

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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FOR THE RECORD

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Speaker: Spiritual growth requires spiritual exercise

WACO, Texas (ABP)—“No pain, no gain” applies to spiritual as well as physical exercise, according to a scholar specializing in spiritual disciplines.

Just as physical fitness requires exercise, spiritual fitness also requires certain disciplines, Deirdre LaNoue told Baptist women gathered July 26-28 at Baylor University for the Texas Leadership Conference sponsored by Woman’s Missionary Union of Texas.

A former history professor at Dallas Baptist University, LaNoue recently was named professor of spiritual formations at Mount St. Joseph’s College in Cincinnati.

Spiritual disciplines help Christians build stamina to endure life’s challenges, she said.

“The world will wear us out—sometimes the church will wear us out, unintentionally—if we don’t have a fitness plan to keep us connected” to Christ, LaNoue said.

Drawing from Jesus’ instruction to “abide in the vine,” LaNoue pointed to five elements of “abiding” in Christ:

■ **Prayer.** Constant communication with God requires the disciplines of solitude, silence and slowing down long enough to listen, she said. “We must listen to the voice of the One who calls us beloved. Otherwise, we will get sidetracked.”

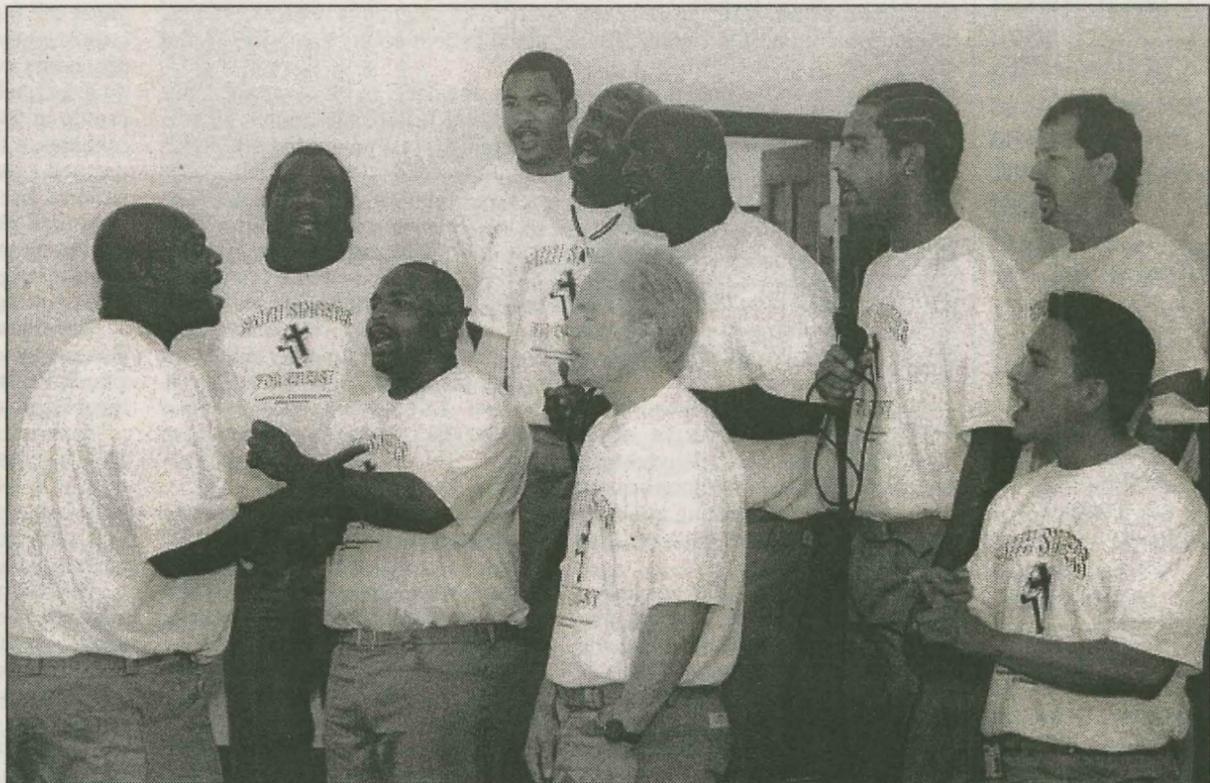
■ **Scripture.** Most Baptist churches do well at involving members in regular, systematic Bible study, she said. But the challenge is to “study God’s Word with integrity, to not just pick and choose those things we agree with or want to hear.”

■ **Spiritual reading.** She encouraged Baptist women to read with discernment classic Christian literature. “We can learn so much from the saints who have gone before us.”

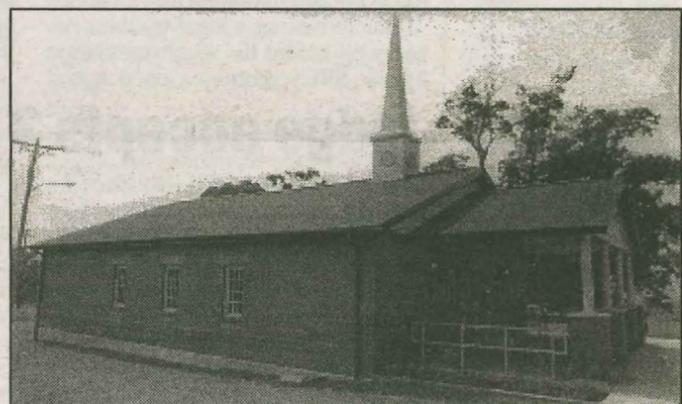
■ **Accountability.** LaNoue encouraged Baptist women to seek out mature believers with depth and wisdom who will hold them accountable. Christianity is lived out in community, and small accountability groups or partners can help remind believers, “We are not able to do it alone. We need one another.”

■ **Rest.** Jesus set the example by taking time away from the crowds. Leaders should resist the notion that they “don’t have permission to rest” because they are not accomplishing anything during hours at rest.

“Rest really can be a holy thing,” she said. “Set yourself free to rest.”



PRISON CHAPEL Inmates at the Franklin County Career Development Center in Frankfort sing at the open house for a newly built chapel at the prison. The 75-seat sanctuary hosts religious services five nights a week and has room for a Christian library. Chaplain Earl Bell said the structure was built by inmate labor with no state funds. Nearly 30 churches, half of them Kentucky Baptist congregations, donated money to the \$82,000 project. Several Christian inmates tithed to the project from the small salaries they receive for prison-related work, Bell added. He said that when he arrived four years ago, he found Christian prisoners praying for a worship space of their own. Bell took the choir to sing in churches where he would ask for donations for the construction. “It’s been a labor of love,” he added. (Photos by David Winfrey)



A year later, Mayfield revival still being felt

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—Nearly a year has passed since the end of a summer-long, impromptu revival that led to more than 950 conversions in this West Kentucky town.

No one can deny the personal impact the meetings had on new Christians, but area Kentucky Baptists say the long-term results are mixed for local churches.

Advocates say the revival deepened their churches’ spiritual sensitivity. The event also helped spark similar meetings in Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, they note.

“It had a tremendous impact on our county,” said Mark Dowdy, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Hickory. “We’re still following up with children and youth who made professions of faith.”

But the Mayfield revival remains a touchy subject among many Kentucky Baptists here.

Two pastors who participated in the revival have since resigned their churches after disputes. Both pastors had tried to move worship and music styles at their churches toward the contemporary approach used in the revival.

It all started spontaneously on May

7, 2000, after music evangelists Gerald and Cindy Simmons visited Sedalia Baptist for the morning worship service. Sedalia and Enon Baptist held a joint evening and with the Simmonses that lasted more than three hours.

Sedalia’s pastor, Tim Allred, suggested holding another meeting the next night. The day after that worship meeting, a group of pastors met to discuss holding regular meetings.

Organizers contacted Tennessee evangelist Brady Weldon to preach, and Ronnie Stinson, pastor of Trace Creek Baptist Church, led his congregation to offer the use of its multipurpose building.

Initially, revival services were held four nights a week, but they later shifted to weekends. Three-hour worship meetings were not uncommon.

In addition to new Christians, the revival touched the lives of many people already in the pews of local churches.

Jack Fisher, a member of Trace Creek, first attended the revival as a disgruntled spectator.

He said he didn’t like the music and sat for several nights with his arms folded, thinking evangelist Weldon was trying to manipulate his emotions.

Still, Fisher kept returning. A few weeks later he went to the altar to pray.

He repented for the apathy that kept him in a pew for five years. Before then, the private pilot had flown to Central America on medical missions.

Today the Mayfield orthodontist flies Weldon to some of his meetings, where he prays with others wanting to see revival. He has returned to Central America three times since last summer, conducting free dental clinics.

“I see a move of God going around the whole country because of a spark in two little churches in Graves County,” Fisher said. “It’s not us. It’s God.”

For most of the Mayfield services, the Simmonses provided music, an upbeat, contemporary Christian style that was popular with youth but not traditionalists.

The revival’s ending also prompted some dissension. Most pastors agreed to wrap it up the weekend of a popular youth revival in mid-August, but Allred insisted it should continue.

Services moved to First Assembly of God on Aug. 25, with Georgia evangelist Paul Tsika coming to preach after Weldon experienced problems with his throat. After four more weekends, the services concluded.

“There’s no hard feelings over the way it ended,” Allred said, adding that he’s still in close contact with several

□ See A year later ..., page 7

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, August 8

BAPTISTS

IMB trustee resigns, convicted on 19 counts of fraud

A federal indictment against Russell Kaemmerling portrayed him as the leader of a seven-man scheme to defraud investors of millions of dollars.

DALLAS—A trustee with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board who figured prominently in the denomination's conservative shift resigned from the board after being convicted on 19 counts of fraud.

Russell Kaemmerling, a brother-in-law of former Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson, was elected as an IMB trustee last year during Patterson's final year as president. Two weeks before Kaemmerling was elected to the national leadership post, a federal warrant was issued for his arrest, according to a copyrighted article by Mark Wingfield in the Texas Baptist Standard.

Kaemmerling, a veteran worker in the so-called "conservative resurgence" within the SBC, delivered the benediction for the afternoon session of the SBC annual meeting in Orlando on the same day he was elected as an IMB trustee.

Also on that same day, according to Wingfield's article, a grand jury indictment against Kaemmerling was unsealed in U.S. District Court in Pensacola, Fla. That indictment, which portrayed him as the leader of a seven-man scheme to defraud investors of millions of dollars, eventually led to his conviction on all 19 counts.

Kaemmerling's legal troubles began well before his recommendation by the SBC committee on nomina-

tions, according to the Standard. He and others related to the criminal fraud case had judgments rendered against them in civil court cases in 1997 and 1999.

