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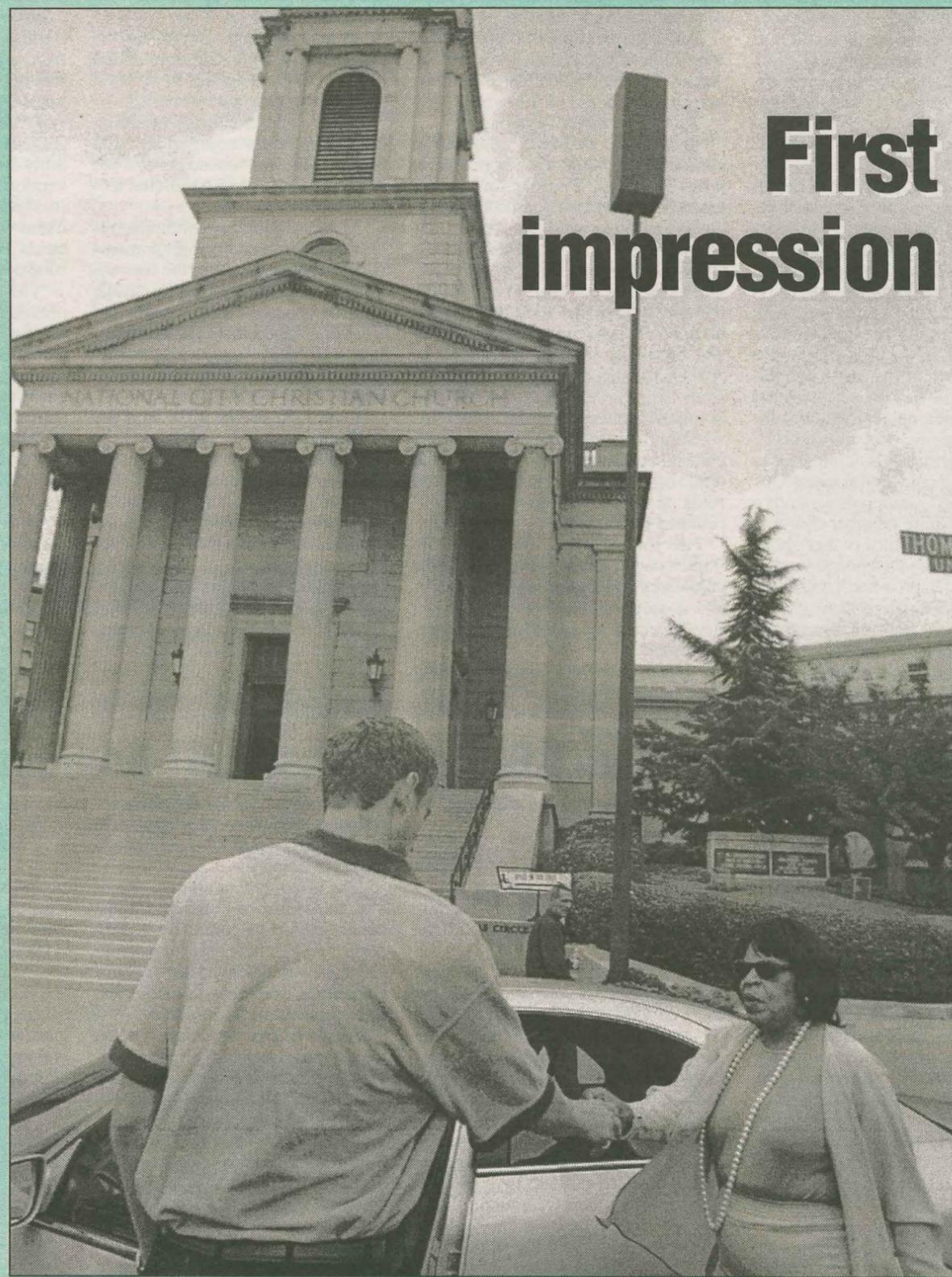
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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, August 29



First impression

Churches look for new ways to welcome & keep visitors

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

SILVER SPRING, Md. (RNS)—When the time comes to welcome visitors at People's Community Baptist Church, a greeter stands at the front of the spacious sanctuary and asks those there for the first time to stand.

"Our mass choir has prepared a special song just for you," greeter Brenda Kelly said one recent Sunday.

Each week, the choir—joined by the clergy and a clapping congregation—sing "You are welcome," a song accented with hand motions that symbolize waving the visitors into the doors of the church.

From songs to valet parking to freshly baked cookies, churches throughout the country are becoming intentionally invitational.

The United Methodist Church recently offered training sessions to make clergy and lay people more welcoming as the denomination prepares to start a television ad campaign next month. For the first time, the latest edition of a key Vatican document about Catholic rites mentions those who meet people at the entrance of the church and help them find their way.

Symbolic welcoming gestures have long been a part of congregational life, but some churches are backing them up with new philosophies about friendliness, openness and caring.

"It's not just about if we got the sign painted correctly on the front of the door and if we've got Bill and Susie lined up to welcome people," said Steve Horswill-Johnston, executive director of the United Methodist Church's Igniting Ministry media campaign.

"It's more about creating a mindset and a behavior within that church that welcomes not only new—
□ See Churches seek new ..., page 8

VALET SERVICE Willietta Schley of Washington retrieves her car from parking attendant Francis Ciganek of Atlantic Valet attending services at National City Christian Church in Washington. From parking and welcome songs to cookies and ad campaigns, churches and denominations are placing new emphasis on making visitors feel welcome. (RNS photo by Tyrone Turner)

Temple case could test church-state boundaries for land use

By Keith Clines
Religion News Service

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (RNS)—A small, run-down house in downtown Huntsville, Ala., is at the center of a legal dispute that ultimately could determine how much control government has over a religious organization's use of its land.

Temple B'nai Sholom claims a city board's refusal to let the synagogue demolish a house in a historic district violates the synagogue's First Amendment right of freedom of religion and its rights under the Religious

Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000.

Attorneys for both sides say they aren't seeking to make the lawsuit a national test case. But one nationally known lawyer has offered to help the city fight the synagogue, and the synagogue is talking to national legal firms that specialize in freedom-of-religion laws.

The case could vault onto the national stage if advocacy groups on each side decide it would be the best vehicle to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on the constitutionality of the Religious Land Use law.

"This is not the only case out there," said law professor Tom Berg, an expert on church and state issues. "There are probably 15 to 20 out there. It's one of the earliest."

The temple sued the city in state Circuit Court after the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission in April denied, for the third time, the temple's request to demolish the house in the Old Town Historic Preservation District.

The city's community development inspectors had cited the temple for violating building safety laws. A cited landowner usually has two

choices: repair a building to meet code or demolish it. The historic preservation board's decision eliminates the demolition option.

"We are of the opinion, like their neighbors are, that they (the temple) should abide by the rules and regulations of the Historic Preservation Commission," said attorney Michael Fees, who is representing the city in the lawsuit. "If they're not, then that puts all religious properties in danger by religious organizations owned."

Marci Hamilton, a law professor in New York City, has offered to help
□ See Bowling Green ..., page 9

BAPTISTS

Political turmoil escalates in Missouri Baptist Convention

Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director Jim Hill has warned that the growing controversy could prompt up to 200 churches to cut ties with the state convention.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—The Missouri Baptist Convention, in recent years a scene of contention between conservatives and moderates for control of the state convention, is gearing up for another round this fall.

While Missouri Baptists have endured controversy at annual meetings for the past three years, observers say it has escalated since conservatives took over last fall.

After winning presidential elections three years in a row, conservatives gained control last year in a key committee that nominates leaders for the state convention's trustee boards.

Now, they are reported to be moving quickly to fill those boards with new members sympathetic to conservative causes. In the process they are bypassing current trustees who traditionally would be offered a second term and tightening qualifications for all nominees.

Other anticipated controversy when the state convention meets Oct. 29-31 in Cape Girardeau surrounds a proposal to require member churches to pledge loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention and to adopt a version of the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement. Critics say the changes would violate Baptists' long tradition of local-church autonomy.

Jim Hill, the state convention's executive director, has warned that such wholesale changes could prompt

many churches to cut ties with Missouri Baptists. Some are speculating that disenfranchised churches could form a separate state convention.

Amid the conflict, two agencies—a retirement home and a conference center—have voted to change to a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

Among recent developments:

■ In July, an MBC nominating committee declined to re-nominate at least 24 people eligible for second terms on convention boards and agencies. That followed an earlier announcement in March that the committee would impose additional criteria to those stated in convention bylaws for nominees. They included limiting the number of board members per church and requiring that all nominees be "personally supportive of both the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention."

Committee members said the new criteria were intended to "broaden the tent" of convention leadership and break up a "good-old-boy" system perpetuated by moderates.

Hill told Word & Way, the state Baptist paper, that he believes the new guidelines were rather a way to facilitate a quicker takeover of Missouri Baptist boards by a politically motivated group.

"I have been very concerned about these new rules that have not been approved by the convention and are not

part of the constitution, bylaws or nominating committee rules that have been adopted by the convention," he said.

In a subsequent column for the paper, Hill wrote that the nomination process "does not seem to reflect a spirit of integrity and fairness."

Meanwhile, a number of sitting board members complained that they met the announced criteria but still weren't offered a traditional second term.

■ A committee on continuing review is recommending tighter membership requirements for the convention's churches. Among proposals are that churches affirm either the 1963 or 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and be in "single alignment" with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Critics, including Hill, said the recommendation would lead to an unprecedented "connectionalism" between the state and national convention. Others, including Word & Way Editor Bill Webb, faulted the proposal for "telling churches to 'approve or else.'"

Speaking to conservative leaders, credentials committee chairman David Tolliver said charges of creedalism are unwarranted. "This statement doesn't ask anyone to sign anything," he said. "It does not ask anyone to adhere to or adopt anything.

It says 'affirm.'"

■ Conservative leaders of the Missouri Baptist executive board were said to be considering a lawsuit against the Baptist Home, which removed itself from convention control last year by moving to a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

Attorneys advised Baptist Home trustees to make the move to limit liability for both the home and state convention in the event that either is sued. Insiders acknowledged, however, that it also was motivated by a desire to distance the agency from politics in the state convention.

The executive board narrowly approved a covenant agreement with the Baptist Home designed to avert a lawsuit after debating the issue in executive session. Observers expect the covenant to be challenged at the annual convention.

Windermere Baptist Conference Center followed suit this year, setting up a self-perpetuating trustee board July 30.

Hill warned that such wholesale changes in Missouri Baptist life could prompt perhaps 200 churches to leave the convention in protest.

Moderate leaders are said to be privately discussing the possibility of a new, separate state convention. While conservatives in Texas and Virginia have taken that step, Missouri would be the first moderate breakaway group.

Church withdraws from CBF to protest anti-homosexual action

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—A former Southern Baptist church has announced it is cutting ties with the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship over what congregation leaders called discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Members of University Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, voted Aug. 15 to withdraw from the Atlanta-based CBF over a new policy against hiring homosexuals or funding organizations that "condone, advocate or affirm homosexual practice," according to a press release.

The policy, adopted originally by the Fellowship's governing board, survived a challenge at this summer's General Assembly when delegates voted 701-502 against rescinding it for a yearlong study.

The policy doesn't exclude homosexuals from CBF membership but forbids funding for pro-homosexual causes. Fellowship leaders describe it

as "welcoming but not affirming" of gays.

But a letter to CBF officials, signed by University Baptist leaders on behalf of the congregation, said the policy doesn't speak for Fellowship-friendly churches that both welcome and affirm homosexuals.

"We most deeply regret the condemning message you have sent in the name of Christ to all gay and lesbian persons," said the letter signed by Senior Pastor Larry Bethune, moderator Ellen Bell and Anthony Chapple, deacon chairman.

"We cannot in good conscience support an organization which discriminates against our brothers and sisters in Christ on the basis of their orientation any more than we could do so if the CBF discriminated on the basis of race or gender," the letter continued.

CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal said in a statement that he was "saddened" that any church would use an internal admin-

istrative policy "as a litmus test for cooperating with other congregations in global missions and ministries through the Fellowship."

The 400-member church, one of a small number of Southern Baptist congregations to come out in support of full inclusion of homosexuals, in the past defended itself against challenges from its association and state convention for its stance.

Austin Baptist Association voted to oust the church in 1995 after University Baptist ordained a gay deacon. The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive committee withdrew fellowship in 1998. The Southern Baptist Convention changed its constitution in 1992 to ban from membership any churches that "act to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

The congregation still belongs to American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and the Alliance of Baptists,

a smaller and more liberal SBC splinter group that formed in 1986.

University Baptist isn't the first church to leave the CBF over the funding policy. Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., cut ties with the national CBF last fall.

Stan Hastey, executive director of the Washington-based Alliance of Baptists, said he wasn't aware of any other gay-friendly churches discussing cutting ties with the CBF, but some congregations are said to be thinking about reducing their level of support over the funding policy.

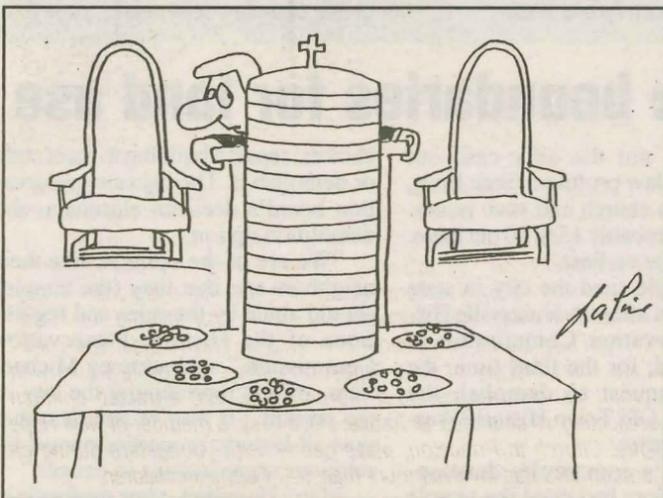
Dispute over the issue also has energized voices on the other side who contend the relatively close vote against a study is being misused by political opponents to cast the CBF as soft on homosexuality. Most of the 500-plus individuals voting for a study, they say, weren't necessarily pro-gay but merely sympathized with those calling for dialogue.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Directory expands research.** Effective with the 2001 Annual Church Profile process, churches can access Southern Baptist Directory Services, a secure Internet application offering a variety of statistical and leadership information. Cliff Tharp, Annual Church Profile coordinator for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, said churches will be able to access multi-year statistical information by using passwords provided to participating churches.

■ **Emeritus missionary dies.** Mary Sampson, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to China, died Aug. 20 at age 83. Born in Louisville, she was appointed as a missionary to China in 1945 by the International Mission Board. She served as a youth worker in Shanghai until her transfer to the Philippines in 1950 and then to Taiwan in 1954 where she served until retiring in 1983. Sampson was a graduate of Georgetown College and the former Woman's Missionary Union Training School in Louisville.

■ **Montana Baptists elect director.** Jeff Clark has been elected executive director of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship. He had served since 1996 as evangelism director for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. He will begin his work with the Montana fellowship's 130 churches and missions Sept 5. He succeeds Clyde Billingsley who retired in December. Clark is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.



Murray meeting to feature missions, faith statement report

MURRAY—Missions and the Baptist Faith and Message are among the major topics of discussion expected at this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, Nov. 13-14, at the Regional Special Events Center in Murray.

"Fulfilling the Mission" will be the theme of the 164th annual meeting.

The two-day meeting is expected to draw more than 2,000 messengers from Baptist churches throughout the commonwealth.

Messengers will elect new officers, hear reports from Baptist institutions and agencies, approve budget goals for 2002-2003 and receive a report from a special committee formed last year to study how Kentucky Baptists should relate to a revised faith statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention.

The report from the study committee on the Baptist Faith and Message will be presented on Wednesday morning, Nov. 14. The nine-member panel was appointed following last year's annual meeting to study how the KBC should relate to the statement of faith, which was approved by

Southern Baptist Convention messengers in June of 2000.

The committee, chaired by Charles Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, has not yet released its report. The group will publish its findings by Oct. 1 to allow messengers adequate time to review the report before the annual meeting.

After consulting with the study committee, the Committee on Order of Business scheduled the committee's report for 50 minutes during the Wednesday session to allow adequate time for presentation and discussion and to assure the availability of tellers, said Herschel Morgan, chairman of the KBC Committee on Order of Business.

The annual meeting's theme highlights how Kentucky Baptists are involved in fulfilling Christ's "Great Commission" to share the message of God's love for the world.

Each of the four sessions of the meeting will feature information about how Kentucky Baptists are fulfilling this mission in different areas: Kentucky, North America, the world and the local churches and associations.

Jim McKinley, a retired missionary from Louisville and this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention president, will deliver the annual president's address on Tuesday morning. Chip Miller, church leadership consultant for the KBC, will deliver the convention sermon on Tuesday afternoon.

Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will present the Executive Board staff report on Tuesday morning.

