at the bill and try to rework its provisions on discrimination. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., told "Fox News Sunday" he will rework the bill in an attempt to find "common ground."

## VIPs

"They wear fancy clothes, eat gourmet dinners and get massages. Their public displays of affection are universally welcomed, and their significant others often call just to say hello." According to the American Animal Hospital Association's National Pet Owners Survey reported in American Demographics magazine, pets never have had it so good.

When it comes to their furry friends, pet owners have no fear of commitment. The majority of pet owners say they are willing to sacrifice for their "Very Important Pets." At least 74 percent would be willing to go into debt in order to provide for their pet's well being. Of those who have a will, 27 percent had included provisions for their pets.

It was at this point, provisions in wills, I was prompted to write this column. Given the growing importance pets play in the lives of people, especially singles, I was not totally surprised that many people had included provisions in their wills for their pets. What continues to be a surprise to me today is how many Kentucky Baptists do not even have a will. Many parents with minor children have not acted in the best interest of their children (VIPs) by having a will to designate a guard-

ian should something happen to the parents. If you are the surviving spouse (VIP) of one who dies without a will, I am confident you will not be happy with the will the Commonwealth of Kentucky has for you. If you have never married, are widowed or divorced, the will the Commonwealth of Kentucky has for your heirs at law (VIPs) is very

likely not what you would want, and likely will result in harsh feelings among those heirs at law. If you do not have a will, you cannot make provisions for your church and other Baptist causes (VIPs).

In the pet survey, puppy love was very strong among the respondents. What about your love for God and family (VIPs)? Having a Christian will provides a way for you to demonstrate that love for all of the VIPs in your life.

So, don't wait! Call Laurie Valentine toll-free for an estate planning consultation session. There is no cost or obligation.

## KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

## Hindman boys assemble project for missionaries in Brazil

By Sara Arnold  
Baptist Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil (BP)—Taxicab passengers in Fortaleza, Brazil, will get a gospel witness thanks to boys in Hindman and in a dozen other Southern Baptist churches.

Boys at First Baptist in Hindman and elsewhere made gospel literature racks for use by the taxi cabs that are everywhere in the city of more than 3 million people.

The project not only is helping missionaries Rob and Phyllis Hefner launch an outreach project, but it also is teaching the youth hands-on involvement in a missions project.

Leaders say the effort also is teaching the boys they can make a positive, even life-changing, difference in oth-

er people's lives right where they are.

Hefner said he had wanted to put gospel literature racks in the cabs for a long time. But he put the idea on the back burner because he didn't have the resources to pull it off.

Then Vickie Wilson, a writer for "Lad" and "Crusader" Royal Ambassador missions magazines, contacted Hefner, wanting to include a missions project for first through sixth grade boys in the magazines.

The Hefners suggested the literature racks. Made of lightweight denim or cloth, the racks are easy to assemble. The project was included in the March 2001 issue of the magazines.

"This project has totally blown us away," Hefner said.

When the literature racks began arriving in Fortaleza, all of the pack-

ages wouldn't fit in Hefner's post office box.

"We were overwhelmed," he said. "To be honest, I didn't think anyone would respond."

The project helped boys at First Baptist Church in Hindman use various skills and learn to work together, according to RA leader Karen Watts.

One boy in the group learned about sacrifice when he sent his literature rack to the Hefners even though he wanted to keep it for himself, Watts added.

The project has led to future ministry projects, she said.

"One of the boy's great-grandmother who is in her 80s sewed the racks for us. We went to visit and thank her, and now we have begun to visit other homebound members of

our church," she said.

With the help of a Brazilian seminary student, João Araújo, the Hefners will distribute the racks to taxi drivers and keep them stocked with Christian reading materials.

"There are a number of Christian 'taxistas' (taxi drivers) who we are prayerfully sure will accept the racks for their cabs," Hefner said. "These will be our launching points for the car placements."

Wilson, an RA leader at her church in Texas, said many people think future generations are close to being missions illiterate.

"Sometimes we put children's missions education at a lower level than we do other church and secular activities," she said. "To me, it should be in the forefront."

**"This project has totally blown us away."**

*Rob Hefner, missionary to Brazil*

## Salvation Army on defense to avoid being expelled from Moscow

MOSCOW (RNS)—As a vital September court date looms, the Salvation Army's commanding officer in Moscow appealed to the press last week to publicize the Protestant denomination's fight against city officials trying to shut down the group's charitable activities.

Earlier this month, a Moscow court agreed to hear a request by the local branch of the Justice Ministry to liquidate the Salvation Army's operations in Moscow, which include serving 80,000 hot meals a year to the city's poor.

Justice Ministry officials argue that the Salvation Army is a foreign-

based "military association" and therefore ineligible for registration as a full-fledged religious organization.

"It is astonishing to us that some would suggest that we are an anti-Russian military group," said Col. Ken Baille, who commands the Salvation Army's operations in Russia and four other former Soviet republics. "Will someone please give us some evidence of this wrongdoing?"

While waiting for the Moscow court to rule on the Salvation Army's fate, Baille said the organization's lawyers will pursue a claim to the European Human Rights Court

in Strasbourg, France.

The court agreed earlier in July to hear the complaint, in which the Salvation Army alleges discrimination on the basis of religion. Salvation Army lawyer Vladimir Ryakhovsky said it could take up to five years for the court to hear the case.

