
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

October 9, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 39

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Amid political tensions in the state, Jim Hill resigned as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention. *Page 2.*



Brotherhood
Kentucky Baptists gathered in Owensboro to celebrate missions work during the state Brotherhood meeting. *Page 3.*

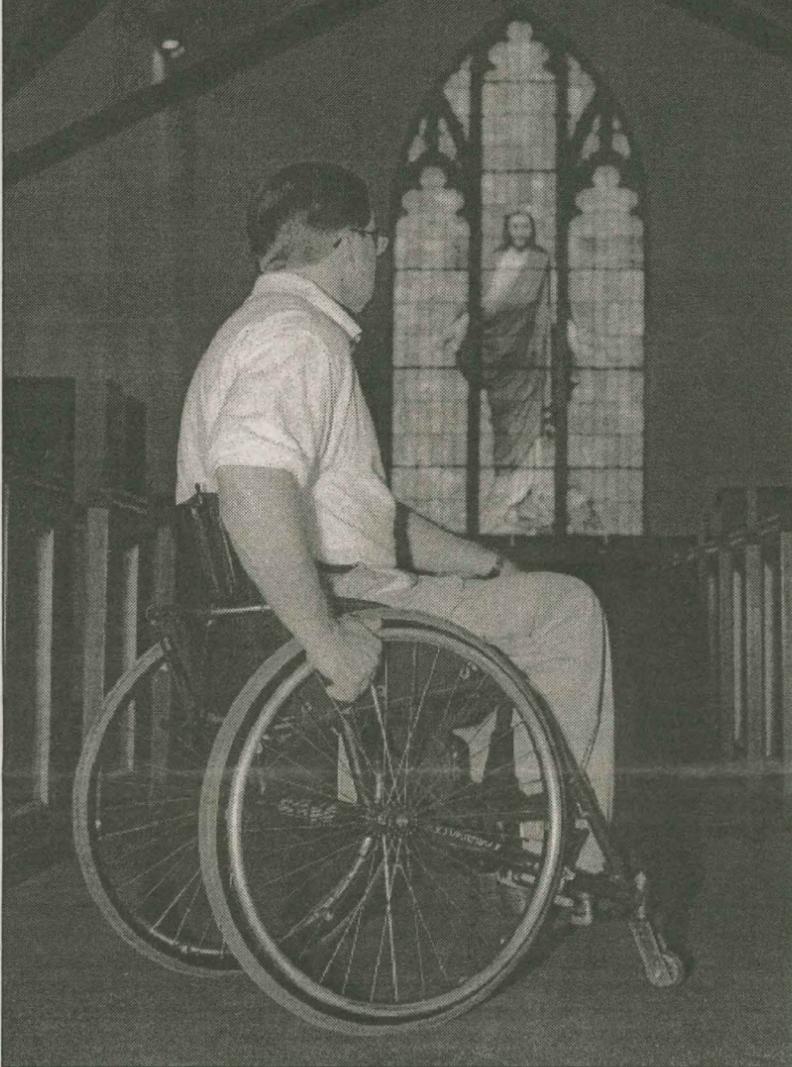
Editorial
October offers Kentucky Baptists diverse ministry opportunities. *Page 5.*

Nation
As President Bush orchestrates America's response, is he asking, "What would Jesus do?" *Page 10.*



People
Charles Beaty, a missionary whose testimony has inspired many, died last week at age 34. *Page 13.*

Out of reach?



ACCESS As baby boomers age and as statistics highlight the needs of physically disabled Americans, churches are coming face-to-face with the need to make their buildings accessible to everyone. (Photo courtesy of Lakeshore Foundation)

How accessible is your church to the physically disabled?

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—As America's population ages and as statistics reveal a growing number of physically disabled people in the United States, churches must become more proactive in accessibility issues, say national and Kentucky church planners, architects and leaders.

"The United States Census recently revealed that 18 percent of Americans have a disability of some kind or another," said Bob Anderson, director of the Religion and Disability program in the Lakeshore Foundation in Birmingham, Ala.

"The average church of about 200 members should reflect those numbers and have approximately 36 members with disabilities, but the cold reality is that, on average, people with disabilities only make up 4 to 7 percent of most church's membership rolls."

The reason, Anderson contends, is that too few church leaders are educated to teach their congregations. As a result, he said, churches are ignorant of the many things they could do to make their facilities and worship services more accessible.

That ignorance leads many churches to look at the bottom line instead of people's needs, added David Byrd, director of the church architecture department at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. As a result, such features as elevators and ramps often are cut from church building or renovation budgets.

"The Americans with Disabilities

Act of 1990 excludes churches from having to meet the same accessibility standards as other commercial public buildings," he said. "As a result many churches fail to be as accessible as they should be because they find it financially burdensome."

The Americans with Disabilities Act is presented only as a federal guideline, not a set building code, according to Carleton Godsey Jr., president of Godsey Associates Architects in Louisville and designer of several Kentucky Baptist church facilities. As a result, he said, churches are not legally required to include such accessibility features as elevators, wheelchair ramps, larger toilet stalls or lowered light switches.

Adding accessibility features usually does add to the cost, "especially if you are retro-fitting an old building," said Chip Miller, church leadership consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "But it is the very essence of the gospel to do so—to make God's house a place where everyone can worship."

In Kentucky, census statistics show that 600,000-800,000 people suffer from some physical disability and the number of senior citizens age 85 or older increased 26 percent since 1990.

Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville is among churches trying to design their buildings with a higher sensitivity to these statistics.

When the church renovated its sanctuary and service areas, boomers realized the need to assist baby boomers who are caring for aging parents and approaching senior citizen status themselves, said Marilee Miller, co-chair of

□ See *Is your church ...*, page 7

Americans turn to spirituality after crisis, but will it last?

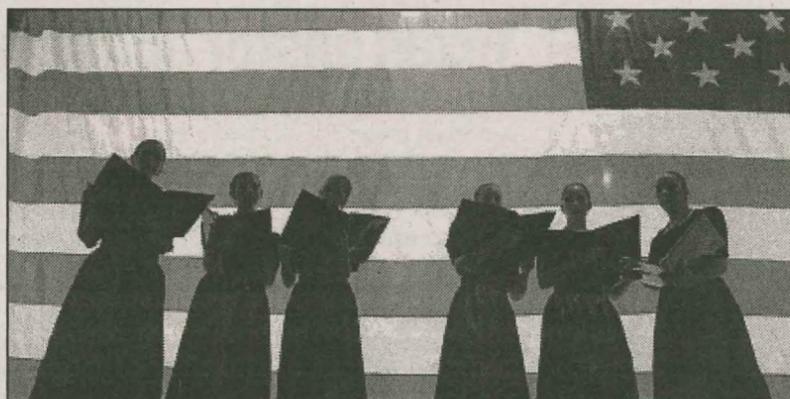
By David Briggs
Cleveland Plain Dealer

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (RNS)—CHAMBERS IN red, black and robes stand erect as they sing hymns that resonate across the elaborate wood-carved pews with the Harvard coat of arms embedded in the sides.

The daily prayer service has been a fixture at the Ivy League school since its founding in 1636. What is unusual on this Tuesday morning is that the pews of Appleton Chapel are full of people singing the centuries-old song "Put Thy Trust in God."

If there are places where America's departure from its religious heritage is especially striking, it is at schools such as Harvard and Yale, institutions that started as training ground for clergy and now are among the most secular universities in the nation.

But in the last four weeks, in settings across the country, religion has played a major role in the healing from terrorist attacks that slaughtered thousands of Americans on U.S. soil. Churches, mosques and synagogues have seen crowds normally associated only with major holy days.



PRAYER FOR AMERICA Members of a church chorus prepare back stage as the American flag provides the backdrop during a recent community memorial service at Miami's Bayfront Park. Similar events have been held nationwide to honor and pray for the victims of the attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. (RNS/Reuters photo)

"Physically, mentally, spiritually, we all feel battered," Harvey Cox, author of "Religion in the Secular City," said in remarks at a conference on religion and healing at Harvard.

But what will be the long-term impact of this sudden flowering of public religious expression?

Some people say a lot of good will come out of the spiritual response: a new sensitivity toward others, a na-

tional sense of togetherness that transcends racial and ethnic boundaries, perhaps even the dawn of a major religious event in America.

Sociologist and pollster George Gallup Jr. said several religious indicators, including church attendance and Bible study, already were on the rise. The response to the attacks will build that momentum and "may lead to a spiritual transformation in this

country, maybe even a spiritual revival," he said.

Others express concern—particularly after Jerry Falwell's remarks indicating organizations from gay-rights groups to the American Civil Liberties Union may have influenced God to allow the attacks on America—that quick religious answers might scapegoat groups with differing philosophies.

There also is concern that the combination of patriotism and religion might give a faith-based imprimatur to an intemperate military response.

"We have an obligation as clergy to be careful ... of vengeance," Boston Cardinal Bernard Law told the annual meeting of the Religion News-writers Association. "That's beneath us."

What is not in dispute is that the nation has turned in much greater numbers to houses of worship and organized religion.

"I need to recognize the fact faith has been awakened in an unprecedented way in my experience," Law said.

Cox, a Harvard professor of religious studies, said churches and synagogues have never been so full.

□ See *Americans turn to ...*, page 9

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, October 10

BAPTISTS

Missouri exec quits amid political pressure

"It is clear that Project 1000 leaders are selecting those that will serve in our convention."

Jim Hill, Missouri Baptist Convention executive director

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.—Jim Hill, embattled executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, resigned Oct. 4.

Citing a conservative political takeover effort launched in the state convention three years ago, he said, "I do not agree with the Project 1000 agenda or the political process they have utilized to implement it."

The MBC executive board accepted Hill's resignation "with regret" during a special meeting at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City. The board also approved a severance package that includes a car and a year's salary.

Hill, who had held the job since January 1998, had come under increased pressure from conservative leaders in the state. In the process, conservatives declined this year to renominate 24 eligible trustees for convention boards.

Three Missouri Baptist entities—a college, a retirement home and the state convention conference center—responded to the political efforts by invoking self-perpetuating status for their trustees. Up to 200 moderate-leaning churches reportedly are considering leaving the state convention.

Amid such developments, Hill said, "It is clear that Project 1000 leaders are selecting those that will serve in our convention and are seeking to determine the future agenda for the convention and our staff."

Hill told board members in a closed meeting that other factors include:

■ A diminishing leadership role with convention committees and other MBC leadership in the past couple of years. Most MBC standing committees function without his input and are not responsive to his suggestions and recommendations, Hill noted. "I do not agree with the decisions and recommendations some committees are preparing or with their approach to their responsibilities."

■ A lack of confidence in his leadership among some board members. Citing a "significant transition" in the board later this fall—with 10 current board members not recommended for second terms—Hill said, "I believe the new executive board will be unlikely to support many of the recommendations I would make during the coming year."

■ A desire to not be involved in lawsuits against the three Missouri Baptist institutions that have switched to self-perpetuating boards. Hill said

he has been told of plans to challenge those actions by recommending that the MBC cease funding those institutions and file lawsuits against them.

"I deeply regret my inability to lead Missouri Baptists to find peace and unity," he said. "I believe God has released me to seek a new ministry opportunity, and I believe now is the time for the transition to take place."

MBC President Bob Collins, pastor of Plaza Heights Baptist Church in Blue Springs, Mo., said after the meeting, "This process has been handled in a Christlike manner. We wish him God's best in the days and months to come."

Collins said an executive director search committee will be elected after the MBC annual meeting Oct. 29-31 or at the executive board's regular meeting in December.

Several executive board members commented on Hill's resignation. David Troublefield, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Monett, Mo., said, "My personal view is he didn't have a chance because of the other agendas people seemed to have. I wonder who can serve in that capacity and not run into the same thing."

Based on reporting by Missouri Word & Way managing editor Tim Palmer

National CP gifts top \$176 million

NASHVILLE (BP)—Giving through the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program reached the second-highest mark in history during the 2000-2001 fiscal year, falling short of the previous year by 0.75 percent.

CP gifts "fell just short of reaching an all-time high for an eighth consecutive year," said Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Designated gifts to SBC causes, meanwhile, climbed 4.7 percent during the period from Oct. 1, 2000, to Sept. 30, 2001.