Before the annual meeting, many Kentucky Baptists are expected to take part in "Cross Over the Purchase," an evangelism and missions effort in West Kentucky Nov. 10-11. Volunteers will conduct community needs surveys, invite residents to visit area Baptist churches for special services, participate in service projects and participate in other projects on the weekend prior to the convention.

The Tuesday night session will feature drama to highlight Kentucky Baptists' involvement in sharing their faith throughout the world. The "Mission Possible" drama will include the reports of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, the International Mission Board and the Cooperative Program (the funding program for Southern Baptists).

The drama will highlight Kentucky Baptists' involvement in partnerships with Baptists in other parts of the world. The KBC currently has international partnerships with the European Baptist Convention and with Baptist groups in Poland and Tanzania.

Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president of the SBC's International Mission Board, will be the convention's guest on Tuesday evening which will also feature a mass choir made up of singers from throughout the Purchase area of Kentucky.

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., will bring the final message on Wednesday morning.

No room at Murray inns

MURRAY—If you need lodging for this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting and haven't made reservations yet, be prepared to stay at least a 30-minute drive from the host city.

There is no room at the inns in either Murray or the next closest community, Draffenville, according to Denise Withers, a KBC communications specialist who helps organize the annual meeting.

Because of its size, Murray has fewer rooms than recent host sites, such as Bowling Green, Louisville or Northern Kentucky. But organizers say more rooms are being reserved than during previous conventions.

"We think we have adequate accommodations throughout the area," Withers said. "But they need to go ahead and make arrangements if they're planning to stay the night."

Location and at least one agenda item are among the reasons that housing is tight, according to Steve Thompson, KBC associate to the executive director.

When the convention is in a larger city or more central in the state, more people sleep at home and commute to the meeting, Thompson said.

Usually, 400 rooms are sufficient for messengers, but KBC planners have worked with area hotels to make 550 rooms available this year, Withers said.

A recent KBC ad in the Western Recorder promoted several hotels with vacancies in the surrounding communities of Hardin, Mayfield, Cadiz, Grand Rivers and Calvert City.

In addition to geography, the scheduled report by the Baptist Faith and Message study committee is sure to attract more people, Thompson said. "I'm sure there's increased interest because of the Baptist Faith and Message report."

Even with messengers having to stay in other cities, Robert Reeves insists there's little difference between holding the convention in Murray and meeting in a larger city.

In Louisville, for example, many messengers would rent hotel rooms that aren't near the host site and would have to fight big-town traffic, said Reeves, KBC communications director.

Thompson said he "wouldn't dare guess" how many messengers to expect for the meeting. A good indicator, he said, will come late next month when churches start requesting messenger registration cards.

KBC annual meeting, Nov. 13-14

Tuesday morning

"Cross Over the Purchase" report.
Executive Board staff report.
Election of KBC president.
President's address, Jim McKinley.

Tuesday afternoon

Convention sermon, Chip Miller.
Election of KBC president.
Miscellaneous business.
Election of first vice president.

Tuesday evening

Miscellaneous business.
Election of second vice president.
"Mission Possible!" presentation.
Missions challenge, Don Kammerdiener of the SBC International Mission Board.

Wednesday morning

Miscellaneous business.
Election of secretaries.
Recommendations from constitution & bylaws, nominations, resolutions and arrangements committees.
Baptist Faith and Message study committee report.
Message, Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss.

For more information about the 2001 annual meeting, contact the KBC communications/media department at (888) 254-5713. Information also is available at www.kybaptist.org.



PARTNERSHIP IMPACT Volunteers from across Kentucky participated in prayer walks and led vacation Bible schools during a recent trip to Arusha, Tanzania, as part of the state convention's missions partnership there. "We continue to pray that the seeds sown during VBS will grow and blossom in these children," said Southern Baptist international missionary Cheryl Headrick. She encouraged Kentucky Baptists to pray that the volunteers' work "will help start a new church in Arusha and revive older churches."

■ **Left:** Ruby Mallory of First Baptist Church of Greenville works with international children during a morning VBS that attracted children representing 19 countries. ■ **Above:** Hilda Gray, a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Princeton, plays games with youngsters during an afternoon VBS that involved more than 100 Tanzanian children.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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'Signs of hope'

Reports of events that are taking place in the Southern Baptist Convention and the Kentucky Baptist Convention and have been shared in recent editions of the Western Recorder are a great source of encouragement to me. Some of those events include:

■ Employees of our mission boards and institutions who refuse to sign a creedal document just for the purpose of keeping a job.

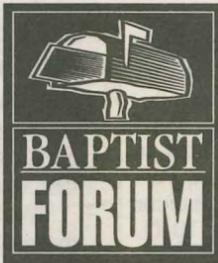
■ Plans for the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky.

■ The warning in the Aug. 14 editorial to guard against creedalism and connectionalism.

■ St. Matthews Baptist Church's response to the revised Baptist Faith and Message of 2000. I believe this church speaks for the great majority of Kentucky Baptists.

For me, these are signs of hope and indicate that we are determined never to become a "hyper-Calvinist" or creedal body of believers.

*Ernest Martin
Danville*



might be for born-again women?

I have asked myself some pointed questions: Who really gains by placing limits on what women are to do or say in God's service? Does imposing limits profit God or the work of Satan? Who but Satan would most desire to limit the work and influence of godly women? When we play God, we are treading on dangerous ground.

I am deeply disappointed by the latest pronouncements of our Southern Baptist Convention. Instead of tearing down the barriers that prevent women from fully and freely expressing God's call, the convention's actions have strengthened the barrier.

Does anyone listen to the thoughtful conclusions of former President Jimmy Carter? Does anyone rejoice in the powerful work being done in evangelism by Billy Graham's daughter? The time is long overdue for responsible Baptist leaders to prayerfully rethink the issue of God's gifting and calling of godly women.

*Clarence Benedict
Highland Heights*

Why limit women?

As a layman, I have troubling questions about many Baptists' attitudes toward women in church service. As I study the Bible, I believe that Adam and Eve were created equal, but after the fall women became subject to men and historically were little more than property.

When Jesus came, He liberated women by His words and actions, often breaking or ignoring the Jewish traditions. Women are saved the same way men are. Women are given gifts and called the same way men are. What right do we have to place limitations on what God's will

Stand for Moore

We are members of a small community prayer group meeting weekly at Southern Heights Baptist Church in Russellville. Our purpose in this writing is to commend Western Recorder for the article of Aug. 7 concerning the stand taken by Chief Justice Roy Moore of the Alabama Supreme Court involving his efforts to keep the Ten Commandments in his former courtroom.

Also later he placed a 5,280-pound monument in the state Supreme Court building. We want it to

be known to every citizen of Kentucky that we stand wholeheartedly behind Justice Moore and what he stands for.

We sincerely thank Western Recorder for printing this article. We wonder why the devil's advocates who claim to be offended by the sight and presence of the Ten Commandments can cause so much fuss when we who are offended when they are removed cannot be heard by the authorities in control of the laws.

*Community prayer group
Southern Heights Baptist Church
Russellville*

Labor of love

The Southern Baptists of West Virginia would like to thank each volunteer from Kentucky and other states who answered the call for help as a response to severe flooding that occurred in West Virginia on Sunday, July 8. Hundreds of volunteers came to man four feeding units and to help flood victims clean out their homes.

Southern Baptists prepared approximately 200,000 hot meals that were served to flood victims by the Red Cross. In addition to feeding units, hundreds of volunteers have dedicated hours of labor to the clean-up effort. What a blessing it has been to be able to call upon our brothers and sisters in Christ in a time of need.

Volunteers will be needed for months to come to assist with recovery efforts. Please continue to pray for the victims and that God might be glorified and His kingdom extended as a result of Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts.

Thank you for caring and for your labor of love.

*Leon White, minister of missions
West Virginia Convention
of Southern Baptists
Scott Depot, WV*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

WMU: Missions support is clear focus

Woman's Missionary Union has a consistent record of support for missions. My wife, Kay, and I experienced a very creative approach in Christian County Association on a recent Saturday evening.

Jo Pelham and the associational WMU committee there plan an annual innovative co-ed emphasis. This year's theme was "Beyond Belief: Celebrate the Extraordinary."

Churches decorated each table to represent selected countries. Each church then prepared food representing that country.

Decorations had been collected from partnership mission trips or from people serving as career missionaries or in the Journeyman program.

After the meal, we gathered in the chapel for inspirational music by a local contemporary group and prayed for missionaries. Kay and I shared about extraordinary experiences in our lives. Kay shared how she was introduced to missions education and about her mission experience in a remote village in Tanza-

nia. I was captured by her ability to tell her extraordinary story.

I used the WMU theme verses in Ephesians 3:20-21 to show that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. Can God exceed your grandest dream? Psalms 37:3-4 reminds us that God puts His desires in our hearts so He can fulfill them. Paul reminded us earlier in Ephesians 3 that heavenly beings are watching the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. We have the extraordinary privilege to be a part of that eternal process. When we dream God's dreams and follow His plan it always is beyond belief.

We are grateful for the consistent focus of WMU on missions education, prayer, missions giving through the Cooperative Program and special offerings and missions involvement.

The Southern Baptist Convention entities receive strong support through the Cooperative Program and special offerings for missionar-

ies and seminary training. Our six Kentucky Baptist Convention agencies and institutions also receive varying degrees of support, and all are grateful. Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, recently said that the \$1.2 million his college receives from Kentucky Baptists is the equivalent of income from \$20 million in foundation funds. About 54 percent of what remains in Kentucky goes to the support of Executive Board ministries and the supplement for church Annuity Board participants in the form of life and disability insurance, as well as about \$200 in contributions toward personal annuity.

We are grateful for the continued consistent support of the Cooperative Program by Kentucky Baptist Convention churches. With strong Cooperative Program receipts in August, Kentucky Baptists will exceed last year's record CP giving. Church treasurers should note that contributions for the 2000-2001 budget year must be postmarked by Aug. 31, and received by the next business day (Sept. 4) in order to be applied to the 2000-2001 fiscal year. Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

GIVING

Is your estate plan healthy? Take time for a check-up

By Laurie Valentine

As students head back to school, many parents are scrambling to get children to their doctors for check-ups and physicals. Once those check-ups are checked off your to-

do list, it might be time to give your estate plan a check-up to make sure that beneficiary designations, fiduciary appointments and your plan of distribution still accomplish God's purposes for your possessions.

You can do the initial "examination" yourself. As you give your plan a check-up, make sure you review the following:

■ **Fiduciaries.** Are the individuals you have named as executor in your will or successor trustee under your revocable living trust still willing and able to carry out the obligations and responsibilities involved in such service? Are you and your spouse still comfortable with the people you have named to serve as guardians for your children?

■ **Beneficiaries.** Are all of your beneficiaries still living and able to manage what you have left them? Have children been born to any of your beneficiaries since you prepared your will or trust? Have you or one of your beneficiaries been married or divorced since you prepared your will?

■ **Death Benefits.** Are beneficiary designations of life insurance, retirement or IRA benefits coordinated with the plan of distribution established under your will or trust?

■ **Assets.** Does the value of your estate (real estate, investments, cash, savings, business interests, life insurance, retirement survivor benefits, jointly owned assets, revocable trust assets and personal property) exceed \$675,000, the federal estate tax exemption equivalent for individuals dying in 2001. (That amount will be \$1 million in 2002.) If you have chosen a revocable trust to carry out your estate plan, have you funded the trust?

■ **Incapacity Planning.** Have you empowered someone, through a power of attorney, to manage your finances and make decisions for you in the event you become incapacitated?

A "healthy" estate plan—one that continues to accomplish God's purposes for your possessions—requires regular check-ups.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



When should an elderly family member stop driving a vehicle?

Q. How do you know if the time has come to keep an elderly family member from driving his or her car?

Exhaust all other options before pulling an elderly driver off the road. The following steps are guidelines for making that decision.

- Contact the American Association for Retired Persons about their elderly driver safety programs and enroll the driver in one of these courses. The cost usually is \$25-30. Contact your local AARP office for details.

- Conduct several test rides with the individual. Carefully observe the driver's speed control, visual habits, lane-change techniques and other safety issues.

- Determine all the reasons the person has to operate a car. The goal is to minimize or eliminate the need to drive. There are companies that serve the elderly by delivering groceries, going to the cleaners, delivering medications and even driving them to the beauty shop.

- Take the elderly driver for a visual exam. There are exams that will detect any loss of peripheral vision. This is critical since loss of peripheral vision greatly increases the chances of a driver being involved in an accident. Ask an optometrist for a comprehensive evaluation and suggestions. The results of these exams can help in making a decision to discourage a family member from driving.

- Analyze the areas the elderly driver regularly travels. If there are alternate routes to the grocery store, encourage the individual to take the route with the least traffic.

- Consider the possibility of moving the family member to an assisted-living setting where there is little or no need to drive. Some retirement centers provide transportation to common destinations.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: My 15-year-old son's teacher told me he thinks my son suffers from low self-esteem. I agree. How can I help my son grow in his valuing of self? Is this concept biblical?

While the Bible does not specifically use the term self-esteem, Scripture reveals our true worth comes in relationship to God through redemption in Christ Jesus. There are several points to consider about the concept of self-worth.

First, God created us in His image. Thus, every human is the container of something precious. It also is helpful to remind ourselves that we are created from dust or dirt so that no one thinks too highly of himself.

Your goal as a parent should be to help your son realize the worth he has as one who is created in God's image and to lead him in discovering who he is in Christ.

Spend as much time with your son as possible. Some of his valuing of himself will come from you "mirroring" it into him. Encourage him to find an activity in which he can excel. Be careful that you don't try to live out your dreams through him but empower him to find his strengths and gifts.

Help your son get connected with a positive peer group at school and church. Write him notes of encouragement and allow him to overhear you praising him to others. Remember the important principle of "catching him doing something right" and telling him.

Remind him when you discipline him that he is worthy of high standards. When you praise him, do so at the level of character ("I appreciate the joy and kindness I see you express in our family.") rather than simply affirming his performance. Don't forget to apologize to him when you make a mistake.

Above all, pray with him and for him and teach him the enduring truth and wisdom of God's Word.—*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.



Cross Over shows 'best of who Baptists are'

When messengers gather this fall for the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, two key topics of business will be the presidential election and the report of the KBC's Baptist Faith and Message study committee.

As important as those agenda items are, however, the convention's most significant business likely will take place the weekend before the annual meeting officially convenes.

Cross Over the Purchase, a weekend evangelistic emphasis coordinated by the KBC evangelism growth team, is expected to involve more than 100 congregations in seven West Kentucky counties. Highlighting the theme, "Lifting Up Jesus Christ," the evangelistic focus will include one-day and weekend revivals, community and prayer needs surveys, prayer walks, servant evangelism projects, "Jesus" video distribution and a Baptist Student Union-sponsored evangelistic event on the campus of Murray State University.

Dan Garland, the KBC's evangelism growth team leader, has worked throughout the year to recruit directors of missions, church leaders and local congregations to help lead the evangelistic emphasis. Patterned loosely on the Cross Over events held in conjunction with Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings for more than a decade, the weekend projects are expected to attract hundreds of volunteers from throughout the commonwealth.

"I'm expecting over 1,000 people to participate in this," Garland said. "Just imagine what could happen. I hope the area will be seeded with the gospel. There also will be some harvest of seeds already planted."

In keeping with the KBC's 2001 theme of "Fulfilling the Mission," Garland will present a brief report about the Cross Over emphasis during the opening ses-

sion of the Nov. 13-14 meeting in Murray. He is confident that celebrating the impact of Cross Over the Purchase is a fitting way to illustrate how Kentucky Baptists truly are fulfilling the convention's mission.

"This is sort of a grassroots idea," he explained. "I've been really heartened at the response. It has kept building momentum."

Garland said he views Cross Over as "an important statement about who we are as Kentucky Baptists. It says Kentucky Baptists really are people who want to do missions and evangelism, that we're weary of conflicts and polemics and diatribe.

"This is the best of who Kentucky Baptists are," he declared. "It's truly the working together, the unity that comes when people are unified around the common cause of Christ."

Four Kentucky Baptist associations—Blood River, Graves County, West Kentucky and West Union—will be the focus of the weekend evangelism blitz. Targeted cities include Benton, Clinton, Fulton, Hickman, Mayfield, Murray and Paducah.

As Kentucky Baptists from diverse settings converge on the area, Garland said, "I want to teach people that evangelism and missions can be done in a variety of ways with a variety of people and the whole point is being a witness for Christ. I want us to celebrate who we are and show what our real business is."

If that goal is accomplished, the 2001 KBC annual meeting will be a spiritual success even before the opening gavel pounds. And hopefully, Cross Over the Purchase will set the tone for the entire meeting as Kentucky Baptists genuinely reflect "the best of who we are."