While the London-based Salvation Army operates in 15 other Russian cities, Moscow is the only one where it has been denied registration and threatened with closure, said Baille, adding that the 136-year-old organization rarely faces such opposition.

"To my knowledge, the charge of being a paramilitary organization is

unique to this situation," he said.

Moscow's Justice department and local courts have taken a tough line on minority, foreign-based faiths. Local congregations of the Brooklyn-based Jehovah's Witnesses, too, are fighting a legal battle to continue to operate in the city of 10 million.

Although they are convinced the Salvation Army's predicament has to do with politics in this predominantly Orthodox Christian country, Baille and Ryakhovsky said they did not know who was behind the effort to have them shut down. "If I knew but were afraid to say, I would say that. But I just don't know," Baille said.

### Remembering Rita Moore

On April 27, all of us at Cumberland College lost a dear friend and colleague in the passing of Rita McKenzie Moore in Georgetown.

She bravely had fought cancer for several years, always maintaining her sense of humor and abiding faith in God. She had served as a deacon at Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.

Rita came to Cumberland College in October 1992 with her husband, Wayne, who had been employed as director of church relations and assistant to the president. When they arrived, we needed a manager for our admissions office. She accepted the position and the challenge.

As office manager, Rita supervised more than 20 people. She expected the work to get done but provided a fun environment. She cared about everyone with whom she worked and constantly offered encouragement and support particularly to the students who worked with her. As one former student said, "We were her kids and she was like our college mom."

Working with Rita provided many serendipitous experiences. A summer afternoon for students

working in the admissions office occasionally was interrupted by a trip to Dairy Queen with Rita footing the bill. A food assembly line for an admissions office function could slow down when Rita joyously yielded to temptation and began to eat as much whipped topping as she put on the ice cream.

Rita became the source for recipes not only in the admissions office but also across campus. She had recipes for every occasion, suggestions for making them even better and a willingness to share with anyone.

In the four years Rita served as manager of the admissions office, she created an extremely efficient workplace that was also caring and user friendly. During her time with Cumberland College she touched and blessed hundreds of lives.

We miss Rita, but we also thank God for her. Our prayers continue to be with her family.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



### Share your summer with us

There are some events coming up that we here at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children are excited about. I hope you'll consider participating and share part of your summer with us.

The first is Saturday, Aug. 4, at Whelan's Auction Center on Paris Pike in Cynthiana. The local gospel singing group Redemption will host its third gospel sing to support KBHC. The event begins at 5 p.m., and a love offering will be taken. I so appreciate the people in Harrison County putting on this event. They are miles from a KBHC program, yet they open their hearts and pocketbooks because they want to help Kentucky's children, no matter where they are from or where they are served.

Many of you look forward every year to the Kentucky State Fair. This year's event is Aug. 16-26. When you come to the Expo Center, make plans to stop by the South Wing at Main Street Kentucky and look up the KBHC booth. It's our first year to participate, and we are looking forward to meeting many new people and reacquainting ourselves with old friends.

On Aug. 30, we will have a retirement reception in honor of Buckley Carlin. As many of you

read in the summer issue of the Baptist Children's Messenger, Buckley is retiring after more than 20 years as a KBHC staffer. He will forever be a part of the KBHC family and will continue to speak on behalf of children and families as one of my special assistants, but we want to take this opportunity to thank him publicly for his career devoted to the service of others.

In September and October, we will have open houses at Glen Dale, Morehead and Spring Meadows. Keep watching the Western Recorder and our Web site for details. You also can call (800) 456-1386.

Already you have shared your summer with us through your generous gifts to the camp fund. This year you gave more than \$56,000 to provide Christ-centered camps, retreats and field trips to children and teenagers on our campuses and in foster care. For many of these kids, it will be their first summer camp or their first rafting trip. You made those memories possible. Thank you!

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

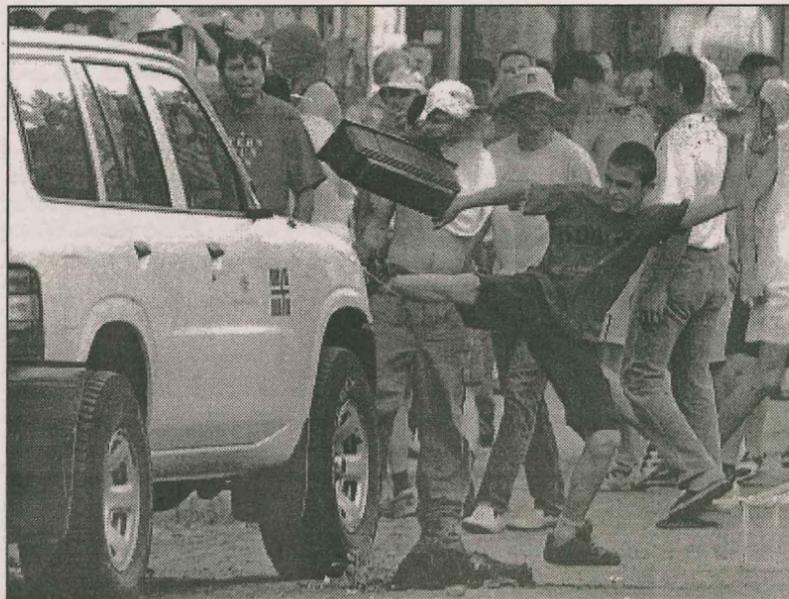
HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

## Missionaries in Macedonia: Pray for country on brink of war

By Mike Creswell  
SBC International Mission Board



**MACEDONIA UNREST** Protesters attack a United Nations vehicle in Skopje, Macedonia, July 24. Mobs accused NATO of siding with ethnic Albanian rebels. Southern Baptist missionaries in the country request prayer for their work there. (RNS/Reuters photo)

SKOPJE, Macedonia (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries based in Macedonia have appealed for prayer support as ethnic violence in this troubled Balkan nation threatens to dissolve into civil war.