In the 1999 civil case, a default judgment was handed down against Kaemmerling a year before his nomination as an IMB trustee. Two years earlier, Kaemmerling and two of the same co-defendants were found liable in a civil case brought by investor Serge Chernay. That case resulted in a \$1 million judgment against Kaemmerling.

The federal criminal charges on which Kaemmerling eventually was convicted grew out of those cases and others. The criminal conviction is on appeal. The civil cases were not appealed.

According to one of the Pensacola prosecutors, the federal criminal charges were drawn up on only eight cases in which investors allegedly lost a total of \$6 million. The total amount believed to have been lost through the two schemes allegedly exceeds \$15 million, said Benjamin Beard, lead prosecutor in the 12-day trial.

In the early days of the fundamentalist movement within the SBC, Kaemmerling's name was virtually synonymous with that political and theological agenda.

From 1980 to 1985, he was editor

of the Southern Baptist Advocate, an independent magazine used to advance the fundamentalist agenda and criticize leadership of the SBC and professors in SBC seminaries.

Kaemmerling dropped to a lower profile in 1986, after he was relieved of duties at the Advocate for what he deemed "personal reasons." On the national scene, he remained out of sight until his nomination to the IMB and his appearance on the SBC program three months before he was to face a jury in federal court.

Kaemmerling's wife is a sister to Patterson's wife. She also is a sister to Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In correspondence with the Baptist Standard, Kaemmerling insisted none of his extended family "had any knowledge at all of the entire situation until just prior to the sentencing hearing in late November 2000."

Beyond his wife and children and a couple of close friends, "no one was aware, especially not Chuck Kelley or Paige Patterson," Kaemmerling said.

Patterson reportedly was out of the country and unavailable to comment on the situation.

David Fannin, pastor of Nassau Baptist Church in Houston, was chairman of the SBC committee on nominations last year.

Fannin told the Standard he was

not aware of Kaemmerling's legal situation prior to his nomination and election. "If we had known that, it would not have gone anywhere," he said.

Kaemmerling, who maintains he is innocent of wrongdoing, continued to serve as an IMB trustee until after he entered a federal penitentiary in Beaumont, Texas, the last week of May, according to the Standard.

IMB spokeswoman Wendy Norvelle said Kaemmerling sent in a letter of resignation from the board dated June 4. IMB administrators were unaware of his predicament until he was incarcerated, she said.

Kaemmerling told the Standard he sees himself as a victim of a government conspiracy. He referred to a book titled "The Tyranny of Good Intentions," which he said "demonstrates how the federal government is abusing power, manufacturing evidence and prosecuting non-criminal activity as if it were criminal to gain convictions."

As he waits in federal prison in Beaumont, Kaemmerling insists he will be exonerated on appeal.

"I will state plainly that I have never taken any money illegally," he told the Standard. "The business transactions we brokered were legitimate and real with positive results both possible and intended."

Judge accepts 3 plea bargains in Baptist Foundation fraud case

PHOENIX (ABP)—A Phoenix judge has accepted plea bargains from three of eight defendants charged with crimes in the 1999 collapse of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona.

They are accused of bilking 13,000 investors—many elderly and most members of Southern Baptist churches—of hundreds of millions of dollars in the largest fraud case involving a non-profit organization in U.S. history.

Foundation officials Edgar Kuhn, Donald Deardoff and Jalma Hunsinger earlier had pleaded guilty to reduced charges in exchange for cooperating with prosecutors in a case involving five others who claim innocence.

Judge Edward Ballinger of Maricopa County Superior Court accepted the plea agreements and entered them into court records July 23. The three confessed to multiple counts that carry penalties ranging from probation to up to 12 and a half years in prison.

No future court dates have been set for the five remaining defendants: William Crotts, Thomas Grabinski, Lawrence Hoover, Harold Friend and Richard Rolles, who face fraud and racketeering charges.

Court documents allege that the Foundation, set up in 1948 as a non-profit agency to raise money for Baptist missions, began offering individual investments in the 1980s.

While soliciting investors in the name of furthering God's work, officials allegedly put most of the money in speculative land deals during a hot Arizona real estate market. When property values declined, they allegedly hid losses by setting up a web of 90 subsidiary corporations and used money from new investors to pay off old ones in a pyramid scam known as a Ponzi scheme.

The Foundation declared bankruptcy in November 1999, claiming \$640 million in debts owed to investors, and \$241 million in assets.

In another recent development, investors were told to expect another installment of repayments under a court-ordered restructuring plan in August. The amount is uncertain, according to a letter to investors from liquidating trustee Clinton Jessup.

Investors expect to recover between 31 percent and 41 percent of their original investment over five years from sale of Foundation assets through the repayment plan. So far they have received just over five cents on the dollar from two distributions in January and April.

Some investors have complained that the liquidation is taking too long and is too expensive. Jessup responded that trustees are working to return investors the largest amount of money possible.

Meanwhile, civil suits against BFA auditor Arthur Andersen seek damages, and criminal charges against the eight defendants include restitution, meaning investors eventually could

recover funds.

Also, an Arizona newspaper published a story alleging that state officials received complaints of fraud in early 1993 but did not pursue a criminal investigation until five years later. According to the Arizona Tribune, more than \$400 million could have been saved between 1994 and 1999 had the Foundation been shut down earlier.

Several investors complained to state officials beginning in 1993 that the Foundation was engaged in a Ponzi scheme. Court records that were available at the time documented questionable practices by one Foundation representative, the newspaper reported, but the state ignored allegations until the media reported them in April 1998.

"Had they done something about it, I wouldn't have gotten caught up in it," said Marjorie Grant, who with her husband, Jack, invested \$50,000 beginning in 1997.

Collegiate ministry leaders plan cooperative strategy

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—Reaching university students for Christ is vital to Southern Baptist work in the future, seminary President Bill Crews told collegiate ministry leaders gathered at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary for a series of strategic planning initiatives.

The representatives of collegiate ministries from across the country met at the Mill Valley, Calif., seminary July 23-24 to take initial steps toward the development of a "cooperative strategy" for Southern Baptist collegiate ministries nationwide.

Crews affirmed the work of the collegiate leaders, comprising local

campus ministry directors, state convention leaders and those involved in the denomination's national programs for college and university students.

"It would be a tragedy for all of us if we didn't do something to address the needs of students in California and others areas where university populations are growing so rapidly," Crews said.

Ignoring the needs of college students means "we are in fact robbing our churches of the leadership they need to impact their communities and ensure their survival," said Bob Royall, associate professor of ministry at Golden Gate. "We need to dream a

new dream of reaching this critical generation and turning them into fully devoted Christian leaders for our churches."

"The key to the future of national collegiate ministry is here with this group," said John Moore, collegiate ministries leader for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. "We're going to have a lot of networking together ahead of us."

Among the group's key concerns is ensuring involvement of local and regional collegiate leaders throughout the country in developing new approaches for reaching university students in the United States.



Workers needed for flood relief in East Kentucky

WHEELWRIGHT—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers are needed in Floyd County after flash flooding last weekend damaged homes and destroyed bridges in Eastern Kentucky.

"The outlook is bad," said Harold Moore, on-site coordinator for Kentucky Brotherhood disaster relief.

"They've had a tremendous flood," he said, adding that local officials said the area had 4 1/2 inches of rain in four hours Aug. 3. "To me, it looks as bad as the area of Mullens (W. Va.), where we just came from."

Volunteers closed up the feeding kitchen in Mullens Aug. 5 after serving approximately 70,000 meals since July 10.

While volunteers still are needed for mud-out and rebuilding in Mullens, Kentucky disaster relief workers are concentrating on recruiting volunteers for the Floyd County flood.

At least 150 homes are severely damaged, and at least another 75 need mud-out work, Moore said. Officials also estimate that 150 bridges, many connecting homes to the local road, were wiped out by the fast-flowing streams.

"We'll be here two weeks if we can get the people to respond," Moore said. Monday morning, seven people were heading to the region to help, but Moore said he could use a team of 30 volunteers or more. "I'm trying to contact everyone I can who's not worn out from Mullens."

About 120 Kentucky volunteers have worked in West Virginia. Another 20 workers from Florida and Alabama, plus 17 locals also have helped out.

In addition, feeding teams from Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina also served in the state.

As of Aug. 1, Kentucky workers have prepared about 70,000 meals and completed 25 cleaning projects, Koch said.

Workers witnessed at least one profession of faith, he added: an 81-year-old man whose house a team cleaned.

"I had a fellow today say he just didn't know what the community would have done if we hadn't been here," Koch said.

Kentucky Brotherhood will hold its next training session for disaster relief volunteers Aug. 18 at Raymond Baptist Church in Webster.

For information about volunteer work in Wheelwright or disaster relief training, call KBC Brotherhood at (888) 254-5720. To contact the disaster relief command post in Wheelwright, call (606) 452-4324.

Composer keeps focus on God, not awards

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

DANVILLE—As a music minister and award-winning composer, James Stevens' world is filled with the music he writes and directs.

But "Jimbo," as he is affectionately known, wasn't always so attentive to music.

As a fifth-grader in Atmore, Ala., he was so much more interested in playing sports than piano that his private instructor refused to continue teaching him.

But Stevens kept playing on his own. By age 14, he proved to be so proficient that he was playing the organ at church revivals.

Not that he still didn't make mistakes.

He recalls the end of a sermon one night when the evangelist said, "As the organ plays softly, bow your heads..."

Just then, Stevens' heel stuck on a pedal, blasting out tones that startled the evangelist and opened everyone's eyes.

He laughs as he relates the anecdote. But the Texas native had a serious side as a teenager. He said he felt God wanted him to use his musical abilities in Christian service.

He began writing songs. Though "they weren't very good," he used them as learning experiences and developed his composition skills.

Today, the 40-year-old music minister has published more than 200 compositions, mostly choral anthems and piano works.

He wrote many during five years of professional work in Nashville, where he also served as a music minister.

He has published five piano books. The latest was released by Shawnee Press, a Pennsylvania company founded in 1939 by well-known choirmaster Fred Waring.

Recently the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers awarded him the 2001 "Standard Award for Composition." The sixth time he's won an ASCAP award, this commendation included a small cash prize.

"To me, Jim is incredibly prolific," said Union University professor Ron Boud, who taught him in piano and composition class at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"His music is immensely practical and useful," Boud said. "He's very in touch with where the churches are."

But Stevens doesn't publicize his professional accolades while serving



MUSIC MINISTER James Stevens, music minister of Calvary Baptist Church in Danville (at piano), recently received his sixth music award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

as music minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.

"Our choir does a lot of things I've written but it's never mentioned," he said. "That's intentional. When they do something I write, it's not focused on that person, it's to focus on God and worship."

Adding several musicians to the music also has the potential to distract the audience away from worship, he added. "How do you play to the best of your ability to glorify God but not use it at a level where people notice you more than the message? It's always a delicate balance."