Southern Baptists gave \$176,962,402 to support national and international missions and ministries through CP during the fiscal year and another \$170,947,075 in designated gifts primarily through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

The CP total was 5.34 percent above the CP allocation budget of \$167,996,385.

Midwestern trustees meet to discuss president's leadership

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP)—For the second time in a little over two years, trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., have been summoned to a called meeting to discuss leadership issues.

Trustee chairman C.M. Brown notified board members Oct. 1 of a special meeting Oct. 8-9. The subject of the called meeting was disclosed only as "personnel matters," but sources indicate that a number of trustees are displeased with the seminary's new president, Phil Roberts.

Trustee Gary Peek from Moss Point, Miss., wrote to fellow board members in August raising questions about travel expenses and allegations of policy violations by Roberts, whom

trustees elected president in January.

Peek and other trustees requested a special meeting then to discuss reports that Roberts had charged the seminary for his family's travel expenses for a trip to Europe and disciplined the school's vice president for business and finance, Michael Whitehead, when he refused to reimburse the funds.

Other concerns listed by Peek included a perception that Roberts was noncommittal about a proposal to move the seminary out of Kansas City despite previous votes by the board of trustees to stay put.

Both Roberts and board chairman Brown wrote back to Peek denying the charges and chastising him for not

first raising the issues in private. Brown denied the request for an August board meeting, saying it failed to meet a deadline requiring two weeks notice for a called meeting.

"If any of your charges are true, then I should be dismissed," Roberts wrote in a letter to Peek dated Aug. 24. "If I were not a Christian leading a Christian institution, then my first response would be to hand this matter over to my lawyer."

"I am absolutely confident that none of the charges against me can or will be sustained," Roberts said Oct. 4. "In my heart, I am completely at peace and know that the Lord will see any allegations against me cleared."

Though some trustees circulated

material critical of Roberts before his election, the board—after a lengthy interview held in executive session—unanimously elected him Jan. 9.

Roberts' election followed a 16-month search after trustees fired his predecessor, Mark Coppenger, over conflict with faculty and administrative staff that trustees concluded diminished his ability to lead.

Roberts, 50, a former vice president at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, began his new job in February.

The special meeting comes just two weeks before Roberts' presidential inauguration in conjunction with the regular trustee meeting Oct. 22-23. *With additional reporting by Baptist Press*

Texas pastor accuses Baptist Standard of racism

DALLAS (ABP)—An African-American pastor has accused a Baptist newspaper of racism in its reporting of his attempt to get the Baptist General Convention of Texas on record as affirming the "inerrancy" of the Bible.

Officials at the Baptist Standard, news journal of the BGCT, called the racism charge "ludicrous."

Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, took offense to a question about whether he was influenced to introduce his motion at a Sept. 25 meeting of the BGCT executive board.

According to a report of the meeting published in the paper's Oct. 1 issue: "Some executive board members wondered aloud after the meeting whether McKissic's controversial motion had been originated by BGCT critics, namely leaders of the competing Southern Baptists of Texas Convention."

According to an Oct. 3 Baptist

Press article, McKissic said that question was raised because of his race.

"The roots of that question are racist," BP quoted him as saying. "I don't think they would have asked that question of Jack Graham, Mac Brunson or Ed Young," three well-known white conservative pastors in Texas.

Leroy Fenton, chairman of the Baptist Standard's board of directors, said he has read the Baptist Standard article and has received no calls of complaint about it.

"Any such charge of racism is ludicrous, and anybody who would make that charge has no idea what they're talking about," said Fenton, who is white.

Kyle Brown, a member of the Standard's board of directors and an African-American, said he has never found the paper's editors to be racially insensitive.

"The vast majority of African-American pastors and churches in the BGCT understand that this issue is not

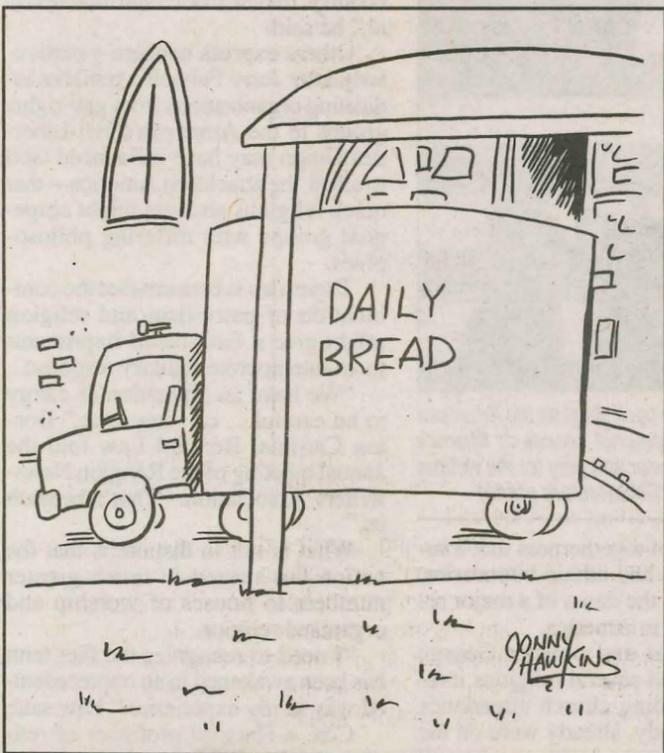
racial but political in nature," said Brown, a pastor in Rowlett, Texas.

Standard Editor Marv Knox defended the line of questioning as "entirely appropriate and not the least based on race."

Knox said while McKissic served on the BGCT executive board, his church voted to dually align with the conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Sources also told the paper McKissic had recently gone on a fishing trip with three leaders of the rival state convention.

"Don't you think Baptist Standard readers deserve to know if he had discussed this divisive action with those three men whose new convention has much to gain by sowing discord within the BGCT?" Knox asked.

Knox criticized the BP story, written by the wife of an SBTC employee who didn't attend the executive board meeting. "This story, like too many before it, illustrates Baptist Press' utter lack of credibility," he said.



'Give what it takes,' Marine urges Kentucky Brotherhood

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

OWENSBORO—Clebe McClary knows what it means to be in the heat of battle. Speaking last weekend at Kentucky Baptists' "Celebrate the Mission" Brotherhood convention, he challenged participants to join the battle of winning people to faith in Christ.

McClary, a Marine lieutenant who fought in Vietnam, lost his left arm, his left eye and suffered several other injuries during an enemy attack. Evacuated to safety, he underwent 37 surgeries and spent two and a half years in the hospital.

Despite his severe injuries and extended recuperation, his wife, Deanna, faithfully supported him and they both became Christians after he returned to the States.

Recalling the message the night they both made their Christian commitments, he said the evangelist explained, "There are two kinds of fools in this world—a fool for Christ and a fool for others."

"I knew whose fool I had been all my life," McClary said. Noting that he and his wife attended church as they were growing up, he said, "We had a whole lot in our heads but we had an empty vacuum in our hearts that only the Lord through His Holy Spirit could fill."

"We found the real joy, the real life, the real peace that so many people are searching for," he added. "It

comes through a personal relationship with a living Savior."

McClary said he and his wife discovered that "our Bible has become our most prized possession." Quoting Romans 5:3-5, he said God uses suffering to teach endurance which leads to character and hope, adding that "hope doesn't disappoint."

Affirming the importance of Christian character, McClary shared several acronyms that highlight character. Pointing to his eye patch, he said the acronym PATCH means "Positive Attitude That Characterizes Hope."

"Life is tough," he acknowledged, "but it's a whole lot better with a good attitude."

The acronym FIDO means "Forget It and Drive On," McClary said.

"Why do you call your dog Fido?" he asked. "Because he's faithful."

Noting that many people who face problems choose to quit school, work, marriage or life, he said they need to regroup, retrain and relearn and re-live.

"Never forget people; forget your problems," he urged. "Learn from it and drive on."

Christians need to prepare themselves for ministry mentally, physically and spiritually, McClary said. He encouraged participants to be "willing to give what it takes for faith, for flag, for family, for freedom, for the future."

"Just think what you can do this



PEP TALK Clebe McClary, a Marine veteran wounded in Vietnam, urged Kentucky Brotherhood members to be faithful and "let God use you for His glory."

year if you let go and let God use you for His glory," he said. "As you reexamine your life, the question is: What are you going to do with your life for His glory?"

Randy Foster, KBC Brotherhood department director, delivered the closing challenge during the Oct. 5-6 conference at Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Citing ministry opportunities in Muslim countries, Foster said many people are hesitant to participate in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The doors are open and now

people are afraid to go through the doors because of terrorism," he said. "When has terrorism not existed?"

Pointing out that he has faced danger and personal threats while ministering in Kentucky and El Salvador, Foster declared, "Preserving our life is not adequate. We're to live and die for Jesus Christ."

In addition to the current war on terrorism, Foster said the nation has been waging a war on drugs for 40 years and that Jesus declared war on sin 2,000 years ago.

Citing apathy and missing church members, Foster said the church had failed to make much of a dent in the war on sin.

Noting that most churches typically have half their members who are AWOL, he added, "We say we're in a war? We'll overcome? I don't think that kind of army can overcome anything. We're lucky to be standing."

"Faithfulness is what the Lord needs," Foster said, "for people to pray and stand and speak the word to a lost and dying world. The soldiers are not under the leadership of the Master. We have the tools of the leadership of God and His purpose. Why would we ever think it is impossible to win a war?"

"Don't be afraid of opposition or tragedy," he concluded. "The Spirit of God will be with you wherever you go."

With additional reporting by Ken Walker, state correspondent

Kentucky Baptists finish relief work in New York

NEW YORK—Most Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are expected to head home this week as the American Red Cross has asked the Baptist Convention of New York's cooking team to take over all feeding responsibilities for recovery workers and others.

The New York convention team might ask for assistance, added Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department. "We may be asked to send 10 to 15 volunteers from time to time to work for a week."

Those asked to go must already have received training for disaster relief work, he said. For more information about disaster relief training, call (888) 254-5720.

Brotherhood leaders offer disaster relief training for future volunteers

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

OWENSBORO—Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood leaders typically have to recruit volunteers for disaster relief efforts. But after last month's terrorist attacks, people were lining up to go to New York.

"As a result of Sept. 11, interest has quadrupled," said Larry Koch, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood department. "People have been calling, saying, 'We want to help.'"

Approximately 250 Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers have worked in New York the past few weeks. The latest teams from the Lawrenceburg area and Salvisa Baptist Church left for New York last weekend, even though the feeding site is expected to close sometime this week.

The increased interest in disaster relief ministry prompted the expansion of a one-hour workshop into a three-hour training session during last weekend's state Brotherhood convention. About two dozen people attended the training workshop, qualifying them to respond to future disasters.

Future disaster relief training sessions will be held Oct. 19 at Corinth Baptist Church in London and Nov. 5 at Falmouth Baptist Church.

Preparing volunteers for the emotional drain of working with hurting victims is one reason for the training, a reality that

emerged powerfully near the remains of the World Trade Center, said Koch, who returned from New York Sept. 28.

"This was definitely different from Hurricane Andrew," he said. "This was the first time we've responded to something that was man-made, with as much loss of life, that has affected the American psyche."

Noting that volunteers had the opportunity to lead at least 10 people to faith in Christ, he said, "We found the people there to be open and receptive to the gospel. They wanted somebody to care for them and love them."

Though feeding operations are winding down in New York, small teams of Kentucky volunteers still might be needed to help workers affiliated with the Baptist Convention of New York, Koch said.

And while the terrorist attacks prompted the largest volunteer response, he said this is the sixth time Kentucky Baptist teams have responded this year to emergencies.

While world tensions turned the spotlight on disaster relief, speakers at the Brotherhood convention encouraged participants to make missions of all kinds a watchword back home.

A pair of Saturday morning workshops focused on forming a men's mission group and incorporating the "on mission" concept into local congregations.

Mike Melloan, Brotherhood director of host Yellow Creek Baptist Church and a

former state Brotherhood president, led the session on starting a men's ministry.

He told of his Baptist Men's group being energized after a 1990 trip to Utah to help build a church and lead a revival.