Macedonia, which was part of Yugoslavia before the collapse of the Soviet Union, has been ripped by sporadic violence since February as ethnic Albanian rebels have sought to establish their own country. About two-thirds of Macedonia's 2 million people are Slavs, while most of the others are ethnic Albanians.

Southern Baptists should pray for both ethnic groups, said missionary Kyle Kirkpatrick, who coordinates International Mission Board work in Macedonia's capital, Skopje.

"God loves both of these groups here," he said. "We do ask you to pray for our ministry here. During this time of turmoil many people are without hope. The economy, which was always bad, is now near collapse.

"Pray that the church in Macedonia would not give in to the general mood of fear and hopelessness, but that she would demonstrate the love and hope that comes from knowing Jesus Christ," Kirkpatrick said.

Some of the worst violence in Skopje occurred the last week of June when about 5,000 ethnic Slavs launched a violent protest against the nation's parliament building. Armed

protesters fired on the building, forcing Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski to flee for a time.

The protest erupted after Western troops escorted Albanian rebels out of Aracinovo village to preserve a local cease-fire, a move interpreted by Macedonians as helping them escape. Many Slavs were angry that rebels were allowed to keep their weapons when they left the village.

Last week, Associated Press reported that ethnic Albanian rebels attacked an army barracks and sur-

rounded four villages while mobs in the capital vandalized the American, German and England embassy buildings.

The missionaries have planned their departure route if conditions worsen. But they said they are not as concerned for their own safety as they are for the promising ministries they have seen in recent months.

Twenty Macedonians have made decisions for Christ in the last seven months, according to missionary Betty Easter. One church was started two

years ago and in recent months three Bible studies have been started that missionaries hope will become churches.

"We are praying that more people will hear the gospel and be able to respond," Easter said. "This is a time people are uncertain about their own physical future and a time when their hearts are ready to hear."

Although most Southern Baptist ministry in Macedonia is focused on Macedonians, David and Delynn Johnson arrived in June to begin outreach to ethnic Albanians living in Macedonia, Kirkpatrick said. Two additional couples arrived this month to work with Macedonians: Ethan and Jan Schrader will be based in Bitola while Larry and Karen Calvert and their two children will work in Skopje.

Southern Baptists also have missionaries serving in Albania, Kosovo and most other parts of the former Yugoslavia. The IMB currently is seeking missionaries to serve in Slovenia, a country bordering Austria that once was part of Yugoslavia.

Missionaries are praying that a solution to the current crisis can be found soon, Kirkpatrick said.

"It's a tense time. As it goes on, people are getting more nervous that it will become more widespread," he said.

One major result of the conflict has been people displaced from their homes. Authorities estimate about 100,000 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, have been displaced by the current fighting.

### For more information

■ Visit [www.peopleteams.com/macedonians](http://www.peopleteams.com/macedonians) for news about Southern Baptist work in Macedonia.

■ Search for prayer requests from Macedonia at [www.imb.org/CompassionNet/countries.asp](http://www.imb.org/CompassionNet/countries.asp).

■ Get a map and country information at [www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mk.html](http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mk.html).

### Watch it grow

Several weeks ago we had a large group of volunteers on our campus, including some people from Alabama staying in campers on our campground. Like much of the Southeast, they have gone through a sustained period of time with a water shortage. When they came in June, one of the first things they noticed was the dark green corn in our fields. While they had received more rain this spring than they had in the past few years, they were envious of our green pastures and corn.

When they first arrived on our campus, the corn was about three feet high. During the two weeks they spent with us we had several good showers, and they could not help but notice how quickly the corn grew. They jokingly remarked that they could see it growing. While this might have been a little exaggeration, I have to admit that it was inspiring to see the corn grow as fast as it did.

As most of our readers know, our agriculture program is vital to our overall Oneida ministry. Each year about two dozen students find their niche on our farm. As important as our corn crop is, our most important crop is our students. If we can use farming and all the related aspects of farming to teach and reach young boys and girls, then we have had a good harvest.

This past week has been a busy one for our farm staff and students. Earlier in the week we hosted the annual alumni meeting of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Several alumni from five surrounding counties gathered on our campus to enjoy a dinner provided by our school. After the dinner, a short meeting was held and then the group visited our farm to see some of the projects our students were involved in.

While we have fewer students on the farm during the summer school session and many of them are new to our school, they were excited to show our guests some of things they were involved with.

This past weekend we hosted a livestock judging show sponsored by the University of Kentucky. We provided cattle and hogs and Warren Beeler provided the sheep. As I listened to the detailed information and instructions given to the students from two other schools and Oneida Baptist Institute, I was glad I was not being tested. This was serious stuff. As I watched the expressions on the faces of the students, I could tell that some were having as much trouble as I was understanding all that was being told to them.