Calvary's pastor, Doug Wesley, thinks Stevens succeeds. Many worship leaders tend to grab the spotlight, Wesley said, but Stevens keeps the attention on God.

"You can see and sense he focuses you on God and is focusing himself on God," the pastor said. "You can see it in everything he does. He's such an incredible musician, yet he's the most humble person I've ever met."

Calling Stevens a composer might evoke images of traditional hymns and a high-church environment, but Wesley said it's just the opposite at Calvary.

The church does sing some traditional hymns, but a contemporary flavor has increased since Stevens came in September of 1998.

"He does a masterful job of blending those styles," the pastor said. "He has a knack of knowing how far to take us in praise and then getting us in the mood to prepare for the message."

"Worship is a passion of mine," Wesley added. "When I visit a newcomer, I can tell you exactly what they're going to say. It's something about our music and how good it is. That keeps me striving to do better, too."

The choir has more than doubled in three years, with up to 30 members packing the loft for various productions.

Harold Kilby, a member for 28 years, said Stevens is undoubtedly their best director. "He's able to compose music and we're able to sing his music," said the self-employed businessman. "That's very unusual. His ability to play the piano and keyboard have changed the way we do music, too."

Kilby's wife, Paulette, appreciates the time Stevens takes to make sure Calvary's singers hit the right notes. She said he has taught her things she never thought she could learn.

"A lot of music directors get so angry, they skip over something and let you do the best you can," she noted. "But Jimbo wants to get it right."

That striving for perfection is part of his goal to involve as many people as possible in the choir and orchestra.

Growing up, he said, piano and organ were the church's only instrumental outlets, so he is excited over expanding possibilities for musicians today.

He has his own goals, too. This fall he will begin part-time doctoral studies at the University of Kentucky, hoping to develop his skills as a composer and author.

Along the way, he tries to find time for gardening, reading and fishing. Not to mention spending time with his wife, Mabelle, and their two-year-old daughter, Heather.

Does he hope she follows in his footsteps?

"I would like for her to be a musician, but whenever I play she always wants me to play 'Barney,'" he said, referring to the popular children's TV program. "I swore I would never let my children watch shows like 'Barney' or 'Blues Clues' and now I know all the words."

Campbellsville trustees OK new vision statement

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University trustees approved revising the school's vision statement and an addition to the school's athletic center during their meeting last month.

The new vision statement was part of the first phase for a comprehensive strategic planning processes, which also includes new core values and institutional goals.

The new mission statement reads: "Campbellsville University is a com-

prehensive, Christian institution that offers undergraduate and graduate programs. The university stresses academic excellence solidly grounded in the liberal arts, personal growth, integrity and fellowship within a caring environment. The university seeks to prepare students to enrich their own lives through lifelong learning, to contribute to their respective disciplines through continued scholarship and to improve society as Christian servant leaders."

The schools four core values, which also were approved by trustees, are: to provide academic excellence and quality programs throughout the university; to offer an environment conducive for student success; to practice strong, effective stewardship; and to strive to be a caring, Christ-centered community of learners.

The new athletic center construction will include a wellness center. Most of the funds for the project already have been secured.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College** will launch a new extension center this fall at First Baptist Church of Kingston, Tenn. Registration begins Aug. 23, and three classes will be offered, beginning Aug. 27. For more information, call Donnie Fox, director of admissions at Clear Creek at (606) 337-3196.

■ **Conferences** about other religious beliefs will be held this month in Cold Spring and Somerset. The meetings, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will focus on the beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, occultists and those involved in the New Age movement. The meetings will be held Aug. 20 at First Baptist Church of Cold Spring and Aug. 21 at Buena Vista Baptist Church in Somerset. For more information, call (502) 254-4737 or toll-free in Kentucky (888) 254-5722.

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

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As death approaches, where are pastors?

By Charles Beaty

KEARNEY, Mo. (RNS)—My wife and I just had our fourth child on July 10, a beautiful baby girl we named Abigail. In Hebrew, Abigail means "her father rejoices." "Rejoice" is an understatement for me. I didn't expect to see my baby being born, because my doctors told me I might not live that long. (See Western Recorder, July 24 issue, page 3.)

I am a husband, father to now four children, and a minister of the Christian faith. And I am dying of lung cancer at the age of 34.

As a minister, I have ventured into the world of cancer and into the end of my life with a unique perspective. I need to be ministered to, and I continue to minister to others. In this position, I have learned that many ministers, priests and rabbis really don't know how to minister to a dying person. We know how to visit terminally ill patients in hospitals and talk about life after death. We know how to plan and execute a funeral and burial. These things many of us learn in seminary.

But we don't learn what it feels like to be dying, and we don't learn what a dying person wants to talk about, do and see while he or she is still living. Faith leaders often don't know how to talk with a dying person or his family about choices.

We often are uncomfortable helping a dying person answer important questions, such as: "Where do I want to die—hospice, hospital or home?" "Who do I want around me when I die?" "What are the last things I want to do or say?" Ministers might not think to talk with the wife, mother or brother about how they will pay for the hospital bills

and what they need to comfort them as their loved one dies.

It is not our fault. The reason ministers often don't know these things is because they are human, like you and me. In most cases, they also are afraid of dying, afraid to talk about what inevitably they will face in their own death or what they may face as their own mother, wife or brother is dying.

COMMENTARY

With a terminal illness, your doctor seems to be your closest ally, but it is not easy to turn to the medical community to help with these types of questions. Doctors and nurses also may be ill-equipped to face the reality of death. Death is painful, scary and a mystery to the scientific community.

The faith community provides the dying person and his family with reassurance that life and death have meaning. Science cannot provide us with that kind of comfort. When the sting of death—the very stench of death—is around, science provides little help for soul-searching about the meaning of life. And believe me, people who are dying need a real hope to hold on to—a hope that will not disappoint—when facing the afterlife. I know I do.

You see, dying people need someone who is equipped to deal with death. And the most logical person I can think of is a leader of faith. Unfortunately, faith leaders often aren't

trained in seminary to deal with death. There aren't many workshops about caring for the dying, and it isn't even a major discussion among faith leaders—even casually.

One organization, the Midwest Bioethics Center in Kansas City, has begun to train faith leaders from all religions about caring for the dying. Through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, they have organized "Compassion Sabbath," training sessions and other sources of education so that faith leaders will begin to get comfortable with going beyond the basics with dying patients and their families.

The training also encourages that they preach about the needs of dying people in their sermons and encourage their congregations to surround a dying person and his family with comfort and care, just as they would surround a family when they bring home a new baby.

I rejoice in the support of all my friends and family. I rejoice in all my beautiful children. I rejoice in my loving wife, Christy, and I rejoice in the glory of God.

I am so thankful for the enlightened ministers in my life who are learning to understand and better minister to the dying. As important as simply listening, holding a hand and "being there" is, dying people and their families need their ministers of faith to learn how to really deal with this enigma we will all one day face—death.

Charles Beaty, a Southern Baptist pastor, is a former missionary to northern Africa

What are you thinking?

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

KBC Web site expands features

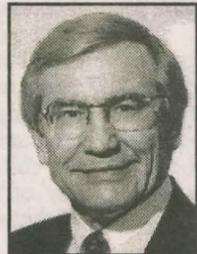
The Kentucky Baptist Convention staff has made progress in so many areas, I run the risk of omitting great work. In a previous article, I wrote about the staff's responsibilities in the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade, their positive response to the performance review and their involvement in a challenging planning process.

Another area of exciting growth is in the newly redesigned KBC Web site. If you have never checked out our site or have not done so recently, I encourage you to point your browser to www.kybaptist.org. The new site is designed with Kentucky Baptist church leaders and members as its primary audience and is packed full of useful information and resources.

Communications Director Robert Reeves has given general direction to this process, but the real design and implementation has been the responsibility of Brenda Smith, KBC's news and web specialist, and

Troy Fulkerson, information services department director.

"The cooperation of Brenda and Troy, each using their unique skills and hard work, has saved KBC thousands of dollars" in Web site development costs, according to Lowell Ashby, our business services team leader.



Bill Mackey

The Web site is being updated every weekday so I encourage you to check it regularly. You might even want to set it as your browser's home page.

The site is full of beneficial new features. Here are just a few:

■ **Improved navigation.** The new site is extremely easy to get around by using drop-down menus.

■ **Improved search feature.** There's a search button on every page so you easily can get a list of pages with information on specific topics.

■ **Online event registration.** You now can register online for most KBC events.

■ **Church listings and maps.**

You now can look up any Kentucky Baptist church, find basic information about the church and in many cases, print a map to its location.

■ **E-newsletter.** Sign up for a weekly e-newsletter to get the latest information from the convention delivered to you by e-mail.

■ **Announcements board.** Publicize your church and association's events by adding them to the Kentucky Baptist community section of the site.

■ **Online videos and photo galleries.** See Kentucky Baptists in action by checking out the online videos and photo galleries.

■ **Downloadable resources.** Useful documents and clip art now can be downloaded to your computer directly from our site.

■ **Web polls.** Check out the latest Web poll and see what others are saying about topics of interest to Kentucky Baptists.

I hope that all Kentucky Baptists will utilize the KBC Web site. If you have suggestions, please share them by calling Brenda Smith at (502) 254-4731 or (888) 254-5713 or by e-mail at Brenda.Smith@kybaptist.org.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

New tax measure features several pro-family benefits

By Don Spencer

You probably have heard and read much about the new tax bill recently signed into law. Most people are aware that as a result of this tax bill, they will receive a check for as much



as \$300 for individuals and \$600 for couples. Many people are not as aware of the long-term effects of this tax bill that are hidden among its complexities.

The Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 was the largest tax cut in 20 years, but it also was one of the most complex tax laws ever passed related to individual taxes. Never has a piece of tax legislation deferred so many tax benefits for so long through phase-ins and delayed effective dates. This creates major complications for most people in understanding the new tax laws. It also provides time for Congress to reverse some of tax changes before they become law.

This tax law has guaranteed there will be significant changes in individual tax laws every year for the next 10 years. Some people have said this tax bill has guaranteed full employment for tax professionals for the next 10 years as people seek help to apply the tax laws to their own situation.

The new tax bill will significantly reduce taxes for most individuals. To me, one of the most interesting and significant features of this bill is its pro-family focus. This is seen in several key provisions:

■ Relief in the tax penalty incurred by married couples.

■ The child tax credit is increased.

■ Child and dependent care credit is increased.

■ Pension laws are simplified. Incentives are added to encourage and make possible saving for retirement, especially by low- and middle-income individuals.

■ The earned income tax credit is simplified and enhanced for some people. (Some ministers might qualify under the new tax laws for the earned income credit who did not previously qualify.)

■ A number of provisions will decrease taxes for those saving and spending for qualified education.