Since then the group has completed 20 building projects and led more than 20 lay revivals.

"Catch the vision for serving and the Lord will give you an opportunity to serve," he said. "We meet and eat two or three times a year, but we're a lot more involved in helping people now."

Mike Dixon, who wrote a men's missions manual for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, also spoke at the workshop.

Dixon, vice president for religious life at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, encouraged participants to develop a strategy that will capitalize on their members' values, interests and skills.

Even something as simple as fishing can be used to share one's faith, he said.

"God didn't create you to do something you don't like to do," Dixon added. "And He will surprise you at how many men are waiting to step out."

He cautioned, however, that starting an effective ministry calls for making key connections with God, one's pastor and other men.

It also takes some key leaders, he said, including a committed director, prayer leader, mission focus leader to oversee meetings and a mobilization leader who

coordinates projects for the group.

Melloan added one other tip for an organizational meeting.

"Have someone stand at the door (on Sunday) with a legal pad and ask men if they're coming," he said. "If they say 'yes,' write their names down and you'll have a 95 percent response rate. But if you just put it in the bulletin and announce it, it will be a lot lower."

Dwayne Doyle, missions education associate for the KBC Brotherhood department, led a workshop on becoming an on-mission church.

He said four principles of developing an on-mission lifestyle include awakening to God's call, adjusting to His activity, becoming active in projects that show others the love of Christ and becoming a missions advocate.

"When you catch a vision for taking the gospel to the community, it will ignite a fire," Doyle said.

The first step in becoming an on-mission church is forming a team to develop a unified strategy to educate members and stimulate involvement at the local, state, national and international levels, he said.

Promoting missions should be a year-round event, Doyle added.

"How long has it been since your church family heard a missions speaker during Sunday worship or other service?" he asked. "Don't bring them in just for an annual missions emphasis."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN
Partnership Editions
Editor

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disappointing view

With all due respect to Trennis Henderson and the valuable work he has done at the Western Recorder, I must say I was disappointed with his Sept. 25 editorial titled "Faith & Message report takes strong stand." Almost all of the pastors and church leaders I have spoken with have agreed that the report from the committee is the perfect example of taking no stand. By drafting such a vague statement meant to appease both moderates and conservatives, they have successfully taken no position on the critical issues facing Kentucky Baptists.

Henderson also noted that the Bible was affirmed as "the absolute and final authority ... in all matters of faith and practice." I hope my fellow Baptists recognize this as the characteristic phrase used by liberals for the past 20 years. During my first years at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, before most of the changes in faculty initiated by Dr. Al Mohler, I had professors who made this same statement about the Bible. Those professors then denied the virgin birth and the bodily resurrection of Christ, and affirmed abortion, homosexuality and a wide range of feminist theology.

When we hear the phrase "in all matters of faith and practice," we should be asking "Whose faith?" and "What practice?" because the phrase often is used to hide doctrinal positions that are anything but Baptist.

Contrary to Henderson's opinion, such language is anything but a strong stand on the Scriptures. The Baptist battle cry of "No creed but the Bible" is meaningless when you can disregard selected biblical doctrines at will. Praise God for the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message!

Shawn Merithew
Louisville

Appalling accusations

I am again appalled and outraged at the half-truths and misinformation distributed by the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network.

Their mean-spirited approach is not new. Last year they distributed similar distorted information prior to and during the Kentucky Baptist Convention. For some reason they do not see us as brothers and sisters in Christ but rather as the enemy. It's beyond me why they think it's important to cast other Christians in a bad light.

People who know us know the statements about the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Kentucky Baptist Fellowship are a caricature of the facts. As in the past, the Laymen's Network connects individuals that relate to the Fellowship to organizations with different purposes from the Fellowship. This is about as valid as saying that since a church member also is involved in a secular organization, therefore a church supports that secular organization.

So let me as coordinator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship state clearly some of our beliefs and values. We in the Fellowship believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. From the beginning, we have been clear about our love of Scripture, our confidence in Scripture and our belief in and commitment to Scripture as the authority for our faith and practice.

We are a mission-minded and mission-active people. The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is clear about its purpose to be involved in missions, to provide resources for churches and individuals and to preserve and promote historic Baptist principles.

The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is not on the far left nor do we have an agenda other than the agenda of serving Christ with integrity. The

Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is composed of people who are solid Baptists with a heart for missions and evangelism.

John Lepper, coordinator
Kentucky Baptist Fellowship

Illogical theology

In his Sept. 13 address concerning the World Trade Center tragedy, as recorded on the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Web site, seminary President Al Mohler cited and quoted the Providence article of the Abstract of Principles, which every Southern Seminary professor must sign in order to teach: "God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any wise to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures."

Taken seriously, the article means the World Trade Center disaster was known about by God before He made mankind, and upheld, directed and governed by God (all events), who nevertheless does not approve of sin and could not interdict the free will of the terrorists. Accordingly, then, the tragedy was not the result of sin, since God does not author sin, but directed the terrorists (all creatures). It was just one of those things.

The terrorists could not be held accountable, since God governed, upheld and directed them in doing their thing. The notion that they exerted free will is silly, since God knew what they would do, did not stop them and therefore foreordained their actions.

The Providence article is the quintessential oxymoron. It should state: "God from eternity permits all things and grants free will and responsibility to intelligent creatures." It is not required that something theological must be totally illogical.

James L. Clark
Lexington



CHURCH

Giving financially to God's work is a matter of the heart

By Doug Strader

Some people think that giving money to God's work is a check-book or a pocketbook matter, but in reality it is a matter of the heart. God made us to be giving people, therefore giving is a natural practice for Christians.

Giving is an act of obedience from a heart that is thankful for the blessings of God. This idea is found in the Bible in several passages. One of the most notable references is in Paul's account of the churches of Macedonia in 2 Corinthians 8.

Paul used the example of the Macedonian Christians to encourage the Corinthian Christians to give to the needs of their spiritual brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. In this account Paul speaks of the sacrificial giving of the Macedonians.

In the first verse of chapter 8 Paul speaks of the grace that God had given to the Macedonians. Since they had received such grace, they were more than willing to give sacrificially to the needs of fellow believers. They were grace-givers because God had given His grace to them.

Besides the fact that the Macedonians were recipients of God's grace, what were the other things that motivated them to give? Paul says they gave "out of their most severe trial." They gave even though they were in what Paul described as "extreme poverty." But he also said they had "overflowing joy." They were suffering and poor, but they had an abundance of joy that only God could have given them.

Paul also described their attitude of giving as one of "rich generosity," noting that they gave "as much as they were able," "even beyond their ability" and "entirely on their own." No one forced them to give.

Their first of all gave themselves to God, to the apostles and to the saints. Evidentially they asked Paul where and how their help was needed in the ministry of their Lord and Savior, and then they gave.

It is abundantly clear that the Christians in Macedonia made giving to God a matter of the heart instead of the checkbook or pocketbook. I think we can learn from the Macedonians and begin practicing what they lived out in very difficult and trying circumstances.

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Responding to new ministry challenges

There are many challenges impacting the ministry of churches today. In 28 listening sessions conducted recently with more than 400 Kentucky Baptists, one of the questions addressed was: "What new challenges are impacting the ministry of churches today?" Here are the top 10 responses:

Transitions/worship. The culture of the new generation is visual in its preferred style of communication, learning and relating. Frequent references were made to overcoming cultural and religious traditions, bridging generations, being authentic and providing options.

Intentional evangelism. Creative and innovative approaches are required to connect with language groups, the disadvantaged and poor, the indifferent and skeptical, the formerly active and recent college graduates.

Family support. Diverse family issues were mentioned, such as blended and racially mixed marriages, sin-

gle moms, relating to divorcees, connecting generations, the aging of the church and ministry to lonely homebound people.

Competing activities. Community, school, family and work activities are interfering with church participation. Church members are mobile, affluent and over-committed.

Pluralism/secularism. The rapid growth of other faiths has presented a challenge in understanding and valuing other people. Another concern is the seeming absence of moral values and convictions. Faith seems to have been removed from public life. Use of drugs by youth is a major concern.

Innovation. Innovative approaches are needed for the following concerns: providing spiritual support for weekend workers, renewing purpose and vision, finding unity in diversity, communicating what's working, evaluating current ministries, reversing declines and finding ways to make a difference in people's lives.



Bill Mackey

Alzheimer's symptoms differ from 'normal' older adult forgetfulness

Q. What is the difference between normal older adult forgetfulness and dementia associated with Alzheimer's disease?

An example of "normal" older adult forgetfulness is: Sometimes a person walks into the kitchen and can't remember what he or she went in there for. The person goes out of the room and later can remember what was needed in the kitchen.

An example of a person with dementia is: An individual loses the car keys and then happens to find them but doesn't remember what they are.

Other examples of the differences include:

A person with dementia:

- Forgets whole events.
- Often can't recall people's names.
- Can't follow directions.
- Loses ability to follow a story.
- Eventually can't perform basic self-care.

A person with more normal aging:

- Forgets part of an event.
- Experiences delays in remembering names.
- Usually is able to follow directions.
- Usually can follow a storyline with reminders.
- Usually is able to provide self-care even if done slowly.

There is no known prevention or cure for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of forgetfulness. Tips for keeping one's brain more "fit" and one's memory sharp include:

■ **Avoid harmful substances.** Excessive alcohol and drug abuse damage brain cells.

■ **Challenge yourself.** Read widely. Keeping mentally active and learning new skills strengthens the brain connections and promotes new ones.

■ **Trust yourself more.** If people feel they have control over their lives, their brain chemistry actually improves.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: Do kids have too much power?

The Aug. 6 cover of Time magazine posed this question and many parents answered with a resounding "Yes." Eighty percent of those polled said children are more spoiled today than 10 or 15 years ago.

"Members of history's most indulged generation are setting new records when it comes to indulging their kids," Time reports. With affluence all around, parents are finding it increasingly difficult to set limits. With growing commitments to work, many parents also are finding it harder to spend time with their kids so they spend money on them instead. The result is a generation of children who never have been told no. They feel entitled to the best of everything.

In his new book, "Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in an Indulgent Age," Harvard psychologist Dan Kindlon writes, "Our success and newfound prosperity—the very accomplishments and good fortune that we so desperately desire to share with our children—put them at risk." Prosperity aside, children still need parents who are determined to be parents, not friends, and who are willing and able to show love by setting limits.

Children who always are given everything they want, including their own way, don't have the opportunity to develop the self-control, patience, work ethic and personal responsibility needed to survive in the real world.

Parents pondering the implications of all this should remember that "kids mainly need time and attention and love, none of which take American Express."—*David Garrard*

Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, director of Cornerstone Counseling for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; and Scott Wigginton, director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for *Family Forum* to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.



October offers diverse ministry opportunities

For anyone driving across the Bluegrass State the past few days, it's easy to tell that autumn is on its way. The brilliant fall colors and the crisp, cool weather are sure signs that the seasons are changing.

For longtime Baptists, another clear sign of autumn is how busy church life is. With school in full swing and a new church year under way, October typically is chock-full of activities in most Baptist churches.

October also is a busy month in denominational life. Several special days and month-long emphases are part of the denominational calendar this month. Among those highlights are:

■ **Pastor appreciation month.** October traditionally is a time for churches to honor their pastors. Besides expressing appreciation on your pastor's birthday or ministry anniversary date, October offers churches an additional opportunity to express gratitude for the year-round ministry your pastor provides. Examples of appreciation can range from a special recognition service to an extra few days of vacation or a gift certificate for a favorite restaurant or hobby.

Beyond a public recognition, church leaders can express their appreciation by making certain the pastor's salary and benefits are adequate and appropriate. Be sure your pastor receives periodic salary increases as well as insurance and retirement benefits that help provide financial security.

■ **Bivocational ministers' appreciation day.** In addition to honoring all pastors, Oct. 14 is set aside as a day to recognize bivocational ministers. Here in Kentucky, hundreds of ministers faithfully serve churches that provide only part of their livelihood. They willingly juggle two or more jobs in order to provide for their families while fulfilling God's call to ministry.