Several steers were presented to the students for evaluation. The students were given scorecards to note their evaluations of each steer. Later, their scores were compared to the instructors to see how everyone measured up.

After the cattle judging was over, it was time to break for lunch. After a delicious meal, it was back to work judging some hogs. The instructor pointed out various details about each of the four hogs being considered. Most of the students seemed to have a little better understanding of the requirements for a fine looking hog. Again, the students recorded their scores in the spaces provided on their scorecards. One student seated near me was pleased when his score was very close to that of the instructors.

Corn is an important crop, but kids are our most important crop!

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### Learning in the classroom and on the field

London, Ky., native Marcus Daly became a Christian at age 9, and at age 17 God began dealing with him about the call to ministry.

"I felt I had better plans and joined the Air Force," Marcus said. "In four years I traveled and saw a lot of the world, but much of the time I was miserable because I knew it wasn't fulfilling God's plan."

He married Kathleen Womack in 1991 and God used the birth of their first child to focus more attention on spiritual matters. He worked for five years with the London water treatment plant, and the family became active members of Hart Baptist Church. After three years as youth minister, he became minister of education last February.

"It is exciting to work with children, youth and adults in a growing church," Marcus said. "We recently broke ground for a new worship facility. I have the benefit of guidance from an experienced pastor, Jeff Jackson, and I gain practical experience to complement what I learn in the classroom."

The family lives on Holly Hill and commutes to church on week-

ends. Marcus works in the library. "Mrs. Cummings (director of library services) is a tremendous person who models the spiritual life of faith and prayer. I enjoy meeting and helping students," Marcus stated.

His wife homeschools their oldest child, Sarah, age 10. Mary begins first grade later this month.

"We believe homeschooling is God's calling for our family," Kathleen said. "There is great cooperation among 12-15 campus families who homeschool their children. We share each other's strengths. The college lets us use the vans for trips, and the family life center is an excellent resource."

Marcus made two attempts to attend college before the door opened to Clear Creek.

"Once we came here, we've had a good adjustment," he added. "My biggest problem is finding study time between responsibilities with family, church and campus work."

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

# PEOPLE

## McLean County Baptists go to West Africa for missions

By Teresa Revlett  
McLean County News

CALHOUN—Shirley Crowe isn't a world traveler, but last week she and 12 other members of Calhoun Baptist Church headed on a mission trip to the Ivory Coast of West Africa.

While in the village of Tissie, their goal is "that God's power will be evident in their lives so that they will live as Jesus Christ would have them to live," said Richard Sams, pastor of the church and a member of the mission team.

"I never had any fear," Crowe said. "I've never flown on an airplane before and I've never been this far away from home. I truly believe that God is calling me to go, so I have to do it."

From July 25 through Aug. 7, Crowe, Sams, Lana Owens, Vickie Austin, Susan Muster, Jonathan Humphrey, Kathy Humphrey, Heath Owens, Debra Seymour, Greg Longtine, Eric Coleman, Troy and Tammy Burkhardt are ministering to as many Africans as possible.

Sams and Kathy Humphrey have both been on mission trips before. The others on the trip are newcomers.

There are 750 million people in Africa. About four-fifths of the African people are not affiliated with a church. Volunteers from Calhoun are joining others for a united event called Pray 'Round Africa Yes!, which will culminate Aug. 3.

"I think it's going to be good for Shirley," Crowe's sister Patty Conrad said. "I was very surprised when she told me that she wanted to do it. I am still concerned about the physical aspect of the journey. I hope she can adjust to the weather. Her family supports her in her decision, and we'll pray for her."

The trip originated through a vision from Calhoun Baptist member Ruth Abney.

About three years ago, the church adopted the village of Tissie. Abney asked the church to pray for Jerry and Carol Robertson who have been missionaries in West Africa for 20 years. Their uncle, Kent Robertson, is a member of Calhoun Baptist.

The church supported the members through their financial support and through prayers, Sams said.

"We started out talking about taking a few people. The Robertsons said they could use a couple of people to help. I just opened up the opportunity and the church provided for the expenses of the trip and they are supporting us with their prayers also," he said.

The pastor said there was no hesitation from the congregation. Almost immediately the volunteers started pouring in for the project. Soon, 12 people had volunteered and the tickets had been purchased.

"Then Shirley called and said that she wanted to be added to the list. I thought the cut off had already passed and we couldn't add anyone to the list when Shirley decided to go. God just opened it up and made it happen. That tells me that she was supposed to be on this trip," Kathy Humphrey said.