I'm grateful for this pro-family focus and the financial benefit it will provide so many families. As parts of this law take effect next year, consult your tax preparer/adviser to make sure you and your family take full advantage of all the tax savings available to you.

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

TV viewing guidelines can help teach children to be discerning

Q: How does television affect my child? What guidelines should I use?

Studies have shown that television contributes to aggressive behavior, acceptance of violence and adultery, fatigue, poor physical condition and isolation in children. It also shortens attention spans and affects a child's ability to concentrate.

Media critic Michael Medved says television has programmed children for a scene change every four seconds. Could this be why so many children are bored and restless?

Television often provides an easy way out when it comes to babysitting or having children entertain themselves, but parents should understand the message they are sending. Fred Rogers notes that in the child's mind, parents condone what is on TV, just like they choose what is in the refrigerator. His insight underlines the importance of parents knowing and monitoring what children are watching, especially given the content of many of today's programs.

While moderate amounts of television viewing can stimulate language, auditory and visual skills and curiosity, TV remains passive rather than active. Rogers once said, "Television may be the only electrical appliance that's more useful after it's turned off." In many cases, children need to be told to do just that. "Turn it off and find something else to do. Read a book. Play outside. Work a puzzle."

There are many fine programs on TV, thus providing parents the opportunity to teach children one of the primary skills Christians need to faithfully follow Christ: discernment. Take time to watch TV with your children; talk about what you see. Use viewing limits to teach children to make good choices about how they are going to use their time. Use your power as a parent to protect children from harmful images and ideas.—*David Garrard*

Q: I am the parent of two teenagers, neither of whom seems to accept the rules I have established for them. What can I do to get them to respect my rules?

Wanting teens to obey rules is a familiar refrain voiced by parents. There are a number of factors involved that can contribute both to the problem and the solution.

First, it is crucial that teens respect the relationship they have with their parents. According to Josh McDowell and Dick Day in "How to Be a Hero to Your Kids," "Rules without relationships lead to rebellion." Teens must feel that their parents are interested in them and actively investing in the relationship.

Parents who are overinvolved in work, hobbies, other relationships or even church activities might find themselves needing to do some necessary pruning to provide time to do relational work with teenagers. I would suggest that "quality time" is a myth. True parental success involves knowing which appointments to keep.

A second factor that contributes to teens respecting rules is that they increasingly are given ownership of decisions. This is quite different from parenting a young child. An 8-year-old, for example, does not have enough life experience nor is she developmentally ready to have much input into the family rules. At 14, however, this same young woman both desires and deserves to have some dialogue with her parents about the rules. If she feels heard and respected, she will be much more likely to obey the rules that she helped create.—*Scott Wigginton*

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.



What kind of church do you want to have?

A small, rural congregation once found itself in a region facing rapid population growth as dozens of city-dwellers relocated to the bucolic setting to raise their young families. As a result, the peaceful little community quickly was being transformed into a bedroom community serving a nearby city. And that meant lifelong residents of the area—including prominent third- and fourth-generation families—were having to cope with the inconveniences of increased traffic, overcrowded schools and long lines at the grocery store.

The local Baptist church—where everybody knew everybody else—was facing changes too. Already, two or three new families had visited the church. One family with three squirming children even sat down in Aunt Bessie's pew, usurping the spot she had occupied nearly every Sunday morning for 60-plus years.

But that wasn't the worst of it. The church was on the main highway heading out of the county and several of the newcomers had taken to using the church's gravel parking lot as commuter parking during the week—without permission! Not that anyone else ever used the parking lot except on Wednesday nights, but the very idea of strangers using their property was more than the deacon board could bear.

They called an emergency meeting, summoning the pastor, the trustees and the building and grounds committee to help them decide what to do. After extensive discussion and debate, they agreed that the only sensible solution was to close off the parking lot during the week. Deacon Jones and trustee Wilson volunteered to drive steel posts into the ground on each side of the driveway. The building and grounds committee would then stretch a chain from post to post with an attached sign that read: "Church Property: No Trespassing."

It worked. The newcomers quit parking their cars at the church and the problem was solved.

Interestingly, however, even with the population growth in the county, the Baptist church didn't gain many new members. And the number of visitors dwindled to almost zero. With the church's out location right on the highway, no one could figure out why none of the new folks ever bothered to visit anymore.

A couple of years later, the pastor moved elsewhere and the church called a new minister. He noticed the chain dutifully stretched across the church driveway every Monday morning and asked the deacon chairman about it. Once he heard the story, he gradually began to visit with the church leaders about other options. At the next joint meeting of the deacons, trustees and grounds committee, he suggested a new approach: Why not take down the chain and install a new sign beside the driveway that reads: "Friendship Baptist Church: Commuters Welcome"?

After a very lengthy discussion, the group agreed to give it a try. Within a few weeks, half a dozen commuters had begun using the

parking lot again. A couple of weeks later, the Dorcas Sunday school class volunteered to start serving coffee and doughnuts to the commuters every Monday morning, along with flyers inviting them to visit on Sunday mornings.

Since then, the church paved the parking lot and added basketball goals at each end to give the kids in the area a place to play.

And guess what? Several new families have started visiting the church again. Aunt Bessie even invited some of them to share her pew.

What kind of church would you like to be—a "No Trespassing" church or a coffee-and-doughnuts congregation? It's your choice.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Toll of World War II shapes generation of Kentucky Baptists

"Three sons were called by Uncle Sam and two will not return." The words that accompanied the photographs of the fallen World War II soldiers from Kentucky provided little more than a brief biographical account of their brief life pilgrimages.

Perhaps the subhead of the July 19, 1945, Western Recorder article said it all: "Somerset Parents Lose Two Heroes." Chaplain Hubert Thompson Jr. was killed when his plane, attacked by German Stuka bombers, crashed near Sbeitla, Tunisia. His brother, Sgt. Garland Lee Thompson, was wounded and killed in the Normandy invasion. Both of them were buried in foreign graves. Their church home had been High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, and their earlier decisions for Christ helped provide solace for their families back home.

Only a month before the Western Recorder reported the tragic news of the deaths of the Thompson brothers, the state Baptist paper published a series of articles hailing the victory of Kentucky Baptists over financial debt. "For the first time in

more than a century," the writer noted, "the Baptist denomination in Kentucky is free from indebtedness." Not since the founding of Georgetown College in 1829 had the General Association been debt-free. The financial shortfall of the Seventy-five Million Campaign and especially the hard times of the Great Depression had plunged Kentucky Baptists into financial despair.

Now, the stepped-up war production proved beneficial for the state convention as offerings and tithes increased with the booming economy. The debilitating interest payments were no more, and Baptists in Kentucky could send money to the state convention assured that the offerings would go directly to state, home and foreign mission causes and "not one penny" for interest charges. Notes of congratulations poured in from around the state and all over the South.

This range of emotions—expressed only a month apart at war's end—marked the years of J.W. Black's leadership as executive secretary of the General Association (1939-1945) and of John Davis

Freeman's editorship of the Western Recorder (1942-1945).

For those who fought in World War II, the war experience was a watershed event. Veterans remembered harrowing battles, the loneliness of years away from family and friends, and the forging of new and enduring friendships. My own father served on a troop transport ship in the Pacific Ocean for three and a half years, and only touched foot on dry ground on two occasions during that time. Returning from the war in 1945, he married, made a personal decision for Christ and later surrendered to the ministry. Countless experience taught him and countless other soldiers to cherish the essential things in life after the war.

In all, 306,715 Kentuckians entered various branches of the armed forces during World War II. Kentuckians, thousands of them Baptists, fought and died in every theater of the war. More than 8,000 Kentuckians never returned to their bluegrass homes.

The war's tragic toll was most deeply felt by parents, spouses and children left behind. For those who survived and for those who remained on the home front during the war, life would never be the same. *Historian Duane Bolin lives in Murray with his wife, Evelyn, and their two children, Wesley and Cammie Jo*



Appeals court upholds religious views of social worker

ST. LOUIS (BP)—A federal appeals court has upheld a ruling that the state of Missouri was wrong when it sought to fire a social worker whose religious beliefs prompted him to object to the state licensing homosexual foster parents.

The case began in 1997 when the American Center for Law and Justice filed a federal lawsuit against the Missouri Department of Social Services on behalf of Larry Phillips, who was employed as a social worker.

The suit charged that the state discriminated against Phillips because he told supervisors his religious beliefs prevented him from endorsing the granting of a foster parent license to an acknowledged lesbian. The suit

contended Phillips suffered disciplinary action because of his religious beliefs—including a move by supervisors to lower his performance evaluations and a recommendation that he be fired.

In October 1999, a federal jury ruled on behalf of Phillips and assessed damages against the state totaling \$26,000. A federal judge affirmed the jury verdict in April 2000.

The state appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in St. Louis. A three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit, in a July 19 ruling, upheld the lower court decision. It ruled that Phillips' supervisor had no intention of accommodating his religious beliefs and should have

known better than to take disciplinary action against Phillips because of those beliefs.

In a 13-page opinion, the panel stated that "an objectively reasonable official would understand that it is unlawful to recommend the termination of a subordinate ... based on that employee's request for accommodation of his religious beliefs."

Francis Manion, Phillips' attorney, accused the state of "heavy-handed tactics to intimidate" his client. He said the state's actions "amounted to nothing more than state-sponsored religious discrimination—actions that are not only unlawful, but actions that simply should not be permitted to occur in the work environment."

Phillips, who was responsible for overseeing 80 foster homes, reportedly was transferred from his job in 1996 after he protested Missouri's efforts to recruit homosexuals as foster parents. He became particularly concerned when the Department of Social Services placed a girl struggling with her sexual identity in a lesbian's home, according to the Washington Times.

Phillips later was terminated after being transferred to another department in the state agency, but according to the appeals court, that termination was unrelated to the appeals case.

A spokesman for the Missouri attorney general's office said the state has not decided whether to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ Cloning ban proposal prompts debate.

Opponents and supporters of stem-cell research squared off after passage of the Human Cloning Prohibition Act July 31 by the U.S. House of Representatives. The comprehensive ban, passed 265-162, would prevent cloning, including the creation of cloned human embryos for stem-cell research. "America rejects science without values attached," said Roberta Combs, executive vice president of the Christian Coalition of America. Carl Feldbaum, president of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, countered that if the measure becomes law, the progress of new medical treatments will be reversed. President Bush has not yet announced his decision about federal funding of such research.

■ Report decries TV's 'Sour Family Hour.'