Churches with bivocational ministers can honor their

leaders in the same ways that churches with fully paid staff members do. Additionally, a one-time salary bonus or money tree is an appropriate way for congregations to show support for the financial sacrifices many bivocational ministers make.

Whether your church observes bivocational ministers' appreciation day Oct. 14 or some other day, make certain to find time to express sincere thanks for their ministry efforts.

■ **World Hunger Sunday.** Oct. 14 also is the date marked for Southern Baptists to contribute special gifts to world hunger relief. The annual offering, channeled through Southern Baptists' International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, provides direct relief for hungry people in the United States and around the world.

The recent terrorist attacks and our nation's response have thrust the fate of thousands of Afghan refugees into the international spotlight. Their physical needs are representative of countless people Baptists can help by gen-

erously supporting world hunger relief.

■ **Cooperative Program Month.** The Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified financial plan since 1925, helps fund Baptist ministry efforts on the state, national and international levels. Despite denominational controversy in recent years, CP giving in Kentucky and nationally has remained strong.

Here in Kentucky, Baptists gave a record \$22 million in CP gifts during the past year, marking six straight years of record giving. KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said the continued financial growth "indicates that Kentucky Baptists are committed to missions, evangelism and ministry in Kentucky and around the world."

As you celebrate autumn's arrival, remember that it also is a time to celebrate significant ministry emphases in Baptist life.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Mountain Missions Conference impacts Eastern Kentucky

By Jack Birdwhistell

In the years after World War II, Kentucky Baptists entered into a new era of expansion and missions. As early as 1938, Executive Secretary J.W. Black urged the development of a "well-rounded state missions program" and a "state mission conscience," but many of those plans had to be put on hold because of the war.

By the time W.C. Boone became executive secretary in 1946, Kentucky Baptists were ready to move forward. In 1951 a combined department of missions and evangelism was established. The late Wendell Belew, for whom a newly developing training center near Natural Bridge is named, helped establish the Mountain Mission Program. From that time on, Kentucky Baptists have kept a lively interest in this region of the state, and the pages of the Western Recorder have carried many articles about ministry developments there.

One popular aspect of Kentucky Baptist work in the mountains has been the annual Mountain Missions Conference, held at Oneida Baptist Institute each summer since the late 1940s. From its beginnings, the con-

ference has been a time for mountain pastors and missionaries to gather for fellowship, inspiration and worship. In 1961, historian Duane Bolin reported, a very well attended conference heard C.R. Daley of the Western Recorder, Ray Summers of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Mrs. George Ferguson of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union examine the conference theme, "Found Faithful."

One veteran of many of the conferences is A.B. Colvin, one of Kentucky Baptists' senior statesmen. Coming to work at the KBC in 1958, Colvin became a regular participant at the conference. In an August 2000 article in the Western Recorder, Colvin recalled those early conference days at Oneida: "In those days there was no such thing as air conditioning. Everybody suffered." But presumably, Colvin and the other leaders helped keep folks in a good humor.

Colvin, who headed up the department of missions and evangelism for Kentucky Baptists for many years, saw great values in the conference, "especially the sense of fellowship and camaraderie among people who don't get to see each oth-

er very often—sharing good things and lamenting bad things." He said the conference "can continue to be a real force in the lives of the churches. It's a matter of getting something you can take home and use."

Ray Cooper of Three Forks Baptist Association, another long-time participant, noted that the conference "is always a very powerful spiritual experience for me. It has been a fertile seedbed for the development of missions in the mountains."

David Aker, current KBC director of mountain missions, said the conference is designed to "refresh the weary missionaries and pastors of the mountains and to synthesize people and resources for missions." Conference leaders challenge participants to "dare to do something different in your communication with people."

The Mountain Missions Conference targets a region that includes 23 Baptist associations in Eastern Kentucky, including four counties that have only one Southern Baptist church each. Studies continue to indicate that almost 70 percent of the people in the region remain unchurched. For this reason, Kentucky Baptists no doubt will continue to focus energy and effort on this region of the commonwealth for the foreseeable future.

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



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



RESOURCES

Is your church equally accessible to everyone?



TOO TALL Linda Lamberth demonstrates the difficulty of reaching for paper towels in a restroom that meets "accessibility standards." (Alabama Baptist photo by Sue Ann Miller)

Continued from page 1
the renovation committee.

"We knew the need for accessibility was only going to increase and the amount of our regular membership coming in wheelchairs or with walkers or having vision or hearing problems was only going to increase as the population ages," she said.

The committee added the cost for accessibility features ahead of time, she said. Renovations included building an awning to cover a wheelchair ramp, adding more seating at the welcome areas, removing some pews to make room for wheelchairs and moving restrooms to be more accessible to people in wheelchairs or walkers, she said.

The church's new sound system and video monitors in the sanctuary also were designed to help people with hearing or vision impairments to better participate in worship, she said.

Despite all the congregation has done, Miller said there is still more

to do.

"We're hoping to identify people with disabilities who have a hard time getting to church and have members 'adopt' these people, checking in on them and physically assisting them every Sunday so they can get to church more easily and comfortably," she said.

Anderson said the level of attention Walnut Street Baptist is paying to accessibility remains rare among churches, and he hopes more will be done as the issue becomes a growing reality for aging boomers.

"There are 73 million baby boomers out there facing 50 or beyond," he said, "and that's a really big demographic. Churches are going to continue seeing the number of members with disabilities increase, and they need to address this issue now."

Anderson knows firsthand the struggles a person with a physical disability must overcome to attend a church service, let alone participate in

one. The childhood memory of his wheelchair-bound cousin raising money door-to-door for a ramp so he could enter his church without the indignity of being carried continues to inspire Anderson to take his cause to churches.

Not all accessibility issues involve costly renovations, he noted.

"Even something as simple as the wording in your church bulletin can make a difference," Anderson said. "It's just as easy to say, 'the congregation may sit or stand' as it is to say, 'will the congregation please stand.'"

Byrd added that it's regrettable when churches can be the least accessible buildings in the community. "Let's face it: it's pretty difficult to follow the Great Commission and preach the gospel to all people when a church's front steps preclude people from even getting into the building to hear it in the first place."

With additional reporting by Sue Ann Miller of the Alabama Baptist

Can I roll over my retirement account from a previous employer?

Can I roll over an IRA?

Can my spouse do rollovers too?

ABsolutely!

Annuity Board participants and their spouses are eligible for:

- Traditional IRAs
- Rollover IRAs
- Roth IRAs
- Personal Investment Accounts

Call today: 1-800-262-0511
Visit our Web site: www.absbc.org

For more complete information about AB Funds Trust, including management fees and expenses, call 1-800-262-0511 to request a prospectus. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money. Funds distributed by PFPC Distributors, Inc.



Checklist offers guide for church accessibility issues

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—The Lakeshore Foundation's religion and disability program offered a checklist for churches to determine whether their facilities are meeting the needs of the physically disabled:

Parking and walkways

- Are there clearly marked accessible parking spaces close to the church building?
- Can one get from a parked car into the building without going up or down steps?
- Are walks at least 48 inches wide with a gradient no greater than 5 percent?
- Do walks have a level platform at the door that is 5 feet by 5 feet and extends at least 1 foot beyond each side of the door?

Ramps and stairs

- Do ramps have a slope no greater than 1-foot rise in 12 feet and a width of no less than 36 inches?
- Do ramps have handrails on at least one side 32 inches above the surface?
- Do ramps have level platforms in front of doors that have at least 5 feet of straight clearance?
- Are ramps protected from rain and winter icing?
- Do steps avoid abrupt nosing?
- Do stairs have handrails on both sides 32 inches high as measured from the tread at the face of the riser?
- Are open stairs provided with a means of warning the blind, such as slightly raised abrasive strips?

Doors and doorways

- Do doors have a clear opening of 32 inches or more?
- Are doors operable by a single effort? Note: Double doors are not usable by people with disabilities unless they operate by single effort, or unless one door is at least 32 inches wide.
- Are doors operable with pressure (81 pounds or less) that could reasonably be expected from those who are physically disabled?
- Do doors with latch hardware have lever or other easy grip handles?

Worship Space

- Are there seating spaces with extra legroom for physically disabled people with crutches, walkers, braces or casts?
- Are at least two seats provided for wheelchair users? Note: Several pews could be shortened by 36 inches.
- Is the platform area accessible to disabled people to speak or sing in the choir?
- Does lighting (windows, stained glass, etc.) behind the speaker avoid glare? Is there adequate lighting installed everywhere in the sanctuary?

Restrooms

- Is there at least one accessible toilet on each floor?
- Are towel dispensers mounted no higher than 40 inches from the floor?
- Do toilet rooms have turning space 5 feet by 5 feet to allow traffic of individuals in wheelchairs?
- Is there at least one toilet stall that is at least 36 inches wide, 48 inches clear depth from door closing to front of commode and a 32-inch door that swings out?
- Does the toilet stall have grab bars on each side?
- Is there a sink wall mounted with 29 inches of clearance from floor to bottom of sink?
- Are faucet controls easy to operate, requiring no difficult finger or hand action?

Water fountains

- Is there at least one water fountain accessible to people in wheelchairs?
- Is the water fountain mounted with basin no more than 36 inches from the floor?
- Are the water fountains easily hand operated?

Elevators

- If your church is multi-story, does it have an elevator or chair lift? Are all controls 54 inches or less from the floor?
- Is there at least one handrail 32 inches from the floor?

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Groups oppose "charitable choice."** Forty-four national groups concerned about religious and civil rights have sent a joint letter to President Bush asking him to postpone action on the "charitable choice" aspects of his faith-based initiative. "While we applaud your recent efforts to unite and rally the nation and spur charitable giving to victims and communities, charitable choice is only a step backward toward divisiveness," the groups wrote in a letter dated Oct. 3. The letter argues that charitable choice can permit religious discrimination in employment and allow proselytization of those needing government assistance. Among the signers were Americans United for Separation of Church and State, American Civil Liberties Union, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the National Education Association.

■ **Bush fills religious liberty posts.** President Bush has nominated John Hanford to serve as ambassador-at-large for international religious liberty, and appointed Michael Young, dean of the George Washington University Law School, as chairman of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. Hanford

played a leading role in drafting the 1998 measure that created the commission and the ambassador-at-large position. As ambassador, he will make policy recommendations about religious freedom and oversee the religious freedom commission's annual report. Young, the religious freedom commission chairman, served as vice chairman in 1999-2000.

■ **Court curtails Bible distribution.** A Louisiana school board has violated the Constitution by allowing a school principal to endorse religion, a federal judge has ruled. Judge F.A. Little ruled that the Rapides Parish School Board violated the constitutional rights of a Muslim child whose parents filed a lawsuit claiming their child was part of a group called into the office of Principal John Cotton and given Bibles. The school district's argument that Hesen Jabr could have refused the Bible was "unrealistic," Little said. "The pressure created by the principal in his office was coercive and, thus, illegal." Little banned the school district from "distributing Bibles as the school board distributed Bibles at Paradise Elementary School," but stopped short of issuing a permanent injunction for all Rapides schools.

■ **Late-term abortion ban rejected.** Citing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last year to strike down Nebraska's ban on late-term abortions, a federal district judge has ruled that a similar ban in Ohio is unconstitutional. Ohio's law violated the Constitution because it did not allow the procedure even when medical proof suggested it would be safer for some patients, U.S. District Judge Walter Rice ruled. Rice's decision follows a string of similar rulings nationwide. Four months ago, a federal judge overturned a similar ban in Michigan, while a federal appeals court did the same for similar laws in Illinois and Wisconsin.

■ **Religious broadcasters name president.** Wayne Pederson, chairman of the National Religious Broadcasters, has been named as the organization's new president and chief operating officer. Pederson, executive vice president at Northwestern Radio in St. Paul, Minn., succeeds Brandt Gustavson, who died in May. Pederson, 54, has spent his entire career in Christian broadcasting and has served on the NRB board and executive committee. The broadcasting association includes more than 1,400 Christian communicators.