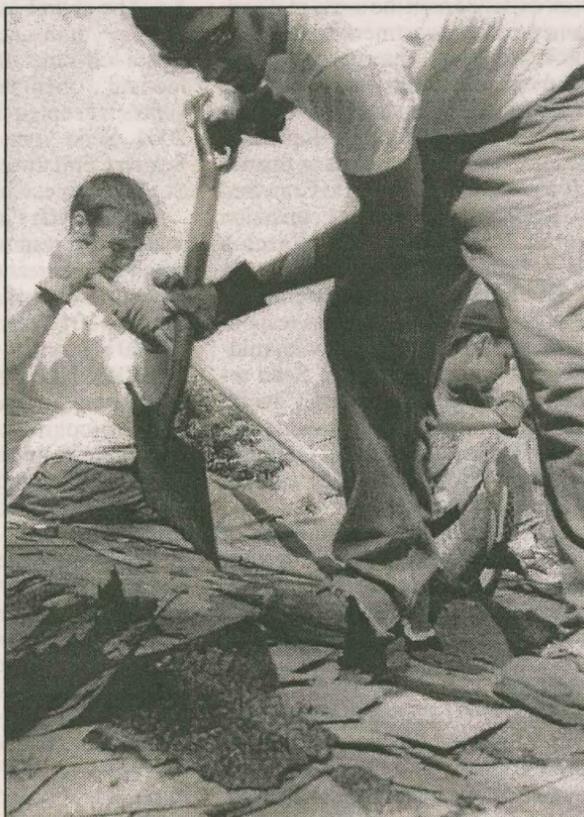
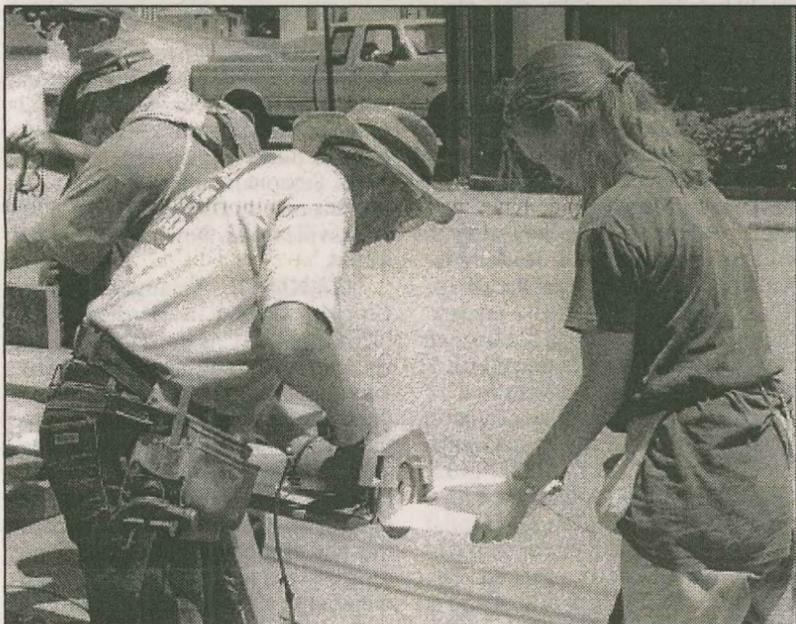
While in West Africa, the volunteers will be visiting people in schools and government buildings and talking with chiefs, hoping to pass along the word of God's love for the entire world.

"We consider this a spiritual construction event rather than a physical construction event," Sams said.

Jerry Robertson said he's excited about the group coming to work with him. Robertson grew up in Louisiana and Texas, but his father was born and raised in McLean County.

"Although I have never lived in the Calhoun area, my roots are there and many of my extended family live there," Robertson said. "We are very excited that the mission team from Calhoun will be coming here. I believe their mission will be very important, not only for Calhoun Baptist Church but for the Nafana people of Cote d'Ivoire."

Reprinted with permission from the McLean County News



**KENTUCKY CHANGERS** Nearly 170 Kentucky Baptists were in Frankfort earlier in July for Kentucky Changers, a weeklong missions project for teenagers who rehabilitate area homes. Volunteers from 16 churches around the commonwealth worked on 16 houses during the week. ■ **Top:** Volunteers build a porch. From left to right are: Alan Young of Clear Fork Baptist Church in Browning; Jon Whitlock of Doctors Fork Baptist Church in Perryville; and Jonathan Buchanan of Greensburg Baptist Church. ■ **Middle left:** Ray Acree of Greensburg Baptist Church makes a cut on a piece of vinyl siding as Victoria Havener of Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg assists. ■ **Middle right:** Paul Gray of Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg paints the trim work of a house. ■ **Bottom left:** Karen Ball of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville paints a railing. ■ **Right:** Justin Hodges (front) of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton works with others to remove shingles from a house in preparation for installing a new roof. (KBC photos by Robert Reeves)

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionaries David and Lisa Saine as they begin work among the Rufigi and Ndereyko peoples of southern Tanzania.

■ Ten national seminary students who will spend August among the Baragaig people of Tanzania and try to begin five churches.

Missionary Peg Rorabaugh writes that "Mmangati," meaning thief, sneaky killer and enemy, is the slang name given the Baragaig by other Tanzanian tribes. "Pray that all these different tribes will overcome their prejudice, preach the gospel in love and that the Holy Spirit will do what He wants," she requests.

■ Missionary Tracy Strawbridge who arrived in Czestochowa, Poland, in May and is exploring possible ministry to the deaf.

■ Maine Baptist Association in its search for a church planter strategist to replace Mike Hoffman who recently resigned to move to a similar position in Florida.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—Main Street Church called **Robert Franklin** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Sligo Church, Pendleton.