For information about ways to get involved in Cross Over the Purchase, contact the KBC evangelism growth team at (888) 254-5722 or (502) 254-4737.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Chiles penned Sunday school lessons for 40-plus years

By Duane Bolin

R.T. Skinner, the Western Recorder editor from 1946 to 1957, initiated important changes in the state Baptist paper. He hired Robert Pogue as business manager, and together Skinner and Pogue worked to increase the circulation of the Recorder in the state and region.

One of the most popular innovations proved to be the inclusion beginning in 1949 of a weekly "Sunday School Lesson," written by Harley Chancellor Chiles, the pastor of Murray's First Baptist Church. Beginning in 1949, Chiles wrote the lessons for more than 40 years. A later editor called the lessons "among the most appreciated features of the state paper."

Chiles' writing was an extension of his local and statewide ministry. In "A Heart for Missions: A History of First Baptist Church, Murray, Kentucky, 1846-1996," historian Jack Birdwhistell included the pastor's bulletin message to his new Murray congregation in 1948: "It is with a deep sense of humility, and yet with great pleasure and anticipation, that I assume the weighty re-

sponsibilities connected with the pastorate of this great church. I sincerely hope that each of you will daily bear us up to the Throne of Grace in prayer, asking the Lord to lead us and to bless us richly in our work together as pastor and people."

A native of Pendleton County, Chiles grew up in Short Creek Baptist Church. He made a profession of faith in Christ as a teenager and surrendered to a call to ministry at the age of 15.

The young Chiles, having given one Training Union talk that "scared him to death," realized his need for ministerial preparation. He graduated from Georgetown College in 1929 and then from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a

master of theology degree in 1932. After student pastorates in Pendleton, Bracken and Campbell counties, he accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Barbourville. Since Union College was located there, he completed a doctor of divinity degree from that Methodist institution in 1947.

During Chiles' early years of local and statewide ministry, Birdwhistell noted that "as a Kentucky Baptist leader, Pastor Chiles was

unmatched." During his 22-year pastorate at Murray, church membership grew from 1,177 to 1,872. During that time he preached "nearly 4,200 sermons, delivered 218 addresses, officiated at 363 funerals, and married 141 couples."

Chiles also served Kentucky Baptists in numerous capacities: Kentucky Baptist Convention president for two years, executive board member of the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention, a trusted confidant of executive secretary W.C. Boone, trustee of Georgetown College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, and member or chairman of several associational and state committees.

After retiring from the pastorate, Chiles began a "second career" in 1975 as professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary's Boyce Bible School. Still, Kentucky Baptists came to know him best through the pages of the Western Recorder. His Sunday school lessons continued to be published until 1991. Throughout these 40-plus years his comments always were tempered and refined with long hours of prayer and Bible study and with years of diligent work among his beloved books in his library and study.

Duane Bolin, associate professor of history at Murray State University, is a member of First Baptist Church of Murray



Fulfilling the mission

164th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Nov. 13-14, 2001

Regional Special Events Center
Murray, Kentucky

Make plans now to attend each important session of this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention!

Tuesday Morning - Nov. 13

- 8:30 Call to Order
Prayer
- 8:40 Welcome
Organization of the 164th Convention
Committee on Order of Business
Appointment of Committees
Appointment of Tellers
Committee on Credentials
Recognition of Fraternal Organizations
- 8:55 Theme Interpretation
- 9:05 Hymn
- 9:10 Motions/Resolutions/Miscellaneous
Business
- 9:25 Clear Creek 75th Anniversary
Celebration
- 9:45 Kentucky Baptist Foundation Report
- 9:55 Cumberland College Report
- 10:05 Prayer Emphasis
- 10:15 Hymn
- 10:20 Report on Cross Over the Purchase
- 10:30 Executive Board Staff Report
- 10:50 Executive Board Recommendations
- 10:55 Introduction of Speaker
- 11:00 Special Music – Lisa Sommer
- 11:05 President's Address - Rev. Jim
McKinley
- 11:35 Theme Chorus

Tuesday Afternoon, Nov. 13

- 1:20 Pre-session Music
- 1:30 Call to Order
Prayer
- 1:35 Theme Interpretation
- 1:45 Baptist Healthcare System Report
- 1:50 Introduction of Speaker
- 1:55 Special Music
- 2:05 Convention Sermon - Rev. Chip Miller,
KBC Church Leadership Consultant
- 2:30 Hymn
- 2:35 North American Missions Report
- 2:45 Prayer Emphasis

- 2:55 Special Music
- 3:00 Election of the President
- 3:15 Campbellsville University Report
- 3:25 Hymn
- 3:30 Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Report
- 3:40 Oneida Baptist Institute Report
- 3:50 Special Music
- 3:55 Western Recorder Report
- 4:05 Runoff for President (if needed)
- 4:10 Miscellaneous Business and Election
of First Vice President
- 4:30 Theme Chorus

Tuesday Evening - Nov. 13

- 6:20 Pre-session Music
- 6:30 Call to Order
Prayer
- 6:35 Runoff for First Vice President
Miscellaneous Business
Election of Second Vice President
- 7:00 Special Music – Purchase Area choir
- 7:05 Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Report
- 7:15 Obituaries/Memorial Report
- 7:20 Hymn
- 7:25 Runoff for Second Vice President (if
necessary)
- 7:30 Georgetown College Report
- 7:40 Special Music – Purchase Area choir
- 7:50 Prayer Emphasis
- 8:00 "Mission Possible!" – A special pro-
gram focusing on how Kentucky
Baptists are fulfilling the mission in our
world through the Cooperative Pro-
gram, Woman's Missionary Union,
Partnership Missions and the Interna-
tional Mission Board.
- 8:55 Hymn
- 9:00 Special music – Purchase Area choir
- 9:10 Missions Challenge – Don
Kammerdiener, International Mission
Board
- 9:25 Closing Prayer/Chorus

Wednesday Morning - Nov. 14

- 9:00 Call to Order
Prayer
- 9:05 Theme Interpretation
- 9:15 Miscellaneous Business/Election of
Secretaries
- 9:30 Special Music
- 9:35 Recommendations from Committees:
Constitution & Bylaws
Committees
Nominations
Resolutions
Arrangements
- 9:50 Hymn
- 9:55* Baptist Faith and Message Study
Committee Report
- 10:40 Special Music
- 10:45 Prayer Emphasis
- 10:55 Temperance League Report
- 11:00 Committee on Public Affairs Report
- 11:05 Hymn
- 11:10 Recognition of Convention Officers
- 11:15 Introduction of Speaker
- 11:20 Special Music
- 11:25 Dr. Frank Pollard - Pastor, First Baptist
Church, Jackson, Mississippi
- 11:55 Recognition of New Officers/Passing
the Gavel
- 12:00 Prayer/Closing Chorus

* Please Note!

In consultation with the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee, the Committee on Order of Business has scheduled the report of the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee for the Wednesday morning session to allow adequate time for full presentation and discussion of this important issue and to assure the availability of tellers.

– Herschel Morgan, Chairman
Committee on Order of Business

Check the KBC Web site for more information!

www.kybaptist.org

Or call 502-254-4731 or 888-254-5713



MISSIONS

Missions remains top priority as Wilkins shifts gears

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—After 70 trips to some 40 countries since 1969, Calvin Wilkins is preparing to slow down. Not likely.

Wilkins, who recently retired as director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department, will continue to serve the department as a part-time consultant. That means he also will continue to travel overseas to help spread the gospel through partnership mission projects.

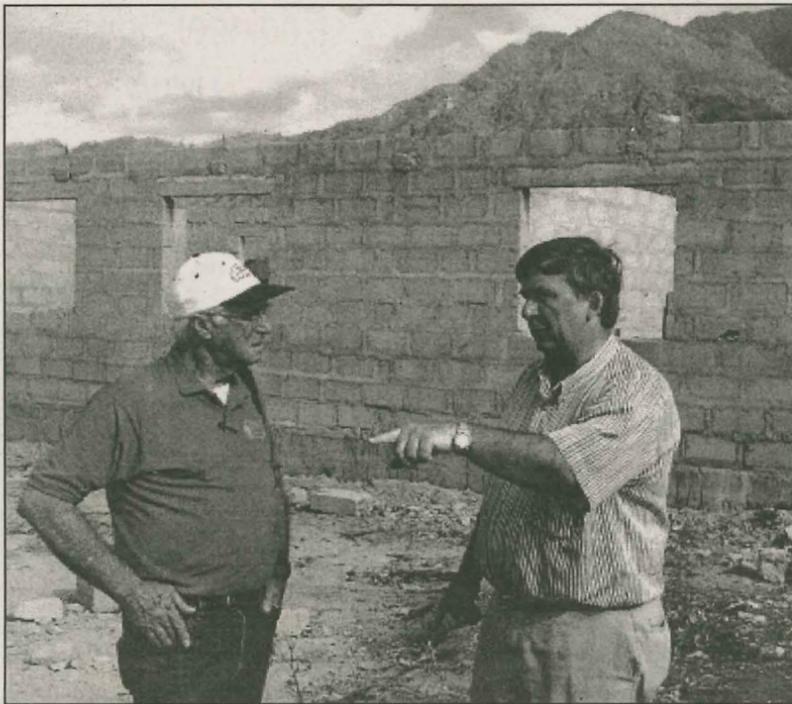
As the first full-time partnership missions director for the KBC, Wilkins has become known as "Mr. Partnership Missions" to thousands of missions volunteers across the commonwealth.

After the state convention's first missions partnership in the 1980s with Baptists in Kenya, Wilkins was chosen in 1988 to head the KBC's missions partnership emphasis. Since then, he has coordinated Kentucky Baptist missions partnerships in Brazil and Russia as well as current partnership efforts in Poland, Tanzania and with the European Baptist Convention. He also has worked with stateside partnerships in Ohio, Utah-Idaho and New England.

Earlier this summer, Wilkins switched to a consultant role, turning over the day-to-day leadership to Ross Bauscher, the department's new director.

Affirming the KBC's commitment to partnership missions, Wilkins said, "Each partnership has had its own uniqueness. I can see the impact it has made on volunteers."

He said several volunteers have responded to a call to vocational ministry, with some becoming career missionaries or pastors and others becoming "career volunteers."



GLOBAL FOCUS Calvin Wilkins (left) visits with international missionary Charles Dixon during a mission trip to Tanzania. Wilkins has logged 70 trips to more than 40 countries as part of his commitment to partnership missions.

Wilkins said partnership volunteers also gain "a greater awareness of missions and are more supportive of missions causes across the board."

"It's been amazing to see how this has caught on with typical church members," he added.

Wilkins' first experience with partnership missions came in 1969 during the Crusade of the Americas. While serving as pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton, he was invited to participate in an evangelism project in Jamaica.

"I preached in four churches and saw 127 people respond to Christ," he recalled. "That lit a fire in me" for overseas missions work.

After a mission trip to Trinidad in

1972, Wilkins began to invite laypeople from his congregation and surrounding churches to participate in the projects.

"Once the laypeople got a feel for this type of mission work, it just grew. It was always pretty easy to put teams together to go."

During pastorates at First Baptist Church of Providence and Elm Grove Baptist Church in Murray, Wilkins continued to coordinate overseas mission trips. In 1984, he was called as director of missions for Graves County Baptist Association, noting that "they wanted somebody who would lead them to more missions involvement."

Reflecting on his years of service

with the KBC, Wilkins effortlessly recalls details of each of the major partnerships.

During the three-year partnership in Kenya, the number of Baptist churches there doubled, he noted. In Brazil, Kentucky Baptist volunteers helped build 28 churches and in Russia, workers were involved in 46 construction projects.

"Russia was the big challenge," he said, with plans for the partnership starting just one year after the Soviet Union's political collapse.

"It was the mystique that in this vast country that had been closed to the gospel the doors were flung open," he explained. "It was history in the making just to be part of that movement of God. God took ordinary folks and did some extraordinary things with them."

Wilkins also highlighted the KBC's newest partnership with the European Baptist Convention which includes 67 English-language congregations in 22 countries.

"With European Baptists, we're seeing a tremendous opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to be involved in global missions in the truest sense," he said.

"We have the opportunity to help disciple new believers who will go back to their home countries and share the message of Christ. It puts a few more ripples in the pond as it widens into various parts of the world."

As he switches gears in his semi-retirement years, Wilkins said, "It amazes me how God allowed me to be part of such a mighty movement, to see how lives all over the world have been changed."

But Mr. Partnership Missions isn't content to look back for very long.

Emphasizing that "the whole journey is just a step at a time," he explained, "There's still much to be done."

"There's still much to be done."

Calvin Wilkins, retired director of KBC partnership missions

Bauscher: Partnership efforts 'make a difference in the kingdom of God'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Ross Bauscher believes personal involvement in mission trips makes a difference in people's lives. That's why he has taken on the challenge of coordinating Kentucky Baptist partnership efforts around the globe.

"A mission trip makes a difference in you, it makes a difference in others as you touch them and it makes a difference in your church as you come back," he emphasized. "And ultimately, it makes a difference in the kingdom of God."

Bauscher, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new director of partnership missions, previously served more than 12 years as pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro.

"I never thought I was going to leave the pastorate," he noted. But during a mission trip to Tanzania, he told God he was open to do "whatever You want me to do." As a result, he began serving last month in his new role.

"I've always had a hunger in my heart

for missions and evangelism," he explained. When he was invited to consider the KBC position, he added, "I started looking at how much mission work I had done in my life and how God had shaped my life for this time."

"For me, partnership missions goes beyond a mission trip overseas," Bauscher said. "We're partnering with God and one another to build up the kingdom of God for His glory."

Bauscher said one of his top priorities is to encourage expanded prayer support for partnership missions. His goal is to recruit eight regional prayer coordinators who will enlist prayer partners throughout the state.

"Partnership missions always begins with prayer," he said. "Without prayer, you can't accomplish anything anyway."

Bauscher also hopes to enlist 30 team leaders to coordinate key partnership mission trips in the coming year. He said his goal is to "give people the opportunity and tell them what can be accomplished."

Bauscher, who recently traveled to Europe to assess partnership needs there, said opportunities range from military-

related congregations that need construction and leadership development to churches with internationals from several countries who need evangelism and vacation Bible school-type programs.

Bauscher cited the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's increased focus on unreached people groups in the Third World region known as the 10-40 Window. He said that leaves fewer resources for English-language churches and other established but struggling ministries in Europe and elsewhere.

"These churches need all kinds of assistance," he said. "My philosophy is that if the IMB is defunding their support, Kentucky Baptists have a wonderful opportunity to adopt a church or people



CULTURAL CONNECTION Ross Bauscher (right), the KBC's partnership missions director, speaks with the assistance of an interpreter during a conference in Tanzania.

group through our associations or churches.

"God has called us as co-laborers," he emphasized. "We're there to assist them as they feel led by the Spirit of God."

Citing extensive mission needs in Kentucky and New England as well as overseas, Bauscher said, "I want people to be involved in missions whether it's here or overseas."

Speaking from experience, he added, "You go to be a blessing and you end up being blessed."

For information about partnership mission opportunities in the European Baptist Convention, Poland and New England, contact Bauscher at (502) 244-6462 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5724.

Churches seek new ways to welcome & keep visitors

Dos & Don'ts

The United Methodist Church has released a video to help members be more welcoming as the denomination launches an ad campaign to welcome visitors.

Among its suggestions:

Do look visitors in the eye when shaking their hands.

Do have signs pointing to the sanctuary, Sunday school, restrooms.

Do have friendly parking attendants as a first sign of hospitality.

Don't act like pews or seats are reserved for regular churchgoers.

Don't stare at restless visiting children.

Don't ignore strangers at fellowship times.

Continued from page 1

comers but everyone in that church if they've been there for one minute or for 10 years."

The singing welcome at People's Community Baptist Church impressed Dorothy Hill-Aird, a human resources specialist visiting from Union City, Calif.

"I thought it was a very warm, inclusive gesture," she said. "Just really made you feel warmly welcomed—a personal touch you don't usually see in churches."

But too often, experts say, individual congregations leave the job of welcoming solely to a committee or the ushers.

"They don't realize the importance of putting a person at ease," said Sy-lester Williams, past president of the National United Church Ushers Association of America Inc.

"If a person comes into a church and there's no one to shake their hand, if there's no one to say, 'Well, welcome. We're glad you're here this morning' and provide them with even directions to the washroom ... it makes a difference. And that person will not feel comfortable returning to that church."