■ **City posts empty frames for unbelievers.** The City Council of Ringgold, Ga., has voted unanimously to include an empty picture frame "for those who believe in nothing" in a display of the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer in public buildings. The decision will help revive the "good Christian values" that the nation has shunned, Councilman Bill McMillon told Associated Press. McMillon claimed the fading of those values in society led to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

■ **Churches can help curb teen pregnancy.** The vast majority of teens and adults think houses of worship should be doing more to reduce levels of teen pregnancy, a new poll has found. A survey commissioned by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy concluded that 70 percent of adults and 72 percent of teens think religious congregations need to contribute more to teen pregnancy prevention. The survey found that 40 percent of teens considered their parents as the most influential source for their decisions about sex while 6 percent said their minister, rabbi or other religious leader had the most influence.

Even brand-new things need
a little changing now and then.



The Internet hasn't been around very long, but it's growing up fast. That's why we've freshened up the look, feel and function of www.kybaptist.org! Take a peek at our brand-new features:

- **Daily Updates** – We'll put on a fresh new face each weekday with updates to our home page.
- **Improved Navigation** – The new site is extremely easy to get around in using drop-down menus.
- **Improved Search Feature** – There's a search button on every page to make getting info easy!
- **Online Event Registration** – You can now register for most KBC events right online!
- **Church Listings and Maps** – You can now look up any Kentucky Baptist church, find basic information about the church, and in most cases print a map to its location!
 - **E-newsletter** – Get the latest information from the Convention delivered to you by e-mail.
 - **Announcements Board** – Publicize your church and association events by adding them to the Kentucky Baptist Community!
 - **Online Videos and Photo Galleries** – See Kentucky Baptists in action by checking out the online videos and photo galleries.
- **Downloadable resources** – Useful documents and clip art can now be downloaded to your computer directly from our site.
- **Web Polls** – Check out the latest web poll and see what others are saying about topics of interest.

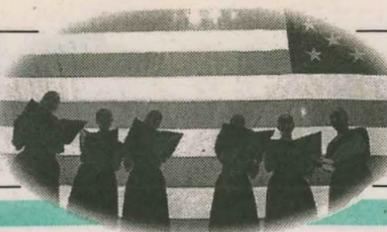
www.kybaptist.org

Check out our new look! WWW.KYBAPTIST.ORG

10701 Shelbyville Road • Louisville, KY 40243-1297
1-888-254-5713 (KY only) • 502-254-4731



In God
We Trust



NATION



Punt
Pass
& Kick

A FALL MISSION

Kick Off

Date: **November 10, 2001**

Location: **Campbellsville University,
Campbellsville, Kentucky**



\$5 per person if pre-registered by Oct. 19th;
\$8 after Oct. 19th or day of the event.

Punt, Pass, and Kick is a mission education event designed for boys and girls to have fun as they grow physically through competition and spiritually as they learn mission facts, Bible verses and books of the Bible.

The event will be open to children in grades 1-6 who are taking part in Royal Ambassadors, Easy RA chapters, Mission Kids, Children in Action or other missions education groups as well as discipleship training groups.



KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

10701 Shelbyville Rd. Louisville, KY 40243

Download all registration information, PPK guidelines and schedule off the Internet or call the KBC Brotherhood Department at 1-888-254-5720 or 502-244-6489

www.kybaptist.org/ppk

Americans turn to faith focus, but observers ask: 'Will it last?'

Continued from page 1

In an age when commercial interests often seem paramount, "there's still a very, very vital spiritual core," he said.

Gallup said some people already are referring to events as BT, before Tuesday, and AT, after Tuesday. "We need each other. We need to share our stories," he said. "It's the spiritual response in the long run that's really important."

Unlike the aftermath of Oklahoma City, when some people were quick to blame Arab-Americans and slow to express repentance for acts of harassment, many have been careful in the past few weeks to distinguish between the terrorists and the majority of followers of Islam.

Sociologist David Roozen of Hartford Seminary in Connecticut said that if Jimmy Carter's presidency marked the official acceptance of the evangelical, the Bush presidency may be "marking the official acknowledgment of the Islamic presence in American society."

Shared sorrow has caused the nation to transcend other barriers, as well.

Anthropologist Edith Turner, a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard, said recent community prayer services will benefit both individuals and the country.

"I think all this getting together is absolutely vital, even with the flag-waving," she said. "If they get together, they see each other as human beings, and eventually they have to see people overseas as human beings."

2002-2003 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET GOALS AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN SBC/KBC CAUSES

The annual Cooperative Program goals and percentage division between KBC and SBC causes is determined by the KBC in annual session.

1. That the 2002-2003 Cooperative program Operating Budget goal be \$23,200,000 a 3.49% increase.
2. That the percentage for the division between KBC and SBC causes be:*
SBC = 36%
KBC = 64%

That this division be subject to the Executive Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990, which stated:

"In case of a financial crisis, allocations be reduced proportionately to the SBC, Kentucky Baptist institutions of Christian Education and the Executive Board staff and/or programs."

3. That the 2002-2003 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget goal remain the same as 2000-2001, \$1,300,000.
4. That 36% of any Challenge funds be distributed to SBC causes and 64% to KBC causes.

ILLUSTRATION

	ACTUAL 2000-2001 RECEIPTS	APPROVED 2000-2001 BUDGET	APPROVED 2001-2002 BUDGET	PROPOSED 2002-2003 BUDGET	
Cooperative Program Goal					
A. Operating Budget	21,000,000	21,000,000	22,417,500	23,200,000	3.49%
1. SBC Causes (a)	7,476,000 35.600%	7,476,000 35.600%	8,025,465 35.800%	8,352,000 36.000%	(d)
2. KBC Causes (b)	13,524,000 64.400%	13,524,000 64.400%	14,392,035 64.200%	14,848,000 64.000%	(d)
B. Challenge Funds (c)	1,137,872	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	
1. SBC Causes (a)	405,082 35.600%	462,800 35.600%	465,400 35.800%	468,000 36.000%	(d)
2. KBC Causes (b)	732,790 64.400%	837,200 64.400%	834,600 64.200%	832,000 64.000%	(d)
Total CP Goal	22,137,872	22,300,000	23,717,500	24,500,000	

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Executive Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

(c) If Challenge Goal is attained, total CP through the SBC would equal 36%.

(d) Subject to Executive Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990.

*Subject to approval of recommendation by Executive Board to Convention in November.



Is President Bush asking 'What would Jesus do?'

Group recruits prayer for Bush, U.S.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (RNS)—A new effort calling itself the Presidential Prayer Team is registering tens of thousands of Americans to pray for President Bush and the nation in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We have 140,000 people that have come over the Internet, signing up their commitment to pray daily for the president," said William Hunter, president and founder of the initiative.

"People are coming together, realizing that need to pray for our president and our nation," said Hunter, a businessman and sculptor, who came up with the idea of praying for Bush soon after the inauguration.

A lay member of Scottsdale Bible Church in Scottsdale, Ariz., a nondenominational congregation, he had encouraged members of his Sunday school class to pray for the president each day and had given those who pledged to do so a patriotic coin he designed as a prayer reminder.

Hunter's plan to distribute nationally a new coin depicting President George Washington praying at Valley Forge has been delayed by the events of Sept. 11.

With funding from the Envoy Group, a Tucson, Ariz.-based Christian advertising company, he began publicizing the prayer effort and will be sending free decals with the coin's design to people who sign up to pray for Bush, his administration and the country.

The team's work is endorsed by several Christian leaders, but Hunter hopes it will be an interfaith prayer effort.

During the last week of September, as many as 25,000 people signed up in one day using the group's Web site, www.presidentialprayerteam.org.

"Our goal is to have 2.8 million—that's 1 percent of the U.S. population—praying for the president each day," Hunter said.

By Miles Benson
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—From his address at the National Cathedral to his repeated calls for the country to pray, President Bush is using his religious faith to undergird publicly the important decisions he must make in the wake of last month's terrorist attacks.

People who know the president well said his strong faith and Christian convictions will shape his actions but won't hinder him from deploying lethal force to "whip terrorism," as Bush defined his intention.

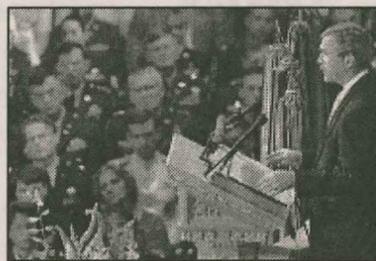
"I'm a loving guy and I am also someone, however, who's got a job to do, and I intend to do it," Bush has said.

Is the leader who called Jesus his favorite political philosopher asking himself, "What would Jesus do?"

The president's minister, Jim Mayfield, senior pastor of Tarrytown United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas, said, "Jesus wasn't primarily a political strategist when it came to preaching about how governments should govern."

Mayfield said the test for Bush and his advisers is to take action that "upholds justice but does not mimic what evil people do. Because innocent civilians were killed here, it is not appropriate to kill innocent civilians somewhere else. Revenge begets revenge begets revenge."

Conservative Christian author Marvin Olasky, a Bush friend and ad-



PRAYER SERVICE President Bush speaks during a service at the National Cathedral Sept. 14. Faith has been a common theme in his comments since the Sept. 11 attacks. (RNS/Reuters photo)

viser, said, "The Christian teaching is that followers of Christ are to turn the other cheek when confronted by personal indignity but to seek public justice in carrying out God's command in chapter 9 of Genesis: 'Whosoever sheddeth the blood of man by man shall his blood be shed.'"

Olasky said he had not talked directly to Bush about the morality of responding with violence to the terrorist attacks. But, he added, "the president has been through Bible studies with one clear theme: that the government does have what is called the power of the sword, the power to punish murder."

"To respect life, murders need to

be punished. This is a proper function for government," Olasky said. "It's the prime reason why governments are instituted. This is something he (Bush) very firmly believes."

Since the founding of the country, Americans have expected their leaders to introduce a moral justification for going to war. Presidents and other political leaders routinely invoke religious and moral themes to legitimize death and destruction through military action.

"That suggests we are meaning-hungry creatures and much of our 'meaning' has to be moral," said Robert Lifton, a psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School and an authority on mass violence and its effects on both survivors and perpetrators.

Of course, the terrorists themselves assert a moral claim, Lifton noted.

"There's a sense in which violence always requires moral justification. Even people who kill individual people assert some kind of inner moral justification," Lifton said.

"Religion in national leaders can be helpful in sustaining compassion and inner balance in some cases," Lifton said. "In other cases where it is polarizing, it can be quite the opposite and a source of quick violence and all-encompassing judgments."

The best is yet to come

A few weeks ago, David Winfrey wrote about our "growing pains" at Jonathan Creek as we expand our facilities to prepare for next spring and summer. What a blessing this expansion represents for Kentucky Baptists.

It was only four years ago that Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., took responsibility for Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. By now most all of you reading this column understand that the situation at Cedarmore was rather bleak, and only slightly better at Jonathan Creek.

Now, as we begin our fifth year of ministry under the KBA umbrella, the outlook at both places is bright. The expansion of our facilities at Jonathan Creek marks the first major capital investment in new facilities at either place in years. Three years ago, Lone Oak First Baptist Church built and paid for a new "small lodge" for us. Other than that gift from Lone Oak, all other capital expenditures had been directed toward improving or maintaining what we already had.

Our Jonathan Creek expansion is necessary and possible due to the overwhelming success of our summer youth camp, Crossings at the Creek. Last summer (our second

summer for Crossings) we operated at capacity and turned away hundreds of people. We jammed and crowded in Shoemake Chapel to the point that it was uncomfortable for our guests. Thus we will build a beautiful 400-seat worship/multi-purpose facility to accommodate our needs for the years ahead. This facility will allow us to host another

100 or so students each week during Crossings. As I write this we already have more than 1,800 reservations for next summer (last summer we were virtually full with 1,910 attending).

To house more students, we also are building two new lodges similar to Lone Oak Lodge. Each of these will house 32 people, with eight guest rooms that each

have individual baths. If you haven't ever been to Jonathan Creek, you need to come check us out. If you're planning a retreat or conference, "The Creek" is a beautiful place, with nearly a mile of beautiful Kentucky Lake shoreline and comfortable accommodations. We've been so blessed, and the best is yet to come.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

FORWARD TOGETHER

Senior Adult Leadership Conference

November 1, 2001

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

- for any and all leaders or teachers of senior adults in churches/Sunday school, clubs or other ministries.
- any interested senior adult who wants to know more about senior adult ministry

To register or for more information,

call toll free in Kentucky

1-888-254-5704

or 502-254-4719



The only cost is \$5 per person for lunch, payable at the conference at registration.