■ **BUCKNER**—Buckner Church called **Connie Borders** as minister of music. She previously served Lyndon Church in Louisville.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church called **Dan Glenn** as minister of youth. He is a recent graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—First Church called **Cohen Copley** as minister of education and youth. He previously was pastor of East Bend Church in Union. **French Harmon** is pastor of First, Fort Mitchell.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—First Church called **Monty Moore** as pastor. He previously was minister of youth/associate pastor at Cynthiana Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—West Broadway

Church will dedicate its \$2 million expansion Aug. 12 at 10 a.m. KBC Executive Director **Bill Mackey** and Long Run Association Director **Wesley Pitts** will be among the speakers. For information, call (502) 491-1920. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church called **Floyd Price** as pastor effective Aug. 1. He previously was pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church called **Bryan Klobe** as pastor. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Highland Church called **Gary Elcessor** as pastor. He previously was pastor of East Frankfort Church in Frankfort.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Little Mount Baptist Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary Aug. 26 with Sunday morning worship, dinner and 2 p.m. service. For information, call (502) 477-2697. **Orion Bell** is interim pastor.

## IMB's Jerry & Bobbye Rankin to offer missions challenge in Ky. churches

**MONTICELLO**—Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, will speak in Wayne and Clinton counties Aug. 11-12.

Area pastors and other church leaders are invited to a breakfast at 9 a.m. (EST) with the Rankins on Aug. 11 at First Baptist Church of Monticello, according to Kentucky Baptist Convention President Jim McKinley.

The Rankins will speak at a missions and evangelism rally Saturday night at 6 p.m. (CST) at Stony Point Baptist Church in Clinton County.

By driving between time zones,

both Rankins will be able to speak in two churches' worship services on Aug. 12, according to Kenneth Dick, director of missions for Wayne County and Freedom Baptist associations.

Jerry Rankin will speak at 11 a.m. (EST) at Elk Springs Valley Baptist Church in Wayne County. He also will speak at 11 a.m. (CST) at First Baptist Church of Albany.

Bobbye Rankin will speak at 10:30 (EST) at First Baptist Church of Monticello, and at 11 a.m. (CST) at Stony Point Baptist Church.

For more information call Kenneth Dick at (606) 348-4541.

## Southern students earn ministry awards

**LOUISVILLE**—Three students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recently earned ministry awards.

Todd Gray of Eddyville received the seminary's 2001 Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Award.

Julie Heath of Hickory received the J.E. Lambdin Scholarship for educational ministry and Rochelle Morgan of Louisville received the Ernest and Bonnie White Scholarship for local church ministry.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Seminary graduate, age 49, for bivocational pastorate, Western Kentucky area. (270) 247-1373.

**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:** 8-day/7-night vacation package for two, including cruise, to be used by Nov. 11, 2001. Call (502) 995-8396.

**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:** First Baptist Church of Collinsville, Va., with a membership of 850, has an opening for a minister to youth, children and their families. FBC is a multi-staff church affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia and the SBC. Please send any inquiries and/or resumés to: Dr. Rob Edwards, FBC Collinsville, PO Box 36, Collinsville, VA 24078.

**SEEKING:** Full-time praise and worship minister. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 137, Mt. Zion, IL 62549, Attn: Scott Doughty.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music/worship. CBF-affiliated 1,100-member congregation seeks individual called to music ministry for full-time position. Respond: First Baptist Church, Box 938, Lumberton, NC 28358. E-mail: office1@carolina.net.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to youth and young adults to lead a dynamic program that helps our young people love and learn more about God. M.Div and/or ordination preferred. Founded in 1893, Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., is a moderate, CBF-affiliated, "thinking, feeling and healing community of faith" with 400 active members. Visit us at www.hbclouky.org. Send resumé and references to: Minister to Youth Search Committee, Highland Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204.

**SEEKING:** President. The Woman's Missionary Union Foundation is seeking a new chief executive responsible for fundraising and management of existing relationships, employees and assets. Candidates for the position must possess an undergraduate degree, five to eight years of progressive work experience in the areas of development and investment/trust oversight, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, planned-giving technical expertise, and be a committed Christian, preferably Baptist. A graduate degree in business or finance is preferred. Send resumé to Crawford L. Taylor Jr., chair, WMU Foundation Search Committee, 336 Vesclub Drive, Birmingham, AL 35216.

**SEEKING:** Youth minister/director with recreation oversight responsibilities. Moderate church with mid-size, active youth program. Send resumé to: Rosemont Baptist Church, 556 Rosemont Garden, Lexington, KY 40503, Attn: Personnel Committee. Fax: (859) 276-1545; e-mail: rosemontbc@aol.com.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Primary responsibilities include sharing in worship planning and leadership; conducting adult and children's choirs. Send resumé to Chevy Chase Baptist Church, PO Box 22113, Lexington, KY 40522-2113.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth to assume leadership in established program. (270) 563-4011. Send resumés to: Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Cornerstone Baptist Church, 4451 Winchester Road, Lexington, KY 40509, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music (20-25 hours per 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. Resumés accepted through Aug. 20, 2001. Send your resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

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

**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:** 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:** 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 resumés through the end of August.

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

**TOUR:** Hawaii next February. Adults from your church are invited to join the Young at Heart group from Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington on a 12-day tour of Hawaii. This professionally escorted tour includes all the major sights of the islands. Total cost of \$2,735 each includes round-trip air from Lexington or Louisville, sightseeing on each island, several meals and shows, and an unforgettable fun time with a group of Christians. Single or double occupancy available. For information or a brochure, call (859) 277-7391 or 278-7155.

**TOUR:** Charleston and Savannah. The Young at Heart group from Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington has several spaces available on a 6-day motorcoach tour departing Lexington Oct. 15. The cost for the tour is \$595 and includes transportation, hotels, several meals and admission to all sightseeing events. To make a reservation or for information, call (859) 277-7391 or 278-7155.

# YOUTH

## Former pro has advice for stressed sports parents:

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP)—Former major league catcher Jim Sundberg says he's felt more pressure as a spectator at his children's Little League and high school games than he did during his 16 years as a pro player.

Scanning the headlines, he knows many parents feel the same way. And when they don't learn how to control their emotions at youth sports events, the results can be tragic. Among examples this year:

■ A judge sentenced a San Fernando, Calif., man to 45 days in jail for attacking a Little League manager for taking his boy out of a game early.

■ A Texas legislator has proposed giving coaches and game officials the same legal protection as public servants, with a maximum of one year in jail and a \$4,000 fine for any assault.

"That's what happens when there's outbursts," Sundberg said of the sports-connected violence that has erupted in recent years. "Somebody's emotionally connected or enmeshed with their child's play.

"Parents need to begin the process of letting go, letting the child have his own experiences. Don't become attached so heavily to those that you're emotionally connected with all the time."

That's what he had to do. Despite a long playing and broadcasting career, as a parent Sundberg had to learn new ways of handling his emotions.

When he got angry over a referee's call, he walked around to cool down. If a loudmouthed parent upset him, he talked it over with his wife or moved to a different seat where he couldn't see that person.

He also turned to prayer.

"At any moment, you can approach God and ask for help," Sundberg said. "I would say, 'Lord, I'm starting to well up here. This person next to me is agitating me and I'm beginning to get angry because of the way they're responding. Help me relieve this.'"

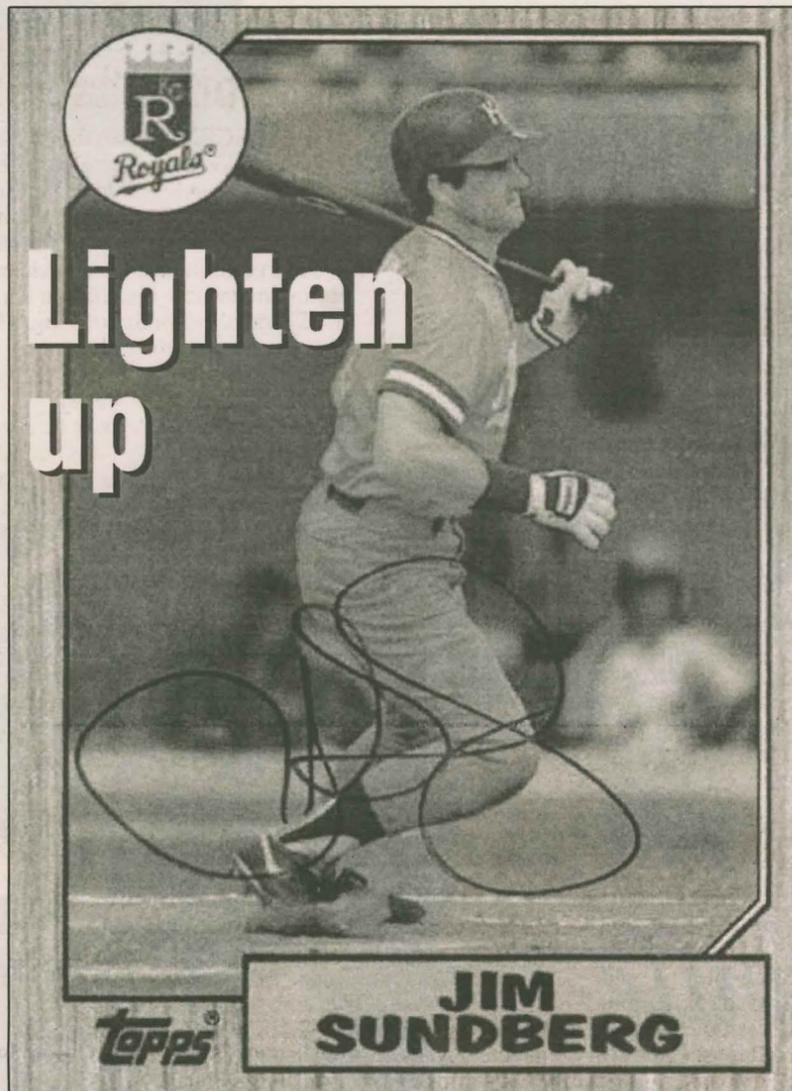
He recommends others take such steps to handle their emotions when their kids participate in Little League baseball, soccer and other sports.

Parents must recognize this is their child's experience, he said, not something they can grab on to to relive their own childhood, or make up for something they missed.

The former All-Star catcher has become an authority on the subject through the company he formed several years ago, Sports Training Systems.

Set up to publish instructional materials for coaches and players, his work brought him in constant contact with youth sports leagues. The biggest problem he saw in this environment was parents.

That's why he and his wife, Janet,



**ALL-STAR AUTHOR** Jim Sundberg, a veteran of 16 seasons and member of the 1985 World Series champion Kansas City Royals, has written "How to Win at Sports Parenting."

a behavioral specialist, wrote "How to Win at Sports Parenting." It isn't on any best-seller list, but he says it has generated plenty of response after its release last year.

Youth league directors have told him they'd give it to troublemakers and never face another awkward situation with that parent, he recalled.