In a new report dubbed "The Sour Family Hour," the Parents Television Council says TV's offerings have grown more offensive during the time slot traditionally reserved for family viewing. "Much of today's family-hour sexual content deals with topics, such as oral sex and pornography, which a decade or so ago were rarely touched on, even in 10 p.m. shows, let alone 8 p.m. fare," read the report's executive summary released Aug 1. Though the amount of sexual material decreased by 17 percent to a per-hour average of 1.3 instances, the study found that coarse language and violence increased, prompting a jump of 24 percent in the overall rate of offensive content. The report cited UPN as the most offensive, with a per-hour average of 18.1 instances. NBC was second with 9.1 instances.

■ N.C. bill permits commandments display.

The North Carolina state legislature has approved a bill permitting public schools to display the Ten Commandments. The measure, approved July 26 by the House in a 94-18 vote, would allow the display alongside other historical documents. The bill already has been approved by the Senate and now awaits the signature of Gov. Mike Easley, who has indicated he will sign the measure into law. Though the proposal discourages authorities from elevating one religion over others, critics say the bill infringes on the rights of people who belong to non Judeo-Christian faiths.

■ Companies battle over 'Word' ads.

A battle over the word "Word" will be fought in court after Gaylord Entertainment Co. filed suit against Thomas Nelson over ads they say denigrate a publishing trademark. In 1997, Gaylord purchased Word Records and Music from Thomas Nelson, a Nashville-based book and Bible publisher. With the purchase, Thomas Nelson was licensed to keep using the Word imprint until January 2002. Gaylord, which filed suit July 20, is upset about ads Thomas Nelson has used to announce the change of its publishing division to W Publishing Group. In one ad, "Left Behind" series co-author Tim LaHaye says, "I left Word so I wouldn't get left behind." Gaylord, which has the right to use the Word imprint beginning in 2004, has charged Thomas Nelson with unfair competition and breach of contract. A Thomas Nelson spokesman said the ads are a humorous campaign intended to inform the Christian publishing industry of the name change.

Judge erects commandments display

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (RNS)—Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, who became famous for his efforts to keep the Ten Commandments posted in his former courtroom, has placed a 5,280-pound monument to the biblical laws in the state Supreme Court building.

"I'm the highest legal authority in the state, and I wanted it there," Moore said of the granite monument in the court's rotunda in Montgomery, Ala.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Moore and some workmen stealthily put the monument in place in the early hours of July 31.

Moore said the 4-by-4-foot monument, which also includes quotes about God from the country's Found-

ing Fathers, was paid for with private contributions.

"To restore morality, we must first recognize the source from which all morality springs," he said in a brief ceremony to unveil the monument.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, decried Moore's latest action. "This is a monumental violation of the U.S. Constitution," Lynn said in a statement.

In 1995, the American Civil Liberties Union sued Moore in an effort to get him to take down a commandments plaque he had posted in an Etowah County courtroom. The Alabama Supreme Court rejected the case on technical grounds in 1998.

Beneficiary and benefactor

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is unique in Kentucky Baptist life. Since its 1945 beginning, it has been Kentucky Baptists' only trust agency. It exists to receive and administer gifts for which the givers want the original corpus to be held until Jesus returns and only the earnings from the investments to be distributed to the beneficiary causes. The foundation also provides a simple, efficient way for you to make a single gift, but for the benefit of multiple causes. Most Kentucky Baptists want to benefit more than one cause with their giving. If you desire it, the foundation can provide anonymity. Some want to provide perpetual financial support to your church and other causes, but do not want the amount of your gift.

The late A.M. Vollmer, the foundation's first full-time administrative officer, made this 1964 observation, "The foundation has been in the past, and will continue to be in the future, my first love among all of Baptist projects. This is true because it lives to strengthen all the rest." The foundation does not exist for itself but for our larger family of individuals, churches, associations, institutions and agencies.

The foundation is both a beneficiary of and a benefactor to our larger Baptist family. Last year we received \$235,000 from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program and "restricted Kentucky only" budget funds to subsidize the operating expenses of the foundation. That represented 17 percent of our total operating funds. The foundation earned \$29 million for Baptist causes. For every \$1 provided by your churches through the Cooperative Program/RKO the foundation earned \$123. You would agree, would you not, the foundation is "strengthening all the rest," and at a bargain price?

We are extremely grateful to Bill Mackey, Lowell Ashby, the entire KBC Executive Board and its business and finance committee for this budget subsidy. Without it we could not offer to all Kentucky Baptists, at no cost, our estate planning consultative service and our stewardship education seminars.

I urge you and your church to take advantage of that for which you have already paid.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

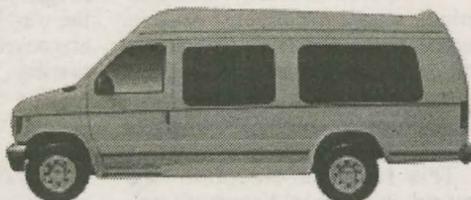


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MISSIONS

A year later, results of Mayfield revival still being felt

Continued from page 1

of the revival's organizers.

When it all was over, 988 people made public professions of faith in Jesus as their personal Savior. Weldon said he believes the number of new Christians topped 1,000 because he knows of several dozen other decisions that didn't get recorded.

While the revival had some positive effects, it didn't dramatically impact local Kentucky Baptist churches, according to Charles Clark, director of missions for Graves County Baptist Association.

Clark said attendance among the association's 44 churches didn't rise noticeably during the past year.

And, while the number of baptisms increased during the same time, Clark credits that to vacation Bible schools rather than the revival.

But Stinson said there wasn't much support among local churches, other than his church, Trace Creek, and the handful of others that organized the meetings.

He suggested the praise and worship music probably was too upbeat for traditional church music lovers.

Yet, he still sees the revival as a positive experience. He said it influenced his church's decision to call Chad Lamb, a former pastor of Enon Baptist Church, as its new associate pastor of evangelism.

"One thing I saw in the revival more than anything is the spiritual hunger in people's lives," said Stinson, pastor of Trace Creek for 29 years. "A large number of people

drove over 100 miles to the crusade."

Allred said the revival didn't change Sedalia's average Sunday morning attendance of about 300 people, but it did generate excitement for people to deepen their relationship with God.

During the past year the church started clothing and food banks. Recently the church replaced its Sunday school program with a 30-week discipleship series that will conclude with the book, "Share Jesus Without Fear."

"We haven't educated our people and given them a biblical basis," said Allred. "Most people are level-headed. Many believe stuff because of tradition or legalism, but if you teach them what the Word of God says, they'll say, 'That's all right.'"

Despite this enthusiasm, controversy from the crusade also lingers. In addition to the two pastors who resigned, one church official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the crusade was divisive, with more residents opposing than supporting it.

While he noted that he thinks God used the meetings, he added that some churches are still dealing with its residual effects.

Charles Bunton, who resigned as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church last August, said the revival accentuated growing differences between generations.

He said contentious discussions in many churches over music actually were a symptom of a deeper problem.

"In life there are always root causes," said Bunton, who now teaches

Movement not limited to Mayfield

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn.—At the beginning of what became an ongoing revival at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Tenn., the pastor distributed news clippings about the Mayfield revival to show the crowd what God can do.

Drew Hayes doesn't directly link the western Kentucky event to what happened in southern Tennessee, but he said it did play an important role.

Delegations from the Tennessee Baptist church twice visited Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield last summer. Afterward, they prayed, asking God to send a similar spiritual movement to Shelbyville.

The visits helped his members see God at work in a rural area among traditional Baptist churches, Hayes said.

"That was encouragement for them to press on with their prayers," he added. "They were awed by what God did in Mayfield, but when He did even more here we were able to rejoice at what He did here."

Thus far, Shelbyville leaders have counted 450 people who have made professions of faith in

Jesus as their personal Savior. Nearly 3,000 more have repented of wrongdoing or sought help for other needs.

The Shelbyville revival began last November. More than 200 conversions occurred, and several people asked Hayes if the four-day meeting could be extended. After prayer, he decided against that; Freeman agreed with him.

But the day after the event ended, Hayes said he sensed God telling him in prayer, "Now that you let go of it, I want it to continue."

Evangelist Ken Freeman returned the following week, with twice-weekly services continuing through May, and every Friday in June. Special guest speakers are scheduled periodically the rest of this year.

Hayes said the Kentucky revival showed how God can unite people from various denominations.

"The most important thing that Mayfield did for us, and other churches, is knowing that praise and worship, believing the Bible and the Lordship of Christ can bring us together," he said. "We ought to expect unity."

high school while preaching part-time. "The thing young people and young preachers are rejecting is tradition. Young people are concerned about what the Bible says, not tradition.

"There is turmoil and spiritual warfare in churches across the county," he added. "It's been brutal. I've been a student of church history for a long time, and any time there's a revival

there's a price to pay."

Despite any disputes, Allred said last year's event has reshaped how he looks at revival.

"I see revival as a sovereign move of God," he said. "You can't make it happen. You can schedule as many meetings as you want to, but the Lord sends revival where people are hungry."

Missions in New Orleans

By Robert Dunston

During the 2001 spring break, one Cumberland College mission team journeyed to New Orleans to minister.

Kristie Aubrey, a student at Cumberland College, led a team of her fellow students that included Ellen Barnes, Will Bentley, Jenny Ruark and Mat Whitaker.

In New Orleans they stayed at and worked with the Carver Baptist Center. Sunday morning they worshiped at the mission church and then took a van full of children from the center to a St. Patrick's Day parade. After returning to the center they made final plans for their week.

On Monday morning the team's busy schedule began. During the week they spent their mornings painting, cleaning and organizing the center. They spent their afternoons working with the center's after-school daycare program.

Team members accomplished a great deal of work for the center. They painted a fence, a basketball goal and the trim inside the center. They also helped organize three of the center's rooms and built a display board for posting

notices. Team members also patched a hole in a wall by hanging new dry wall and painting. One morning they worked with Habitat for Humanity.

In the afternoons the team divided up to work with the children. Barnes and Whitaker taught the Bible study classes, Aubrey and Ruark worked with crafts and Bentley helped in the game room.

Although the team's evenings were free, they typically engaged in ministry. One evening they attended a college Bible study. On their last evening in New Orleans, team members took three of the children out to eat and bought them some desperately needed clothes.

These Cumberland College students demonstrated Christ's love and concern through their ministry. In the process, they grew in their own faith and commitment.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



The world is watching

"Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's" (2 Chronicles 20:15b).

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children never wanted a battle with the American Civil Liberties Union or Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. We wanted to continue the work that has been done since 1869: caring for children who need help.

It just so happens that a battle found us when we terminated the employment of an admitted homosexual. In this politically-correct era, the battle found us and very quickly.

Last year we passed a couple of milestones, first when the ACLU and Americans United filed their suit.

Another came when the stability of hundreds of our children was threatened during contract negotiations with the commonwealth. That sent a clear signal that we were serious about refusing tax dollars if strings were attached. It was a difficult time, but thankfully, the Lord intervened and only a few children were displaced. Today, we continue to care for children referred to us by the commonwealth.

Recently, another milestone

passed when a federal judge dismissed part of the ACLU/Americans United lawsuit.

The battle will go on, not because we want tax dollars, but because we are called to care for children and teenagers who need us. We are listening to God and He is telling us, just as He told King Jehoshaphat, to be faithful and consistent and go about our mission with integrity. He is telling us to stand up, or to continue to stand up, for what is right. In this case, that is what is best for the children. He also asks us to speak up. We want people to know that our motivation to care for children comes from a love of God and a commitment to Him. We want people to know that role models for our children are very important.

Our greatest call in this battle is to look up and to realize that He is in control and is surprised by none of this. Pray for us, Kentucky Baptists. The world is watching. The battle is His and for that we are heartened and comforted. May we be found faithful.

Tom Townsend is vice president for development and communications at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Contact KBHC at (800) 456-1386 or www.kbhc.org.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Tom Townsend

U.S. & Peru share blame for missionary's death, report says

WASHINGTON—A report by the U.S. State Department states that both Peru and the U.S. share responsibility for the undisciplined and "sloppy" way they conducted a joint program to interdict airborne drug smugglers, leading to the mistaken shooting of a civilian aircraft carrying missionaries in April.

Immediately after the shooting, which killed missionary Roni Bowers and her 7-month-old daughter, U.S. officials said the Peruvian fighter pilot failed to follow the procedures both countries had agreed upon for identifying, contacting and then warning a suspected drug flight before firing shots.

But according to a story in the Washington Post, the State Department's report found that procedures have evolved since a 1994 agreement with Peru that make it difficult to dismiss Peru's claims that nothing was done which the United States hadn't agreed to.

The United States had supplied ground and air radar and tracking assistance to both Peru and Columbia, whose militaries execute interdiction of suspected drug flights.

The Bush administration suspended such intelligence agreements, pending the results of the report.

The report indicates that tracking and shutdown procedures had evolved, with mutual awareness, into something "much less detailed and defined" than what was initially prescribed in 1994, a source told the Post. "In bureaucratic language ... (the report) comes out and says we were sloppy."

Even before the report, the Post stated, former U.S. employees of the program questioned the decision by CIA contract pilots to track and target a civilian aircraft that was heading directly toward that region's main airport at midday.

The Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, which employed Bowers and her husband, and the State Department, disagree about whether the pilot had filed an acceptable flight plan for the trip to the Brazilian border.

Beliefs Conference Coming Up!

MONDAY, August 20th

7:00-9:15 (Eastern Time)

First Baptist Church

4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring

TUESDAY, August 21st

7:00-9:15 (Eastern Time)

Buena Vista Baptist Church

324 Clifty Street, Somerset

"We are focusing awareness on the beliefs of major religious groups in America so that Kentucky Baptists will be informed witnesses (of their own faith)."

— Dan Garland, KBC Evangelism Growth Team leader.

Understanding Other Beliefs

Kentucky Baptists will be learning about a variety of other belief systems at an upcoming conference offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The conference will focus on the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, occultists and those involved in the New Age movement.

All sessions are led by certified North American Mission Board trainers. Session leaders are **Joe Kreisle** of Hawesville; **Danny Zickefoose** of Fulton; and **Don Metcalf** and **Jack Oliver** of Louisville.

The conferences are free and attendees are not required to pre-register.



Evangelism Growth Team

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Calves, pigs, sinks, air conditioners and unloading trucks

Yesterday was an unusual day for me, but not totally unlike many of my Saturdays. I came to the office as I do every Saturday around 8 a.m. Normally we have a variety of guests on Saturdays, some visiting and wanting a tour, others bringing used clothing and other items to our Friendship House.

Since most of our staff members are off on Saturdays, it is up to Mrs. Underwood and myself to host these friends of the Oneida Baptist Institute ministry. However, no guests were scheduled, so I began my normal office activities. I thought about what to write for my Western Recorder column. While I waited for an inspirational thought, my phone rang.

Several folks in the community had seen three little pigs running around and called to see if they belonged to OBI. Since summer school was out Friday, there were not too many students here and several of our farm staff were gone for the day. I called the dorm and asked if any students who normally work on the farm were still there. They came up with two girls and a sixth-grade boy.

Four of us went into the village and located two of the three pigs.

For the past several weeks, we have known that some pig "rustlers" had been visiting our farrowing house in the middle of the night, helping themselves to a few baby pigs. I suspect these two had gotten away from their captors. With the help of my three trusty comrades, we caught the pigs and returned them to the farm. Later at lunch, I was told that a calf also possibly had been taken during the night.

At 1 p.m. I went to get a haircut not far from our campus. The lady who cuts my hair is a sin-

gle mother and an OBI graduate. While getting my hair cut, I noticed an air conditioner in an open box on the floor. I discovered she had installed the window unit, but did not think it was working properly, so she put it back in the box. I offered to put it back in the window to see if it worked properly. I needed a screwdriver, which she did not have, so I went down the road to the home of a widow and long-time OBI friend. She loaned me a screwdriver and mentioned that her sink was leaking. I offered to take a look at it. It did not take long to repair the leak and return to finish installing the air conditioner, which was working fine.

Shortly after returning to campus, I was pleased to see that the new family had arrived from Oregon. They were anxious to unload after being on the road for a week, so I gathered up five students and we began to unload the truck. Shortly, several other faculty and staff also were helping. After an hour or so, we had them unloaded.

This could have been the end of my Saturday, but it wasn't. I went to bed, and at 1 a.m. my phone rang. The person on the phone identified herself and said someone had dropped a calf off in her yard and she thought it might be ours. Since I knew we might have lost a calf the night before, I said I would be there right away. I again called the dorm and requested a student to help me get the calf, which was several miles from our campus. With the help of another staff member and the student, we located the calf and returned him to our farm.

It helps to wear many hats in my position.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972. www.oneidaschool.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Children's musical leads to conversion

Brian and Christie Gatlin recently moved to Webster County. Brian is the new minister of youth at First Baptist Church of Clay. Christie looks forward to ministry as church secretary.

Brian lacks one semester completing degree requirements and will commute to finish at Clear Creek. Pray for that long drive and the time away from family. Christie completed work on an associate's degree. The Gatlins are natives of Hopkins County and are thankful for the unexpected surprise of ministry near their families.

Brian appreciates his parents' strong Christian influence. His father was a music director for 30 years, and he described his mother as a "do anything for you kind of person."

For seven years Brian worked as an inspector for Kentucky Carbide and in 1996 acknowledged God's call to ministry at Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville. An alumnus introduced them to Clear Creek. "We felt this was appropriate for our family. Our two daughters (Briana, 8, and Brittany, 14) have enjoyed Clear Creek," Christie said.

"Before moving to campus we

were volunteer youth workers and sacrificed our family with so many activities. Clear Creek has helped us regain family priority. With all these campus families our children are looked after by a lot of parents."

Valuable experience came in the three years Brian served as music minister for Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Middlesboro. As a music emphasis student, one of Brian's last assignments was director of the children's musical, "Levite Genes." Briana was in the choir.

"She was listening to a tape of the musical and the narrative about the Levites worshipping. She wanted to know if she could truly worship if she didn't have Jesus in her heart," Christie said.

"When I said no, her face fell, so I asked her if she felt the need to ask Jesus into her heart. She answered, 'I've asked and asked, but He just won't do it, because I still do bad things.' I realized the struggle was her understanding God's grace. We talked more, and she was saved! The circle of our family is now complete, and we will always be thankful for Clear Creek."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

WMU books offer Christian ideas to preschoolers

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—“Jesus went to church.”

“Jesus prayed.”
“Jesus said, ‘You are my friends.’”

“Jesus loves you.”

These are some of the messages of “Good Things Jesus Did,” one of a new series of books published for young preschoolers by Woman’s Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. The book is part of the “Missions and Me Series.”

The series’ goal is to provide parents and teachers with materials that teach basic Christian concepts in simple terms to children from babies through age 3, according to Rhonda Reeves, editor of preschool resources for WMU. Older preschoolers learning to read also will enjoy reading them to younger children, she added.

Themes of the books center on God, Jesus, God’s creation, community, world, self, family, church and the Bible. Each book addresses one of the topics and illustrates the lesson with words and pictures appropriate for younger preschoolers.

Bright colors and short sentences, characteristic of picture books, carry out each topic in an age-appropriate manner. For instance, in “I Can Help Others,” children learn that God made many different kinds of people. Pictures illustrate that some of these people are sick and need help, and some are hungry and need food.

The book then leads the child to realize that everyone can help other people with needs. That naturally leads to pages illustrating that some people teach others about God and pray for others. Children are encouraged to know that they also are able to tell others about God and to pray.

In “I Like to Go to Church,” children can identify with pictures of children playing with blocks, singing and listening to stories taught by a teacher. The strong message of love includes acknowledgment of teachers at church who demonstrate love by sharing Bible stories, and ministers who are friends and teach children about Jesus.

Reeves said this series also is appropriate for family worship and prayer times.

Current titles include: “Thank You, God, for My Bible,” “Tell Me About God,” “Families Are Special,” “I Like to Go to Church,” “I Can Help Others,” “Good Things Jesus Did,” “God’s Beautiful World” and “Myself.” In addition to being available at many Christian bookstores, the books can be purchased through WMU by calling (800) 968-7301 or visiting the online bookstore at www.wmu.store.com.

Reinventing Sunday: Breakthrough Ideas for Transforming Worship. Brad Berglund. Judson Press, 2001. 123 pages. \$13. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

“The worship leader’s task is to throw open the windows of eternity and allow the congregation to put their heads through and be transformed by an expansive view of God. ... So creativity in worship isn’t about making our church more special or asking an elite group of artists to ‘do their thing.’ It is fundamentally about the act of birthing a new creation.”

With these words, Brad Berglund invites us into the ongoing dialogue about worship. “Reinventing Sunday” is a deceptively simple-looking book. The pages are relatively few, the print relatively large. Yet Berglund manages to pack a lot of thought-provoking material inside.

Berglund describes worship in six movements: preparation, gathering, encountering, responding, embracing and change.

He describes personal preparation for worship by leaders and participants to be perhaps the most important ingredient in the worship life of the church. This involves not only developing a personal devotional life, but also helping worshippers expand their understanding of worship.

In the chapter on change, Berglund tackles some tricky, yet often-asked questions. He argues against specialized worship services for specialized audiences, suggests ways to talk about applause and advocates broader inclusion of children in worship beyond a children’s sermon.

For the other four movements, Berglund not only outlines the meaning of the movement, but offers clues on how to begin to build them into the life of any church.

“Reinventing Sunday” is an outstanding resource for orienting worship committee members and worship leaders. As a study aid for a congrega-

tion or small group, Berglund’s book is one of the best I have discovered in a long time. *Jim Holladay*

The Cherry Log Sermons. Fred Craddock. Westminster John Knox Press, 2001. 115 pages. \$19.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

Whenever a book comes out with Fred Craddock’s name on it, I make sure to get a copy. Whether it is a commentary, a book on preaching or a book of sermons, one can count on spending time with a book by a master Bible teacher and preacher. This collection of sermons is not a disappointment.

The seemingly odd title comes from the name of the church Craddock

founded and where he still is pastor in north Georgia, Cherry Log Christian Church. Unlike some others of Craddock’s sermon material, the sermons in this book come from his ministry with the congregation at Cherry Log. The usual strengths of Craddock sermons are all here: imaginative phrasing, sound biblical interpretation with some surprising twists, master storytelling and insightful application. The added dimension to these sermons is the knowledge that they all were delivered to the same congregation.

What is evident is Craddock’s pastoral sensitivity. Reading these sermons gives one a feel for the type of congregation where Craddock is pastor. One gets a feel for the congregation’s trials and successes.

This collection also can serve as a model for pastors in how to practice the art of preaching. Yet these are not sermons constructed to teach students, but rather to minister to real people. And because of that, the reader, too, becomes a part of Craddock’s congregation as he shares the gospel through

the gift of preaching. *Wayne Hager*

Turn Your Church Inside Out: Building a Community for Others. Walt Kallestad. Augsburg Fortress Press, 2001. 185 pages. ♦♦♦

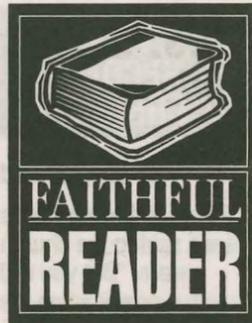
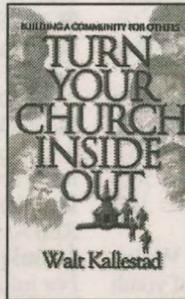
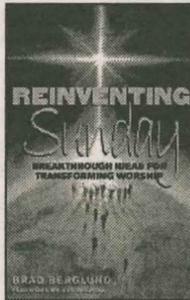
For whom does the church exist? Its members? Those outside the church? Walt Kallestad and the Community Church of Joy in Glendale, Ariz., believe they have discovered the answer. Through the years they have moved Community Church “from a struggling church for ourselves into a growing, vibrant community of faith for others.”

“Turn Your Church Inside Out” is a narrative, not only of the process, but of the outcome of a 20-year learning experience by Kallestad and the members of Community Church. In its pages, Kallestad describes with candor and enthusiasm the development of a small, dying church into a vibrant, growing, missional fellowship.

The work of changing the attitude and direction of this established congregation was painful for some, causing them to leave. But Kallestad stayed the course with the conviction that, while tending to the needs of church members is a legitimate concern, congregational care becomes “illegitimate ... when caring for church members becomes an end in itself, the primary reason for the church’s existence.”

Kallestad led the members to develop a statement of values using the acrostic CELEBRATE. This value statement became the yardstick by which every aspect of the church’s life and ministry was evaluated. The book describes how Community Church lives as a church for others through worship, prayer, stewardship, staffing, etc.

Kallestad writes in an engaging and spirited manner, rightfully challenging the inbred nature of many churches. *Jim Holladay*



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

Blackaby providing study notes for Holman Bible translation

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

NASHVILLE (BP)—The man whose “Experiencing God” discipleship course has influenced Christians around the world now is working on a study Bible featuring the new Holman Christian Standard Bible translation.

Henry Blackaby is working with Broadman & Holman Publishers, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, to produce the study Bible.

The project will be released simultaneously with the Holman Christian Standard Bible, expected to be completed in 2003, said David Shepherd, senior vice president and publisher for Broadman & Holman.

Part of a seven-year, \$10 million project, the Holman New Testament recently debuted, and work is continuing on the Old Testament.

Broadman & Holman President Ken Stephens said some elements from the “Experiencing God Study Bible,” now out of print, will appear in the new study Bible.

“Some of the notes from ‘Experiencing God’ will be carried over,” he said. “It’s good material, so we don’t want to just let it go.”

Blackaby said he is enthusiastic about the upcoming project because of his admiration for the new translation, particularly the way his notes were included in the recently released “Experiencing the Word New Testament.”

“The thing I try to do is write for the ordinary person,” said Blackaby, a longtime Southern Baptist discipleship speaker and author now leading an Atlanta-based interdenominational ministry.

While aiming his work at the person in the pew, Blackaby said he also believes the Holman New Testament will be popular with clergy.

It is accurate, readable and laid out in an attractive manner, he said. He likes the wide

margins—a feature he recommended for the Experiencing God Study Bible—and the large print used in Experiencing the Word.

“To me, it’s a very friendly Bible,” Blackaby said. “I love to go to it because you can find your way around. It’s got the helps you need, and I think it’s going to be a well-accepted translation.”

Among the features Blackaby would like to incorporate into the study Bible are notes on the harmony of the Gospels, various helps on topics like the Pharisees or the synagogue and a list of key words that are essential to biblical understanding.

A good concordance and atlas also may be included so readers can approach the Bible study without needing a variety of other materials, he said.

Blackaby said he envisions a study Bible that will be easily understood and have enough resources so that those who use it will look forward to spending time in God’s Word.

“That would be my desire.”

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Dan Garland

Some of the last words Jesus said to the church were, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

These words are not a suggestion for the church. Everyone who knows Jesus Christ should be a witness. Whenever, wherever, whatever it takes, we are to be witnesses.

Our witness reflects what Jesus Christ has done and is doing in our lives. Every believer has a witness, a story that involves three simple but significant parts:

■ **The way.** We are to bear witness to the way we came to Christ. Maybe you came to Christ through the witness of a Sunday school teacher, parent, co-worker or neighbor. Maybe your coming to Christ was a process that took years. Maybe it was a defining moment in your life that turned you to Christ. Telling the way you came to faith will help others connect with you and Christ.

■ **The truth.** The truth involves sharing some very simple Scriptures along with your story such as John 3:16-17, 1:12, Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8 and 10:9-10.

■ **The life.** Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Share examples of how you have found this to be true.

Being a witness is not an option for followers of Christ. Be a witness whenever, wherever, whatever it takes.

Dan Garland is leader of the KBC evangelism growth team

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BUCKNER**—Buckner Church called Jeff Wisener as youth minister. Brian Shoemaker is pastor.

■ **BURGIN**—Burgin Church called Mike Hamby as pastor. He previously served at High Street Church in Somerset.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Aug. 26. Steve Thompson, associate executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will speak at the 11 a.m. worship service and "New Horizon" will be in concert at 1:30 p.m. For information, call (270) 789-2707. John Chowning is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Farmdale Church called Malcolm Lunceford as interim pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will host revival services Sept. 16-19. Mike Brady will be the evangelist. Ray England is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Hyland Church called Jason Cowan as fulltime minister to students and senior adults. Also, the church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Aug. 19 at 10 a.m. Jeff Coursey is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Daniel Wainright has resigned as minister of youth at Grace Church. He and his wife,

Kristyn, will serve as International Service Corps missionaries with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ **LONDON**—Corinth Church will host the Kentucky Southeast Singles Conference Aug. 17-18. The event, for singles age 21-45, will feature Glenn Toney as speaker and praise and worship music by "Invisible." For information, call (606) 864-5440.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Gethsemane Church will host the Southern gospel Veterans Quartet in concert Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 969-3191. Robert Wright is pastor.

Dan Freemyer, minister of Christian social ministries at Walnut Street Church, has resigned to accept a similar position at Broadway Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **MYRA**—Faith Church will host Sandra Payne in concert Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. For information, call (606) 855-4645. Dave Hammond is pastor.

■ **PROSPECT**—First Church will host a groundbreaking service for its new facility Aug. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Wesley Pitts, executive director of Long Run Association, and Prospect Mayor Lonnie Falk will be program guests. For information, call (502) 228-3286. Bill Espy is pastor.

Baptist secretaries group hosts summer event

The Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association held its 15th annual summer conference July 19-21 at Campbellsville University. The workshop featured professional certification and continuing education classes as well as worship sessions led by Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Officers installed for 2001-2003 include President Debbie Settle of First Church of Murray and President-elect Jan Mills of Second Church of Russellville.

Next year's conference will be July 18-20 at Georgetown College. For information, call KBC liaison Jenny Byrd toll-free at (888) 254-5710.

Therapist: Children of divorce need affirmation to recover from trauma

By Terri Lackey
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Because younger children can't use sophisticated words to communicate feelings, helping them recover from the trauma of their parents' divorce takes skill and organization, a counselor said.

"Divorce recovery with children is a whole different ballgame than it is with adults," Dodie Williams, a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist, told discipleship leaders attending Discipleship and Family Week July 21-27 at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

Williams said leaders who facilitate a divorce recovery program for children must spend extra energy helping them get in touch with their feelings. She introduced "KidShare: What Do I Do Now?" a 13-week divorce recovery course developed by the children's discipleship area at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Recovery offers children of divorce a more optimistic future, she said. "If we can help them get through their grief, we can promote emotional, spiritual, social and mental health in these children."

The divorce of their parents can affect children, especially those still in grade school, in specific ways, Williams recounted:

■ They blame themselves for the divorce. "Children this age believe they cause everything to happen."

"If you don't help children deal with the fact that they did not cause this tragic event, they begin to think

their world is out of control," she said.

■ *Their self-esteem may be affected.* "They don't like to be labeled as children of divorce," she said. "Everything familiar and predictable has become unfamiliar and unpredictable and it can affect the way they see themselves."

■ *They typically have less economically.* "Most of the time women are going to get custody of the children, and the day the couple walks out of divorce court, the man is usually better off and the woman heads toward poverty unless she was the primary breadwinner."

Doing with less, Williams said, can make the children angry. "They believe they wouldn't have to do without if their parents hadn't gotten a divorce."

■ *Their peer relationships may suffer.* "The child may not have as much in common with their friends whose families are still intact. They get teased a lot, especially if they have to move to another town with the custodial parent."

■ *The child may quit trusting God.* "After all, children receive their image of what God is like from the way their parents treat them. When one parent suddenly disappears, they begin to associate that with God."

A divorce recovery program requires prayer, approval of the church body and qualified leaders, Williams noted.

She said effective leaders have good listening skills and give nonverbal affirmation. "You can put your arm around a child and give him a hug. Children of divorce need affirmation probably worse than any human being there is."

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: To clean your home or office. Reasonable rates. Lexington, Ky. Call (859) 293-2825 anytime.

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: Three affordable brick ranches (Highview, St. Matthews, Jeffersontown); eligible for special funding programs: Flex 97 and American PREAM Home programs; zero down with good credit. Call Chuck, (502) 421-8987 or (800) 218-6747. Remax at the Lake.

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.

SEEKING: Lucas Grove Baptist Church in Upton, Ky., is accepting resumés for pastor. Located in a rural area; averaging 60+ in Sunday worship; parsonage available. Candidates should send resumés to: Lucas Grove Baptist Church, PO Box 146, Upton, KY 42784.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children, birth-5th grade. Approximately 20 hours/week. Advanced/seminary degree preferred or equivalent experience. All ages welcome to apply. Send resumé to: Eileen Bartlett, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206.

SEEKING: Bayless Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking conservative full-time pastor. We're located in South County, St. Louis, Mo. Send resumé to: Robert McManus, 9635 Radio Drive, St. Louis, MO 63123.

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: 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: 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 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: 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.

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.

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.

Many senior Christians say they are not afraid of death

By Nancy Caver
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (RNS)—Mary Jay can't wait.

At 81, she admits she and her friends at Butterfield Trail Village retirement community contemplate death now more than ever before. But the thought of taking her last breath holds no real terror for Jay, who is a Christian.

"Jesus said, 'I go to prepare a place for you.' He's going to prepare a place for me," she said, placing her hand on her chest. "If He's preparing it, it's got to be the best place there is."

Jay leads a weekly Bible class in the auditorium of the Fayetteville retirement facility. She started the class not long after she and her husband, Gilbert, moved there seven years ago.

Eighteen women were in their seats at least 15 minutes early on a recent Monday morning, ready and waiting to study, read, laugh, ask questions and discuss. As the end of life draws near, these women are concerned with doing things right.

A lot of the women Jay knows are worried that they haven't been good enough to warrant a happy hereafter.

"But I just tell them, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.' ... It's such a comfort to know that all you have to do is name it. You don't have to agonize over it."

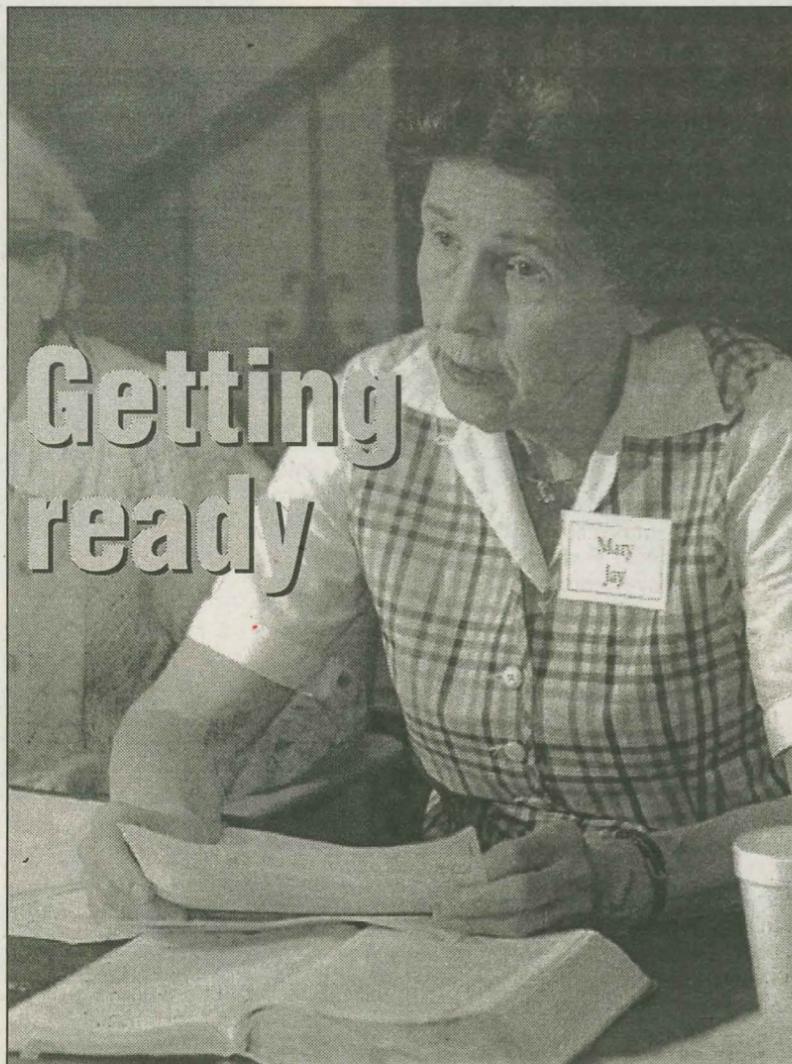
Elaine Walsh, 79, said that was what she worried about for 42 years.

"It was a heavy load for someone to carry," she said. "I needed to know that I had eternal security."

The other women in the Bible study agreed, and added that their way of looking at things changed once they understood those verses. The frantic feelings of having to measure up went away, and other goals took precedence.

"Things that used to mean a lot to me, they don't mean anything anymore," said Betty Lou Modlin, 87. "They're just things."

"And I find the more I give, the more I receive," added Thelma Graddy, 89, who teaches a Sunday school



BIBLE STUDY Mary Jay, 81, leads a weekly women's Bible study at Butterfield Trail Retirement Village in Fayetteville, Ark. She and her friends say they look forward to the day they will see Jesus. (RNS/Arkansas Democrat-Gazette photo by Lori McElroy)

class each week to friends who can't get to church anymore. Graddy reaches 17 to 25 students every Sunday through a telephone conference call. She also reads Bible stories aloud to patients in the medical wing of the retirement community.

For people their age, the women at Butterfield Trail Village have a fairly common view of how they should behave in their later years and what the afterlife might be like, said Drew Leder, a professor of philosophy at Loyola College in Baltimore. They have made peace with God and with their mortality, especially if they have lived their lives well and are not wrestling with regrets and missed opportunities.

"In many cases, they actually become less afraid of death than young-

er people. Death can become a little more like a friend rather than a bitter enemy to be fought off at any price," he said.

Leder, who wrote "Spiritual Passage: Embracing Life's Sacred Journey," says that for many people, a belief in the afterlife is part of how they befriend death.

"Clearly the belief one has is part of what allows one to accept or even embrace death. Aging well and aging spiritually and creatively really make it necessary to confront our mortality," Leder said.

"Many traditions say the proper use (of the later years) is bringing the soul's journey to completion," he said. "The traditional wisdom is that it's a time for spiritual growth and deepening."

Blooming problem becomes one church's gift to provide ministry

By Derick Wilson
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—When members of Travis Avenue Baptist Church arrived at church July 1, 10,000 bouquets of flowers were awaiting them.

The flowers had been destined for a local supermarket the Friday before, but the manager felt the temperature in the delivery trailer was inadequate and refused to accept the shipment.

Daymark Trucking Company literally had a blooming problem on its hands. Rather than wasting the flowers, the company asked the Fort Worth, Texas, church if it would accept the shipment as a donation. Travis Avenue agreed, and the flowers were left in a refrigerated trailer at the church until Sunday.

Members were asked to take as many flowers as they wanted and distribute them to whomever they wanted with the message that the flowers were a gift from the church. As the flowers went out to neighbors, nursing homes, area businesses, hospitals and other locations, happy responses filtered back to the church.

One woman recounted that a neighbor who received flowers "smiled for the first time in the 10 years I have known her." The flowers gave another member a chance to talk with neighbors, creating the possibility of future witnessing opportunities. "They now wave and smile at me," he said.

The joy spread as far as Tulsa, Okla., for a church's 40th anniversary celebration, according to an e-mail message from the woman who took the flowers to the church.

The joy was not confined to those who received the flowers.

"There was such an atmosphere of excitement the day that the truckload of flowers came in to the church," said Cliff Lea, minister of missions mobilization at Travis Avenue. "People seemed genuinely thrilled for the opportunity to be able to give these flowers away in the name of Jesus."

Although the giving of flowers was an unexpected way for Travis Avenue to spread God's love, it is not unusual for the church, which has been focusing on servant evangelism efforts to reach people in the community.

Travis Avenue has been building various facets of its outreach strategy on the model of Steve Sjogren, author of "Conspiracy of Kindness," who advocates the use of random acts of kindness to "demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical way."

Members distributed about 1,000 copies of the "Jesus" video to the community in March and conducted a special "Cinco De Mayo" celebration for the many Hispanic families in the neighborhood in May.

In June, the church launched a neighborhood blitz to meet as many neighbors as possible. Neighborhood block parties and various servant evangelism projects are being organized for the fall. The church also supports a busy benevolence ministry and several apartment ministries.

Church recycling program turns cans into more than 700,000 Bibles

By Tobin Perry
Baptist Press

LAKE VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Without a word, and smiling from ear to ear, the Ukrainian man gently covered the Bible with cellophane and laid it delicately into his backpack.

Ron Baker watched in amazement. He'd never seen anyone react that way when receiving a Bible.

"The way he did it, it was like receiving a precious, precious gift," said Baker, a member of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif. "It was like you gave this guy a million dollars and he wanted to take care of it." It took only five recycled aluminum cans to provide

that Bible, said Steve Rutenbar, a missions pastor at Saddleback.

For the past decade, Saddleback members have sent more than 700,000 Bibles around the world with the proceeds from recycled aluminum cans.

That vision began with Al Panaro in the beginning of the 1990s. As communism crumbled, opportunities to share Jesus' love with millions of Russians and Eastern Europeans seemed to be everywhere.

And Panaro, a Saddleback member, said God wanted him to be a part of it. But before he could buy his plane ticket and join a Saddleback mission trip to Russia, Panaro's doctor told him he was dying of cancer. That didn't stop Panaro from sharing his

faith in a foreign land when he realized the new mission field needed Bibles as much as it needed workers.

Panaro soon discovered that by collecting aluminum cans from fellow Saddleback members he could purchase much-needed Bibles for upcoming church mission trips to Russia.

Now, almost 10 years after Panaro's death, Saddleback recycles a large bin or \$500 worth of cans a month, with the ministry having expanded far beyond the Russian border.

But Don Forsyth, the current recycling ministry leader, estimates that only 100 members drop their cans off every week. He said he can foresee an even larger ministry in the future.

Forsyth said he sees his work in the

recycling ministry as his contribution to sharing the gospel overseas. "Not everyone can participate in the missions trips overseas, but we feel a great sense of satisfaction that we are a part of sharing God's Word overseas."

Other churches can have that same satisfaction, Forsyth noted. Instead of leaving recyclable cans and No. 1 plastics (most clear plastics) on the curb for the trash company, collect them at the church, he suggested.

"Not only are some paying for the trash company to pick up their recyclables but the trash company is making the money off of the recyclables," Forsyth said. "We are just suggesting bring the cans to the church and put the money to good use."

"Bring the cans to the church and put the money to good use."

Don Forsyth, Saddleback Community Church recycling ministry leader



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