House bill seeks 'bright line' to clarify limits on church-sponsored lobbying

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A bill recently introduced in Congress would allow churches to spend 20 percent of their money on lobbying and up to 5 percent on campaigning for or against candidates without risk of losing their tax-exempt status.

Rep. Phil Crane, R-Ill., introduced the "Bright-Line Act of 2001," which would make clear how much churches can engage in political activities. Currently, churches are allowed to push political causes as long as such activities do not constitute a "substantial" part of the congregation's work—widely interpreted to be about 5 percent.

"Given the state of confusion surrounding the activities allowed by religious organizations, I believe it's time that Congress draw a bright line between sanctioned and unsanctioned activities that religious groups can participate in," Crane said.

The proposal is indirectly related to a bill sponsored by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C. The Jones bill, supported by many conservative groups, is less specific but also would allow churches and other houses of worship to engage in political activities without losing their tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

While the Crane bill has the support of the Traditional Values Coalition, it is opposed by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Americans United Executive Director Barry Lynn said he opposes Crane's bill as much as he opposes the Jones proposal because it would "corrupt" churches by turning them into "political action committees."

"I wouldn't quarrel with the idea of specifying the (appropriate) amount for lobbying, but the best percentage for partisan campaigning is zero," Lynn said.

Court rejects Muslim discrimination appeal

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal Oct. 1 from a Muslim woman who claimed her supervisor discriminated against her by pressuring her to stop wearing a head scarf at her airport job.

The decision marked the third court victory for Alamo Rent-A-Car Inc., which had employed Zeinab Ali, the Associated Press reported.

Ali said she was told in 1996 to stop wearing the scarf or face transfer

to a position that had less customer interaction. She replaced the scarf with a smaller hair covering but continued to complain to superiors, her lawyer said. She was later fired during cut-backs at the rental car company.

Ali sued the company claiming it had violated her civil rights. Alamo argued that her firing was legal and not related to religious matters. The case was dismissed by a judge and that dismissal was upheld by an appellate court.

Supreme Court accepts school voucher case

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether giving taxpayer money to parents to send their children to religious schools is constitutional.

The case, involving a Cleveland voucher program, is likely to result in a landmark decision regarding the future of educational "choice" programs.

"This is probably the most important church-state case in the last half-century," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

It pits those pushing for vouchers as a way to help children in failing public schools who cannot afford tuition at private schools against those who say using tax dollars for religious education violates the separation of church and state.

Cleveland's voucher program, established in 1995, allows up to \$2,250 for students to attend private, religious or suburban public schools. There are 56 private schools currently in the program; 46 of them are religious in nature.

A state judge upheld the program in 1996. A state appeals court reversed that decision and struck the law down in 1997. The Ohio Supreme Court also struck it down on a technicality but declared the program does not violate church-state separation provisions in the state constitution. After changes by state legislators, the law was up and running again.

In a new lawsuit in federal court, a judge held last December that the program favors religion and thus violates the Constitution. The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that ruling by a 2-1 vote.

The court said allowing the diversion of

government funds to religious institutions would be "in tension" with precedents of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The state of Ohio, backed by several pro-voucher groups, appealed to the nation's high court. Earlier this year, the Bush administration filed a legal brief asking the court to hear the case, arguing that vouchers are constitutional.

Americans United has opposed the Ohio voucher program from the start. "The court must not allow tax dollars to be diverted from public schools to religious schools, and thus force all taxpayers to finance religion," Lynn said.

But Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said he sees the court's review as "an opportunity to jettison damaging previous court doctrine and to affirm religious freedom."

"In this case, the lower courts have ruled that poor parents—in a school district where the public schools have seriously failed to educate—could not get vouchers from the state to educate their children in alternatives to those dismal public schools," Land said. "In doing so, the chief reason the courts have cited is that the parents decided in most cases to use their vouchers at religiously affiliated schools. This is pure, unadulterated anti-religious bigotry."

Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, disagreed with Land, contending that the "fundamental principle" that tax dollars should not be used to finance the teaching of religion "cannot be skirted by passing vouchers through the pockets of parents."

The case, *Zelman vs. Simmons-Harris*, likely will be heard early next year.

Honoring Elisha Morris

By Robert Dunston

The American Football Coaches Association recently recognized Cumberland College senior Elisha Morris as a member of its 2001 Good Works Team. Morris is the son of Elisha and Joyce Morris of Bonnyman and is pursuing a major in public health/movement and leisure studies.

AFCA Executive Director Grant Teaff praised the individuals who were selected for inclusion on the 2001 Good Works Team. "It says a lot about the character of these young men that they can find the time to devote themselves to the community," he said. "It is our pleasure to honor these student-athletes for all they have done."

Nominees for the Good Works Team must be actively involved in and dedicated to working with a charitable or service organization. As volunteers they need to have a reputation for genuine concern and dependability.

Morris has participated in many charitable and service activities and organizations. For several years he has worked with the DARE program and participated in DARE fund-raisers. Morris has

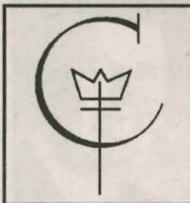
served as a day camp counselor and as a role model for a younger child as well as having worked with the Salvation Army, including serving as a bell ringer at Christmas time. He is actively involved in Cumberland College's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, has volunteered with Mountain Outreach and recently served as a summer missionary in Mongolia.

Morris' athletic prowess also has not gone unnoticed. He was nominated to the 2000 Mid-South Conference First Team and was the second leading receiver during the 2000 season. Morris was selected to the 2001 Pre-Season All-Conference Team.

Of all the individuals chosen for the 2001 Good Works Team, Morris was the only NAIA student-athlete to receive the honor. Cumberland College is proud of Morris for his achievements as an athlete, a student and a servant of Christ. We know he will continue to make an impact for God.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Come On Over To Our House!

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children invites you to any of four open houses this fall! Enjoy games, entertainment, tours and a complimentary lunch. Call 1-800-456-1386 a week before the event you want to attend to let us know how many are in your party. That will help us in meal preparation.

Saturday, Oct. 13

KBHC Morehead Center, Morehead

Saturday, Oct. 20

Spring Meadows Children's Home, Louisville
both events are from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., local time

and

Monday, Nov. 12

Genesis Home, Mayfield
during Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting
11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Missionaries kidnapped in 1993 killed by captors, study finds

Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit canceled

SALT LAKE CITY (RNS)—A planned exhibit of the Dead Sea Scrolls during the 2002 Winter Olympics has been canceled due to concerns arising from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Officials of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and Brigham Young University announced that they had decided to halt plans for the ancient artifacts to be displayed in Utah in February.

"The decision was reached principally because of the uncertainty surrounding sharply escalating insurance costs and the challenges of transporting priceless artifacts," officials said. The scrolls, discovered in 1947, feature ancient religious writings including biblical texts.

PUCORO, Panama (RNS)—A committee investigating the 1993 disappearance of three American missionaries in Colombia has called off the inquiry, pointing to "compelling evidence" the men were killed several years ago.

"Information gathered by (New Tribes Mission) and others in years of painstaking and often dangerous investigation has led to the definite conclusion that Dave Mankins, Mark Rich and Rick Tenenoff were killed by their captors in mid-1996," the Crisis Committee of the New Tribes Mission concluded.

The committee said that on Sept. 10 they and the wives of the men "agreed that, given the compelling

evidence, it was time for a family closure to the 1993 kidnapping."

The three men were working as missionaries for the Christian group New Tribes Mission when they were abducted from a Panamanian village near the border with Colombia.

Whether the Marxist rebel group the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia was involved in the abduction was unclear at first, but reports from rebel defectors and others later confirmed the trio was in their custody, according to the mission.

The rebels initially demanded millions of dollars in ransom, but later refused to negotiate with U.S. and Colombian officials and New Tribes representatives. Conflicting reports of

the missionaries' fates have emerged since then. Some say the men were murdered by rebels in 1994 while other reports claim the men were alive as recently as 1999.

In one version of events, after kidnapers decided the three men were a liability, "an order was given that sent Mark, Dave and Rick into the arms of their loving Lord," according to New Tribes Mission.

"Several guerrilla defectors and other collaborating witnesses have related essentially the same story," the committee said.

The decision brings an end to "years of tears and anxiety for our dear brothers," said Dan Germann, vice chairman of the mission's executive

committee.

"They have gone to a far better place," Germann declared in a statement. "They rejoice in the presence of the God they served so faithfully. Colombian authorities and the FBI will continue to search for those responsible, but we now have the answer we need."

New Tribes leaders remain hopeful, meanwhile, about the well-being of a missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, who were kidnapped May 27 in the Philippines. Information received by mission leaders indicates the two are being held by a group that recently signed a peace agreement with the Philippine government.

Prayer, mission efforts focus on Europe

HANOVER, Germany (RNS)—A new worldwide prayer effort that aims to include Europe, Central Asia and areas of the Far East was launched last week during a conference in Hanover, Germany.

About 2,000 people attended the Gideon's Army II gathering to initiate a monthlong effort to pray for what is being called the "40/70 Window."

The leader of the initiative is Peter Wagner, long known for prayer efforts that have been called "spiritual warfare," reported Charisma News Service.

He has promoted prayer efforts since 1993 for the "10/40 Window," a geographic area stretching from Africa to Asia.

Now, Wagner is mobilizing prayer

for areas farther north, which he described last year as "the greatest area of dormant Christianity in today's world."

The initial prayer effort will be followed with a five-year focus on the region.

In a separate but related development, the U.S. Assemblies of God is planning to send its first appointed missionaries to Scotland this month, denominational leaders announced.

"In my lifetime, Scotland has changed from a missionary-sending land to a mission field," said John Strachan, chairman of the Scottish Region of the Assemblies of God in Great Britain and Ireland. "We have become a materialistic and godless nation."

We were not quite sure what to expect

As our fall break drew near, we realized that we were going to have to do things differently than we had done before. The tragic events of Sept. 11 have had a profound effect on us, though we are far from New York; Washington, D.C.; or Pennsylvania.

Several of our students had family members who worked in or around the World Trade Center towers. With most of the phone lines destroyed or overloaded, it was very difficult to contact their families. To the best of our knowledge, no serious injuries were incurred by our extended Oneida family.

Our students eagerly await the first break of the academic year which normally takes place during the first week in October. This is one of three breaks during the school year when all students are required to leave campus. Many of our friends often are concerned about students who might not have a home to go to. When students enroll we require a family member to make sure each one has someplace to go for required breaks.

Our greatest concerns were for students who had to travel by air. Typically, we try to get them to the airport about two hours before their scheduled departures. We always have provided photo identification, but we had been told that the identification provided in the past would not meet new requirements. Many of our students who travel by air are international students, so we were concerned that they might experience problems when trying to board the plane.

I took the students to the airport as I normally do after school on Friday. We left early to allow extra time to have luggage and IDs checked. I had warned our students about taking any objects in their carry-on luggage that might cause problems.

Since our students do not have much access to national and world news, they were not aware of the heightened luggage and personal inspections taking place at the airports.

Due to new parking restrictions, I was not sure I could even pull the bus in front of the terminal to unload the students and their luggage. A phone call to the airport quickly dispelled my concerns. The only real inconvenience was the fact that I could not leave the bus and I had to move it as soon as everything was unloaded, which meant that I would not be able to go inside to help.

Two adults followed me to the airport to assist the students in getting their boarding passes. They also were available to help if there were any questions about students' identities. I was a little anxious as I pulled away from the terminal. Though we had done everything we were told to do, I didn't know for sure that there would not be a last-minute glitch. It wasn't until I got home that I learned that none of the students had any serious problems. Like the rest of the flying public, our students were

relieved to see extra safeguards in place. The last day of school before the fall break also was Family Day. The very nature of a boarding school environment makes it difficult for faculty and parents to share information about students' progress. Family Day provides family members that opportunity. Often parents do not really believe their child is doing as well as the child has been telling them. It is reassuring to have the teachers confirm the improved grades.