Sundberg, a member of a Baptist church in Arlington, Texas, said he thinks there is a generation of parents who, because of their busy schedules and increased stress, need encouragement on how to respond to their children and at games.

"There seem to be a lot of them who aren't aware of what their role is," Sundberg reflected. "Part of writing the book was to give parents the framework by which they could understand their role."

Besides unchecked emotions, other factors create pressures that lead to violent outbursts at children's games, he said.

One is society, which has become extremely competitive. When a win-at-all-costs mentality invades youth sports, it strips the experience of what it was meant to be, Sundberg said.

For children under 13, he said sports should be a time of experimenting, discovery and enjoying learning to play the game.

Sundberg sees the lures of popularity and big money as another factor behind raging tempers in children's sports. While not all parents think their son or daughter can become a highly paid athlete, many crave the notoriety that comes from having a child who is a high school

star.

However, for those who realize their child doesn't have pro potential, Sundberg said there are many more who are convinced their 10-year-old has a chance of going all the way.

Riches await those who succeed. When he started in the major leagues in 1974, the minimum salary was \$15,000 and the median salary around \$40,000. Today a pro baseball player makes a minimum of \$200,000 and the median income is about \$1.5 million, he said.

"I just stop and caution parents that the likelihood of that happening is so slim that it's better to pursue it to enjoy it and have fun," he said.

If a parent happens to have a gifted child, his advice is to sit back and enjoy it. While working on his book, he polled the 15 members of the U.S. Olympics softball team. Twelve players said neither of their parents had any expertise in their sport.

Parents should keep that in mind instead of thinking they have to emulate the fathers guiding golfer Tiger Woods or tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams, he said.

Instead of putting pressure on a talented child, Sundberg suggests communicating with him or her. Parents can ask their youngster if there is a way they can encourage them, he said.

But never turn the sport into an idol, said the father of three.

"We've had a great time with our children in sports," he said. "None went on to play professionally. We had some great weekends of family time together and cherished that, without having to play at a higher level."

## Could growing vegetarian trend be headed to your youth group?

By Jodi Mathews  
Baptist Center for Ethics

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Chelsea Clinton is one, and so is Geoffrey Giuliano, who plays Ronald McDonald on television.

As a matter of fact, vegetarians are a growing population and may be represented in youth groups all across America.

They don't represent some crazy cult infiltrating America's youth. Primarily, vegetarians choose not to eat meat, poultry or fish for health reasons, because they support animal rights or because meat just plain grosses them out.

According to a 2000 Roper poll conducted by Vegetarian Resource Group, a little more than 2 percent of American teens are vegetarians. That is almost double the number of vegetarian teens found in 1995. Generally girls are more likely to avoid meat at a young age. Eleven percent of 13- to 17-year-old girls said they did not eat meat, according to the poll, compared to about 5 percent of boys in this age group.

A 2000 National Zogby Poll reported that there are about 4.8 million vegetarian adults in the United States. That's roughly 2.5 percent of the U.S. population and a 1.5-percent increase from last year.

As their numbers grow, the likelihood grows that a church youth group or social function will need to be able to accommodate the tastes of vegetarians during summer camp, mission trips or other events.

Scott Hantman with Young Life in Colorado Springs, Co., told Y!, an online weekly newsletter published by the Baptist Center for Ethics, that Young Life makes every effort to provide vegetarian alternatives at their camps and organization gatherings.

"We try to make it so the vegetarian kids don't feel left out or separated from the rest of the group," Hantman said.

On the other side of the United States, camp leaders are dealing with the issue of vegetarian youth as well.

"The kids are really grateful when we provide them with the option of eating vegetarian," said Howell Williams, assistant director for Passport Camp in Wingate, N.C. "The number of vegetarians at camps varies from week to week."

Williams said one week they might have 20 vegetarians and the next week there might not be any. And the youth aren't the only vegetarians at camp, she said. More and more chaperones are moving toward the vegetarian lifestyle.

Why are so many youth being drawn to this lifestyle?

For Derek Hogue, a high school senior at Richland Baptist Church in Nashville, it started when he was 13 as a way to oppose animal cruelty.

"My parents thought it was a phase," he said. "Back then it was because of animal rights, but after not eating meat for a while I couldn't go back. I became enlightened about other reasons to be vegetarian."

Hogue said outbreaks of beef diseases in Europe and other health issues related to meat consumption added to his reasons for remaining a vegetarian.

"Now, I am a vegetarian because of animal rights and health reasons," he said. His Christian faith didn't influence this choice, he said. "The Bible doesn't condemn people for eating meat," he said. "I just choose not to."

Derek's reason for "going veg" is common among youth. All 11 youth interviewed by a vegetarian Web site, [www.famousveggie.com](http://www.famousveggie.com), said they decided to go veg for animal-rights reasons.

While many youth such as Hogue have made a conscious choice to remain vegetarians, others will have periods when they experiment with the vegetarian lifestyle.

Don Vigus, youth minister at First Baptist Church in Wilmington, said that a few summers ago a female youth worker who was a vegetarian inspired many of the young girls at the church to go the veggie route. But after she left, so did the vegetarian tendencies for those young girls.

"In our group, (vegetarianism) does not represent a growing number of youth," he said. "But, I think that the youth really admire the self-discipline aspect of vegetarianism."

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