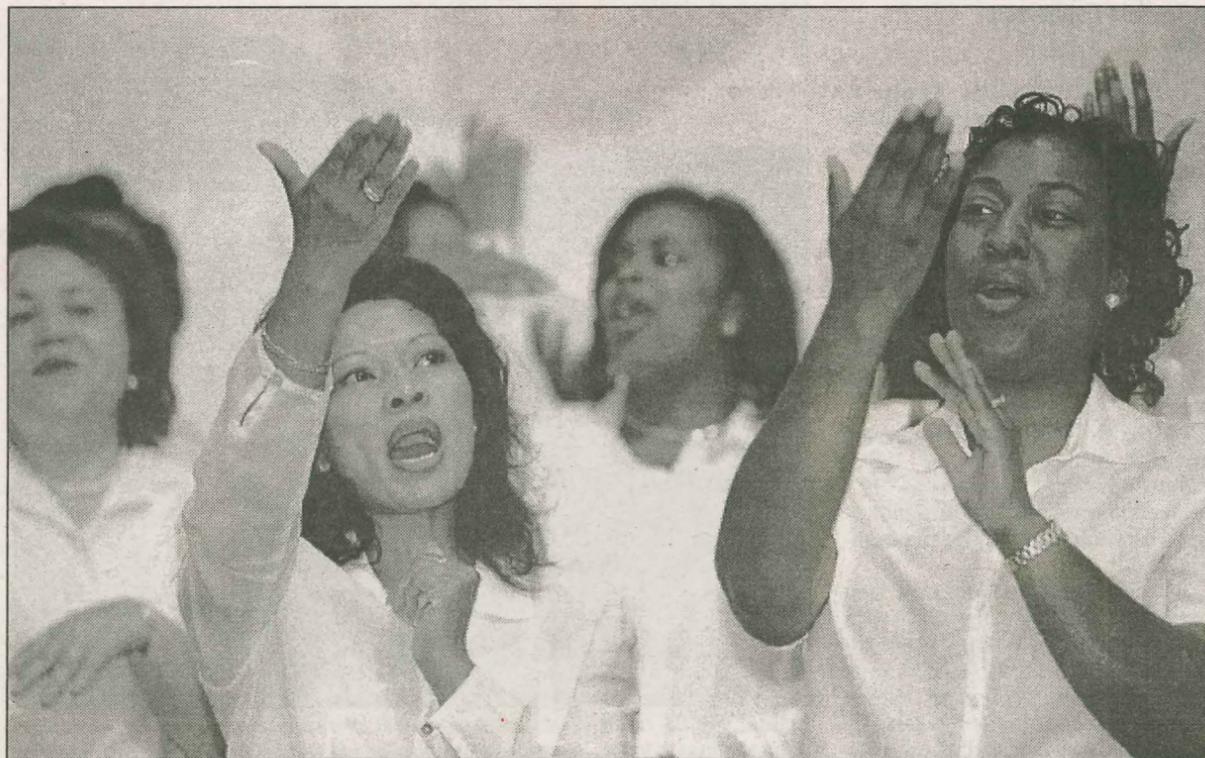
Although the Vatican imprimatur on the practice arrived in May, Dennis McManus, a liturgy expert for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, estimates that greeters have become more popular in Catholic churches during the last three to five years.

"I think now way more than half—I'd say 65 percent, maybe 70 percent of parishes—have people at the doors," he said.

Welcoming—or the lack thereof—has become the source of serious study by longtime observers and participants in church life.

Horswill-Johnston has learned through research about the sociology of newcomers and culled nuggets of information to pass on to those learning how to welcome them: Within 10 minutes of darkening a church's door, visitors know if they will return or not. The average newcomer leaves the building within three minutes of the conclusion of the service.

In response, Methodist officials are training church members to reach out to everyone within 10 feet of them—whether they know them or not—and say good-bye to newcomers within



WELCOME SONG Choir members at People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Md., sing a welcoming song for visitors each Sunday. The song includes hand motions that symbolize waving newcomers into the church. (RNS photo by Tyrone Turner)

three minutes after the last hymn is sung.

Pastor T.J. Baltimore, the founder of People's Community Baptist, said his church's welcome song—instituted shortly after he began the church in 1978—is an alternative to other congregations' tradition of having visitors stand and verbally introduce themselves to the congregation.

"People are uncomfortable," he said. "They are afraid because most congregations are stuck-up, they're insensitive, they're not free and spirited enough to greet someone."

At a recent Igniting Ministry workshop in Frederick, Md., trainers aimed to get congregants over that hesitant hump and willing to reach out to the new faces in their crowd.

Coordinator Larry Hygh led the 260 attendees in brief calisthenics in a multipurpose room accented with basketball nets. "Open hearts, open minds, open doors," he said, pointing by turn to his heart and head and then spreading his arms wide.

"I can't hear you," he only half-joked, as the trainees learned to say the mantra louder and louder through the morning.

Pastor Jim Embrey, who attended the workshop representing Middleway United Methodist Church near Charles Town, W. Va., said he knows of visitors at other churches who were told they were sitting in someone else's seat or rejected for youthful accessories like lip piercings and Mo-hawks.

"I really believe that there is a lot of work that we all have to do to make people feel totally comfortable in our church," he said.

Those steeped in the work of welcoming say the effort may begin even before visitors get to the door and continues during the week after the worship service.

Paul Rosstad, director of facilities and technology at National City Christian Church in Washington, said his congregation began contracting with a valet parking service last October to make it easier for people to attend the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation located on a busy traffic circle.

"I think that's our mission," Rosstad said of proactive welcoming techniques. "It's part of what we're charged to do as Christ's church."

Some congregations supplement the traditional letter from the pastor that thanks visitors for coming with a personal call or a visit with fresh baked goods.

At James River Assembly of God in Springfield, Mo., a part-time worker in the church's kitchen gets the list of Sunday visitors each Monday and does some quick multiplication to prepare enough one-dozen bags of cookies to be delivered by a visitation team that evening.

"Welcoming guests is not a science, it's an art," said Dick Hardy, the congregation's administrative pastor in charge of the hospitality ministry.

While many churches emphasize hospitality, experts say what's sandwiched in between the welcome and "Thank you" ultimately determines whether visitors return.

Said Russ Chandler, a retired religion writer for the Los Angeles Times and author of the book "Feeding the Flock: Restaurants and Churches You'd Stand in Line For": "You may use so-called gimmicks or different incentives maybe to get people there, but then you don't compromise the message, which is the gospel."

Professor: Insensitive churches repel guests, make new Christians feel unwelcome

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Churches must be sensitive to the culture around them if they are to attract guests and evangelize their communities, a speaker told pastors and worship leaders at a recent conference.

Churches that are insensitive make guests feel unwelcome and cause members to be less likely to invite their friends, said Will McRaney, associate professor of evangelism at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Insensitive churches also run the risk of running off new Christians, who might not understand what is taking place in a

worship service, he added.

"New Christians sometimes take an understanding of what is going on in the service or they may quit coming to church altogether, thinking that they just don't 'get it,'" McRaney said.

McRaney spoke during the National Conference for Church Leadership recently at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Welcoming guests without making them feel awkward or embarrassed and explaining insider church language can be sensitive gestures that make people want to return to church, he said.

"Make a decision every time in the interest of the guest," he suggested. "If you consistently fail to do that, you are giving up the mission of the church. Leaders should keep the church on mission, reaching and discipling lost people."

McRaney listed suggestions to help churches become guest sensitive:

- Pay attention to local cultural norms and environment.
- Get feedback from guests in the best possible way for your culture.
- Talk with members about why they are or are not inviting guests to church.

■ Avoid inside jokes and most insider announcements.

■ Tape your service and have key leaders watch it.

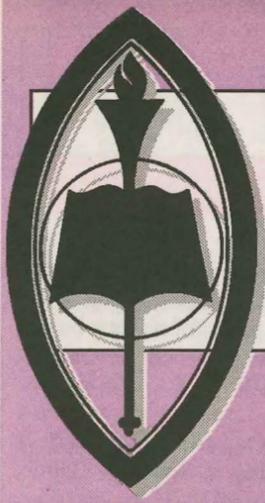
■ Enlist guests and outsiders to evaluate your service from their perspective.

■ Evaluate the words in the messages.

■ Have something in the service that is of value to lost people and new Christians.

■ Use the term guest, not visitor.

The conference was sponsored by the pastor-staff leadership department of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 244-6485 • Toll-free: (888) 254-5726
Supplement to Western Recorder

**Eliza Broadus Offering
for State Missions**
2000-01 Basic Goal: \$800,000
Challenge Goal: \$200,000
Total: \$1,000,000
Amount received through
July 31: \$825,567

All challenge goal funds will be used to help start new churches in Kentucky.
You may continue to give to the 2000-01 Eliza Broadus Offering through Aug. 31, 2001.

Fall 2001

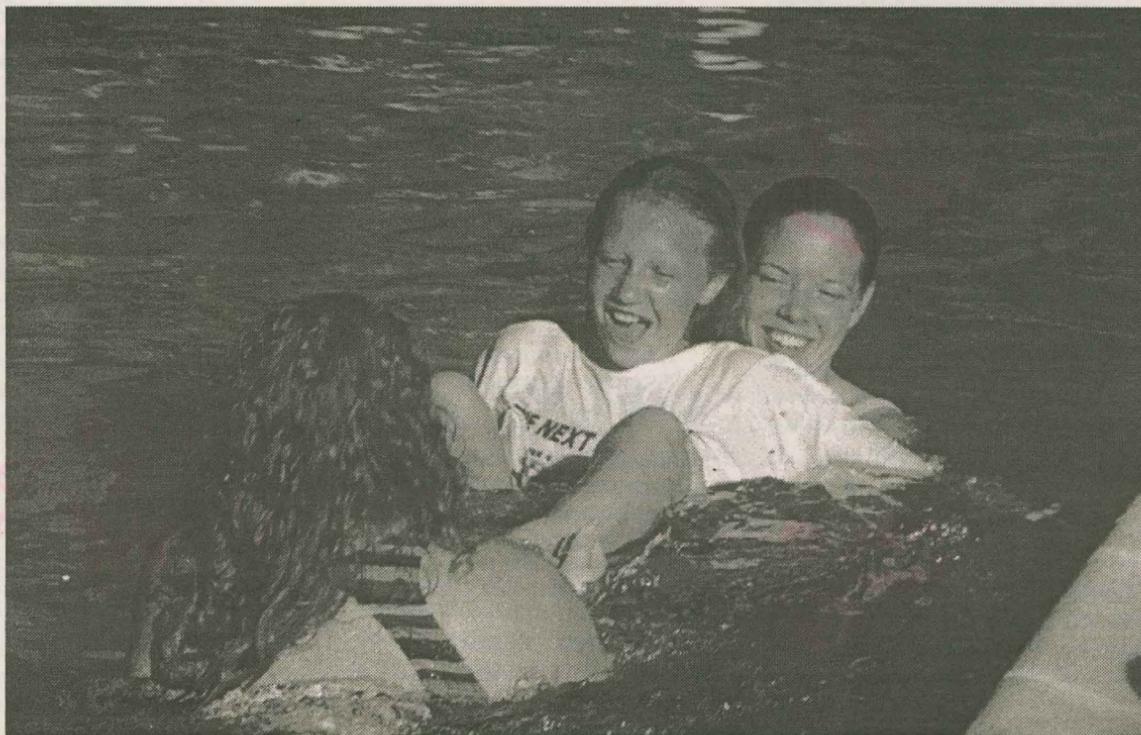
What's Your Connection?

Week of Prayer
For State Missions
And
Eliza Broadus Offering
Sept. 9-16, 2001

Basic Offering Goal: \$850,000
Challenge Goal for New Work: \$150,000
Total Offering Goal: \$1,000,000

Contact Kentucky WMU for state missions teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes, promotional ideas and a FREE State Missions Video toll-free (888) 254-5716

Read about the work of Kentucky Baptists through Mission Service Corps, literacy ministry, resort/leisure ministries and church planting in the Sept. 4 issue of the *Western Recorder*.



CAMP FUN Kristin Belcher, Cedar Crest cabin leader, enjoys the pool with GAs. Full camp report on page 3 of this insert.

A Personal Word

As I reflected on the "Beyond Belief" experiences of my life recently, one is that my first two years as your WMU executive director have passed so quickly. I am grateful to a wonderful staff and Executive Board for their tireless efforts in missions education and support. I appreciate the wonderful relationship we have with Bill Mackey and all the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff and officers. I am grateful for the directors of missions and their leadership in Kentucky. I appreciate each Kentucky missionary and missions volunteer, whether serving here in Kentucky or around the world. And above all, I am grateful to each WMU member, beginning with our preschoolers and going up to those who have been loyal supporters for many years. Each of you plays a part in taking the gospel into all the world.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

The production of this year's state missions materials has been another "Beyond Belief" experience for me. We began last January with two days of video taping interviews with people involved with literacy, resort/leisure ministry, church planting and Mission Service Corps. Kristen White, our writer, prepared the manuscript in one week. We then wrote a script for the video and selected segments of the interviews for the video. From there, Larry Brannin, media associate with the KBC, went to work to obtain needed background footage. Later Larry skillfully edited and brought it all together. Each time I view the new state missions video, I still feel overwhelmed at God's goodness in helping us turn an idea on paper into a 30-minute video with related printed materials for use by Kentucky Baptists to tell our state missions story.

Thank you, Kristin White and Larry Brannin, for helping us tell the missions story in such a marvelous way. Thanks to each person who took time to share his or her missions story. A sample packet of materials was mailed to each church WMU director or contact person in mid-June. If your church has not received this packet, please contact our office. The packet includes an order card for additional copies of the "What's Your Connection" poster, prayer guide and Eliza Broadus Offering envelopes. Each church will receive a copy of the new state missions video with its order. All materials are provided without charge. An analysis of the 1999-2000 Eliza Broadus Offering showed that out of 2,485 Kentucky Baptist churches and missions included, only 1,087 gave to the Eliza Broadus Offering that year. Our goal for 2000-2001 is not only to increase the total gifts received, but also to see an increase in the number of churches giving through this offering. It is our prayer that as you view the video, read the state missions master article and participate in a state missions program or presentation, you will discover your connection to state missions. Whether through praying, giving or volunteering, we need you to get connected to Kentucky state missions!

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Information for WMU Directors

Is missions participation in your church active and exciting? This could be a great time to challenge new missions groups to begin. FREE curriculum materials are available for ONE YEAR to any church starting a new organization or one that it has not had for two years. Do you need a new Mission Friends organization? Girls in Action? A new Women on Mission or Adults on Mission organization? Call us toll-free at (888) 254-5726 for complete details.



Project HELP: Literacy

Brooke Green of Leitchfield First Baptist Church's story will be told in your November *Missions Mosaic*. Her Chinese exchange student became a Christian, as did the young woman who works in a Chinese restaurant to whom Brooke taught English as a Second Language.

International Missions Emphasis 2001—Dec. 2-9

Watch for your sample package of international missions materials. It will arrive after the first week in October. Order your envelopes, prayer guides and posters early. If your church has a prayer coordinator, involve her/him in your prayer emphasis plans. Challenge your church with a worthy goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering—at least 15 percent more than you gave last year. Use the visual in the *Winter WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit* to show progress toward your goal, or create your own way to indicate progress. (Some folks have used the 3' by 5' fabric world map available from a fabric store or Wal-Mart for this purpose.)

Check with your pastor in September to see if he has received the *Pastor's Planning Materials* from the International Mission Board. This usually includes a video and audio tape, clip art and other helps.

Many Kentucky Baptists have been to Kenya or Tanzania on partnership mission trips, and have been in contact with the Maasai people who are featured in the International Mission Study. Consider asking one of them to lead the mission study or to share pictures and other memorabilia to provide a personal introduction to the Maasai people.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults

Fall retreats

With September quickly approaching and thoughts of cooler weather on the horizon, now is the time to register for the **Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreats**. The theme for the retreats is "The Truth Shall Set You Free."

On Oct. 5-6, 2001, Kay Mackey, wife of Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey, will be the keynote speaker at Jonathan Creek. Angela Payne, an author with New Hope Publishing, will lead at Cedarmore on Oct. 12-13. We have planned many new



conferences and special worship experiences that will give you an opportunity to spend some quality time reflecting on the awesome works of God. Make your reservation now to be with us.

Thoughts of "More than Gold"

Are you getting Olympic fever? I am. It's not very often that you get an opportunity to attend the Olympic Games, but this could be YOUR chance! Kentucky WMU will take an **Enterpriser** team of 15 women to serve with **Global Outreach Ministries** at the Salt Lake City winter Olympics on Feb. 19-26, 2002. The first 15 applications that are completed with a deposit of \$200 will make up the team. Team



members will participate in evangelistic outreach activities, hospitality bag distribution and fan entertainment. Applications can be acquired through the WMU state office. Contact Tonya for further details.

Tonya's Tip—On Oct. 14, we will observe **World Hunger Sunday** in Southern Baptist churches. Lead your mission groups to collect quarters, small non-perishable food items such as peanut butter and crackers or canned meat, and plastic spoons. Place these items along with a New Testament or gospel tract in zip-lock bags. Distribute the bags to homeless people in your community or keep the bags in your car and hand them out as you see homeless people. This is a great way to meet the needs of the hungry in our own communities.

—Tonya Williams

Youth

Acteens Splash was held at Jonathan Creek June 15-16. The summer retreat combined missions and, well, splashing as Acteens worshipped, attended workshops and enjoyed Kentucky Lake. I had the opportunity to share about my time as a missionary in Russia. Son Share, a Kentucky Baptist Student Union summer missions team, led worship through drama and music. Make plans to attend next summer on June 22-23.



Acteens from across the state made their way to **Cedar Crest** this summer for a week of Bible study, missions and fun. Acteens examined their beliefs about God and the ways in which God believes in them. For more information about camp, see page 3 of this insert.

It was thrilling to worship with 46,000 youth at the **Billy Graham crusade**. Somehow, I found myself at the very front of the stage. This gave me a unique vantage point to look over the thousands on the field and in the stands. Watching a multitude of young

people worship was incredible. More than 2,700 made decisions that night, and I found that the most wonderful thing of all was watching as youth introduced other youth to Christ.

The youth material for the **Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions** focuses on church planting. Your church has received this lesson which will encourage your youth to see the communities around them as mission fields full of unreached people groups.

The third annual **Youth on Mission Night** will be held at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown on Nov. 9-10. We had a blast last year learning about missions and we ex-

pect to have another great experience this year. David and Cathy Brandon, missionaries to Eastern Africa, will be our speakers. A team of college students will lead worship. The cost is \$10 per participant.

—LaRaine Dail



EVANGELISTS From left: Laura Rodgers and LaRaine Dail at youth night at the June Billy Graham Crusade in Louisville.

Preschool

Mission Friends

Welcome to all Mission Friends teachers! You have an important part in the spiritual development of young children as you nurture and teach them in Mission Friends. A new church year brings changes in *Start*. Watch for new age groupings in Mission Friends, two new concepts in spiritual development and a new look for *Start*. As you begin planning for the year, make sure you have a copy of the new *WMU How To: Missions Friends*. This new book offers invaluable information as you lead preschoolers.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missionaries in Maasailand, Africa, and the people who live there through *Everyone Needs a Church*, the **International Mission Study for Preschoolers**. The unit contains activities and stories and can be taught during a churchwide study in December or during any regular class for preschoolers.

Need suggestions for Christmas or birthday gifts for preschoolers? Encourage parents, grandparents and friends of preschoolers to give some of the many delightful books produced by WMU, SBC as gifts for special preschoolers on their lists. The newest releases include *God's Beautiful World* and *Myself*.



Children

Girls in Action

The world is at the fingertips of girls in grades 1-6 as they take the **GA Virtual World Tour** this year in Girls in Action. As their leader, you will guide them in "visiting" many places around the world,



meeting missionaries and learning how they share the good news of Jesus Christ. Be prepared by:

- Reading the new *WMU How To: Girls in Action* which helps GA leaders know how to organize, plan and lead Girls in Action.
- Using the *2001-2002 WMU Year Book* to help you know month by month what is in store for Girls in Action.
- Planning each meeting using *Aware* magazine and one of the three teaching plans in it, along with *Discovery* for grades 1-4 and *GA World* for grades 5-6.
- Introducing GAs to *World Ventures*, the individual achievement plan.
- Involving GAs and other children in your church in the **2001 State Missions Emphasis** in September and the **International Mission Emphasis** in December.

Children in Action

Attention all agents! You are invited to come to the **Children in Action Missions Day Camp** on Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cedar Crest (located on the grounds of Cedarmore). Boys and girls in grades 1-6 will meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, do crafts, play games and lots more. The cost is \$7 per person. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

—Brenda Price





President's

Once again summer has flown by. The Kentucky WMU staff has been busy with World Missions Unlimited and camps.

Now fall is here, and we are focusing on the 2001 Week of Prayer for State Missions and the

Eliza Broadus Offering. The theme is "What's Your Connection?" If you are a Kentucky Baptist, you can be connected to missions in Kentucky by praying, giving and going. The Week of Prayer material focuses on literacy missions, resort/leisure ministry, church planting and Mission Service Corps. As we learn about these areas of ministry in Kentucky, let's pray that more Kentucky Baptists will be led to pray, give and go as we labor together in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Sara Billups
Kentucky WMU
president

October is the time for fall retreats. I hope you will choose one to attend. Tonya Williams has worked hard to put together a fun and exciting weekend for you.

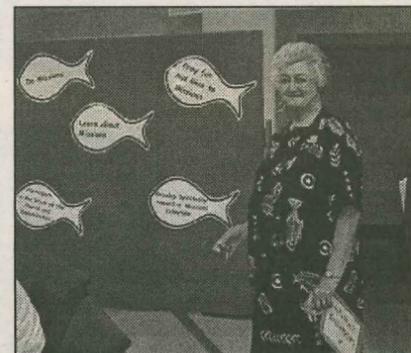
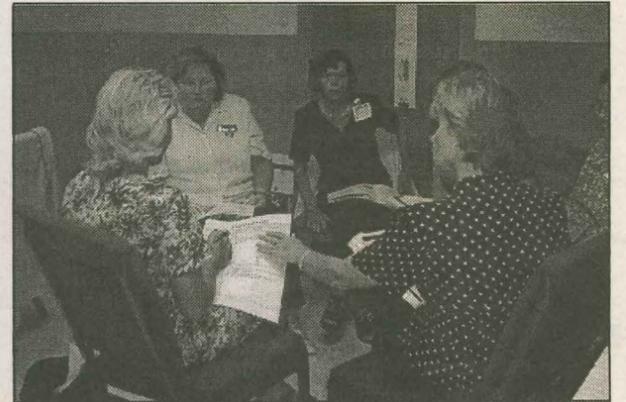
Driving down the AA highway last week, I came upon two little girls and a lemonade stand. I couldn't help but stop on that 99-degree day. As I approached the stand and saw the dirty glasses and extremely watery lemonade, I decided I might be allergic to lemonade. I asked them what they were earning money for, and they told me they were saving to go to camp. They had earned seven cents toward the \$95 it would take to get them to camp. I had dismal thoughts of their chances of getting to camp.

After chatting with these two delightful little girls, I thought I would like to send them to camp. So I walked home with them and talked with their parents, and it was decided they were going to camp. The shouts of glee and smiles on their faces will be etched in my memory forever. But the father said something to me I also will never forget: "I want them to grow up and be good girls, but that church shouldn't send home things like that when they know we don't have \$95." God wanted those little girls at camp. He gave me the blessing.

Let us remember to keep our eyes and hearts open. God is working all around us and desires for us to be a part of this work. By looking with our hearts we will see the needs around us, and He will be glorified. What's your connection?



World Missions Unlimited



**More than 500
WMU and
Brotherhood
leaders
participated in
World Missions
Unlimited 2001
in July.**

UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITIES Conferences were held at Campbellsville University; Central Baptist Church, Winchester; and First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

Camp Roundup

Kentucky WMU recently completed another successful camping season at Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek. Campers of all ages experienced the joy of God's creation during GA and Acteens week-long or overnight camps and Mother/Daughter Overnight camps.

The camp theme was "I Believe in God, He Believes in Me." Through Bible study, quiet time, worship and missions classes, campers learned how to show



their belief in God and how God, in turn, shows us evidence of His love.

At Cedar Crest, life-changing decisions were made. We rejoice with those who made professions of faith, rededications and commitments to full-time service. Campers at Cedar Crest contributed more than \$1,100 to missions to be used in disaster relief on the mission field and for the Eliza Broadus Offering for State

Missions. A special note of thanks to all the staff, missionaries, volunteers and our nurse who made camp a wonderful experience. It couldn't have been done without you.



Jonathan Creek hosted a GA overnight, Mother/Daughter overnight and Acteens Splash. Campers experienced Bible study, worship, missionaries, crafts, swimming and lake-front activities. A big "thank you" to Joyce Brown, Peggy Monroe, Brenda Price and LaRaine Dail for directing the camps at Jonathan Creek as well as the chaperones, missionaries and staff who helped.

Let's get the word out about camp for next year. Plans are underway for another summer of fun, fellowship, activities and learning about missions work in our world.

—Evie Cash

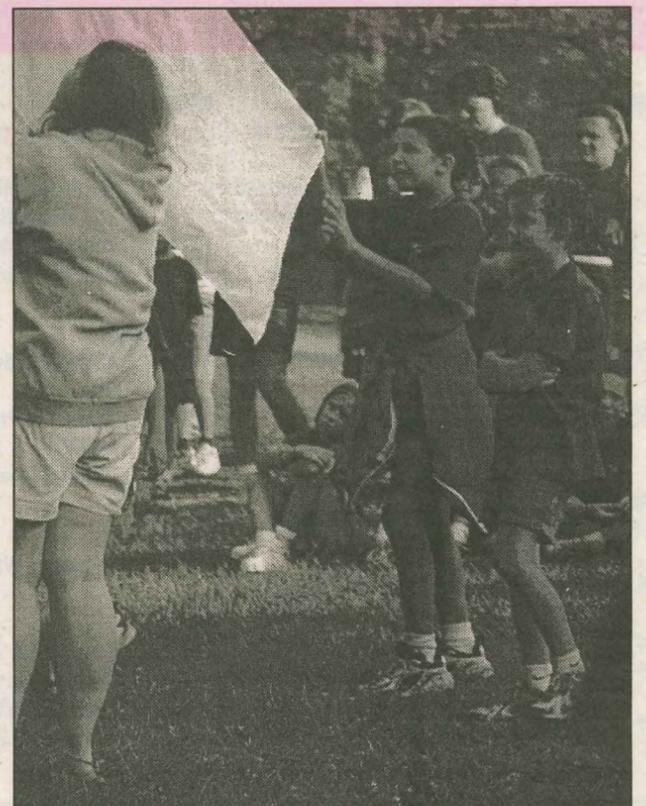
2002 camp dates:

Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore)

Week-long Camp	Mother/Daughter Overnights
June 17-21 GA Camp	June 21-22
June 24-28 GA & Acteens Camp	June 28-29
July 8-12 GA & Acteens Camp	July 1-2
July 15-19 GA Camp	July 12-13

Jonathan Creek

June 14-15	Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 21-22	GA Overnight
June 21-22	Acteens Splash





THANK YOU FOR ADOPTING SUMMER MISSIONARIES

Thank you, all Women on Mission, Acteens, Youth on Mission and GA groups who adopted a Kentucky Baptist Student Union summer missionary or a Cedar Crest camp staffer. Please continue to pray for your students and invite them to visit your church.

Touch tomorrow today

Learn how you can touch tomorrow today through your giving to sustain the work of Kentucky WMU.

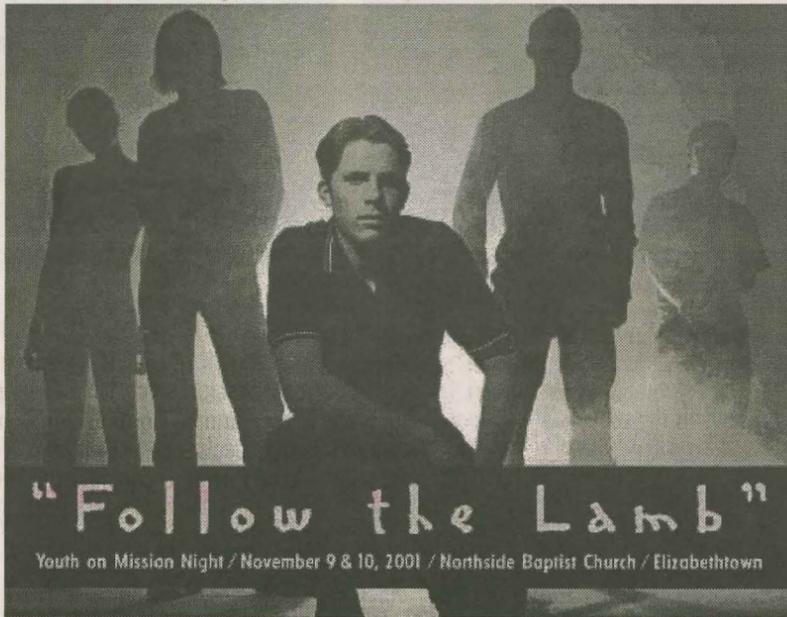
A new brochure titled "Touch Tomorrow Today" explaining each opportunity to give is available from Kentucky WMU. Channels of giving include:

- Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund
- Kentucky/National WMU Partnership
- Scholarship Funds

• Planned Giving (will, trust, etc.)

You also may request Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund envelopes to distribute to your WMU members. A gift to the Heritage Fund is a wonderful way to remember or honor someone who has been a great missions and WMU supporter.

For copies of the "Touch Tomorrow Today" brochure and/or Heritage Fund envelopes, contact Kentucky WMU toll-free at (888) 254-5726 or (502) 244-6485.



Do You Have Olympic Dreams?

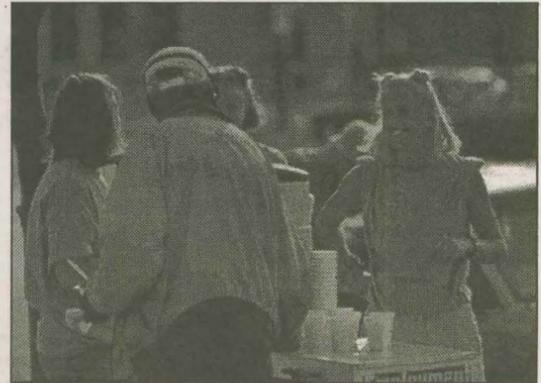
Come join women from around Kentucky as we travel to Salt Lake City to minister to athletes and spectators from around the world! A Kentucky WMU Enterpriser team will be formed to serve with Global Outreach Ministries on Feb. 19-26, 2002. Please contact Tonya Williams toll-free at (888) 254-5726 for an application.

State Activators Event

Join Acteens from across the state June 30-July 5, 2002, in Lynch, Ky., for a week of missions service.

Applications due Dec. 1.

For information contact LaRaine toll-free: (888) 254-5726.



Fall Retreats

Women on Mission and Baptist Nursing Fellowship

"The Truth Shall Set You Free"

Oct. 5-6
Jonathan Creek
Featuring: Kay Mackey

Oct. 12-13 Cedarmore
Featuring: Angela Payne

Call toll-free now for a brochure with further details.
(888) 254-5726

Missionary Parents' Fellowship Luncheon

Saturday, Sept. 29
Cecelia Baptist Church, Cecilia
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
\$7 (reservations required)



For more information or to make a reservation, call the state WMU office toll-free at (888) 254-5726.

Calendar

September

- 7 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel Applications Due
- 8 Super Saturday, Unity BC, Ashland Super Saturday, First BC, Paducah
- 9-16 Season of Prayer for State Missions & Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering Goal: \$1,000,000
- 15 Children in Action Day Camp, Cedar Crest
- 19-21 Global Celebration of Women, Houston, Texas

October

- 5-6 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Jonathan Creek
- 12-13 Women on Mission/BNF Retreat, Cedarmore
- 14 World Hunger Day
- 25-28 KY WMU Executive Board Meeting, Cedarmore
- 27 KBC SALT, Sevens Valley BC, Elizabethtown

November

- 5 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 9-10 Youth On Mission Night, Northside BC, Elizabethtown
- 13-14 Kentucky Baptist Convention, First BC, Murray

December

- 1 Acteens Activators Applications Due
- 2-9 Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal: \$120 million

February

- 11-17 Focus on WMU

April

- 5-6 Exalt, State Acteens Conference, St. Matthews BC, Louisville
- 12-13 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, First BC, Madisonville

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Case could test church boundaries for land use

Continued from page 1

the city, Fees said. Hamilton was the lead attorney when the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional the 1993 Freedom of Religion Act after a church used the act to justify an expansion.

Congress passed legislation last year to replace the 1993 law. The new law requires local governments to have a compelling interest, such as public safety, to enforce land-use regulations that impose a substantial burden on religious activities. And the law says a local government must find the "least restrictive" way to satisfy the public interest.

Word of the Huntsville dispute percolated up to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Trust officials contacted Hamilton because they thought the outcome of the case could affect historic neighborhoods elsewhere.

David Block, Temple B'nai Shalom's attorney, said the synagogue is considering bringing in lawyers who specialize in prominent religious freedom cases.

"A number of religious freedom experts are very interested in our case," he said.

He argued that the federal Religious Land Use law doesn't allow the city to force the synagogue to spend money repairing the house.

The temple wants to demolish the house and use the property as open space for a playground and outdoor religious activities until it's ready to expand the synagogue.

It would cost about \$80,000 to make the house livable, Block said. That is government interference in the congregation's religious activities because it takes money away that could be used to pay a rabbi's salary or to buy religious materials, he argued.

Fees said the issue is property use, not freedom of religion.

"If it is demolished, they won't pray any differently or worship any differently," Fees said.

Other church-state lawsuits

The Temple B'nai Shalom's lawsuit against Huntsville, Ala., is not the only dispute over a religious group's use of land and local zoning laws. Other cases include:

■ In a consent agreement signed by a federal judge, Grand Haven, Mich., agreed to let Shores Community Church hold services in a shopping center. City officials had contended such meetings were not allowed at the location.

■ Congregation Etz Chaim, composed of about 60 Orthodox Jews, filed a federal lawsuit against Los Angeles for denying it a permit to hold services in an upscale neighborhood. City attorneys said the services would harm the character of the neighborhood by such things as attracting traffic and creating noise. The congregation's attorney noted that the members walk to services as required by their religion.

■ A federal judge ruled in favor of Congregation Kol Ami in its lawsuit against Abington Township in Pennsylvania after the zoning board wouldn't allow the congregation to use property it bought from another church. The property had been used for various churches and religious purposes since 1957. The town's zoning law prohibits new places of worship in residential districts. The Jewish congregation was denied a variance, although a Greek Orthodox church had been there since 1995 with a variance.

■ The Hale O Kaula, a small congregation affiliated with the Fellowship of the Living Word, bought a six-acre tract in an agricultural zone in Hawaii to build a worship center. It had sought permission since 1995 to build the center. In June, the Maui Planning Commission denied the congregation a special use permit after a county attorney told the panel it didn't need to consider the Religious Land Use act in reaching a decision. The congregation sued.

Berg, a law professor at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, indicated the temple has a good argument.

"The standard in the act is if the government puts undue restrictions on the freedom of religious exercise," he said. "Making them spend a substantial amount of money on repairs may be a substantial burden on the church."

He said the city might have better grounds arguing public safety than historic preservation. The temple's attorneys could argue that public safety would be better served by demolishing the house.

Block said if the house was anywhere else in the city, "we would have gotten a (demolition) permit the day we applied for it."

Fees said buyers know upfront that the property in a historic district faces more restrictions.

He said the temple has let the house fall into disrepair during 30 years of neglect and now wants to use its unsafe condition as an excuse to demolish it. Historic preservationists call that "demolition by neglect." The temple's representatives have adamantly denied that is the case here.

State law requires appeals of historic preservation commission decisions to be filed in state circuit court. The city successfully had the case moved to federal court because of the federal issues raised.

Federal Judge Lynwood Smith recently denied the synagogue's request to return the case to state circuit court and ordered the two sides into mediation.

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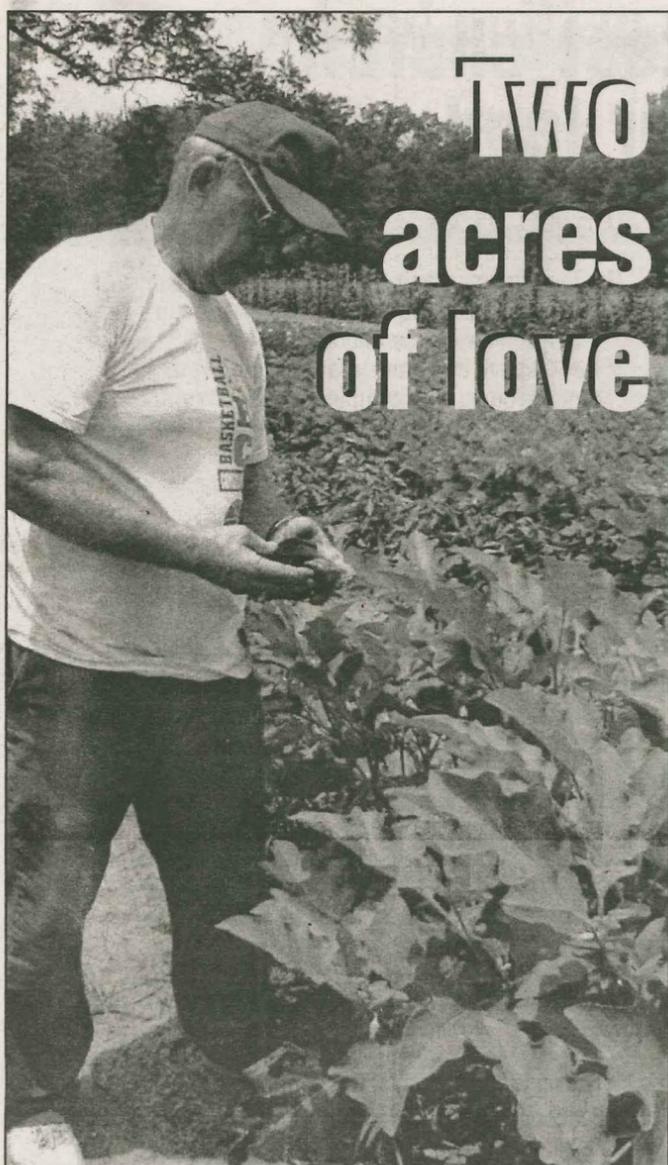
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TWO acres of love

Deacons plant garden for elderly and widows

By Janet Cooper
Baptist Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)—The sounds of Davis Highway and the hectic pace of the city fade away when one enters two acres of cultivated farmland called the "Widow's Garden."

Nestled neatly between small orchards of pecan trees outside the walls of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., the garden opened in 1999 under the direction of then-chairman of deacons Randy Knepper.

He says God prompted the idea from James 1:27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

"Our widows and seniors needed something, and we as deacons needed to take care of them," Knepper said.

Knowing that most of the widows had no opportunity or ability to plant a garden of their own, Knepper approached the deacons at Olive Baptist with the idea of a churchwide project.

"I contacted Tom Farris, a fellow church member and an agriculture teacher at Ransom Middle School, to help me get started," Knepper recounted. After testing the soil, spreading 600 pounds of fertilizer and breaking the ground, the ground was ready for sowing.

The Widow's Garden is open to all of the church's widows and seniors.



Each deacon is assigned a widow and given the responsibility of picking vegetables for them if they can't do it.

"What was fun about this was hearing and seeing some of the widows picking (vegetables) themselves and then carrying them to other elderly people," Knepper said. "It would probably be cheaper to cut a deal with the produce company to deliver the peas, but it doesn't have nearly the benefit that the fellowship they have doing it provides."

Church member Loma West, 83, arrives almost daily to collect from the garden's harvest. West not only picks, but also shells peas before delivering them to at least 20 other "old folks," as she calls her peers.

The deacons support the garden financially, sometimes calling on donations from Sunday school classes, while volunteers cultivate and then harvest their efforts. Church member Harold Johnson, who works daily in the garden, recalled collecting \$850 in one hour of Sunday school.

"We only needed \$750 to purchase a tiller and some other garden equipment, but we walked away with a hundred (dollars) extra that allowed us to

do more," Johnson said. The garden also has been blessed with the addition of a new tractor complete with spreader and breaking plows.

An irrigation system allows the garden to be bountiful throughout the year. In the summer months the gardeners tend to a watermelon patch, cantaloupes, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, peas, butterbeans, peppers, eggplants, zucchini and even peanuts. And in the winter the garden supplies pecans, collards, turnips, broccoli, cabbage, red potatoes and green onions.

Another church member owns a nursery and donates all of the fertilizer and plants that are used.

Jean Rea, Olive's social service director, leads a widowed person's support group at Olive. Being a widow herself, she said the widows of a church often tend to be forgotten.

"The Widow's Garden has made sort of a camaraderie among us. It makes our widows and seniors feel special," Rea said. "One of the interesting things about the garden is not the actual food, but the entertainment and memories that it brings back. It is good therapy for everyone."

Spending approximately \$1,000 per year on the garden, Knepper said this is a ministry that any church can afford.

"It's not only biblically based, but it's easy enough," he said. "The size of the church will determine the size of the garden."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

WIDOW'S GARDEN

Deacons at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., took the initiative to turn a two-acre plot next to the church building into a year-round garden for the elderly and widowed.

■ Above: Member Harold Johnson works daily in the garden.

I stand amazed in the presence

My column this week is written by Jack Ellerbrook, our director at Cedarmore. Jack and his wife, Shirley, have served faithfully in their roles at Cedarmore since spring of 1998. I am deeply appreciative of their servant hearts during the last three years.

With camp just ending, we have a tendency to take a deep breath (after eight weeks of kids, kids, kids) and say, "Well, we made it through another year."

During camp it seems as though we don't have time to breathe. Each week it's clean, cook, mow, sweep, vacuum, haul trash, repair equipment, maintain swimming pools and fix water and sewer lines and air conditioners.

At Cedarmore our task is to facilitate. Thanks be to God for allowing our entire staff to be able to do the very things we prayed for. Long before camp began, we prayed for campers, counselors and staff at all three of our camps (youth, GA and Mission Adventure). We asked for strength and desire to do the best job we could do to accommodate these groups. Not only did He allow us to do our task, He provided teaching staffs at all three campuses who had a genuine desire to see lives

changed. And changed they were!

Discovery Youth camps reported 84 salvation experiences, 234 rededications and 11 other decisions made. In the GA/Acteen camps there were four professions of faith, one rededication and one commitment to full-time service. The Mission/Adventure camp had seven professions of faith, 11 rededications, one commitment to full-time service and nine other decisions.

However, the work of God does not stop with the campers' decisions. God also provided Cedarmore with a volunteer staff of about 60 people. This work was led by our volunteer coordinators, Ed and Wanda Lyons. This group made our summer so much easier.

Along with our entire Cedarmore staff, Shirley and I count it a blessing to be at Cedarmore and to be a part of something that Kentucky Baptists realized God wanted to see take place.

Yes, we already are preparing for next year, expecting even greater things to happen. Amaze us again, Oh Lord!

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Our state paper

The staff and board of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation express congratulations to the Western Recorder staff and board as we join all Kentucky Baptists in celebrating the 175th anniversary of our Baptist state paper. It has been my joy personally to know and to serve alongside every editor since and including Dr. C.R. Daley.

Our state paper is critical to the advancement of the kingdom in providing and disseminating information and activities concerning Baptists in Kentucky and around the world. In keeping with the historic Baptist principle of a free Baptist press, I appreciate how well our paper fulfills its purposes with integrity and insight. I commend Editor Trennis Henderson and his staff, and the board, for effectively fulfilling its covenant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the realms of information, interpretation, promotion, cooperation and the exchange of ideas. The Western Recorder facilitates our individual and collective efforts with its inspirational and informative reports and stories of what God is doing through fellow Christians and with its practical living articles.

As we acknowledge the freedom we enjoy in America, let us also ac-

knowledge the freedom for which Christ set us free (Galatians 5:1), and let us recommit ourselves to sharing Christ with those who do not know Him so they too can be set free. I encourage you to include in your charitable gift planning financial support to assure the future of this vital and unique Kentucky Baptist ministry we know as the

Western Recorder. Perhaps you would prefer to make an outright gift of cash or appreciated stock or real estate to an existing endowment. Or you might prefer to establish your own endowment, and thereby perpetuate your own Christian witness beyond your lifetime. If you desire to receive the income from the asset to be given, you should consider a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust. Other giving options include a bequest in your will or revocable living trust, or a life insurance or retirement plan beneficiary designation.

Please give Laurie Valentine or me the privilege of assisting you in structuring your gift.

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

Renovation stops at historic Martin Luther King church

ATLANTA (RNS)—Renovations at the historic Atlanta church where Martin Luther King Jr. served as co-pastor have halted due to a lack of funding.

Work on Ebenezer Baptist Church stopped Aug. 17, USA Today reported. The stoppage could prevent the service marking King's January birthday from being held next year.

The popular tourist attraction is operated by the National Park Service and has been part of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site since 1999.

Frank Catroppa, site superintendent, said fund raising has been difficult because some potential contributors think the federal government should pay for the work and others are reluctant to give money to a religious entity.

The federal Save America's Treasures program awarded park officials a \$620,000 grant in 1999, but it was supposed to be matched by private donations. The total project costs \$1.8 million.

The church has been closed to the public since April and officials had hoped to reopen it in December, a month before the Jan. 15 service marking King's birthday.

Report: Stopping on-line porn getting harder

By Tom Strode
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—A new front in the battle against on-line pornography has opened, disabling in the process some of the defenses that parents use to protect children from such material, according to a recent congressional report.

Internet file-sharing programs are allowing users to download sexually explicit videos and photos onto home computers, circumventing much of the filtering software designed to block the reception of pornography from the World Wide Web.

That's the news from a report issued by a section of the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee. The special investigations division of the committee's minority staff did the research at the request of Reps. Henry Waxman, D.-Calif., and Steve Largent, R.-Okla.

"These new file-sharing systems are bringing a problem into our homes that we've never had before," Waxman said in a written statement. "And it can appear on our children's computer screens whether they ask for it or not."

With file sharing, computer users can download the software one time, then avoid using a Web browser or Web site to access the files they are seeking. Although they have to go on-line, they can click on the program's icon and become connected to a network with other users from whom

they can download files and with whom they can trade files.

The file-sharing program Napster popularized such technology in recent years by making it possible for users to download audio files of songs. At the height of its popularity, Napster said it had as many as 70 million users, many of those young people. Court action in response to a legal challenge by the recording industry for copyright infringement, however, crippled Napster's popularity.

A new wave of file-sharing programs has filled the vacuum. Unlike Napster, these new networks make it possible to download all types of files, including videos and photographs, according to the committee report.

The committee staff's investigation revealed nearly every form of pornography available on the Web also can be accessed through file sharing.

File-sharing users can access pornography without attempting to, according to the report. Staff searches for videos of singers such as Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, who are especially popular with young teenagers, produced "significant numbers of pornographic files," the report said.

Most filtering software is ineffective in blocking access to porn through file sharing, according to the report. The staff examined seven leading versions of filtering software. Using the default setting usually installed, the investigators found five of these versions failed to block access to pornography through file-sharing programs.

Tips for parents

NASHVILLE (BP)—Parents can take steps to protect their children from on-line predators in several ways, according to Enough is Enough, an organization dedicated to educating families on the importance of protecting children from the harms of pornography.

Among Enough is Enough's suggestions:

- Become more computer literate and Internet savvy.
- Keep the computer in a "public" area in the house. Monitor your child's computer use.
- Check out parental controls available on your on-line service. Install filtering/blocking software or use a "clean Internet provider" that filters at the server level. Recognize that no filter is foolproof.
- Don't let children have on-line profiles. That makes it less likely that they will be listed in directories or approached in children's chat rooms.
- Tell children to never give out personal information.
- Do not allow children to send or receive pictures on-line.
- Tell children to notify their parents if anything seems strange to them, if they are asked personal questions (for example, "what are you wearing?") or if their on-line friend invites them someplace.

For more information, visit the Enough is Enough Web site, www.enough.org or call (888) 236-6044.

Waxman and Largent said they are not proposing legislation to deal with the problem at this time. Their purpose in issuing the report was to inform parents of the problem and to suggest some steps they may take to respond to it.

The report and parental tips can be accessed at www.house.gov/reform/min/porn.html.

Starting a new year

By Robert Dunston

By the time you read this article, Cumberland College will be well under way with our 2001-2002 academic year.

As busy as we were this past summer with various groups on campus using our beautiful facilities, we are delighted to have our students back on campus, ready to learn and serve.

More than two weeks ago, the Cumberland College students who serve as resident assistants in the dormitories arrived back on campus. After several days of orientation and preparation, they were ready to open the dorms to welcome other students.

Several of our athletic teams were the first major groups of students to arrive. Football, men's soccer, women's soccer, cross country, women's volleyball and the cheerleading teams all arrived to prepare for their seasons and the athletic trainers returned to assist. Cumberland's marching band also began daily practices.

Baptist Student Union leaders and members of the campus activity board arrived on campus early last week. Both groups wanted to be on the Cumberland

campus early to welcome freshmen and help them get adjusted to college life.

Freshmen class members and transfer students checked into the dormitories last Friday and began a busy weekend of activities and orientation classes. We at Cumberland College try to do everything we can to help new students

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



become acquainted with and part of the Cumberland family.

Even as students arrived, workmen placed the finishing touches on Cumberland's new boulevard and parking lots and completed pouring new sidewalks.

Classes begin on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

As we enter our new year, we look forward to what God will do through students, faculty, staff and administration to prepare a new generation of young people to serve Him.

Pray for us as we seek to provide a quality education in a Christian environment.

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

'Bucky's' legacy

Aug. 31 marks more than the end of the summer of 2001. It concludes a child care career unlike any I've ever witnessed. Robert Buckley Carlin's first experience with Kentucky Baptists' child care program began when he was 13, standing in a judge's office in Owensboro and being given an incredible choice: the reformatory or a children's home.

There were two children's homes applications on the judge's desk that day; one had a picture of a cow on it. Buckley chose that one, and soon he was headed to Glendale to what then was known as the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home. From 1949 until 1954, Buckley lived and learned at the Glendale home and made another important choice. He

chose not to let a troubled childhood dictate his future. He rose above it and excelled. Even more important, Buckley decided he would dedicate his life to helping kids like himself make the choice he made.

His road ran in a circle and he found himself back at Glendale, now called Glen Dale Children's Home, directing the campus that had so changed his life. He was the first director to bring a professional social work background to the min-

istry. He and his wife, Sue, used 4-H to instill responsibility and self-esteem in the children. Cows, crafts, dogs and music became part of the healing process for hundreds of children who came to Glen Dale looking for hope.

For 21 years, Buckley has dedicated himself to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. He is retiring from full-time work, but will continue to be an advocate for the kids and spokesman for this ministry.

When I think about all the things Buckley has done for KBHC and for the children, I think perhaps his greatest gift has been his empathy. Buckley has an understanding of our kids that I, and many other staff who grew up in happy homes, will never have. Buckley has listened to angry kids, held sad ones and prayed for them all. He has encouraged them, motivated them and by his personal testimony, has introduced them to Jesus. What a legacy he has. I'm grateful to have witnessed part of it.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

7 PowerPoint 'sins' outlined for church communicators

By Terri Lackey
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

If a presentation isn't effective, Williams said, there is no reason to spend the money on computers, software, projectors and screens to show it.

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Squinting viewers, rainbow wording and boring slides are among the "sins" that communicators must avoid when they project text for their audiences, according to a discipleship specialist.

In today's visual age, more pastors and Sunday school teachers include visual text outlines to accompany their spoken words.

Steve Williams, a discipleship specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, said he welcomes the technology that allows speakers to reinforce their messages visually. People remember 30 percent of what they hear and 70 percent of what they see and hear, he said.

Speaking recently during Discipleship and Family Week at LifeWay Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, Williams outlined what he called the seven deadly sins of PowerPoint.

"These are the things that will most assuredly kill your presentation faster than anything," Williams told discipleship leaders. "And they are the seven things I see most often."

PowerPoint is a popular computer software program for visual support of lectures, conferences, sermons and other presentations.

Churches use PowerPoint presentations to teach and train, promote events and convey information during worship services.

PowerPoint can help audiences not only remember a message but better

understand what it means, Williams said.

"That's very important in today's church," he said. "We want them not only to remember it, but we want them to get it and do something about it."

But if a presentation isn't effective, Williams added, there is no reason to spend the money on computers, software, projectors and screens to show it.

"Many newer (PowerPoint) users are so excited about what it will do, they try to use every trick they learn in every presentation they create. When they do, the medium often obscures the message."

The seven sins are:

■ **Wimpy contrast.** Too little contrast is the result of using text and backgrounds of similar colors. "The greatest contrast is white text on a black background or black text on a white background," Williams said. "A basic rule is there should be enough contrast between them so text can be easily read."

■ **Rainbow wording.** Too many colors used for text and objects can result in a rainbow effect. "The brain tries to figure out why are there so many colors, and if it's doing that, it's going offline."

Two text colors per slide usually are enough to look good and be readable. Three different text colors are enough for an entire presentation, he said.

"It is good to use different colors for the titles and body text, but try to use the same color all the way through

your presentation for titles and the same color for body text. That will keep people's attention focused on you and not your presentation," Williams said.

■ **Blah, blah, blah.** Too much text makes a slide look cluttered and hard to read. "Use the five and 10 rule. Limit each slide to about five lines of text that can be read in about 10 seconds. Six lines are OK, seven if you have to. ... But when you get beyond that you have too much text."

If a presentation requires more text, Williams recommends that the presenter automate the text so it doesn't come on the screen at the same time. Display part of it on half the slide, giving the viewer time to read it, then put the remainder up on the bottom half of the slide.

■ **Squinting audiences.** Text that is too small means people will have to strain to read it. "This will distract them and cause them to miss hearing the point," Williams said.

"Step back and look at it yourself on a large screen," he advised. "If in doubt, make it larger."

■ **PowerPoint "shootout."** Too many bullets (such as the squares beside each sin in this article) makes a presentation predictable and boring, Williams said. "Bullets are great if used sparingly and wisely, but I've seen presentations where the number of bullets used reached the regurgitating stage."

He suggested using "unbullets" like pictures or placing text inside various shaped objects like ovals, rectan-

gles or circles.

■ **Animation fatigue.** Transition effects are the animation that moves a new slide into view. Too many of these can disorient the viewer, Williams said. "PowerPoint 2000 gives you 60 or 70 effects, but they shouldn't all be used in one presentation."

Williams suggests using the K.I.S.S. principle. "That's 'keep it simple, sweetheart.' Use a maximum of two to three different effects throughout your whole presentation. Use them when you are switching content."

■ **You're getting very sleepy.** Using boring slides can put the audience to sleep, Williams said.

"I've described a lot of excesses when creating slides, but under-doing it can be as bad as overdoing it," he said.

Effective use of colors and graphic objects can add appeal to presentations and make people want to watch them, he said.

Clip art, photos, word art and "autoshapes" help make slides more visually appealing when used correctly.

A general rule, he added, is that PowerPoint presentations never should become the message. Instead, they should complement and reinforce the message.

"By eliminating the seven deadly sins from your presentations, you will encourage your audience to focus on your message and learn more," Williams said. "And they won't think you started using PowerPoint yesterday."

... 3, 2, 1, blast off!

It is simply the biggest day of the year! About 9 a.m. yesterday the students began arriving for the fall term. Most of the early birds were new students enrolling for the first time.

Several of the new students had visited our school earlier this summer, had seen the orientation video and had taken a tour of our campus. At the end of the tour, each student was interviewed privately before his or her parents joined the interview process.

Those students and parents have known for weeks that they were coming to Oneida Baptist Institute, and had most of their questions answered during their earlier visit to our campus. But 20 students arrived on our campus for the first time yesterday. They went through the same process the other students did during the past several weeks. While most admitted to being a little nervous or very nervous when they arrived, they all agreed that they were much less apprehensive after watching the video and touring the campus, including getting to see the dorms for the first time.

New students this fall came to us from Florida, California, Virginia, Ohio, Texas, West Virginia, Missouri, South Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, Oregon, Tennessee, Alabama, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, South Korea, Nigeria, Switzerland, Ethiopia and from all across Kentucky. How blessed we are as a school to share the love of Jesus with students from every corner of the world.

During the interview process yesterday, I was especially impressed with the number of students who expressed a strong desire to know more about Jesus and to have a closer walk with God. Many

of these young people came from Christian homes and had been brought up in church. But some of them had drifted away from God and realized they were not growing in Christ, as they should have been. They were excited to be in a school where they not only could grow in the Lord but also could share their Christian beliefs with others and not be made fun of because of their faith in Christ.

All of our students are being tested this morning. Many of our new students are struggling academically. In fact, several admitted to making mostly D's and F's last year. One such student listened in disbelief when I told him that only about 10 to 13 students would be in most of his classes. He quickly realized that he could get a lot more individual attention in the smaller classes. In his previous school, there were 35 or more students in most of his classes.

The testing being done this morning will help us direct students to the proper academic classes. Our students will be filling their class schedules later today. Hopefully, we will have the test scores tabulated in time to help each student select the proper classes. The seniors will select their classes first, then the juniors and so on until all have their class schedules.

This morning I counted 62 seniors taking their tests. There were 51 students in last year's senior class. With God's help, we not only will assist our students academically, we also will share the most important knowledge in life, that Jesus loves them and died for them.

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

Dining with Barbara

Director of Food Services Barbara Campbell celebrates 10 years of ministry at Clear Creek this year.

Her husband, Austin, worked in a Somerset factory. When he accepted the call to preach, Barbara's attitude was, "If God wants it done, let's go do it."

His first church to pastor was Sunnyside. "I really liked being a pastor's wife," Barbara remembered.

A Clear Creek graduate told them about the school, and Austin struggled for a year about moving to campus in 1984. "We were age 43 when the move was made. It was a big step of faith. Our youngest son was a sophomore at Bell County High and we were blessed that many teenagers lived at Bear Trail," she said.

Austin's student employment was supervisor of the six campus sewage treatment plants. (These now are closed; replaced by the city sewer system.) Barbara was coordinator of the Kelly Hall kitchen.

"I really couldn't cook until I married, but I learned how and started loving it. We also knew Clear Creek was a place God had His hand on. The close relationship with everyone was such a blessing," Barbara stated. "We found that same

awareness in returning as members of the staff." It isn't easy living in a dormitory instead of a parsonage, but she acknowledges, "The blessings outweigh the disadvantages."

A typical semester finds Barbara and the student workers preparing daily meals for about 60 students and visitors. A variety of meal plans relate to commuters, or those who don't eat breakfast.

In the summer, the staff cooks three meals a day for volunteer work teams. A cookbook of Kelly Hall recipes is available for \$10, with the proceeds used for the Kelly Hall renovation.

A favorite memory for Barbara is Angela, a student wife who applied to work as a cook and said, "I can't cook a bit, but I want you to teach me everything you know." She worked for four years and Barbara testified, "Her husband was really glad she came to work in Kelly Hall."

The Clear Creek family feels that way about Barbara Campbell.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Specialists work to make sure nothing gets lost in the translation

By Chris Herlinger
Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—Russian poet Alexander Pushkin called them society's mail carriers.

But the contemporary analogy for translators may be that they are society's computer chat rooms: They transmit the information people need to communicate across divisions of language and culture and from one age to another.

Without translators, it would be impossible to continue most religious traditions.

"Translators are invisible, but they are the primary mediators of our spirituality and literary traditions," said Robert Hodgson of the American Bible Society in New York, noting that the Bible and other works would not be universally known without the work of translators who diligently have worked over the years to translate these texts from their original languages.

The American Bible Society hosted an international conference this summer of biblical and nonbiblical translators on the multiple challenges facing translators.

The conference addressed a number of issues, but a key question was whether it ever is possible to create a holistic, unified rendering of a text from one language and age for the language and time of another.

That's a key question for Baptists. LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has been working for approximately three years on a Bible that proponents say will excel in both readability and accuracy.

"Our goal is to have a Bible that simply, accurately and reliably expresses in good, understandable English what the original manuscript said," declared Ken Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman, LifeWay's publishing arm.

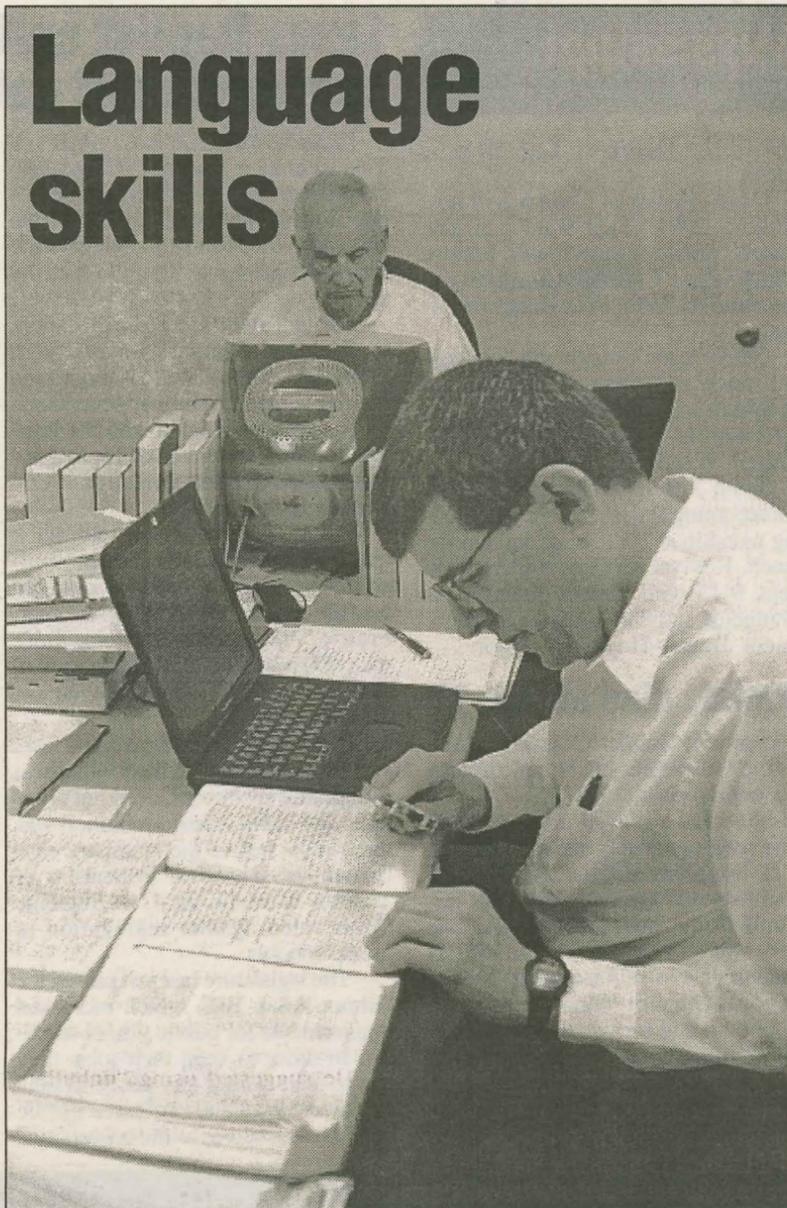
Context is one key that translators must consider, according to Eugene Nida, an American Bible Society official and a pioneer in modern Bible translation. Nida noted that the sentences around a word, the historical time period of the phrase in question and the features of communication being used are all critical as translators begin their work.

Take the two-word expression "run down" or its past tense equivalent, "ran down." Nida said this simple phrase can have a variety of meanings depending on the context. The words only mean something in the context of other words, as a kind of "semantic chunk."

But recognizing that is only the beginning of the translator's work. The nuance of meaning has to be conveyed through the translated "signs" of a different language, which has its own meanings and values and traditions.

Translation itself, said confer-

Language skills



ATTENTION TO DETAIL General Editor Ed Blum, above, and Frank Carmichael work on the translation for the Holman Christian Standard Bible. A recent conference asked whether a unified translation of a text can be fully rendered from one culture and language to another. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

ence participant Theo Hermans of University College in London, is a "solution to a problem, the problem being an intelligibility barrier caused by language and cultural differences."

Similarity, he said, is a useful notion because it allows scholars "to map different texts in different languages onto each other and claim that they have something relevant in common."

But how much do the original and the translation have in common? The question is being debated now with particular fervor because of a larger debate within academia over the meaning of texts.

Some scholars believe that a text has an objective meaning that can be "found out," or discovered, said Andrew Chesterman of the University of Helsinki, Finland. They believe that this meaning—"God's Word," for example, in the case of the Bible—"can be transferred to other languages, without changing it substantially," he said.

But other scholars, Chesterman said, stress that meanings are not already there, "inside" texts. Rather, they are "interpreted by people who read texts, so each person may well interpret the same text differently, because different readers have different cultural backgrounds and life experiences."

A key factor in the history of translating the Bible, Hermans said, is that churches "don't want 'similarity,' they want 'equivalence'—they want a text which they can believe is the word of God even though it is a translated text."

Beyond these debates, Hermans said, are the challenges posed by the "new media," which are enabling communication on a scale "and at a speed hitherto unimaginable."

The new media—whether they produce video-based Bibles, Bibles on computer or even the expected development of "virtual Bibles" in which people could experience a biblical narrative as a kind of "live experience"—could be as revolutionary as the development of the Gutenberg Bible, Hodgson said.

"There are dimensions to the new media we're only now grasping," he said. "Every five years, the rules are changing."

In this "brave new world," he said, translators must expand their work further and become links between an older printed culture and a new media culture.

Do the new media—such as virtual Bibles—represent a threat to church tradition itself? Hodgson does not think so. "If you believe God's Word is alive and active, then that hypothesis has to be tested in all forms."

TV show seeks more light, less heat between Christians, Jews

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

PEABODY, Mass. (RNS)—Documentary filmmaker Gerald Krell has scrambled to fund projects from opera history to Bosnia, but few have been more difficult to finance than a new film linking the traditions of Jews and Christians.

"We were told there would be no market, that this film would be too unbalanced," Krell said. "It was not an obvious thing" to succeed.

Five years and a lean \$650,000 later, however, "Jews and Christians: A Journey of Faith" is set to debut on public television in at least 70 markets this fall. Schedules will vary from city to city, but airings will begin early next month.

Now that the film is finished, stations are seeing its potential to be a major television event of their fall seasons, according to Larry Rifkin, executive vice president for programming at Connecticut Public Television, which co-produced the two-hour show.

"Religion is a hard subject to handle in a way that's balanced and doesn't offend anyone," he said. But this film "fills a vacuum" as what he calls the first evenhanded documentary to address the shared heritage and differences without either side "scoring points."

"People want to know more (about their own traditions) but are afraid to reach out to other adults and ask basic questions," Rifkin said. "But when they watch it on television, in the anonymity of their own living rooms, they feel no threat."

"Jews and Christians" grew out of an unorthodox collaboration between evangelical scholar Marvin Wilson and Krell, a secular Jew. Wilson, a professor of Old Testament and Jewish Studies at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., inspired the film with his 1989 book, "Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith," now in its 14th printing. Financing came from grants and corporate underwriters.

Viewers will see a bar mitzvah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, a circumcision in a suburban home, a somber rite of Christian confirmation and a tense interfaith dialogue. Analysis from scholars is mixed with understandings of laypeople, among them a group of Christians who visit a synagogue for the first time and Jews who do the same at a church.

Topics range from social justice to the afterlife, with Jewish roots providing common ground. Viewers will hear plenty of "provocative statements," Rifkin said, but he does not expect controversy or outrage.

Although filming took place in several cities, much of the 234 hours of raw footage came from communities on Boston's North Shore. That's because Wilson has gained the trust of area Jews during 25 years of working together.

Such a long-established relationship enabled many Jews to participate and speak openly on film about their preconceptions of Christians, according to Sonia Weitz, a 73-year-old Holocaust survivor and education director of the Holocaust Center-Boston, North in Peabody.

"I don't think there's anyone in the (local) Jewish community who would doubt Marvin's intentions," Weitz said. "On Christian-Jewish relations, I don't think there's anybody who's done more."

For his part, Wilson is equally interested in educating Jews and Christians about both traditions.

For all their genuine differences, he said, Judaism and Christianity are not rightly understood as fully separate religions.

"I don't think Jesus came to start a new religion," Wilson said. "Judaism and Christianity are two rival siblings, so a family resemblance ought to be expected."

"I want Christians to know the Jewish community from the inside-out," he added, "and I want Jews to know that Christianity, radically speaking, is not anti-Jewish."

For more information, visit the Web site www.jewsandchristiansjourney.com or call (866) 299-6554.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Liviu and Alina, two Romanian children who recently accepted Christ as Savior through the ministry of missionaries Bill and Carol Bowers.

■ The staff of the European Baptist Convention. Several staff members have moved on to other assignments, leaving only four in the workers' office.

■ Project Harvest, a church planting initiative in Poland to train 50 laypeople and assist them in starting 50 home Bible studies using a correspondence Bible course.

■ Missionaries and nationals in Tanzania as they seek God's guidance in how best to disciple new believers. A recent report from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board cited inadequate discipleship training as the greatest weakness of ministry in Eastern Africa.

■ Hearts for Boston, the Strategic Focus Cities emphasis of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Boston Baptists.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BROOKSVILLE**—Tom Prather resigned as pastor of Powersville Church after nine years of service. He is available for interim or supply preaching. He can be contacted at (606) 735-3747.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church honored Wallace Kent for 30 years of ministry as pastor. He previously was pastor of Macedonia Church in Owensboro.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Charles Midkiff resigned as pastor of First Church after nearly 24 years of ministry there. He and his wife, Lelia, will reside in Lexington.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host gospel music artist Amy Lambert in concert Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502)

367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

Davis Memorial Church will host "Rejoice 2001!" Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. The gospel music concert will feature Sandy Glass, Louisiana Sonlight and the Shadrix Trio. Wes Brockway is pastor.

Gethsemane Church will host gospel music recording artist Michael Bright in concert Sept. 9 at 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 969-3191. Robert Wright is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will host homecoming activities Sept. 9, including worship at 10:40 a.m. and a noon lunch. Revival services will be held Sept. 9-13 with James Johnson as evangelist and Tim Galyon as music leader. Danny Haynes is pastor.

Enlow, retired concert pianist, dies at age 77

LOUISVILLE—Anne Culley Enlow, a retired concert pianist, died Aug. 21 at age 77.

Enlow was active in denominational life, serving as a former officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Wives organization as well as the Kentucky Baptist Convention Pastors' Wives organization. She also had served as a member of the KBC Executive Board and the executive board of Long Run Baptist Association.

Enlow also was a former pianist for several Baptist churches, including Bethany Baptist Church and

Beechmont Baptist Church in Louisville, where her husband, Eugene, has been pastor.

She was a retired piano teacher who taught privately and also worked with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Spring Meadows Children's Home, both in Louisville. She also was a member of the Music Teachers National Association and the National Guild of Piano Teachers.

Her funeral service was held Aug. 24 at Beechmont Church. Memorial gifts may be made to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Woman's Auxiliary Scholarship Fund.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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: Classic 2-story; 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths; approx. 2,360 square feet; convenient location; 8901 Shelbyville Road. \$193,900. Contact: Tony Wheatley, Paul Semonin Realtors, (502) 493-6507.

FOR SALE: Three affordable brick ranches (Highview, St. Matthews, Jeffersontown); sellers will consider assisting with downpayment or closing costs. Call Chuck, (502) 421-8987 or (800) 218-6747. Remax at the Lake.

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Located in rural area, seven miles south of Kentucky Dam; parsonage available. Send resumé to: Bethel Baptist Church, 2603 Tatumsville Highway, Gilbertsville, KY 42044, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: One part-time music minister and one part-time youth minister. Will also consider one part-time minister for both. Send resumé to: West Hickman Baptist Church, 1003 Broadway, Hickman, KY 42050; call: (270) 236-0046; or e-mail: Olliet@apex.net.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister/director for growing rural church. Large, active youth group, children and youth. Send resumé to: Search Committee, New Salem Baptist Church, PO Box 275, London, KY 40743.

SEEKING: Full-time accounts payable bookkeeper for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Position requires 3-5 years of related experience. Computer, spreadsheet and word processing skills a must. College study in business preferred. Attractive compensation package. Contact: Administrative Services department, KBC, Louisville, (502) 244-6468.

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

Texas Baptist college observes 50th anniversary of voluntary integration

PLAINVIEW, Texas (ABP)—This summer marks the 50th anniversary of a small Texas Baptist college's decision to integrate, making it the first four-year liberal arts college in the former Confederate South to take the step.

Annie Taylor's decision to apply to Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, wasn't about race but convenience. But her acceptance by the school affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas drew international media attention as an early blow to segregation.

Taylor, then a 48-year-old black teacher from Floydada, Texas, needed a few classes in order to keep her teacher certification. Her alma mater, Prairie View A&M College, more than 600 miles away, was one option. Wayland College, meanwhile, sat just 30 miles away.

But it was 1951, a time when laws still separated blacks from whites in restaurants, restrooms, drinking fountains and public transportation. It was three years before the landmark case Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against segregation in public schools.

"The legislature had just passed the Gilmer-Aikin Bill, which increased requirements for public school teachers. In order to keep their jobs, they had to take classes and get certified," explained Wayland professor Estelle Owens, who serves as the university's

official historian. "She just walked in the door and asked (then-registrar) Audrey Boles what people would do if she applied at Wayland."

Owens said Taylor, a Baptist herself, likely felt that permitting her to enroll was the Christian thing to do. She encountered a white college president who felt the same way.

When Taylor presented herself as a potential student, President J.W. Marshall saw it as an opportunity for the college to take a stand.

"He had thought about (integration) before and wasn't afraid of it," Owens said. "He was very loving and had already led the college in accepting Hispanics, students from South America, Asians and Native Americans. He knew if someone serious came and applied it should happen."

"Marshall said, 'Jesus reckons with a person's soul, not his packaging,' and he saw that (Wayland) was doing the right thing," she added.

After faculty and students affirmed the proposal, trustees voted 13-2 in favor of complete integration without any limitations.

Taylor's application was processed, and she was enrolled in two classes when the school's summer term began. Three other black students started the same day. A fifth enrolled for the second term.

Taylor went on to earn a master's degree and taught 49 years in Floydada schools before retiring in 1972. She died in 1992.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Ludlow is seeking a motivated worship and praise leader to help transition our traditional service into a blended service using the best of old and new. This individual will be responsible for incorporating instruments, praise teams and drama into services, as well as developing music programs for children through adults. Experience is required for this challenging and exciting full-time position. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 400 Linden St., Ludlow, KY 41016.

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: 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 resúmes to the church in care of Personnel Committee.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education and youth. May's Lick Baptist Church, Maysville area. Contact: Ron Reule: (606) 763-6869; or church office: (606) 763-6585, or fax: (606) 763-6355.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/resources for First Baptist, Frankfort. Must be an authentic Baptist supportive of CBF, KBF and KBC. Experienced, and master's degree in church music preferred. Please send resumé to: Don Hines, chair, FBC, 201 St. Clair, Frankfort, KY 40601. All resúmes must be received by Sept. 7.

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

PEOPLE

This IHOP serves prayer for Second Coming, not pancakes

By David Briggs
Cleveland Plain Dealer

CLEVELAND (RNS)—The return of Jesus Christ will start simply.

With a young man playing a guitar. With a teenager in bare feet dancing back and forth across the sanctuary. With others raising their arms, clapping their hands and swaying back and forth, trying to recapture the joy the biblical David displayed before the Tabernacle of God.

At least that is what a group of Northeast Ohio evangelicals believe as they, like modern-day John the Baptists, prepared the way of the Lord at 2 a.m. on a Saturday morning in a contemporary River Jordan: an old theater next to a bar in Cleveland.

In an evangelical movement its leaders claim is ordained by God to herald the Second Coming, seven-day-a-week, 24-hour houses of prayer are being established throughout the country. The "IHOP movement," as these International Houses of Prayer are casually called, started in Kansas City in 1999 and has since expanded to Chicago, San Diego, Dallas and, most recently, to Cleveland.

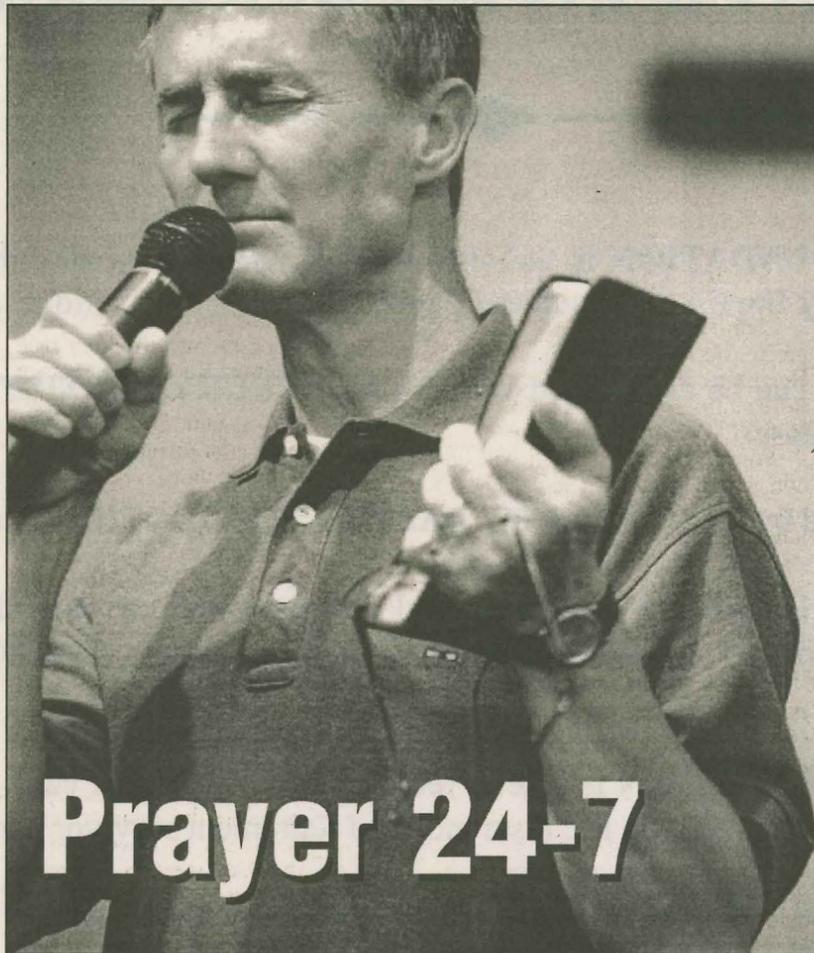
In Cleveland, 300 people from 35 churches pray for Northeast Ohio in 26 two-hour prayer sessions each week, with overnight sessions on the weekend. Their goal is to be up and running as a 24-7 operation within two years.

Internationally, the goal of the IHOP movement is to establish a 24-hour house of prayer in every major city in the world.

"We feel the Lord has given us permission to do this, and said, 'Begin,'" said Mike Noble, director of the International House of Prayer in Cleveland.

Apocalyptic expectations generally have taken a lower profile in the evangelical community as the third millennium, which some foresaw as a logical place for the end times to begin, came and went without incident.

What did not go away are the underlying reasons why many Christians believe the end is near. In a 1997 As-



Prayer 24-7

sociated Press poll, for example, 40 percent of Christians said they believed Jesus would return in the 21st century.

A key element of this prophecy for many evangelicals is a biblical interpretation of the founding of Israel in 1948 as indicating the end is near. "Verily, I say unto you, 'This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled,'" Jesus says in Luke 21:32. Many interpreters take that to mean the Second Coming will occur within the span of a human lifetime beginning in 1948.

In other words, any day now.

Worldwide disasters such as floods, wars and earthquakes, the latest renewal of tension in the Middle East or even developments toward international government such as the European Union are among the other signs many evangelicals relate to biblical prophecies of the end times.

But all will not be bleak. Along with tragedy, there will be positive signs of the Second Coming such as widespread revival and prayer movements, according to much apocalyptic theology.



"When the Lord is about to do something on Earth, he stirs something in prayer," said Todd Ganovski, a worship leader at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City. "We are bringing ourselves into agreement through prayer with His end-time purposes."

Before embarking on their own efforts, some of the leaders of the IHOP movement took inspiration from an 18th century European source. In the town of Hernhut, Germany, Moravians prayed unceasingly for 120 years beginning in 1727.

It was in the German town during a visit in the 1990s, according to Noble, that Tennessee-based evangelist Jim Goll heard the voice of God. According to Noble, Goll heard God calling for the establishment of 120 houses of prayer in the nations before Jesus would return to Earth.

The person who would run with the idea is Mike Bickle, head of the Kansas City-based Friends of the Bridegroom Ministry.

In 1999, he started the first International House of Prayer in Kansas City. The house of prayer now operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has attracted young missionaries throughout the country. About 180 "team members," many young people who work for little compensation, help keep the operation going.

Their salaries may be modest, but not their goals.

"We'd like to see a full-blown 24-hour house of prayer ... in every city in America and throughout the world," Ganovski said.

The house of prayer opened in April, sharing facilities with another church in an old theater. Twenty-six prayer leaders take two-hour slots of leading praise and worship.

Prayer leaders include a multiracial group of clergy, laypeople, men and women. There can be as many as 100 people or as few as two or three on a weekday morning.

The quality of the experience can be uneven, Bickle admitted. "Sometimes it's really poor. Sometimes, it's really powerful. It can be a two. It can be a 10," he said.

In a recent overnight prayer service, 20 youths listened to guitar music and found their own comfortable niches in the sanctuary.

Andrew Gole, 20, in a T-shirt and shorts, sat by himself and prayed for God's mercy to pour out on Cleveland.

"I feel that God smiles and just nods His head in agreement that His children ... are in a place together in unity crying out in prayer and in worship for a city to be saved," he said.

Bethany Wies, 15, dances in bare feet and jeans in the early hours of a Saturday morning. "Whenever I come here, I feel energized. ... God just comes over you and you become overwhelmed," she said. "If you're not prayed up, you can't do anything."

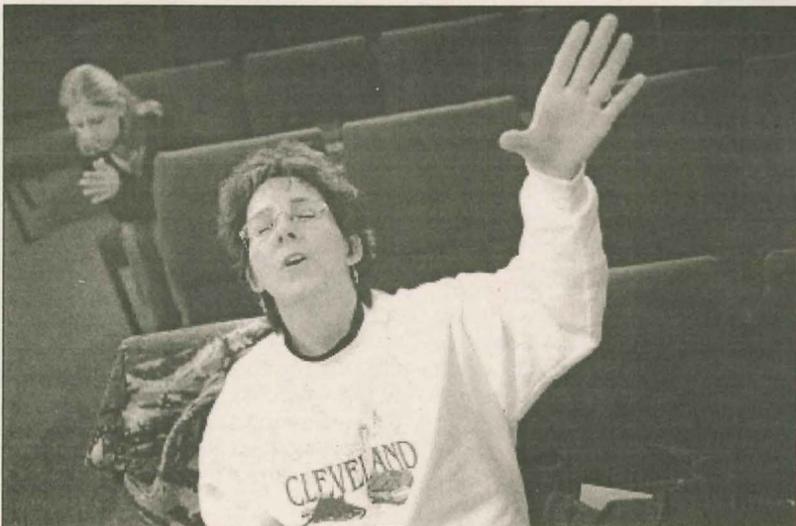
On a recent weekday morning, a small group of men, most in their 20s and 30s, took turns reading from the Bible and crying out remarks of praise and thanksgiving to God.

"This is your city, O Lord. This is Your city. Come forth, O Lord. Pour out Your spirit," Noble says as he paces back and forth in front. "Lord, people have said, 'Can anything good come out of Cleveland?' We said, 'Come and see.'"

HOUSE OF PRAYER

Cleveland is the latest city for an IHOP, or International House of Prayer, where members pray around the clock in anticipation of Jesus' return. ■ Above: Mike Noble, director of the International House of Prayer in Cleveland, says he felt a call from God to help establish the ministry. ■ Inset: Chris Sharpley, left, and Matt Rogers play the drums during a Saturday evening prayer service at Cleveland's International House of Prayer.

■ Below left: Julie Moran, foreground, and Cheryl Gole pray with fervor during an overnight meeting at the International House of Prayer in Cleveland. (RNS photos by Lonnie Timmons III and Gus Chan)



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