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

LifeWay CHURCH BUSES

A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.

"Raised Roof" Vans in Stock (No CDL)



- ◆ Center Aisle
- ◆ Low First Step
- ◆ 2/1 Seating
- ◆ Bucket Seats
- ◆ More Headroom
- ◆ 15-passengers
- ◆ LifeWay Discount

2002 Models: \$37,900 (New)
2001 Models: \$36,900 (New)

(800) 370-6180

www.carpenterbus.com

Since 1953

Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

Clear Creek welcomes the Crawfords

One of Clear Creek's newest employees is Nathan Crawford, director of the Jean Asher and Dudley Pomeroy Family Life and Conference Center.

With family roots in west Kentucky, he was born in Ohio. He attended Cumberland College and completed a bachelor of arts degree at Bowling Green State University, and a master of arts degree in health, physical education and recreation at the University of Toledo. He and Linda Cowherd married in 1983. She holds a master's degree in early childhood education from the University of Toledo and was an instructor in church weekday children's education for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Super Saturday conferences.

The Crawfords taught at Hawaii Baptist Academy for one year. She taught fourth grade and he did physical education for kindergarten through second grade. At Oneida Baptist Institute they were dormitory parents for a year and then Mrs. Crawford directed the day care center for two years, while Crawford was a classroom teacher. "We were not looking to leave and miss Oneida, but love the work at Clear Creek," he said.

Crawford works to expand the ministry of the Family Life Center. The facility, in use since 1988, includes a gymnasium, pool, showers and dressings rooms, ceramic and weight rooms, conference room and snack area. The gym floor is designed for skating.

"We have a great facility," he said. "I want to see it used more by students and campus families. It is an excellent resource for churches to utilize for seminars, retreats, youth gatherings and fellowship."

The facility now averages 70 people on each of the five days it is open. Intramural basketball and volleyball are major activities during the winter. An aquatic exercise class involves women from Middlesboro and Pineville two mornings a

week. Pineville schools use the gym for basketball practice. Parents often schedule the center for birthday parties—a bargain at \$2 a person.

The Family Life Center is named for former Pineville residents, Dr. and Mrs. Dudley Pomeroy. Pomeroy retired from Clear Creek as professor of pastoral care and now serves on the board of trustees.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

PEOPLE

Cancer finally claims the life of missionary Charles Beaty

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

KEARNEY, Mo. (BP)—Charles Beaty, the missionary who inspired Southern Baptists by refusing to let cancer thwart his Christian witness, died in his sleep Oct. 2. He was 34.

Diagnosed with a terminal lung cancer in 1998, Beaty and his wife, Christy, decided to spend whatever time he had left in an all-out campaign to mobilize Southern Baptists to bring a lost world to Christ.

"Is the Lord calling you to go to a people who have no voice?" Beaty asked church leaders at the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. "Then my challenge is to go and not wait, because we are not promised tomorrow."

Instead of spending his final months of life in the United States, Beaty and his wife returned to their mission field in northern Africa this past February. They visited old friends and made new ones, encouraging them to realize that no one has any time to waste when it comes to honoring God with their lives.

Back in the United States, Beaty refused to sit and wait for the cancer to take him. He busied himself with speaking and writing opportunities and enrolled for a seminary class. He established a Web site, www.obeytherighthirst.org, hosted by First Baptist Church in Raytown, Mo.

He recently wrote on the Web site: "I do not believe God struck me with cancer. Quite the contrary, I believe He is working it all for good and that He would never be the cause of anything evil in our world. Do I understand how this works? No. But I trust God's Word, the Bible, which states it to be true (Romans 8:28).

"In my own experience, as I have chosen to glorify Him in the face of a potentially terminal illness, He has increased my sphere of influence—to His glory."

The Beatys also praised God that

Charles lived to see the July 10 birth of their fourth child, Abigail Clara. The couple has three other children, Amanda, 9; Alex, 4; and Ashleigh, 19 months.

"Charles Beaty is my hero," said Avery Willis, Southern Baptist International Mission Board senior vice president for overseas operations. "Charles said, in effect, 'Whatever my life is worth, dead or alive, I give it gladly to you, my Lord.'"

"Only eternity will tell the impact that his passion for North Africans to know Christ had on Christians in the United States and the North Africans," Willis said. "Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on America, he had said that we have the best opportunity in our lifetime to share the gospel with Muslims."

"Charles was faithful to finish his work, but he has left a gigantic task for the rest of us as we try to fulfill his vision that every Muslim have the opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the gospel. Charles' and Christy's life have challenged Southern Baptists to do our part in fulfilling the Great Commission in our lifetimes."

Born in Kansas City, Mo., Beaty was a graduate of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. He also attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to missionary appointment, he served as associate pastor of Bales Baptist Church in Kansas City and as youth minister at Pisgah Baptist Church in Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Mrs. Beaty said her husband's determination to live courageously in the face of death masked the fact he was so close to death.

"No one around him knew his time was so near, as he chose to live each day to its fullest, even though he didn't feel like it," she wrote in



an e-mail to prayer supporters. "He spent the last four days dealing with pain, weakness and sickness, but God answered his prayers and those of many others by allowing him to go 'home' without days of suffering and pain in bed."

"He was up preaching, teaching, loving and leading until the end. He ran through the finish line."

Beaty inspired a multitude of people by his example, said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

"Charles and Christy have been an inspiration to all of us during this time," Rankin said. "He lived totally for the glory of God and with a passion for God to be known and exalted among the lost peoples of the world, especially in North Africa where God had called them to serve. I can only imagine the rejoicing as Charles was ushered into the presence of our Lord Jesus."

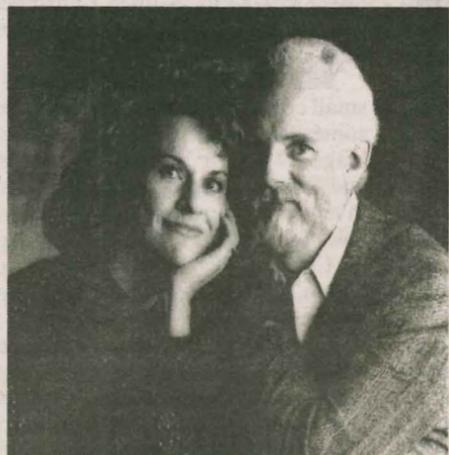
"We are reminded life is short and we must seize every opportunity to lift up Christ before a lost world. I pray that many will step forward to fill the gap and give their lives to reaching the people of North Africa."

Beaty himself said he wanted his memory to motivate people to pour out their lives for Christ and those who have no hope of knowing Him.

"When people think of Charles Stewart Beaty, I want them to think of the peoples of North Africa who will die and go into eternity hopeless without Christ," he said after returning from his last visit to North Africa. "I want them to think, 'I'm going to go and live out my life for Jesus.'"

Memorial gifts may be sent to Charles Beaty Memorial, SBC International Mission Board, PO Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

FINISHING WELL
Charles Beaty (right), a Southern Baptist missionary to northern Africa, witnessed in February to a man and boy he met on the waterfront of a city in northern Africa. Diagnosed with terminal lung cancer, Beaty and his wife, Christy, made a return visit to their mission field to urge people not to waste time before making a decision for Christ. Beaty died Oct. 2. (BP photo)



Steve & Annie Chapman

Ormsby Heights Baptist Church
is proud to present a

Marriage Enrichment Conference

with

Steve & Annie Chapman

Saturday, October 13, 2001

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Registration:

\$5 per individual lunch will be provided

Evening Concert

Return with the whole family at 6:00 p.m.

A Love Offering Received

2120 Lower Hunters Trace * Louisville, KY
502-447-6867

Study: Four out of five Protestant clergy say they are evangelical

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Four out of five Protestant senior pastors describe themselves as evangelical and theologically conservative but only 8 percent of them consider evangelism to be one of their spiritual gifts, the Barna Research Group reports.

The study also found that eight out of 10 congregations with fewer than 100 adults have a full-time, paid senior pastor. The median annual budget of those churches is \$68,000.

Four out of 10 senior pastors do not have a seminary degree, including six out of 10 among those leading nondenominational congregations, the study found.

George Barna, president of Barna Research Group, said he hopes more churches will consider keeping their pastors for more than the average of five years because many seem to be most effective between the fifth and 14th years of service.

"In our fast-turnaround society where we demand overnight results and consider everyone expendable and everything disposable, we may be shortchanging pastors—and the congregations they oversee—by prematurely terminating their tenure," he said.

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:

- The 50 Tanzanian children who are attending a weekly Bible club in Arusha.
- The 138 students in the Digo Secondary School in Tanzania who recently made "True Love Waits" commitments to wait until marriage to engage in sex.
- The non-Christian children of the Lugura people of Tanzania who attend kindergartens at two Baptist churches.
- The five people who recently were baptized at International Baptist Church in Bucharest, Romania. Four are Romanians and one is African. One is a convert from Islam.

■ God's guidance for Transformation Baptist Church in Khabarovsk, Russia, as the congregation looks for a new place to meet. They have been meeting in a school, but have been told they will need to move after this month. It is against the law for church groups to meet in an educational institution, according to missionary Connie Robbins.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church of Ashland will hold revival services Oct. 14-17 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Kentucky Baptist Convention President **Jim McKinley** will be the evangelist and **Terry Keith** will lead worship. **Edwin Talley** is pastor.

■ **BALLARDSVILLE**—Ballardsville Church will hold a groundbreaking dedication for the church's Christian activities center Oct. 21 after the 10:45 a.m. worship service. **Tommy Purvis** is pastor.

■ **BANDANA**—Bandana Church will host homecoming services Oct. 21, with **Mike Moynahan**, pastor of Schneidman Road Church in Kevil, as guest speaker. Activities include a fellowship meal and a 1:30 p.m. concert by the **Hawkins Quartet**. **Bill Miller** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold revival services Oct. 21-24 with **Willis Henson** as evangelist. **Philip Salmon** is pastor.

■ **COLUMBIA**—**Michael O'Neal** has resigned as pastor of Columbia Church. He has been called as pastor of Smithwood Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Central Avenue Church will hold revival services Oct. 14-19 at 7 p.m. **B.T. Bishop**, pastor of First Church of Elizabethtown, will be the evangelist. **Bob**

Hamilton is pastor of Central Avenue Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will host an evening of worship and praise Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. The event will feature the praise and worship team of New Life Community Church of Gahanna, Ohio. **Todd Robertson** is pastor of Bethany Church.

Highland Heights Church called **Lyle Edwards** as associate pastor for students. He previously was associate minister to youth at Blacksburg (Va.) Church. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will host a marriage enrichment conference and concert Oct. 13 featuring **Steve and Annie Chapman**. The conference will begin at 10 a.m. and the concert will be at 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 447-9544. **Rick Bowden** is pastor.

■ **OAKLAND**—Friendship Church will hold revival services Oct. 14-17 with **David Livingston** as evangelist. Services will be Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. and each evening at 7 p.m. **Dawayne Capps** is pastor.

What's going on?

Send your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.

Archivist Doris Yeiser remembered as 'walking encyclopedia' of KBC life

OWENSBORO—Doris Yeiser not only archived Kentucky Baptist history; she witnessed decades of it firsthand.

Yeiser, who died Sept. 23 at age 81, worked 45 years for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. She served as secretary and administrative assistant to four KBC executive directors: W.C. Boone, Harold Sanders, Franklin Owen and Bill Marshall.

A 1985 feature article in the Western Recorder described Yeiser as "the first lady of the Baptist Building." It added that she was a "walking encyclopedia of Kentucky Baptist life."

Yeiser began her Baptist-related work in 1947 as a secretary at First Baptist Church of Owensboro. She joined the Baptist Building staff in 1951 as Eldred Taylor's secretary in the missions and evangelism department before becoming Boone's secretary three years later.

"Doris became extremely knowledgeable of all the inner workings of Kentucky Baptist life," Taylor said. "It really became her love. She never wanted to do less than her best."

Taylor, who conducted Yeiser's memorial service Sept. 29 in Owensboro, said she "was a behind-the-scenes person who made things click."

"She felt like the Lord led her coming to the Baptist Building," he added. "She saw it as a ministry and a calling."

After serving 33 years in the executive director's office, Yeiser became the KBC's first archivist in 1985. After her retirement in 1987, she worked in archives several more years as a part-time consultant. The KBC's Doris B. Yeiser Center for Kentucky Baptist Archives was named in her honor in 1996.

She also served six years as KBC secretary as well as state president of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs and president of the Women's Chamber of Commerce of Metro Louisville.

Retired KBC Executive Director Bill Marshall, who led in establishing the archives position, recalled that Yeiser's "affection for our history and the realization that her professional years were coming to a close prompted me to ask her to gather and preserve the relevant history of the Executive Board. Her effectiveness in doing that deserved the affirmation of creating an archives and naming it in her honor."

Current KBC archivist Cheryl Doty said Kentucky Baptists "have lost their greatest advocate."

"Doris Yeiser cherished Kentucky Baptists and did everything in her power to promote our heritage and history," Doty said. "No other secretary has served under four executives and her record will undoubtedly stand for all eternity."

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Experienced bereavement coordinator/counselor/chaplain (MS, MDiv, PC) for part-time or full-time employment in the hospice, hospital, nursing home, funeral home, church or Christian counseling center setting. Please leave message for Cindy at (502) 454-7719. Also available for keynote addresses and support group facilitation.

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

NEEDED: Pulpit and communion table for newly formed Hispanic church. Donate or sell. Please call (502) 899-5353.

RETREAT: Forgiveness and reconciliation, led by Dr. Virginia Holeman of Asbury School of Theology, Nov. 30-Dec. 1. cleftRock Retreat Center. Call: (800) 719-0600 for details.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Trinity Baptist (CBF/SBC) is a multi-racial church with ministries to handicapped, foster families and internationals. Send resumé by Oct. 31 to 1675 Strader Drive, Lexington, KY 40505; fax: (859) 254-8147; or www.yourtrinity.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of preschool/children for dynamic, growing Southern Baptist church in Northern Kentucky. Strong organizational and management skills and a desire to be part of a strong ministry team are required. Please send resumé to: Florence Baptist Church, PO Box 456, Florence, KY 41022-0456, Attn: Karen Byrd, or e-mail to: ksbfinsec@zoomtown.com.

SEEKING: Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Average worship attendance is 235. Interested candidates should submit a resumé to the Pastor Search Committee, Lewis Lane Baptist Church, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301, or e-mail to waynenbaird@aol.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Danville, Ky., a growing, Christ-centered church, is seeking a full-time youth minister. Position requires degree and prior experience. Send resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 132, Danville, KY 40422. (859) 236-2276.

SEEKING: Hickory Grove Baptist Church, one of the state's most exciting and progressive Southern Baptist churches, is accepting resúmes for senior pastor. The church campus is situated on 45 beautiful acres and has been ministering to the spiritual needs of families throughout Northern Kentucky for more than 200 years. The candidate must have earned his Master of Divinity degree (preferably from a Southern Baptist seminary), possess a minimum of 3 to 5 years experience as a senior pastor, have effective communication skills and be capable of leading a dedicated ministry team. Most importantly, he must love God and possess a passion for winning the lost. A very attractive salary and benefit package is available. Interested candidates should mail their resúmes and a sermon tape to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 11969 Taylor Mill Road, Independence, KY 41051 before Nov. 1.

SEEKING: Organist for worship services and choir practices. The church has a Wicks pipe organ and a blended worship style. If interested, please send resumé to: Staff Development Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 607, Madisonville, KY 42431.

SEEKING: Part-time music/youth minister (60/40). Expected to work with adult choir, lead congregational singing and work with youth group. Please send resumé or inquiry to: Edmonton Baptist Church, PO Box 415 Edmonton, KY 42129.

SEEKING: Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson, Ky., is seeking a vibrant worship leader for our music ministry. Anyone interested can send a resumé to: Hyland Baptist Church, 1400 Wright St., Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church is accepting resúmes for full-time pastor. Please send to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 405 Kentucky Ave., Pineville, KY 40977.

SEEKING: Memorial Baptist Church of Frankfort is searching for a full-time worship pastor. Responsibilities will include planning and conducting a comprehensive program of music and arts with an emphasis on blended worship. Interested candidates may send a resumé to: MBC, 130 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Associate director for Temperance League of Kentucky, in training, to assume full directorship upon retirement of present director. Send resumé to Tyre Denney, 911 Oak Drive, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; fax: (859) 223-1209; by Oct. 20.

SEEKING: Bagdad Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. We are located in Shelby County, Ky., 40 miles east of Louisville. Send resumé to Jim Wiley, 1676, Old Seven Mile Pike, Shelbyville, KY 40065. Call: (502) 633-1890.

SEEKING: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, a growing congregation in the Louisville metro (east) area, is seeking a full-time youth minister (middle school through college). Applicants should have a definite calling to ministry and significant prior experience. Send resumé to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3400 Summerfield Drive, Louisville, KY 40220. (502) 491-4356. E-mail: hunsinger.office@att.net. Attn: Student Minister Search Team.

SEEKING: East Bend Baptist, a small country church, is accepting resúmes for a dedicated pastor. We average 27-30 for SS and Wednesday and Sunday evening services—more in morning worship. Parsonage available. Send resúmes to: East Bend Baptist Church, 12246 Lower River Road, Union, KY 41091, Attn: Search Committee.

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: 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.

PEOPLE

Thousands in New England pray for 'The Call' of revival

By Jeffrey MacDonald
Religion News Service

BOSTON (RNS)—It's not every day that Boston subway riders exit the Government Center station and find crowds on their knees, pressing their faces into the asphalt, begging for God's forgiveness.

But these are not ordinary times in Boston. And evangelicals see an opportunity for revival.

About 15,000 people ignored government warnings of an impending terrorist strike on Boston on Sept. 22 and packed City Hall Plaza with pleas for a Third Great Awakening to begin here. The event, known as The Call New England, had been planned for months, but it took on an air of urgency in the wake of recent terrorist attacks and widespread calls for repentance.

"Now we're in the crisis of a Joel 2 moment," said organizer Lou Engle. In Joel 2, "The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble ... 'yet even now,' says the Lord, 'return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning.'"

From all six New England states, evangelicals flocked to a downtown spot better known for progressive political rallies and free folk concerts than for gnashing of teeth. But Joel's call seemed to carry the day this time.

Fifty-eight-year-old Janet Aldrich of Amesbury, Mass., for instance, poured olive oil on an American flag in a sign of anointing, then covered her face and prayed on her knees beside a handmade sign: "Pray for an Ezra Fast."

With hopes of sparking a nationwide revival, organizers admitted turnout would have been stronger at a Bible Belt location than in Boston. But they insisted on Boston because the nation was born here in 1775 and because, they said, God always seems to start America's revivals here.

"We remember how you raised up Jonathan Edwards, Lord!" cried one of many anonymous preachers who recalled the First and Second Great Awakenings. "We remember how you raised up George Whitefield and Charles Finney! You've done it here before, Lord! Do it here again!"



CALL TO PRAYER Joanne Gagne of West Haven, Conn., raises her arms in prayer while Marianne Waseem of East Haven, Conn., kneels to pray at Boston's City Hall Plaza. The two women were among 15,000 people who participated in The Call, an effort to spark a spiritual revival in New England. (RNS photo by Jeffrey MacDonald)

In the 1730s and 1740s, religious fervor soared in New England in response to dramatic sermons from itinerant preacher Whitefield and others. Once again between 1790 and 1810, the region exploded with Christian zeal in what later became known as the Second Great Awakening.

Since then, New England has become known among evangelicals as fallow, secularized ground for spiritual harvest. But participants at The

Call prayed that God's grace—coupled with a \$750,000 investment in a 12-hour, multimedia event—would turn the region around.

"I feel the anointing of prayer. Let's continue," cried an unidentified preacher as pulsing music crescendoed. "It's turning! The nation is turning! It's turning in the heavens as we cry out on the Earth!"

For 37-year-old Joanne Gagne of West Haven, Conn., turning toward

God had been a back-burner priority for a long time. But after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, she resolved to make changes and confirmed that commitment during the rally in Boston.

"It's a feeling that's been coming to me all year, but it's become more urgent since the bombings," Gagne said. "It's been the national wake-up call for us to stop saying, 'I've got to do it,' and just do it."

Gagne said she repented for "lethargy" in her prayer and Bible reading. She resolved in City Hall Plaza to start getting up at 5:30 a.m. instead of her usual 6:30 in order to read Scripture and pray.

Event organizer Paul Taylor said the whole church would be repenting for "our lukewarmness, for not standing up for truth and for a lack of love" toward such people as AIDS patients and battered women.

The Call is the brainchild of Engle, a 48-year-old Los Angeles pastor. With co-founder Che Ahn, he launched The Call DC last year on the Mall in Washington and is planning another Call event for June 22, 2002, in New York City.

A father of six, Engle says he plans on "fathering" a new generation. Example: As he spoke of godly things at a Boston hotel, three people half his age—including a self-described "spiritual daughter" of his—sat on the floor at his feet and listened.

Most of those who unfolded blankets and lawn chairs during the rally had learned of the event at one of 65 August rallies at local churches, but many hoped passersby also would take note. Volunteers gave out free bottled water. Onlookers didn't often stop, but several did express gratitude for the event.

"Religion has been uncool for a long time," said Bob Bruner, a 25-year-old technology consultant visiting from Michigan. "But it's good for religion to be part of the public dialogue, especially now, because it gives comfort and fills a void."

"It's too loud," said Elaine Doherty from behind a glass panel at Government Center, where she was selling subway tokens. "But it's good they're doing something spiritual. We need it."

"It's good they're doing something spiritual. We need it."

Boston resident Elaine Doherty

Halloween tracts offer low-key Christian witness to trick-or-treaters

By Joe Westbury
Georgia Christian Index

ATLANTA (BP)—Children visiting the homes of Christians this Oct. 31 might get more of a treat than they are expecting—the plan of salvation in an easy-to-understand format.

The nonprofit American Tract Society, which has been producing evangelistic resources for 176 years, is introducing a new line of materials for the Halloween season. The "31 Halloween Pack" provides 31 tracts to be given out to trick-or-treaters as a way for Christians to extend their outreach into one of the most popular days of the year.

"Oct. 31 is the greatest opportunity we have all year to share the gospel with

children," said Dan Southern, president of the Garland, Texas, -based organization.

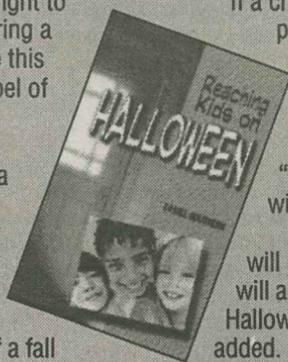
"Where else do we have contact with so many young people coming right to our front doors? We are offering a challenge to Christians to use this opportunity to share the gospel of Christ with 31 children this Halloween."

The tracts can be used in a variety of church settings, noted Joey Hancock, director of the ATS church ministry division. For example, a congregation could distribute the tracts as part of a fall festival emphasis. Additional packs could be used by members who give out candy or other treats on Halloween. Shut-in

members who desire to share in the outreach emphasis can be provided a supply of materials.

"If a church orders just 100 of these packets to be distributed among their members, there will be 3,100 tracts distributed that evening in just that community," Hancock said. "The impact of that simple effort will have results for eternity."

"Individuals who use the packet will receive an ATS reply card which will allow them to share their Halloween experience," Hancock added. He said individuals who return the card will receive a free CD-ROM of Billy Graham's book, "Steps to Peace with God."



"When a person has an opportunity to share the gospel, two things happen," Hancock said. "First, we must accept the task of sharing the gospel and secondly we must have the tools with which to share the gospel. ATS is committed to giving believers the very best tools to complete the task."

To accompany the Halloween emphasis, ATS has developed a Web site—www.October31st.org—that provides an interactive experience for children and adults. The site features a Christian perspective of Halloween interwoven with a gospel presentation.

The cost of one packet of tracts is \$4.99, two to 25 packets are \$3.99 each, and more than 25 are \$3.49 each. To order, call (800) 54-TRACT or (800) 548-7228.



**Can you afford to
throw this away?**

Didn't think so.

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

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER