



# WESTERN RECORDER

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## Hope for the holidays: Time to celebrate, counselors say

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LEXINGTON—More than ever, churches should lead their communities to celebrate Thanksgiving and Advent, helping people find in God the antidote to the stress of terrorism and war, say two Kentucky Baptist pastoral counselors.

"(New York's) Ground Zero was tragic, but the cross was Ground Zero over 2,000 years ago," said Wade Rowatt, a counselor at St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville. "We know the message of resurrection and we probably need not to wait until Easter to proclaim it."

The year-end holidays often are stress-filled, noted Rowatt and Rick Landon, a counselor at Interfaith Samaritan Counseling Center in Lexington.

But the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the economic downturn and the war on terrorism could make these next two months even more anxious, both agreed.

"I would anticipate this year there will be a lot of anxiety about finances," Landon said, citing recent layoffs and the pressures of holiday gift buying.

Both counselors said church can be a sanctuary from the constant reminders of uncertainty, and Christians should hold up a God who offers a constant, reassuring presence.

"To have a place to leave the almost overwhelming beat of the music on CNN, the blaring words 'America at War,' and come to church and celebrate and have a sanctuary experience is something churches can do in this time of stress," Rowatt said. "God is still God, and God is still available, 'a very present help,' and we need to not get caught up in the hopelessness, the doom, the negative thinking."

Landon added that Christians shouldn't be surprised by the irony of celebration in the midst of difficult times.

"Jesus was born in a pretty difficult time," said Landon, former pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington.

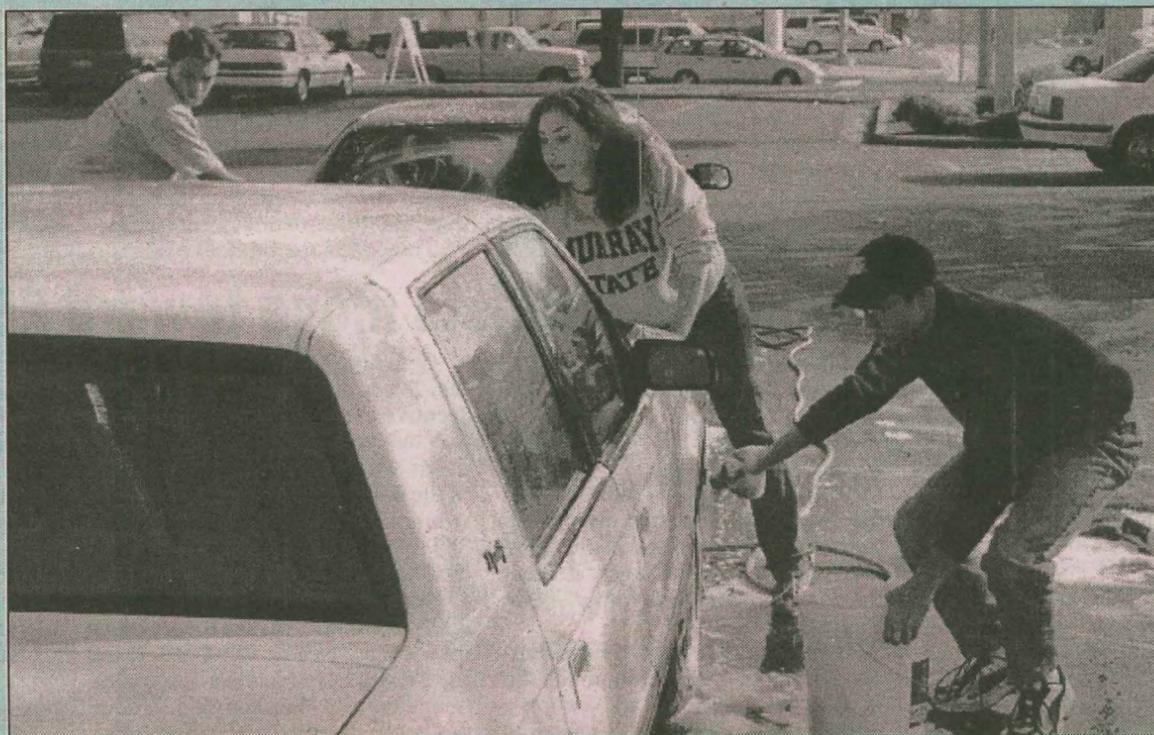
"It wasn't very long after that you found Jesus among the refugees. They had gone down to Egypt," he added. "Sometimes amid the celebration there is a lot of pain."

Churches may find their pews fuller in coming weeks, as both the holidays and the stress of global conflict turn people back to faith, Rowatt added.

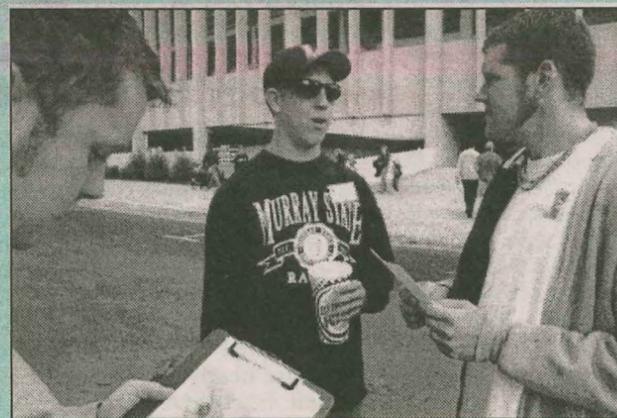
"It's well-documented that in times of crisis, persons return to their centers for hope, and I think we have seen a resurgence of attendance at church as a way of addressing people's deep, foundational anxieties," he said.

□ See *Hope for the holidays* ..., page 11

## Cross Over the Purchase



Volunteers from more than 100 Kentucky Baptist churches took part in a variety of projects this past weekend to share their faith with residents in Western Kentucky. The effort, called *Cross Over the Purchase*, was held in conjunction with this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Murray. It was patterned after similar projects held in host cities for the Southern Baptist Convention. ■ Above: Baptist Student Union members from Murray State University and youth from Murray's West Fork Baptist Church wash cars on Saturday morning as part of a *Cross Over* servant evangelism project. ■ Right: Murray State University student Brian Finch (left) and Baptist Student Union intern Jonathan Clark (right) conduct a survey on campus with Quent Smith of Paducah. The surveys asked general questions about ministry ideas and specific questions about the respondents' faith. See story on page 3.



## Churches explore new ideas for discipleship

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

CECILIA—Three years ago, Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia changed its traditional Sunday night worship service to a discipleship hour.

Since it began rotating multiple, biblically based studies with special events and sermon series, evening attendance has grown from 275 to 400. Overall church membership has risen 45 percent.

"I decided the reason Sunday nights were dead is we didn't have any leadership," Pastor Ron Davis said. "We just stayed traditional when we needed to mix it up. You sure can't disciple 'em if they're not here."

This renewed emphasis on discipleship includes an ongoing, six-week class for new converts and visitors.

Though taught by Davis and his wife, deacons and other leaders visit the class regularly.

People who are new to the church "need to know what we believe and meet the pastor," he said. "If they get

to know key people in the church, you'll close the back door."

Closing the back door is one of several concerns that have focused a spotlight on discipleship at many Kentucky Baptist churches.

According to a nationwide study by Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, churches that fail to offer new member classes retain just 35 percent of converts.

But if such classes are offered, the retention rate more than doubles to 72 percent, Rainer wrote in his book, "Nine Habits of Churches that Reach and Keep the Unchurched."

Jim Clontz, director of the discipleship training department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said churches are recognizing the seriousness of retaining newcomers and promoting spiritual growth among existing members.

"Jesus called us not just to make converts but disciples," Clontz said. "We have some outstanding examples

of churches that have a high percentage of folks coming back on Sunday night and at other times to study the Bible."

Discipleship is vital if churches hope to avoid the plateaus and declines seen in an estimated 70 percent of Southern Baptist churches, Clontz added.

But the tradition of a single, one-hour class before Sunday evening worship has yielded to a host of choices with multiple times and locations.

Some Kentucky examples include: ■ Eastside Baptist Church in Richmond offers small group discipleship lessons three evenings a week, some in members' homes. Since revamping its program last January, attendance has risen to about 80, an increase of 45 percent.

■ Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset has a Thursday women's group currently studying the "Prayer of Jabez." The same day, a group of non-members meet at the church to study material by Bible teacher Beth Moore.

■ Last year, Tom Cropper of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg □ See *Churches look for* ..., page 12

making disciples

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 14

## SBC leaders issue renewed call for prayer amid crisis

**"No one in the nation is more responsible to pray and seek the face of God than are the people of our churches."**

*SBC leaders James Merritt and Morris Chapman*

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Southern Baptist leaders have reiterated a call to prayer for the nation, saying it may be needed even more now than on Sept. 11.

In a joint statement issued Nov. 5, Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt and SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman noted their request on Sept. 11 for Southern Baptists to pray for the victims of the terrorist attacks, the nation's leaders, the country and "that God would turn the hearts of our nation back to Him."

"We believe it is time to give new

emphasis to that call to prayer," they said. "The need for faithful vigil is not less today than it was on that day—if anything it is greater."

Merritt and Chapman said specific times of prayer are needed during this period of crisis. They encouraged Southern Baptists to "devote a quarter hour, a half hour, an hour or more each week praying for our nation, its leaders and our military men and women who are in harm's way." They also asked Southern Baptist pastors to devote special times of prayer for the country at least once a month during Sunday services.

They cited the biblical examples

of Joel and Judah, who each urged people to pray to God when they felt endangered.

"This hour in America is a great test of our moral and spiritual character," the SBC leaders stated. "As individuals and as a nation, we have wandered very far from the Lord, and need to come home to Him now. We have no right to expect others to pray when we do not do so. No one in the nation is more responsible to pray and seek the face of God than are the people of our churches."

Chapman also announced the creation of a special Internet prayer site at [inallthingspray.net](http://inallthingspray.net). He said a prayer

guide is being prepared to assist those who commit to ongoing prayer efforts on behalf of the nation.

Assemblies of God General Superintendent Thomas Trask also has issued a special call to prayer for congregations in his denomination. He encouraged churches to make Jan. 6-11, 2002, special days of prayer.

"This church has always been a praying church," Trask said in a letter to Assemblies of God pastors. "But we need to intensify our commitment to prayer and continually renew the altar within our churches, within our homes and within our hearts."

*With additional reporting by Baptist Press*

## Arkansas Baptists move toward 2000 BF&M as doctrinal guide

**By Charlie Warren**  
*Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. (BP)—Messengers to the Nov. 6-7 Arkansas Baptist State Convention annual meeting took a first step in a constitutional change to make the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement the doctrinal guideline for Arkansas Baptists.

Bryan Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Van Buren, made the motion to change the convention's articles of incorporation to make the revised faith statement Arkansas Baptists' doctrinal guide.

Constitutional revisions require a two-thirds majority vote at two consecutive conventions. A similar motion last year failed to garner a two-thirds vote. This year, 69.5 percent of the messengers approved the constitutional change on a vote of 805-353. The second vote will come at next year's convention.

Smith said the language of the 2000 statement "makes it very clear that we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who has been clearly revealed in the inerrant Word of God. It does not make Southern Baptists worshippers of the Bible."

Dan Grant, former president of

Ouachita Baptist University, urged messengers to vote against the motion. "I cannot understand why the writer of the 2000 statement deleted the sentence, 'The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ,'" Grant said. "I'm very concerned about pressure from outside our state convention to fall in line with those at the top of the hierarchy."

New ABSC President Jim Lagrone, who was elected without opposition, said he stands with Arkansas Baptist Executive Director Emil Turner who supported the 2000 statement in an article in the Arkan-

sas Baptist News.

"I would never ask you to change your convictions," said Lagrone, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Bryant, "but I do ask you to lay down your swords and follow the direction of our executive director and let's walk together as we go into the future."

In other action, messengers adopted a resolution on witchcraft and sorcery which noted that "the Harry Potter book series and its subsequent materials are inconsistent with biblical morality and ethics and promotes pagan beliefs and practices."

## Sunday school strategist Anderson dies

FORT MYERS, Fla. (BP)—E.S. "Andy" Anderson, author and creator of the Sunday school-oriented Growth Spiral Program, died Oct. 31 in Fort Myers, Fla. He had been in a coma since suffering a cerebral hemorrhage May 15. He was 74.

Anderson was pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Fort Myers, Fla., for nearly 20 years until 1975 when he began working at the former Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He retired as a growth specialist in 1992.

The Growth Spiral Program was an outgrowth of the ACTION enrollment

plan, also developed by Anderson in the early 1970s. The ACTION plan trained leaders to enroll people in Bible study and Sunday school, as well as including an emphasis on bus ministry. Anderson, who wrote eight books on church growth, also worked with churches using the Super Spiral.

Bill Taylor, director of network partnerships for LifeWay Christian Resources, described Anderson as a "cutting-edge innovator."

"Southern Baptists had a marvelous ambassador in Andy Anderson," Taylor said, "because he represented everything noble about the people called Southern Baptists."

### BAPTIST DIGEST

#### ■ Church deeds site to seminary.

Park Place Baptist Church in Houston voted Nov. 4 to deed its \$7 million site to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to be used as the seminary's Houston campus. The agreement allows the congregation to continue to meet in the building and perform its ministries from there. The 8.5 acre campus includes a 2,000-seat auditorium, educational space for 1,500 people and a gymnasium/recreation facility.

#### ■ Baptist agency wins tax relief.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is entitled to an exemption from property tax by the District of Columbia, Superior Court Judge Cheryl Long ruled. District officials rejected the ERLC's request for tax exemption because it said the agency used its office for "policy issue advocacy." Long ruled the district improperly intruded into the ERLC's religious mission, entitling the organization to a refund of more than \$70,000 paid in taxes.

#### ■ West Virginia Baptists name leader.

Terry Harper was elected executive director/minister of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists. Harper, a former president of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, was elected unanimously Nov. 1 by the state convention executive board. He has served since 1984 as pastor of Colonial Heights (Va.) Baptist Church.

#### ■ Annuity Board amends plans.

Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board voted last week to amend retirement plans to comply with provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act signed into law earlier this year. The act allows expanded contribution levels for retirement plans and IRAs and increased opportunities for rollovers among various types of retirement plans. Trustees amended Annuity Board plans effective Jan. 1, 2002, when the legal changes take effect.

#### ■ Iowa celebrates partnerships.

Messengers to the Nov. 4-5 annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Iowa concluded a 10-year missions partnership with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and inaugurated a new partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Ed Gregory, Iowa Baptist associate executive director, noted that more than 2,000 Iowans made professions of faith in Christ and 40 churches were started during the partnership with Arkansas Baptists.

#### ■ Baptists Today honors Allen.

Baptists Today, an independent Baptist news journal, presented its first Judson-Rice Award for leadership and integrity to Jimmy Allen, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Allen, who led the former SBC Radio and Television Commission before his retirement, is minister at an interdenominational chapel in Georgia.



"Don't worry. They'll be back. They won't make it on the outside."

## Cross Over the Purchase

More than 100 churches take gospel to West Kentucky

By Trennis Henderson & David Winfrey  
Editor & News Director

MURRAY—Raking leaves, washing cars and hosting carnival-style block parties were among tools used to help spread the gospel in Western Kentucky last weekend.

Volunteers from more than 100 churches fanned out across four associations for Kentucky Baptists' first-ever "Cross Over the Purchase," held in conjunction with this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Murray, is modeled after similar events held on the Southern Baptist Convention level.

The outreach emphasis blanketed Blood River, Graves County, West Kentucky and West Union associations with local church members working alongside volunteers from across the commonwealth.

Activities during the Nov. 10-11 weekend included door-to-door community needs and prayer surveys, free "Jesus" video distribution, prayer walks, one-day revivals and even car maintenance for senior citizens. The Saturday events concluded with a celebration service at First Baptist Church of Murray.

Cross Over coordinator Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team, said survey teams averaged 100 to 150 home visits per church. He noted that church leaders ordered 7,000 copies of the "Jesus" video to distribute in the region.

"It's been a great day," Garland said after the Saturday night rally. "We've sown seed that will be reaped in future days and years and genera-



tions.

"The churches in the association are gaining a vision of getting outside the walls of the church, seeing you can use something as simple as a video to witness," he added. "My hope is this will be the beginning of something that will flourish and continue in this area."

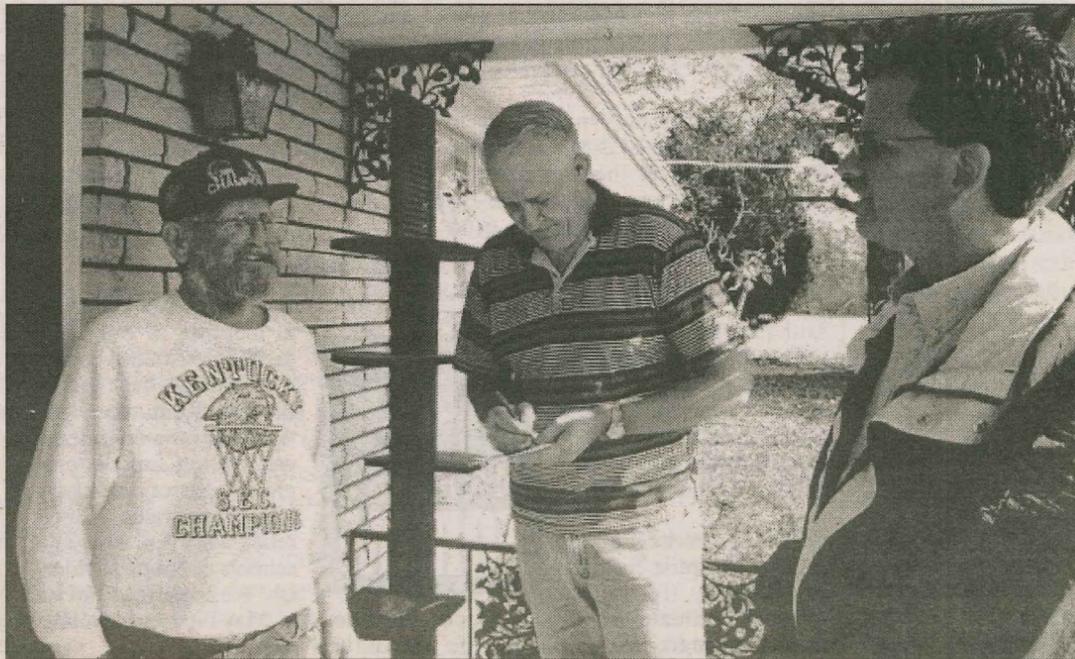
Pastor Tim Cole could hardly contain his excitement as members of Hazel Baptist Church took part in distributing videos, prayer walking, leaf raking and door-to-door surveying. "This has been the best thing for our church. I love it," he said, noting that members ranging from ages 3 to 77 took part in activities.

A team of three women prayed as they walked by 134 houses. This town 10 miles south of Murray has only 150 residents inside the city limits, Cole noted. Members also distributed approximately 300 "Jesus" videos to homes in and around Hazel.

With 40 members involved in the ministry activities, nearly a third of the church's average attendance took part in Cross Over.

Cole said the weekend emphasis showed members they can be involved in missions through a variety of activities, not just by traveling overseas. "It gave them the understanding of what it means to be a witness."

Jerry Johns of Salem Baptist



Church in Glasgow traveled to Hazel with her husband, Billy, to distribute "Jesus" videos with Hazel Baptist members. "I just love doing missions work," Mrs. Johns said. "It's good to see there are other people in other places who are doing the same thing. They were having fun doing something for Jesus."

Members of New Bethel Baptist Church near Benton raked leaves, conducted door-to-door surveys and hosted a block party for area youth.

After visiting several homes in the area and praying with people about specific needs, New Bethel member Jim Solomon said, "I've never done that before—going house to house. Believe it or not, it was enjoyable. It has given us an eye-opening experience that we can go out and tell people about Jesus."

That was precisely what New Bethel Pastor David York hoped would happen.

Noting that the events gave church members a valuable lesson in servanthood, York said, "I'm hoping our church gets a mindset of understanding we are here in this community to serve people."

Cross Over demonstrates that "it doesn't matter if your church is small or large, you can be a part and do something for the Lord," he added.

A team of nine youth and two adults from Rineyville Baptist Church traveled to Mayfield to help members of South First Street Baptist Church conduct community needs surveys. They also distributed Spanish-language tracts to Hispanics in the area, inviting them to a Saturday night chili supper and Spanish-language service at the church.

"In our community there is a large number of Hispanics," said David Key, pastor of South First Street. "This was a good opportunity to minister to them and get the gospel to them."

The focus on Hispanics "shows that the church is interested and concerned about the folks who live around us," Key added. "We'll see what develops from it."

Brittany Brangers, a high school junior from Rineyville, said she sensed God's leadership to take part

in Cross Over even though it meant spending time away from her mother who was diagnosed a few months ago with terminal cancer.

"God just kept presenting the ways for me to come," she said. "It kind of all fell together and I'm here."

During the door-to-door surveys, "I had the opportunity to pray with one woman for needs in her life," Brangers said. "God touched her so much that she was in tears. That was the last house we went to so that brought it all together."

Affirming the outreach to Hispanics, she noted, "The gospel is important everywhere and it's got to be spread to everybody. We've got to get beyond our cultural differences."

About 25 Baptist Student Union members at Murray State University took part in campus prayer walks and survey witnessing. Several BSU students also worked at a free car wash alongside youth from West Fork Baptist Church in Murray.

The Cross Over activities "benefit the community and really instill servanthood into the students," said Jonathan Clark, a BSU campus ministry intern.

"That's what Jesus taught," he said. "He was an example of meeting physical needs and spiritual needs."

Noting that "evangelism and service go hand-in-hand," Clark added, "We're seeing a need and we're meeting a need. Hopefully it will help us develop that discipline in our daily lives."

Monica Tate, a sophomore at Murray State, said her motivation for washing strangers' cars on a cool Saturday morning could be summed up in one word: Jesus.

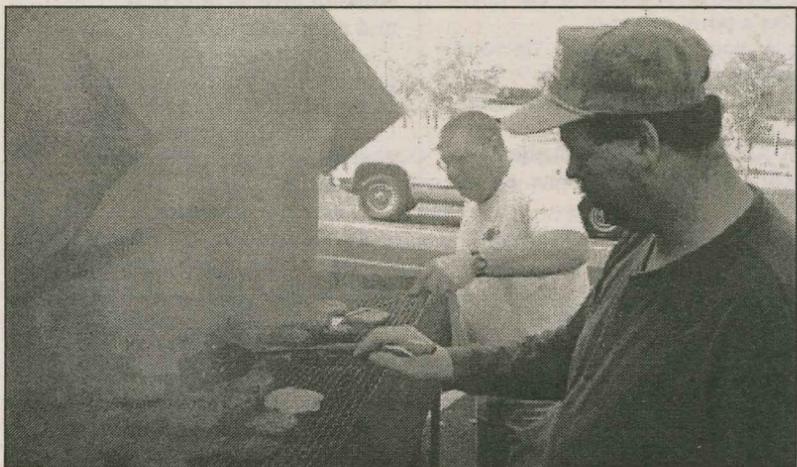
"There's really no better way to be a servant than to humble yourself and know you're doing it for Jesus," she said. "It's all about Jesus."

Harlan Williams, director of missions for Blood River Association, said Cross Over has "ignited a spark" in several area churches by "getting us out into the real world."

"I think it's opened up a new vision of ministry," he said. "It's given churches a new zeal and a new vision."

### OUTREACH MINISTRY

Volunteers took part in a variety of Crossover activities, including service evangelism and door-to-door surveys that led to opportunities to talk about Jesus. ■ Above: Richard Vance (center), a member of Hazel Baptist Church, and Eric Allen of the Kentucky Baptist Convention talk to a resident near Hazel, about 10 miles south of Murray. ■ Left: Janice Wilkinson (right) with Megan Raspberry rake leaves. Both are members of Hazel Baptist Church. ■ Inset: A bag containing a "Jesus" video is left on someone's door. (Photos by David Winfrey)



**HAMBURGER HELPERS** Ricky McGregor (left) and Chris Sledd grill hamburgers for a block party at New Bethel Baptist Church. "I guess this is what you would call my special talent," McGregor said. "With the grill out here, hopefully somebody's who's lost will pull in to see what's going on." (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

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

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## Support BF&M report

I'm writing to affirm the report of the committee studying the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. It correctly ascribes to the Bible its unique role in Kentucky Baptist Convention life.

No one attributes infallibility to the 1963 or 2000 BF&M statements. Controversy over them attests to a truth we all acknowledge: The Bible alone is a document of truth without error, utterly sufficient as our source for faith and practice.

Some might proclaim, "Thus saith the confession. You must believe and behave like this." But when we say, "Thus saith the Lord," and expound the Scriptures, we have indeed behaved like Baptists.

The committee report treats all Baptist confessions equally. If it is construed to validate the 2000 confession, then it likewise validates the 1963 confession.

Actually, it merely acknowledges the historic Baptist practice of issuing confessions, albeit with trepidation. Why? Because to impose any human confession of faith upon the hearts of men is to ascribe to it an authority which, in truth, only God possesses. We trespass upon divine domain (2 Chronicles 6:30).

Confessions are good when they unify, but Christ-denying when used to coerce conformity and excise dissent. Should we in Kentucky ever mandate one of these fallible documents of human origin to be binding upon the hearts and practices of our churches, employees or trustees, we will reap a harvest of division, separation, exclusion and strife. But if we, as the report recommends, affirm the Scriptures alone as authoritative for faith and practice, thus upholding the Reformation principle

of "sola scriptura," and leave confessions a matter of individual or congregational preference, I believe Kentucky Baptists will live in unity and cooperation.

Confessions should never exercise lordship over our consciences or the church. That power, right and privilege, earned at the cross, belongs uniquely to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Eric Fruge  
Lexington

## Pursue unity

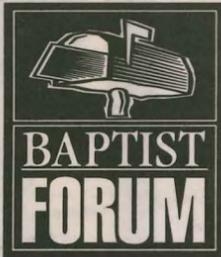
Once again we approach the annual meeting of our Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Lord has richly blessed Kentucky Baptists. Our mission endeavors, church support programs, pastoral/ministry support programs, disaster relief work and excellent schools continue to flourish. We praise the Lord for

His blessings. May the Lord continue to use and bless us.

In order to continue to do the Lord's work in Kentucky and throughout the world, we need to focus on those things which unite, not divide us. Historically, missions has been the clinch pin that has held Baptists together. We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ is the message of hope for the world. As the KBC, we will continue to flourish as long as we keep our focus on Jesus Christ and the spread of His gospel. Enlivening missions should remain our conviction and goal.

My prayer and hope is that we can avoid the controversy and division that other states have experienced. Our country has always been characterized by its diversity. Yet, even with our diversity we stand as one. May we, as the KBC, learn from our country and stand as a diverse union.

Kirk C. Greenfield  
Harrodsburg



BAPTIST  
FORUM

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Top 10 list for KBC messengers

When Kentucky Baptists invited me to become executive director in December 1997, God revealed four emphases that have provided guidance for me ever since:

**Build on the spiritual foundations of God's Word and a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ.** My dream would be for Kentucky Baptists to become known as a people of prayer and that God would be pleased to send revival and spiritual awakening.

**Focus on vision, values and mission in order**

**to become a purpose-driven organization.** My prayer is that Kentucky Baptists would be driven by a vision to fulfill God's mission.

**Build strong and meaningful relationships.** My prayer is that Kentucky Baptists could model how to overcome different perspectives and work together passionately in fulfilling the mission of our Lord.

**Serve the churches so they can be more effective in reaching**

**people for Christ, discipleship and missions.** My prayer is that God would build strong churches of all sizes to fulfill His mission.

God has continued to confirm this vision for my ministry as executive director.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting this week in Murray is an excellent opportunity for messengers to make new friends and build meaningful relationships for the mission of our Lord. I encourage everyone in attendance to reach out to people you have not met and

make a friend.

It also is important that all messengers demonstrate a spirit of understanding and love as you relate to brothers and sisters in Christ during this convention. The world is watching to see how we behave when we feel deeply about issues and disagree with others. Pray for Jim McKinley as he presides during the deliberations of this convention.

I would like to suggest the fol-

## Bible is 'fixed point'

Often heard now is that Scripture "should be understood in the light of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ."

As an ideal, I say "amen." In Ephesians 6:17, the equipment provided to the Christian includes "the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God." Here "word" is passive and means "what we have heard God say." Hebrews sums up God's speech by saying He "hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son" (Hebrews 1:2).

However, in actuality this is problematic in that portions of Scripture accepted as inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16) are sometimes deleted out of hand, ignored or interpreted by a "contemporary" Christ who has become more pliable to one's wishes.

It seems unlikely that the Holy Spirit would be so vacillating and contradicting. Moderate theologian Paul Achtemeier says, "The root of our problem is the human propensity to put non-gods in the place of God. Sometimes it appears that in the Bible we discover God to be the kind of God that we cannot live with." Then a Christ may be invented to sanctify the assumptions of culture, usually at variance with the Bible.

Cecil Sherman, a moderate spokesman in the Baptist cleavage, says: "It is not our job as interpreters of the Bible to polish up and make attractive those words in Scripture that carry negative freight. When we begin to play the public relations game with interpreting Scripture—presenting biblical ideas in a way that will be pleasing to our culture—usually it is the sense of Scripture that suffers."

These questions remain: Whose Christ? Which Christ? The one who wants what you want? Or the Christ revealed in Scripture? I, for one, need a fixed point, the Bible, to rein in my subjectivism and hubris.

John C. Huffman  
Louisville

## FAMILY

### Financial tips address savings, mortgage, tithing

By Jeremy White

This week's column focuses on participants' questions and my answers at a recent financial seminar I conducted:

**Q: At age 52, I am behind on my retirement savings. Should I in-**

**crease the percentage of my pay that I contribute to my employer's retirement plan even though we still have credit card debt?**

Certainly not! Pay off credit card debt first before increasing your retirement plan contributions. You will help your retirement by paying off high-interest debt sooner.

Reduce your current spending and quickly eliminate all debt except your mortgage. Then contribute to your retirement plan the amount previously applied to your debt payments.

**Q: What is a rule of thumb for knowing when to refinance my mortgage?**

I usually use a rule of thumb of a 2 percent reduction in interest rates from one fixed mortgage to another fixed mortgage. If you have a variable rate, refinancing with a fixed mortgage might make sense for a less-than 2 percent reduction because of the peace of mind of having a certain rate.

It also depends on how long you stay in the house. You should refinance if you plan to stay in the house long enough to recoup your refinancing costs within a few years. Remember that refinancing results in immediate costs. You then earn those costs back over time by lower interest rates.

**Q: We have been tithing for many years. What is an appropriate percentage of our income to give as offerings, over and above the tithe?**

As much as you can while still meeting your basic family needs. In my unscientific observations, I have noted that many tithers give about 2 to 3 percent above the tithe as offerings to various worthwhile ministries.

I think it is wonderful that you are one of the small percentage of those who tithe. I challenge you to be "above average" in your additional giving as well. For example, you could increase the percentage, say by 1 percent each year, that you give to pregnancy care centers, rescue missions, Christian radio stations or evangelistic ministries.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. Visit his Web site at [www.consultcpa.com](http://www.consultcpa.com).



FINANCIAL  
FORUM

## Achieving life goals: Recruit a mentor, set realistic plans

**Q: I'm 22 years old, single and have no idea where to start in making a success of my life and reaching my goals. I want to be there for others, but I don't feel like I'm able to be there for myself. Any suggestions?**

You might be "putting off" parts of your life due to ingrained family patterns, or your local environment could be too limiting for realistically achieving your goals.

You might want to consider asking someone to be your mentor, to hold you accountable in various areas of your life. Many people 20, 30 or 40 years older than you are ready to do so because they want to "give back" as someone previously did for them. Every Timothy needs a Paul, someone you can enlist to help you "raise the bar" on various areas of life.

You might find that you are "stuck" because of something in your past. John Trent, author of "LifeMapping," said this happens either because of emotional freeze points, long times of frozen emotions that can be remedied by getting into a community of unconditional love, or flash points, moments so dramatic that they changed your life forever.

In either case, by taking a realistic look at your past and living in the present in such a way that you are moving closer to your goals, you will get to the point of making "memorial markers" in your life. Those markers represent the lasting change you and God are able to achieve together.

Remember, God knows "the plans He has for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).—*James Stillwell*

**Q: I recently began providing in-home care for my elderly father. While I want to meet this need in his life, how do I cope with the added pressure?**

You are not alone. More than 18 million Americans are caring for a family member. As our population grows older, more and more people will find themselves providing care for older adults.

In most instances, the care provider lives in a stress-filled world. The best way to cope is by learning a few survival strategies and taking care of yourself. Suggestions to reduce stress include:

- Talk about your feelings with your friends or members of a support group.
- Learn the limits of your endurance and strength and set priorities. Take a "time-out" when you are over-stressed and tired.
- Don't allow the older adult or other family members to treat you in a manner that is unacceptable or inappropriate. Don't allow anyone to manipulate you through guilt or anger.
- Ask for help when you need it, and be specific.
- Seek advice from professionals. Contact your family doctor, pharmacist and lawyer for accurate information. It is extremely important that you take the right steps to care for your own health.
- Get enough sleep. This is not an area where you can short-change yourself. Avoid the habit of pushing bedtime back further and further, as you stay awake to finish just one more task.
- Take care of yourself emotionally and physically. Visit your own doctor on a regular basis and inform him or her about the caregiving situation. Your doctor is an excellent ally in your efforts to take care of the care provider—you.
- Try to identify and remember the spiritual and emotional rewards of caregiving. Try to see the experience of caregiving as an opportunity for growth and learning.—*Jon Rainbow*

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.



## Western Recorder: 175 and going strong

In 1826, more than a decade before the birth of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the forerunner of the Western Recorder was established. That means 2001 marks the 175th anniversary of the state Baptist paper's commitment to help tell the story of what God is accomplishing through Kentucky Baptists.

One of the ways we are highlighting the Recorder's rich ministry heritage is through a yearlong series of articles recounting the editors and issues that have shaped Kentucky Baptists' state Baptist paper.

Jack Birdwhistell, associate professor of religion at Georgetown College; Duane Bolin, associate professor of history at Murray State University; and Joyce Martin, the Western Recorder's partnership editions editor, have chronicled the paper's impact through the Civil War, the birth of the Cooperative Program, the Great Depression, two world wars and numerous other historical events. They have helped bring to life the memories of pioneer editors George Waller and Spencer Clack as well as T.T. Eaton, V.I. Masters and C.R. Daley.

As the oldest weekly state Baptist paper in the nation, the Western Recorder has a long, proud history. Even more significant for Kentucky Baptists today, however, is the paper's current and future ministry efforts.

In addition to serving Kentucky Baptists for 175 years, the Western Recorder has gained a national reputation for fair, accurate reporting of developments in Baptist life. The Recorder earned national recognition earlier this year from Baptist Communicators Association for excellence in interpretive reporting and news series.

Yet producing an award-winning publication for Kentucky Baptist readers isn't the Western Recorder's only ministry focus. Our staff also partners with local churches and associations as well as several

smaller state conventions across the nation.

The Recorder offers congregations of all sizes the opportunity to receive customized newspaper editions that feature their local church news on the back pages of the Recorder. This service provides an easy, efficient and economical way for church leaders to communicate with their members each week. The newspaper editions consistently reduce production time and mailing costs for participating churches.

The Recorder's partnership paper ministry helps smaller conventions produce monthly papers that combine their convention news with the Recorder's national and international news and features. Joyce Martin currently coordinates publication services for the conventions of Hawaii Pacific, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Pennsylvania/South Jersey and Utah-Idaho.

As the Western Recorder marks a major ministry milestone during this week's KBC annual meeting in Murray, the state Baptist paper remains a valuable resource for church members who desire to be informed about Baptist life and ministry in Kentucky, the nation and around the world.

One additional historical perspective about the Western Recorder from a 1957 "Daley Observations" column: "A few Baptists will read it from cover to cover because they like to read and are that interested in religious matters," Daley wrote. "A few people are so unconcerned that they would not read a letter from their mother to say nothing about a religious paper, but that is a reflection upon the persons and not upon the mothers. The majority of Kentucky Baptists, if encouraged by their pastors and others who know about such things, would read their denominational publication with enjoyment and profit. This is my hope and prayer."

As the Western Recorder looks to the future, that is this editor's hope and prayer too.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Baptist Forum promotes lively dialogue for 40-plus years

By Trennis Henderson

During his 27-year tenure as editor of the Western Recorder, C.R. Daley was known for his straightforward editorial perspectives. But in addition to sharing his opinions with Kentucky Baptists, he provided readers an open forum to voice their views.

The Baptist Forum, Western Recorder's letters to the editor column, debuted in 1957, a few months after Daley became editor. It remains a regular part of the Recorder's content today.

Current letters focus on such diverse issues as the Baptist Faith and Message statement, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the impact of the "Harry Potter" books. While early letters also addressed a variety of topics, many had a more personal tone.

One of the first Baptist Forum letters was from a young evangelist named Billy Graham. Expressing appreciation for a Western Recorder article supporting his evangelistic campaign in New York, Graham wrote, "I recently read your defense of me in the Aug. 1 (1957) issue of

Western Recorder. I am deeply grateful. ... Certainly the Lord, in spite of our mistakes and failures, has attested His work here in New York."

Another letter took the Recorder to task for a line on the cover of each issue that read: "Kentucky's Largest Denominational Paper."

"Is it necessary that this be on all Western Recorders?" the writer asked. "Is it true? Even if it were true wouldn't it look better left off—is it boasting? ... Who cares if it is or if it isn't. Is it good taste?" Daley apparently took the admonition to heart as the line quietly disappeared from the Recorder's cover a few weeks later.

Former editor John Freeman (1942-46) offered Daley "my personal good wishes for a happy service with the Western Recorder."

"I like your suggestions about new things for the pages," he wrote, "but please do not change the name! After a century and more with one name, it would be like changing the name of the USA."

A 1957 letter from Leon Winchester of West Paducah noted that a recent article "stated that Southern

Baptists had grown in spite of the ignorance of its pastors."

"This statement I can heartily agree with," he wrote. "However, I believe that we need to keep in mind that the growth of Southern Baptists depends more upon the blessing of God than any other thing."

"I do believe in an educated ministry but believe an educated minister is helpless without God's leadership," Winchester added. "I feel that education has been over-promoted compared to the promotion of God-called, Spirit-empowered ministers."

Even with the lively dialogue promoted by Baptist Forum, not every issue of the paper included letters. The Dec. 5, 1957, issue of the paper included an editor's note that explained, "Due to the unusual amount of denominational publicity and advertising included in this week's issue, we are unable to include the Baptist Forum feature. Please respond to our advertisers and watch for the Forum next week."

Early Baptist Forum columns also included a note that read, "This space is dedicated to the Baptist principle of free discussion of current issues and events and all sincere comments and views will be welcome. Its continuation depends upon your response." That formula remains true more than 40 years later.



# 2001 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

## SPRING REPORT

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Georgetown College:** 2002 unexpired term: David Wheeler (Los Angeles, CA)

### KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**Blackford (WE):** 2001 unexpired term: Chuck Fuller (Pellville)

**Breckinridge (CE):** 2003 unexpired term: James Preston (Hardinsburg)

**Greenup (NE):** 2002 unexpired term: Floyd Paris (Ashland)

**Knox (SE):** 2001 unexpired term: Michael Helton (Woodbine)

**Liberty (SO):** 2002 unexpired term: Toby Nunn (Park City)

**Little Bethel (WE):** 2003 unexpired term: Doug Anderson (Madisonville)

**Long Run (CE):** 2001 unexpired term: Mary Kay Alberg (Louisville); 2002 unexpired term: Geoffrey Lacefield (Louisville)

**Mercer (SC):** 2002 unexpired term: Larry R. Harris (Lancaster)

**Muhlenberg (WE):** 2001 unexpired term: Gary Lane Taylor (Central City)

**Severns Valley (CE):** 2003 unexpired term: Dan Flanagan (Campbellsville)

**Union (NC):** 2003 unexpired term: Michael Wayne Spivey (Cynthiana)

**Georgetown College (Trustees):** 2002 unexpired term: JoAnne James (London); 2004 unexpired terms [4]: Robert Cohen (Lexington); Helen Donaldson (Sadieville); David Travis (Murray); Guthrie True (Frankfort); 2005 terms [4]: Karen King (Mt. Vernon); Terry Lester (London); Janice Shelton (Johnston City, TN); David Thompson (Georgetown)

**Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees):** 2003 unexpired term: Rick Long (Frankfort); 2005 terms [2]: Steve Ayers (Bowling Green); Harold Pike (Covington)

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors):** 2005 terms [4]: Glenn Armstrong (Beaver Dam); Dorothy Crace (Ashland); Mike Melloan (Owensboro); William Walters (Richmond)

**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (Directors):** 2002 unexpired terms [2]: Tommy Morreau (Paducah); William Price (Owensboro); 2005 terms [6]: Alice Lynn Kerr (Lexington); Paul Long (Stanford); Darrell Lewis (Florence); Michael Lyons (Salyersville); John Smith (Louisa); James Wood (Owensboro)

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees):** 2004 unexpired term: Ernest Slusher (Pineville); 2005 terms [6]: Bobby Barnes (Burlington); Frances Gambrel (Corbin); Timothy Langford (Hickman); Larry Mills (Barbourville); Joan Parr (Nicholasville); Ellis Payne (White Plains)

**Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees):** 2005 terms [6]: Oscar Davidson (Somerset); Pat Key (Central City); Charles McWhorter (Manchester); Reva Milby (Louisville); Mike Williams (Paducah); Bettie Wright (Barlow)

**Temperance League (Trustees):** 2004 terms [5]: Linda Barnes (Louisville); Thomas Curry (Louisville); David Morris (Somerset); Michael Routt (Ashland); Bob White (Lewisport)

**Western Recorder (Directors):** 2005 terms [3]: Barry Howard (Corbin); Linda Polley (Elizabethtown); Rodney Travis (Hopkinsville)

### KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**At Large-North Central:** 2004 term: Rick Robbins (Erlanger)

**At Large-Central:** 2004 term: David Platt (Louisville)

**At Large-Southeast:** 2004 term: Joy Rice (Harlan)

**Allen (S):** 2004 term: Kenneth Fisher (Scottsville)

**Anderson (C):** 2004 term: Jerry Dedman (Lawrenceburg)

**Bell (SE):** 2002 unexpired term: Jay Sulfridge (Middlesboro)

**Bethel (S):** 2004 term: Randy Davenport (Elkton)

**Blackford (W):** 2004 term: Charles Fuller (Pellville)

**Blood River (SW):** 2004 term: Harlan Williams (Almo);

2004 term: Dennis Foust (Calvert City)

**Boone's Creek (NC):** 2003 term: J. T. Rafferty (Paris);

2004 term: Earl Waugh (Winchester);

**Caldwell-Lyon (SW):** 2004 term: Wallace York (Princeton); 2003 unexpired term: Mike Morris (Fredonia)

**Casey County (SC):** 2004 term: Onva Hayes (Liberty)

**Central (SC):** 2004 term: Wesley Noss (Lebanon)

**Christian County (SW):** 2004 term: William Rowlett (Hopkinsville)

**Crittenden (NC):** 2004 term: David Tucker (Dry Ridge)

**Daviess/McLean (W):** 2004 term: Sam Beeny (Hanson)

**Elkhorn (NC):** 2004 term: Willis G. Polk (Lexington);

2004 term: Stephen V. Bruce (Stamping Ground);

2004 term: Maribeth Hambrick (Georgetown)

**Graves County (SW):** 2004 term: Ronnie Stinson (Mayfield)

**Grayson County (S):** 2004 term: Charles Woosley (Leitchfield)

**Green Valley (W):** 2004 term: Glenn Riggs (Henderson)

**Greenup (NE):** 2004 term: C J Adkins (Ashland);

2004 term: Gary Arrington (Ashland)

**Laurel River (SE):** 2004 term: Norman Brock (London)

**Lincoln County (SC):** 2004 term: Dan Gutenson (Crab Orchard)

**Little Bethel (W):** 2004 term: Allen McCutchen (Providence)

**Long Run (C):** 2003 unexpired term: Jeff McCarty (Taylorsville); 2003 unexpired term: Pat Reaves (Louisville); 2004 term: Skip Alexander (Louisville); 2004 term: Peggy Hicks (Louisville); 2004 term: Charles Barnes (Louisville);

2004 term: Eddie Hatfield (Louisville);

2004 term: Jan Shockley (Louisville);

2004 term: Ben Williams (Louisville)

**McCreary (SC):** 2004 term: M. A. Winchester (Stearns)

**Monroe (S):** 2004 term: Tim Smothers (Tompkinsville)

**Muhlenberg (W):** 2004 term: Gary Taylor (Central City);

2003 unexpired term: Ron Wingo (Graham)

**Nelson (C):** 2004 term: Tom Wicker (Chaplin)

**Northern Ky (NC):** 2004 term: Wayne Lipscomb (Union);

2004 term: Calvin Perry (Alexandria)

**Ohio County (W):** 2004 term: Mason Beville (Hawesville)

**Owen County (NC):** 2004 term: Franklin Stewart (Owenton)

**Pulaski (SC):** 2003 unexpired term: Mark Perko (Science Hill);

2004 term: Steve Hall (Somerset); 2004 term: Curtis Brock (Eubank)

**Severns Valley (C):** 2002 unexpired term: Bob Hamilton (Elizabethtown);

2004 term: Charles Darland (Elizabethtown); 2004 term: Jim Shaw (Radcliff)

**South Union/Mt. Zion (SE):** 2004 term: Bennie Bush (Williamsburg)

**Sulphur Fork (C):** 2004 term: Lynn Traylor (Westport)

**Tates Creek (SC):** 2004 term: Brian Malcom (Richmond)

**Taylor County (SC):** 2004 term: Tom Gupton (Campbellsville)

**Three Forks (SE):** 2004 term: Butch Pennington (Hazard)

**Warren (S):** 2004 term: Tom Stokes (Oakland); 2004 term: Scott Kilgore (Bowling Green)

**West Ky (SW):** 2004 term: Jack Acree (Fulton)

**Preacher of 2002 Annual Sermon:** Craig Loscalzo (Lexington)

**Alternate:** Troy Dobbs (Crestwood)

### Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Mark Galloway (Chairperson), Jerry Tracy (Vice-Chairperson), Travis Collins, Stan Lowery, Kathryn Akridge, Don Mantooth, Jim Craigmyle, Larry Davis, Stephen Rice, Paul Schmidt, June Rice, John Dean, John Chapman, Chris Platt, Wes Roy, Shane Nickell, Ken Goforth, James Doyel, Linda Krutza, C. C. Brasher, Tommy Tucker, Tom Hughes, Lena Romans and Farrell Isenberg; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director - Bill Mackey and Convention President - Jim McKinley

## FALL REPORT

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Campbellsville University (Trustees):** 2002 unexpired term: Alex Montgomery (Campbellsville); 2005 terms [11]: Jerry Bennett (Campbellsville); Steve Branscum (Russell Springs); Roger Davis (Horse Cave); J. Chester Porter (Shepherdsville); Thomas Smith (Danville); Hayward Spinks (Hartford); Edwin Montgomery (Louisville); O.D. Hawkins (Owenton); George Ransdell (Louisville); Kerry Skinner (Rex, GA); Leon Wilson (Norman, OK)

**Cumberland College (Trustees):** 2005 terms [7]: Frank Atkins (Williamsburg); William Adcock (Somerset); Tony Hancock (Lexington); Dave Huff (Corbin); Roland Mullins (Mt. Vernon); Roy Dobyns (Talbott, TN); Joe Smiddy (Wise, VA)

# 2001 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

**Committee on Arrangements - 2004 terms:** Pat Ramey (Williamsburg) and Tom Biddle (Prestonsburg)

**Committee on Constitution & Bylaws - 2004 terms:** Arnold Turner (Prestonsburg), Ellery Milburn (Lawrenceburg) and Jerry Oakley (Bowling Green)

**Committee on Credentials - 2002 unexpired term:** T.A. Prickett (Owensboro); 2003 unexpired term: Scott Mackey (Glasgow); 2004 terms: Bill Jagers (Louisville), Ken Forman (Frankfort) and Ron Prater (Owensboro)

**Committee on Nominations - 2003 terms unless noted otherwise:**

**Central Region:** Mary Lou Jenkins (Brandenburg)

**North Central:** Norman Workman (Falmouth) and Truett Cocanougher (Mayslick)

**North Eastern:** Ron Barnett (Campton)

**South Central:** Kathleen Hall (Stanford) and Brenda Easterling (Harrodsburg); 2002 unexpired term: James Jones (Campbellsville)

**South Eastern:** Nancy Cooper (Hazard)

**Southern:** Bob Sutton (Franklin) and Layne Johnson (Bowling Green)

**South Western:** Larry Kemp (Cadiz) and David Brasher (Benton)

**Western:** Doug Anderson (Madisonville)

**Committee on Order of Business - 2002 unexpired term:** Jim McKenzie (Lexington); 2004 terms: Willis Henson (Paducah) and Les Hollon (Louisville)

**Committee on Public Affairs - 2004 terms:** John Shakleford (Hazard), Floyd Paris (Ashland) and Bill Thurman (Lexington)

**Committee on Resolutions - 2003 terms:** Floyd Price (Prestonsburg) and Rodney Travis (Hopkinsville)

**Persons to Report - 2001**

**Cooperative Program:** Larry Redding (Harrodsburg); Alternate - Garry Baldwin (Owensboro)

**International Mission Board:** Ken Park (Franklin); Alternate - Wendell Smith (Rineyville)

**North American Mission Board:** Cathy Chinn (Hartford); Alternate - Lonnie Riley (Lynch)

**Obituaries:** Charles Stewart (Ashland); Alternate - John Kruschwitz (Louisville)

### Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Mike Melloan (Chairperson), Kay Trisler (Vice-Chairperson), Willis Henson, Todd Toole, Floyd Price, Mary Lou Crutcher, Tyre Denney, Carl Boyd and Ray Cooper; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director - Bill Mackey and Convention President - Jim McKinley

## Instant parenthood

*Baptist Homes foster mom not fearsome of this foursome*

By Dannah Prather  
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

CADIZ—Almost overnight, Rosemary Hendricks, a single woman with a busy schedule as a physical therapist assistant, became the mother of four.

In the process, she will make possible a Thanksgiving none of her foster children will ever forget—a holiday spent together in the safety and warmth of a loving home.

As a foster parent with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Western Region Family Foster Care program, Hendricks has opened her home and heart to Brandon, Brian, Alicia and Christina. Previously homeless and separated, the four siblings are together for the first time

in almost two years, sharing the joys and challenges of childhood with one another.

The day of her final foster parent training session, Hendricks was pulled aside by the KBHC foster care staff. "They told me about a sibling group of three who needed a home," Hendricks said. At that time, the fourth child, Brian, was living with his aunt and uncle, but the other three were with their mother, moving from homeless shelter to homeless shelter. The trio had been removed from their mother's care and needed a foster home.

"A lot of bad things happened there," recalled Brandon, 11, referring to life on the streets and in the homeless shelters.

The next Sunday, when Hen-

dricks' Sunday school teacher asked for prayer requests and reports, of blessings during the week, Hendricks said she wasn't sure which category she belonged in. "I'm fixing to be a mother of three in a week and two days."

Wanting to be a parent, yet still single, Hendricks said it was natural to explore adoption and foster parenting. "The biological clock was ticking, and Mr. Right hadn't come along," she said. "I figured if I was going to have kids, I was going to have to go about it a different way."

Hendricks' desire to be a parent never prepared her for three children at once, she said, but she never thought of shrinking from the challenge. A new homeowner, Hendricks said she took her time to redecorate and equip her house. She used her parents' home across the street for showers and laundry. "I didn't have a water heater or a washer and dryer," she said with a laugh. What she did have was a God-given peace about her decision to make a home for these children, she added.

KBHC Family Foster Care always strives to place siblings together, but sometimes that is not possible in sibling groups of three or more. Often, children are in different foster homes, but near by, so frequent visits are possible. Hendricks, upon hearing about the children's neglected background, wanted to put them all under her roof. "If there was anything I could do, they would stay together," she said. "I even asked for Brian to come before he was in the foster care system."

When Brandon's case worker asked him to write about foster care, he contrasted his new life to the one he had before.

"Before I came here, I never had a house. I never had a Christmas tree. I never had a birthday party. I never had toys or coloring books. I never had a phone. My sisters and I never had a bed," Brandon wrote. "We never were visited by family. We never had our picture made. We had never eaten in a restaurant. We had never been to church."

As grateful as Brandon and his sisters were for their new home, something was missing: brother Brian. While his brother and sisters were living in homeless shelters, Brian was living with an aunt and uncle. As time passed, "I wondered if I would ever see my brother again," Brandon said. Occasionally the children's father would visit Brian. But those visits became less frequent. Finally, Brian's aunt and uncle decided they could no longer take care of him.

When Brian's social worker contacted Brandon's KBHC foster care worker, Jill Collins, she immediately called Hendricks. Without hesitation, Hendricks asked that Brian be placed in her home. "My response was, 'How soon can you get him here?'" Hendricks said.

Brian's arrival was literally an



answer to prayer. "Brandon became a Christian and was baptized in January," Hendricks recalled. "He began praying Brian would come to live with us and in a month's time, Brian was here."

Now the family is complete. The whereabouts of the children's biological parents are unknown, but they have yielded their parental rights, which will permit Hendricks to adopt all four children. "Their father did meet with the kids one last time earlier this year," Collins said. "He wanted to say 'good-bye' and to tell Rosemary how much he appreciated that all of the kids were together."

As this foster family grows closer, Hendricks said she can see how God has been at work, bringing them all together. "I'm adopted myself," she said, "so blood means nothing to me but family means everything."

"One of the reasons we asked Rosemary to consider the kids in the first place is because we knew she wanted to adopt," Collins added. "Because she is adopted herself, she has a special understanding that most of us don't about how important it is to keep brothers and sisters together."

Hendricks' parents support their daughter and love their foster grandchildren. "It was a shock," father James Hendricks said with a laugh.

Hendricks predicts that Thanksgiving will always be special to her children. "They realize the gifts God has given them and are able to take them for what they really are. I'm so thankful that my kids were reunited."

November is Thanksgiving Offering time to benefit Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The goal for the 2001 offering is \$1.2 million. For information about foster care through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, call (800) 456-1386 or visit the KBHC Web site, [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org).

**MOM** Rosemary Hendricks stands in her kitchen with her four adopted children: (from left) Christina, Alicia, Brandon and Brian.



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# KENTUCKY

## Kentucky resort ministry a growing field, consultant says

By Tim Beauchamp  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

ALBANY—Most Americans consider vacations to be a chance to relax and forget about life's worries. Mike Watts and 5,000 other Kentucky Baptists see vacation and recreation parks as a blossoming field for evangelism.

"Over 2 million people came to Kentucky recreational areas last year," said Watts, Kentucky Baptist Convention consultant for resort and leisure ministries. "That tells me that there is a tremendous number of people to share the gospel with throughout our recreation areas alone."

Kentucky Baptists are ministering

in a variety of settings, including race tracks, state parks, campgrounds, airports and truck stops.

"People are always surprised when I tell them what resort and leisure ministries is all about," Watts said.

"We set up booths at sporting events and hand out refreshments and gospel tracts. We coordinate with chaplains and help them," he added. "We hold worship services, provide vacation Bible school programs for children and generally try to make contact with people and share the gospel."

The resort ministry movement began at the grassroots level many years ago, said Watts, who was appointed last year as a part-time consultant for the KBC.

"Kentucky Baptists have been reaching out to the recreational areas of our state for a long time," he said. "We are trying to get a handle on the impact that this ministry is having and try to take it to new heights."

Watts, 64, said his involvement in this special ministry began 32 years ago at Dale Hollow Lake near Albany in south central Kentucky. As pastor of Albany First Baptist Church, Watts developed a love for the people he saw at the nearby lakes and parks.

"I saw a need at the lakes," Watts

recalled. "These were people who were having a great time, but they might not know Jesus. Their greatest enjoyment was still missing in their lives."

Watts and deacons from his church began holding Sunday worship services at Wolf River Marina and Campground in 1969. It is a ministry that remains active today. Three Sunday services are held at Dale Hollow Lake and Lake Cumberland.

Watts' ministry as a consultant goes beyond his home in Albany. He said he spends a lot of time on the road traveling throughout Kentucky meeting with people and trying to establish new ministry opportunities.

He meets with state park managers, Baptist Student Union groups and churches. He speaks at programs and rallies hoping to create awareness for resort and leisure ministries.

Watts said it is not hard for individuals to become involved in resort ministries. If one has a passion to share the gospel, then the potential is unlimited, he added. "If someone is interested in this ministry, but they don't know how to get connected, call me and I will help them out."

Watts said local churches are vital to successful resort and leisure ministries.

"When a local church is connected to a certain recreation site or ministry, they serve as a support arm and a church home to many of the people who come to know Christ," Watts said. "What a wonderful way for a church to fulfill the Great Commission in their own backyard."

He said it's easy for churches to become involved. He believes the model that his church used back in 1969 is still relevant for today.

Watts said the basic plan involves leading a church to:

- Understand its mandate to share the gospel and make disciples.
- Organize a volunteer team and begin surveying the area.
- Contact the KBC missions department if volunteers are needed to help with visitation and surveying.
- Start a Sunday worship service.

Watts said he realizes his method is not the only way, but it offers a way to start, which often is the hardest part of the process.

For more information on resort and leisure ministries, contact Mike Watts at (606) 387-0902 or the KBC missions growth team at (502) 245-4101 or toll free in Kentucky at (800) 266-6477. Information also is available on the KBC Web site at [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org).

**HORSING AROUND**  
West Kentucky's Wrangler Campground at Land Between the Lakes is among several recreation areas where Kentucky Baptists offer resort ministry opportunities. (File photo)



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# KENTUCKY

## KBC President McKinley: 'Positive witness' is top goal

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—After Jim McKinley was elected Kentucky Baptist Convention president last November, he described himself as a "peacemaker."

That description was particularly significant since he was elected by a vote of 1,091 to 978. Despite the divided vote, he noted, "I'll do everything I can to try to be a brother to brothers and sisters who don't necessarily agree with me."

Twelve months later, as he concludes his one-year term as president this week, McKinley said he believes he has accomplished his goal.

"It's been a much easier 12 months than I expected," he said. "I've been treated so warmly by people on both sides of most issues."

McKinley "has been fair in relating to all Kentucky Baptists," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "That has been very significant for all Kentucky Baptists and the spirit of cooperation across the state."

McKinley said he has been "pleasantly surprised" at the way "Kentucky Baptists with so many diverging opinions can come togeth-

er and do so many wonderful things."

He cited record Cooperative Program receipts, partnership mission efforts and the work of the KBC Baptist Faith and Message study committee as positive examples of Kentucky Baptists setting aside differences to work together.

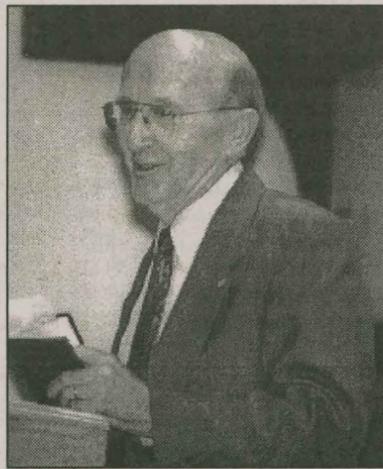
McKinley, who met throughout the year with the Baptist Faith and Message study committee, described the group as "nine Christian people who are not compromising their faith but considering what is best for all the churches at this time."

"They were absolutely thorough" in their work, he added. "They heard people from different areas of Southern Baptist life. They studied the previous confessions of faith. They got to the bottom line."

Convention messengers are scheduled to take action on the committee's proposal Nov. 14 during the KBC annual meeting's closing session.

"If this report were refused and we decided to affirm either the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message or the '63 one, that would be tragic," McKinley said. "It wouldn't be a sign of unity in the body of Christ."

Emphasizing his commitment to Christian cooperation, he added, "Our



**PEACEMAKER** Kentucky Baptist Convention President Jim McKinley, speaking in churches across the state, urged Kentucky Baptists to pursue Christian unity.

Christian brothers and sisters are not our enemies. The No. 1 thing is our witness. The family of God ought to be presenting a positive witness for Jesus."

McKinley, a retired Southern Baptist missionary, served 34 years in East Pakistan and Bangladesh, where he helped start dozens of churches.

Citing McKinley's missions background, Mackey said, "The thing that

stands out the most to me is the passion for missions that he has been able to communicate to Kentucky Baptists through his presiding at Executive Board meetings or other venues, his speaking in churches and the fact that he symbolizes missions for so many Kentucky Baptists."

Affirming the need for Kentucky Baptists to "be witnessing and winning people" to faith in Christ, McKinley said he would like to see an increased emphasis on ministering to Hispanics and international students throughout the commonwealth.

Though "the world is at our doorsteps," he cautioned that some churches "are asleep to the opportunities and responsibilities in their community and in our state, nation and world."

Describing his goals for this week's KBC meeting, McKinley said, "I would like to see certain people shake hands with people they have never shaken hands with before and let it be a true handshake."

"The differing issues in Kentucky Baptist life are not faith-destroying issues," he added. "Let us start with the fact that we are brothers and sisters in Christ and move on from there. The bottom line is we don't need to be fussing and fighting in the Christian faith."

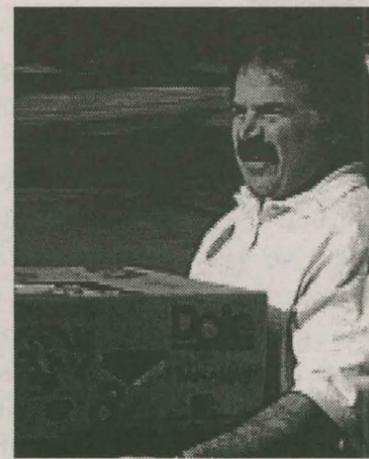
**"Our Christian brothers and sisters are not our enemies."**

KBC President Jim McKinley



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# Consider the Joy!



Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.... Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:2-4, 12

It is through adversity that many of the children in our care find their greatest strengths. The same could be said of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children itself. For the last two years, we have faced some very trying times. We have been sued by the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. We very nearly severed all ties with the State of Kentucky which would have meant the closure of some of our programs, the loss of hundreds of jobs and, most importantly, thousands of hurting children and families would not have been able to receive care from KBHC. These tribulations could have distracted us from our mission of caring for the children. It's been a painful, heart-wrenching time. But we've persevered. And we've considered it pure joy to endure these trials for God and for the children He entrusts to our care.

God is working to show us the joy amid our trials and tribulations every day. It's a privilege to be found worthy to take a stand for what is right and best for kids. But we cannot make the stand alone. We need your help now more than ever.

In some ways the future of KBHC is uncertain. There may be significant changes ahead as the constitutional portion of the lawsuit continues. We don't know what our agency will be like a few years from now. But we do know that children and families are in trouble right now and they will continue to need us in the future. We need your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering to keep our programs running. We need to ensure that our agency will be here providing care and hope to the hurting regardless of what the world says.

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# RESOURCES

## Hope for the holidays: Is your church ready?

Continued from page 1

"I think we have seen, and will continue to see, especially during the holidays, a resurgence of interest in religion and a returning to God as a source of strength," he added. "I think the 23rd Psalm is becoming more important to more and more people."

On the other hand, many people with no religious foundation are turning to dysfunctional ways of coping with stress, including alcohol, extramarital affairs and irresponsible spending, he said.

"I've seen a number of people with a kind of 'Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die' attitude," Rowatt said. "I see some people falling into despair and hopelessness. That's a great opportunity for outreach for the church."

Money, time and travel are common anxieties during the holidays, Rowatt and Landon agreed.

The financial downturn could require churches to dig deeper, recognizing that more families might need benevolence funds during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"I think the crisis might make people think, 'I want to give a big flashy gift this time and make everything OK,'" Rowatt added. "That's not what's going to make everything OK.

It's going to be the extra hug, the extra hour we spend talking to our aging grandparents, our growing school-age children, our bewildered teenagers."

Holidays are notorious for pressuring families who feel the need to split time with a variety of family members, Rowatt said. "I think pastors need to focus on the quality of relationships in our family visits—the quality of conversation at the table, not the volume of food at the table."

Terrorist threats make travel an added anxiety this holiday season, Landon and Rowatt said.

"I'm not accustomed to having armed military people with M-16s stand beside me at the airport. Just their presence creates anxiety," Rowatt said. "One thing pastors can do just about anxiety in general is to help remind us of our dependence on God, day in and day out."

Landon added that prayer is a significant aid to dealing with anxiety. "Not that God doesn't know our heart," he said. "When we put our anxiety into our prayers, it seems like it opens up that part of our life and lets the Holy Spirit come in and deal with all of our anxieties."

Church leaders will need to listen to members more carefully to assess the level of anxiety, fear, hopelessness, loneliness and grief in members' lives, Rowatt said.

"I think after making the assessment and listening to the heart and soul of the congregation, then (ministers) do what they always do, and that is turn to the Scripture for a word of God.

"That word will vary among different congregations," he added. "That's the beauty of the Scripture."

Some people will need the reassurance from Psalms that God is their refuge and strength, while others will need a message of confrontation, Rowatt said. "Some people are going to need to be told, 'Don't yield to the temptation to go out and act crazy,'" he said. "It's just going to make matters worse for you and others. And you're probably going to live."

Landon said the weeks leading up to the holidays always are busy for his counseling practice. But appointments taper off during the actual holidays.

Many families in conflict approach Christmas and Thanksgiving as a time-out period when they suppress problems and pretend to lead a Norman Rockwell-type life, he said. "I guess they have good holidays, at least on the surface," he said. "But underneath it's boiling, which by mid-January just makes it hotter and uglier."

## Survey finds vast majority of U.S. families donate to charity

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Eighty-nine percent of American families gave a contribution to charity last year, Independent Sector has reported.

The average charitable contribution was \$1,620, or 3.2 percent of families' income.

Forty-four percent of adults volunteered last year, creating a volunteer work force of 83.9 million people.

"While attention in recent weeks has focused on the charitable response since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, this study demonstrates that Americans are generous year-round even in more ordinary times," said Sara Melendez, president and CEO of Independent Sector.

The survey also showed that 42 percent of Americans both gave financially and volunteered their time.

Households with family members who attend religious services each month gave \$2,151 compared to \$964 donated by those who are not regular attendees.

The survey indicated that the nation's economy could affect future giving. Respondents who said they were "worried about having enough money in the future" gave about half of what households without such concerns gave—\$1,201 compared to \$2,205. The survey question was asked between May and July of this year.

The results of the survey, "Giving and Volunteering in the United States 2001," involved 4,216 adults older than 21 who were interviewed by telephone.

Independent Sector is a coalition of more than 700 national nonprofit groups.

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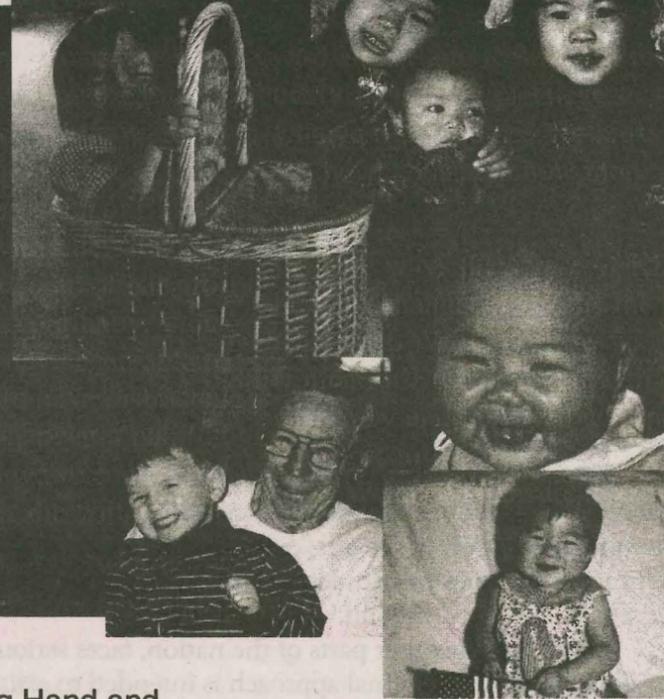
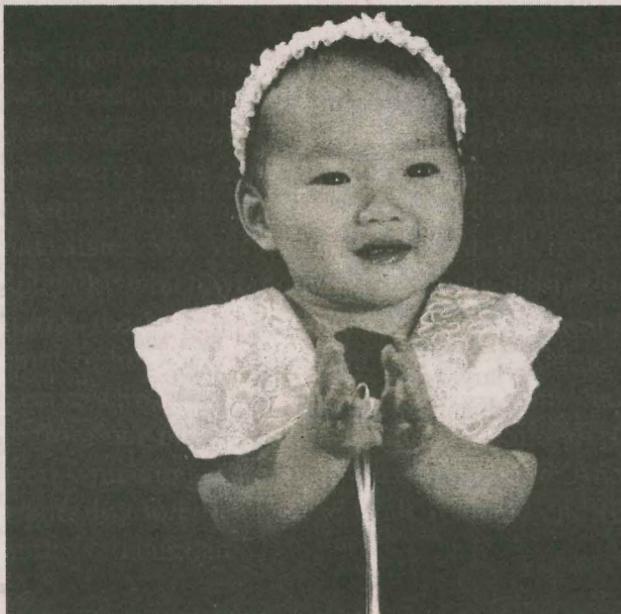
Thus, God wants Christians to relieve the orphan in his or her distress. Adoption is a loving option. More than a social solution, or a good deed, adoption completes families, adds joy to life, and brings God's love to a needy child.

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10:00 a.m.

Northern Kentucky  
December 8, 2001  
Crittendon Christian Church  
106 North Main Street  
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4:00p.m.



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# RESOURCES

The following is a paid advertisement. This editorial first appeared in the September 2001 edition of Kentucky Monthly magazine. The editors of Kentucky Monthly have graciously granted Campbellsville University permission for its reprint.

## Christian Colleges and Universities Provide Values-Based Approach to Higher Education

By  
Dr. Michael V. Carter, President  
Campbellsville University

Some would tell us that it is not possible to have quality higher education from a "biased" faith-based perspective. I believe that honest and rigorous education can and does take place on faith-based campuses. The quest for truth has never been hindered by the underlying Christian values such as honesty, truthfulness, compassion, care, serving and love. For it is these very attributes, which provide the basis of human character, moral order and the ability to conduct society by varying degrees of consensus. Christian higher education is about learning and service. It is about understanding others and allowing others to understand the world around them.

Those of us who proudly proclaim and adhere to our Baptist heritage must not only continue the legacy of providing a faith-based, strong educational experience, but we must ensure that our mission and our ability to be effective are enhanced so that we might meet the future challenges with vision, energy and love.

For the vast majority of our Christian colleges and universities, our mission is to provide students with a quality education where Christian leadership and service are emphasized. We are helping students to learn how to "make a difference" one student at a time. At Campbellsville University, like other such institutions, we seek to develop students academically, spiritually, and socially within a caring, Christian atmosphere. Those of us associated with Christian education are committed to leadership development, but leadership of a different kind: "servant leadership." Students attending a Christian college or university are not only challenged by a rigorous academic program, but are offered numerous opportunities to extend their role of service, many times, to those less fortunate or to the many across our state, nation and world.

For example at Campbellsville University, we provide an opportunity for our students to rebuild houses in need of repair through our Kentucky Heartland Outreach program. In its two years of existence, Kentucky Heartland Outreach has replaced roofs, windows, doors, and porches, as well as painted numerous homes throughout several parts of Central Kentucky. Through the servant leadership of these students, not only are houses repaired, but so are the lives of many with whom our students come into contact. As higher education in Kentucky has recently entered into a new century, many of the essential ingredients, which prepare students for tomorrow, have not changed since our founding. The larger issues we will face call for a renewed understanding of the intrinsic value of education, beyond the preparation of job skills.

The reality of war and terrorist attacks, hunger, poverty and inequity, racism, the new economy, environmental concerns, information management, the need for greater appreciation of the arts, cultural differences, and educational issues and reform are all issues that students must be exposed to in order to become effective citizens in 2001 and beyond.

Kentucky, like other parts of the nation, faces serious social and economic challenges. Our educational approach is intended to assist a wide array of students as we integrate the Christian faith with academic discipline. The integration of faith and learning is our distinctiveness as institutions of higher learning.

Certainly, the future of American education will bring many changes. But education is a system of continuity, built on values and history. Why should someone appreciate a Campbellsville University if we don't appreciate the heritage of why this and several hundred other church-related colleges and universities were born?

And with headlines screaming daily at us of hopelessness and despair, I cannot recall a better time when our nation can use the influence of our Christian-educated men and women who can provide the solutions to our nation and world's social problems.

## Churches look for new ideas to disciple members

Continued from page 1

led an "Experiencing God" study during lunch hour at the Toyota plant in Georgetown. Ten employees, among them Baptists, Catholics and Pentecostals, completed the 13-week course.

After struggling to attract teachers on Wednesdays, Tomahawk Missionary Baptist Church near Inez canceled its Sunday evening service and shifted its children's program to Sunday nights. Average attendance has surpassed Sunday school and the sessions attract many kids from non-church backgrounds, Pastor Jack Ward said.

These options illustrate changing tastes, Clontz noted.

"The young generation likes variety," he said. "Older people come out of loyalty, but younger ones want choices. They're asking, 'What will help me mature or make it through the week?'"

He recommends that churches survey members to determine specific interests, tailor classes to meet those needs and heavily publicize them.

Nor should church size be a hindrance. There are a number of ways small and medium-size congregations can start or invigorate discipleship programs, the KBC leader said.

Clontz said his office can help any church starting a discipleship program get \$100 worth of materials free from LifeWay Christian Resources. The publisher offers more than 200 studies on everything from prayer and devotional life to parenting and counseling.

Some videos can be borrowed from the state convention, said KBC discipleship consultant Allen England.

Other options are obtaining materials through the local Baptist association or joining with several other churches to purchase them.

"The first thing I tell folks to do is look at the needs in their church and then address them through discipleship," said England, a professor at Clear Creek Bible College in Pineville.

England, who also is minister of education at East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church in Middlesboro, start-

ed a discipleship program there this fall. He chose Wednesday night because that worked better than Sunday at his former church in Alabama. The move has boosted East Cumberland's mid-week attendance to 80, an increase of about 35 percent.

"It helps when folks get accustomed to learning and get away from the idea that they can't learn anything," England said. "That's silly. The Spirit of God is the One Who teaches. Once we convince them of that, they can't get enough."

Churches putting more emphasis on discipleship report good results.

At Beacon Hill, which named Chris Kurtz as pastor of discipleship and ministry last January, participation in classes is 50 percent higher than attendance at the previous Sunday evening service.

Kurtz said the growth isn't just numeric. Despite an economic downturn, the congregation is meeting its budget and staffing problems are a thing of the past, he said.

"It just thrills you," he said. "A lot of people are understanding this is important. They see that they need to be involved in Bible study and take and share it with the children."

First Baptist of Danville is another of many Kentucky Baptist churches devoting Sunday nights to discipleship.

Pastor Tim Mathis said in addition to increased involvement in missions, for the first time in 45 years the Danville church met its budget for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

"Pastors can't do it all," Mathis said. "This has multiplied the number of Bible teachers and has had an incredible effect on spiritual growth."

Jonathan Tussey, pastor of youth and small groups at Richmond's Eastside Baptist, said the primary difference between Sunday school and discipleship is the latter aims at less lecturing and more participation.

The goal is to redefine the church's vision, he said.

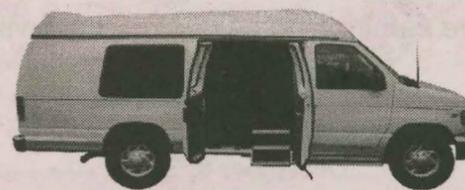
"The reason you need discipleship, small groups and community is to do the Great Commission and bring people into the kingdom," he said.

making disciples

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# RESOURCES

## Mentors help church disciple, keep new Christians

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

McQUADY—After watching half of 90 converts slip away from church the past three years, Jake Huffman thinks he has found the solution to keeping new Christians in the fold.

Last spring, Corinth Baptist Church started a one-on-one mentoring effort.

Since mature Christians began meeting regularly with new members, the pastor no longer worries about newcomers drifting away.

"I don't have to worry about them not becoming relationally connected with someone," said Huffman, whose church averages 350 people in attendance on Sunday mornings. "And, they're getting involved in Sunday school and cell groups.

"We help encourage the disciplers and they do the rest," he said. "This takes a load off the staff."

Huffman said every church, regardless of size, should train and offer mentors to new members and new Christians.

"Jesus shared His life in relationship with 12 other people, and as they shared life together, He taught them,"

Huffman said. "As new Christians share life with you, a window is opened and the message is experienced. More things are caught than taught."

Mentors say they enjoy these sessions as much as those they teach. The materials they use review such basics as establishing a daily prayer life and keeping a spiritual journal.

Donna Whitfill memorizes Bible verses with the two women she mentors, and she's also taught them how to share their conversion experience with others.

Those who don't know much about the Bible or church are more likely to ask questions in a non-threatening environment, she said.

She seeks to complete each lesson, but other discussions, including personal concerns and social breaks are routine. During the week, she keeps in touch with her two charges by telephone.

"The goal is a Christ-centered friendship and relationship," Whitfill said. "They'll be my friends for life and be able to come to me with anything."

A strong believer in the concept,

she said she wishes she had had a similar mentor when she became a Christian during childhood.

Working with people who are eager to learn is an added blessing, Whitfill said.

"It's like when you have a child and see them grow, develop and learn how to walk and talk," she said. "It's the same kind of blessing. I see this as equipping believers in a major way."

Bill Schneider is mentoring someone for the first time in his 11 years in a church.

Like Whitfill, he and his "Timothy"—the name used for these new Christians—discuss every-day life during their Bible studies. Weekly sessions often last between two and three hours.

"We stick to the book, but talk about other things," Schneider said. "He'll have questions, and we'll deviate from the lesson."

Mentoring gives him a lot of personal satisfaction that is hard to describe, he added.

He said he's looking forward to working with others in the future. "A lot of people come to a church and if

you don't get them involved, they're gone. You've got to make a friend, bond with them and go from there."

Bill Hubbard, the man Schneider mentors, said he had grasped a lot of basics about the Christian life by attending a group Bible study after joining the church last fall.

Still, he appreciates the value of a mentoring relationship. He finds it helpful to learn more about the Bible while occasionally discussing personal problems.

"One of the big things in a one-on-one session with somebody who is knowledgeable is that you can talk about anything you want to talk about," said Hubbard, whose wife is being mentored by Schneider's wife. "In a cell group it's hard to talk freely."

Pastor Huffman has purposely maintained a low profile for the effort, but plans to promote it more actively within the church next year.

As proof of its success, Huffman notes that of 15 people who have been mentored, only one is no longer active at the church.

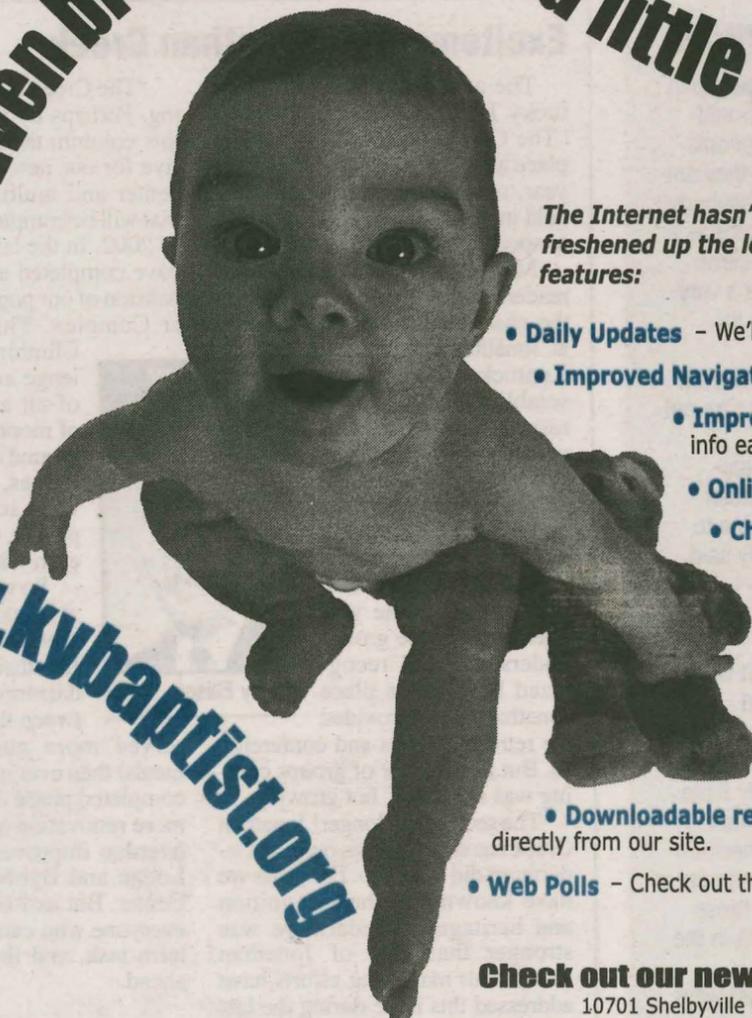
"This isn't a short-term fix but it's a long-term solution," he said. "The smaller the church gets the better. I don't like this impersonal stuff."

**"They'll be my friends for life."**

*Donna Whitfill, a member of Corinth Baptist Church in McQuady, referring to two women she disciples.*

making disciples

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



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- **Improved Search Feature** – There's a search button on every page to make getting info easy!
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- **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!
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# RESOURCES

## Consultant: Do you know your church's 'genetic code?'

**Bandy said the first step is to quit fighting over things that don't matter.**

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Is your church in conflict? If it isn't, it probably has been—or will be.

Churches fight over many things, from predestination to parking, from worship style to budget priorities. And even some "peaceful" congregations are mired in ineffectiveness or spiritual lethargy.

Why do so many churches struggle? Tom Bandy says it's because they don't know who they are. They lack a clear, articulated identity.

Bandy, a popular church consultant, has devoted his career to making churches healthy and effective. He doesn't lack for work these days, as more and more churches find themselves in a struggle to survive or out of touch with the communities they are trying to reach.

"My sense is that every church needs to be changing," Bandy said in an interview with FaithWorks magazine.

He isn't talking about just reorganizing the Sunday school. Bandy advocates radical, "transformational" change that focuses on the question: "What is it about your (church's) experience with Jesus that this community can't live without?"

Bandy said the first step is to quit fighting over things that don't matter—issues of style and methodology—and dive into the hard work of hammering out "a clear congregational consensus" about a church's unique

role in God's purpose, what he calls its "genetic code."

In biology, DNA is the name given to a nucleic acid in a living cell that contains an organism's genetic blueprint and transmits its hereditary pattern.

Bandy says a church writes its own "DNA" by identifying its core values, bedrock beliefs, a challenging vision and a focused mission. Those building blocks will define and permeate everything else the church does—worship, training, social ministries and buildings. In his analogy, like the body, a church's unique identity—its DNA—resides in every "cell."

That new identity empowers church members and staffers to launch out in creative directions, since they are not limited by "the way we've always done it," Bandy said. The genetic code, meanwhile, becomes "the vehicle of accountability in the life of the church."

"These values, beliefs, vision and mission become clear boundaries beyond which we cannot go as a church but within which any member of a church is free to do whatever they want," Bandy said.

Many churches shape their identities around their traditions, programs, worship style, personalities or experiences, Bandy said. Many have "a generic sense of mission" that's tied to a denominational identity.

But those may not be relevant to the church's situation today. And they may be of little help in charting a clear direction for the future.

### Expect obstacles

ATLANTA (ABP)—Tom Bandy said churches appear more open today to the "transformational change" he's calling them to consider.

"Generally speaking, I find churches more prepared to do that today than they were even five to seven years ago," Bandy said.

But obstacles still remain, he added. "There are basically three kinds of people in the church," Bandy explained:

■ About 20 to 25 percent are rearing for change.

■ About 60 to 65 percent are traditional people who wouldn't chose to change but are both healthy and coachable, he said.

■ About 10 to 15 percent, are the controllers. "I describe them as not-healthy people," he said. "No training would help ... because what they need is therapy, not education."

Many churches must choose between not changing, which will cause the 20 percent in the first group to leave, or embracing change, which could cause the unhealthy controllers to leave.

"Bottom line, you're going to lose somebody in the next 10 years," he said. "The good news (is) if you are willing to transform and change, you will have more impact in missions and you will involve more people in your church than ever before."

How a church arrives at its consensus is almost as important as the result. The process of developing core values, beliefs, vision and mission should not be left to the church staff or key lay leaders, Bandy said.

That's because traditional church bureaucracies are ill suited for the postmodern world, he explained. Empowering rank-and-file members for ministry and leadership is the way to become truly effective.

"The world where the CEO and the board and the hierarchy lay down a mission agenda, encourage people to do it and raise money to do it is ending," he said. "The top-down world is disappearing all over organizational

life, and the bottom-up world is what is emerging."

Churches that trade their bureaucracies and committees for a team-based approach to decision-making and ministry will find their membership much more receptive to transformational change, Bandy said.

"When you look at the corporate, social-service or nonprofit world, the organizations that are struggling are the old top-down hierarchies, and the ones that are (succeeding) are the bottom-up kind of organizations," he said.

"That's what's on everybody's mind. It is more fulfilling. It's more satisfying."

### Bandy: Clergy-laity codependency hinders growth

ATLANTA (ABP)—Traditional role expectations between clergy and laity often create an unhealthy "codependency" that hinders lay empowerment in churches, says church consultant Tom Bandy.

"We expect the clergy or staff to do all the continuing education, all the spiritual growth," Bandy said in an interview with FaithWorks magazine.

"They in turn will visit us every week, make sure we're taken care of in the hospital and guide us through the life cycles until we die," he said. "We need to break that codependency. That's an addiction issue."

Breaking such a cycle could be painful to some ministers, Bandy added. "I know many clergy who deep in their hearts would prefer that their laity not grow."

"The climate of many traditional churches is: 'I don't want you to grow, because if you grow, you may make better sermons than me. You might be a better visitor to the sick than I am. You might be a better teacher than I am. If you grow and they see you're better, then what will I do?'" he added.

"That kind of laity-clergy codependency is holding churches back from the passion for spiritual growth."

Ironically, Bandy said, "spiritual hunger—the desire to go deep" is lacking in many traditional churches while thriving elsewhere. "I see it in the public," he noted, "the unchurched or those who may just have dropped out of the church."

"All kinds of people are passionate about continuous learning, constant education," he said. "People are taking community college courses. Look at all the books on the tables at Barnes and

Noble on spiritual growth. All kinds of people in the public are concerned about what I would generally call spiritual things. All those people passionately interested in learning, and they are willing to learn from Oprah ... or from anybody."

"There's a huge desire. I just describe it as a desire to go deep—to reach further, to climb higher, to be stiller, to go deeper. That's a very broad target, I know. But it is a passion for spiritual growth."

"Everybody is passionate to grow and learn except traditional church members, who are not on a high learning curve," Bandy said.

Churches, using a classical educational model, instead tend to "front load" Christian learning by teaching the Bible and doctrine to children, youth and new converts, Bandy said. Longtime Christians, meanwhile, busy themselves with running the institution and its programs.

Most traditional adult Christians don't want to grow spirituality, Bandy alleged. He cited research indicating only 2 percent to 8 percent of adults in the typical church are involved in regular spiritual disciplines, such as daily Bible reading, small-group participation, personal prayer, ministry action or theological reflection.

The lack of spiritual desire and commitment is "one of the biggest obstacles" faced by those who want to see transformational growth in the church, Bandy said.

But filling that gap is one of the easiest ways to breathe new life into programs and ministries, he added, because church members who grow spiritually naturally become more involved.

### Excitement at Jonathan Creek

The annual gathering of Kentucky Baptists that we know as "The Convention" is likely taking place as you read this column. This year, our annual meeting is being held in Murray, in the backyard, so to speak, of Jonathan Creek.

Most of you who are regular readers of this column are aware of the changes that have taken place at Jonathan Creek since Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., assumed responsibilities for this ministry four years ago. For years this magnificent property had been underutilized. It was almost as if it were a secret of sort. To be sure, some guest groups came year after year. Those groups understood and recognized how fine a place Jonathan Creek provided

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

for retreats, camps and conferences. But the number of groups coming was shrinking, not growing.

The secret is no longer! Jonathan Creek has come into its own, as Cedar more did long ago. For years we have known that the recognition and heritage of Cedar more was stronger than that of Jonathan Creek. Our marketing efforts have addressed this issue during the last couple of years. Now, as we enter our fifth year under the auspices of KBA, the future is so very bright.

"The Creek" is changing, growing. Perhaps by the time you read this column, the materials will arrive for our new 400-seat worship center and multi-purpose facility that will be completed by late spring of 2002. In the last few weeks, we have completed an impressive expansion of our popular Alpine Tower Complex. This new Carolina Climbing Wall will challenge and engage guests of all ages. In a couple of months, we will break ground on two new small lodges, each of which will accommodate 32 people, with 8 bedrooms, each with private baths.

So we are understandably excited. It was an outstanding year at Jonathan Creek, and Cedar more as well. Between the two places we served more guests (and more meals) than ever in our history! We completed phase one of our Cedar more renovation as we made long-overdue improvements to Boone Lodge and Byrdwell Conference Center. But as I constantly remind everyone who cares, this is a long-term task, and the best years are ahead.

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

# MISSIONS

## Volunteers provide living water in more than one way

By Sue Sprengle  
SBC International Mission Board

TAMBI, Cote d'Ivoire (BP)—A clear plastic water bottle and a can of black paint sit on the ground. The man looks skeptically at the odds and ends and shakes his head.

He is convinced there is no way these two simple things are going to make his family healthier.

But he's willing to try anything. Too many people are dying.

Philip Moore, a Baptist volunteer from Bethel Springs, Tenn., squats on the ground and demonstrates how to paint the bottle. He makes clean strokes from the lip to the bottom, careful to paint only half of the bottle.

Finally, the bottle is ready. The pair walks to the local water source, a hand-dug well that is not properly lined, allowing run-off, dead animals and feces to contaminate it.

The other source of water for the 7,000 people living in this village, called Tambi, comes from barrels sitting under the thatch roofs, catching rainwater.

After filling the bottle with water, it is placed in the sun, paint side down.

The next day, the same man meets Moore on the path to his village. He excitedly asks him to come immediately to his house.

The man grabs the water bottle, points inside and says, "It works, it works. Look at all those dead mosquito larvae floating inside. Nothing

was in that water yesterday when I filled it. The sun really does kill the microbes."

Moore smiles as he examines the bottle.

"Just think what would be in your stomach if you hadn't put your water out in the sun," he replies. "You would be sick with diarrhea, but now your body will get healthy."

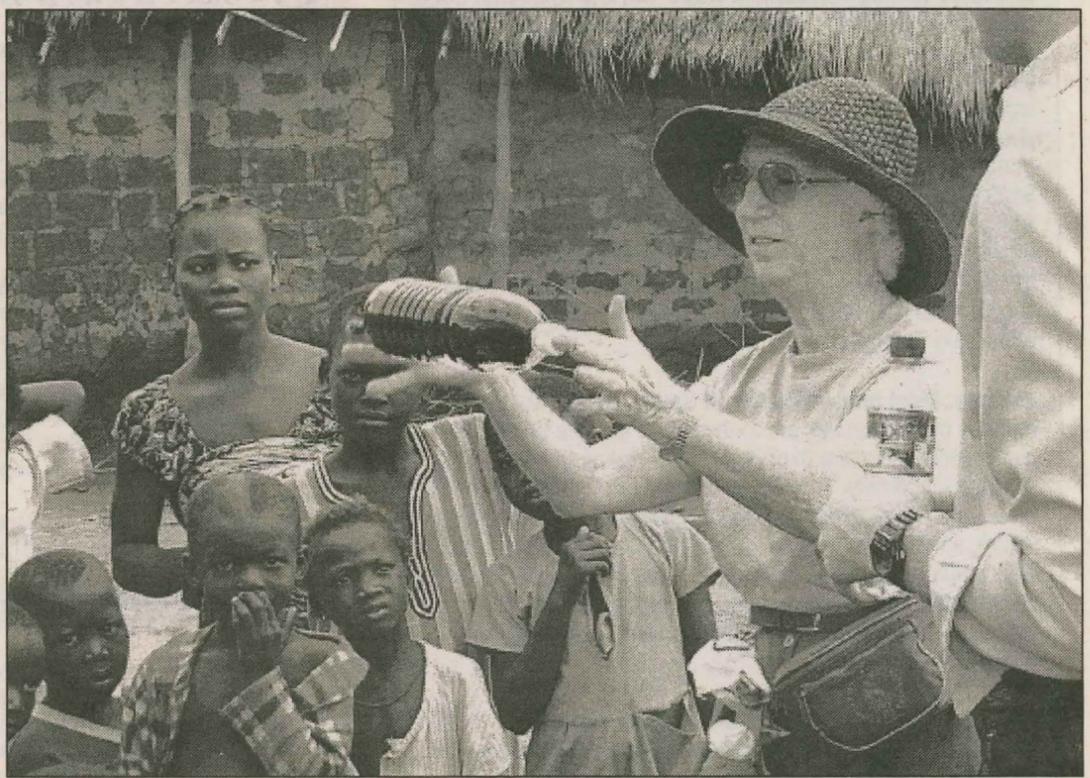
Volunteers from Macedonia Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo.; First Baptist Church in Murphy, N.C.; and First Baptist Church in Bethel Springs, Tenn., joined Baptist workers in a special water project reaching Tambi village, where 7,000 members of the Nafana people group live.

In 2000, Tambi had a high mortality rate, mostly due to dirty water, poor sanitation and inadequate hygiene.

Volunteers taught a simple water treatment method called solar water disinfection. It uses sunlight to destroy micro-organisms that cause waterborne diseases.

A transparent bottle is filled with clear water and placed in the direct sunlight for five hours, two days if it is cloudy. Solar water disinfection does not change the chemical quality, odor or taste of the water. It works by combining the effects of water temperature and UV radiation. Painting one side of the bottle black helps raise the water temperature.

As the volunteers walk through the large village, they pray for the people to be released from the dark-



ness of witchcraft and ancestor worship. They pray for the healing of the sick and that fetishes would be cast aside. They take every opportunity to tell the Nafana stories about Jesus Christ.

They pray these things, not knowing that a member of the Nafana village council long ago placed a curse to keep out white men and their influence. One particular coun-

cil member watches the Americans closely during the project and at the end asks the pastor to pray for the curse to be broken through God's power.

"We know how much you love us because you have worked every day, even during the hottest time with the sun beating down upon you," the chief says. "You did all this to help my people. Thank you for sharing with us."

**WATER OF LIFE** Volunteers from Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina teach villagers in Tambi, Ivory Coast, a low-tech way to sterilize drinking water and keep so many people from dying of waterborne diseases. In the process, members of the unreached Nafana people group saw the love of God in action and learned about the Living Water. (BP photo)

### Mountain Outreach builds seven homes

By Robert Dunston

This summer Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach program constructed seven homes. The total number of homes built since the program's inception now stands at 99.

Cumberland College students Tim Dowd, Michelle Henson, Crystal Matrau, Jason Monhollen, Heather Murphree, Woods Nash, Haley Owens, Danny Scalf, Mike Townsend and David Wilson comprised the student summer mission team.

Murphree served as student coordinator, working alongside Jane Whitaker, director of Mountain Outreach, and Ed Woods, construction director.

Church groups came from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin to help with the construction.

Two churches from Wake Forest, N.C., built three complete homes in two weeks.

Churches brought clothing, appliances and furniture for the families for whom they were building homes. So many items were brought that other families also

were helped.

After each day's construction, the Mountain Outreach summer team led a worship service for the church groups. On Wednesday evenings, everyone journeyed to Cumberland Falls for a cookout and the nightly worship service.

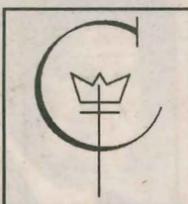
One family for whom Mountain Outreach built a home has three children who were eager to help and often got underfoot. Nash and Scalf solved the problem by helping the three children build their very own tree house.

When the new owner of one of the homes could not attend his home's dedication because he needed to sell newspapers, Nash and Scalf raced to where he was working and sold his papers for him so he could join in the service.

God worked through the Mountain Outreach summer team to bless people in physical and spiritual ways. The team members also feel blessed to have been part of the program. We thank all who participated for their commitment and service.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Court declines harassment case.** The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear a Florida case about employees' rights to share their faith in the workplace. In 1993, Kenneth Weiss was fired when his employers claimed he harassed co-workers by offering a Bible to a Muslim co-worker and showing a lesbian co-worker Scripture passages calling homosexuality "vile." A Florida jury initially awarded Weiss \$129,000. The judge, however, threw out the ruling, citing a lack of evidence of wrongful termination. The Supreme Court's decision not to hear the case leaves intact a decision by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said Weiss should receive another jury trial to determine if he was wrongfully dismissed.

■ **Study: Most megachurches in South, West.** Most of the nation's megachurches are in the South and the West and half of them—despite their large size—define themselves as "a close-knit family," a study has found. The study was based on a questionnaire sent to 600 congregations with an average weekly attendance of 3,857. Almost 72 percent of churches with weekly attendance of at least 2,000 people were located in the southern and western regions of the country. Just 2 percent of these large congregations were located in New England.

■ **WMU to publish Blackaby Bible study.** New Hope Publishers has contracted with Henry Blackaby Ministries to publish an interactive workbook Bible study authored by Henry Blackaby and Kerry Skinner. The six-week study, titled "Called and Accountable: God's Purpose for Every Believer," is based on a booklet previously published by New Hope's parent organization, Woman's Missionary Union. The theme of the study is guiding Christians to discover their call to evangelism. New Hope was started as WMU's trade publishing entity seeking to take the organization's missions vision to Christians of all denominations.

## Trade Center cross preserved for memorial

NEW YORK CITY (BP)—The cross has been saved.

The cross, that is, of steel beams uncovered as workers in New York cleared away debris at the World Trade Center.

Recovery worker Frank Silecchia, who has championed the cross' preservation, said Nov. 6 the cross has been designated as a memorial by the city of New York.

The cross has been moved to the front of the World Financial Center's Building Six on West Street, Silecchia said, adding that its final location has not yet been determined.

The cross is "a symbol of faith" commemorating those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Silecchia said.

Silecchia noticed the two steel beams in the perfect shape of a cross

two days after the disaster. The beams were found as debris was being removed from a fallen crosswalk that connected the World Trade Center's North Tower to Building Three.

The beams, at least six feet high and four feet wide, were bolted together as part of the original structure. The edges of the beams bear no markings of being cut or welded to make the shape of a cross.

The most heart-wrenching discovery was that a silver object melted onto the cross' left side was the remains of a firefighter's jacket who died in the blast.

Firefighters say the fire-resistant jacket turned silver and took on the look and consistency of metal when it encountered extreme heat and fire. Now, it is wrapped around the left

arm of the cross.

The discovery of the two beams, and of several smaller crosses amid the rubble, led Silecchia on a campaign to save the cross from demolition, petitioning Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to designate it as a memorial to Sept. 11's victims.

Yellow and white writings by rescue workers in memory of their colleagues now cover the cross. The most visible of the markings runs down one side, "God bless our fallen brothers."

"For the terrorists, terror is their faith. For us, God is our faith," said Silecchia, a New Jersey man who is quick to give a Christian witness. "Who's going to win? God is. He's going to have the last word. And He did here," he said, referring to the cross.

## Tree without religious ornaments prompts lawsuit

MADISON, Wis. (RNS)—The lack of religious themes on ornaments of a Capitol holiday tree is the focus of a new lawsuit regarding church-state separation in Wisconsin.

Eight state residents filed suit Nov. 5 in a Madison federal court because they believe the state's refusal to have such ornaments on a tree at the Capitol violates their free-speech and religious rights.

Mike Dean, general counsel for the Family and Freedom Foundation, is representing the residents

who say the ban on religious ornaments is "unconstitutional, content-based discrimination," Associated Press reported.

One plaintiff, Wayne Bird of Watertown, is an Air National Guard sergeant who is scheduled to support an F-16 fighter group next year. He wanted to create a "God Bless America" ornament before his departure.

Several plaintiffs want to "include messages that invoke God's blessing on the United States of America in light of the tragedies of

Sept. 11, 2001," the suit states.

Defendants named in the suit include the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, which sponsored this year's collection of handmade ornaments from around the state. The association distributed a state guideline that ornaments for the tree—known as the "State of Wisconsin Holiday Tree"—in the Capitol rotunda could not be religious in nature.

The state has had an unwritten policy against religious ornaments since the mid-1980s.

## New FFA program finds success

By Tamara Cochran  
Oneida Baptist Institute Publications

FFA is a national organization of more than 455,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology fields of agriculture. From cooking to wildlife conservation, there are a wide variety of goals to attain and projects to accomplish, including the OBI chapter's newest program.

Livestock showing made its debut on the OBI farm in January 2001. Young people help raise and train animals to take to contests, where they are judged by their ability to lead their livestock as well as the appearance of the animal. Each student's record book of daily care holds the greatest emphasis.

Farm staff member and show program supervisor Ron Covington added that the record book is the part of the program that makes this more than just walking a cow around a ring. Students must calculate the average daily rate of gain, feed cost and the amount of feed consumed.

Covington believes one of the most important aspects of this activity is the opportunity young people have to learn firsthand the cost of producing a pound of beef. "Simple computations are often what our students lack. ... If they can learn how to keep records, they can carry these skills wherever they go," he said.

To get started, special equipment and supplies were purchased, using a \$1,900 grant obtained by the FFA from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Burkmann Feeds of London donated \$400 worth of corral panels, doubling the number of panels we were able to purchase. OBI bought 10

show-quality calves, which never had been tied, haltered or led, from Charles Cornett, an agri-businessman also in London. To be ready for the Laurel County Steer Show in July, the animals would have to be tamed for training and grooming.

About 30 OBI students participated in the show program during seven months. Two or three farm students each day were assigned to work with the steers. Part of the training required the cattle to be unhitched and led to water twice a day. As the

animals grew, Covington said, "It was amazing for a kid to see that he could lead a 1,200-pound steer around."

OBI freshmen Savannah Hay, from Illinois, and Chuck Switzer from Kentucky, were selected to represent OBI in the show ring. Brent and Rhonda Cornett, recent graduates of the University of Kentucky in agriculture education, came from London in July to teach the students show techniques.

The Friday before the contest, Savannah and Chuck got a "dress rehearsal" with members of the cattle show committee who visited registered show participants in this area. Each student

was interviewed about his or her project, and the steers were observed to be sure they were safe for the show ring.

Finally, their big day arrived. Competing in the heavyweight division, Savannah placed first, followed by Chuck in second place. Both steers earned blue ribbons. "I was not surprised," Covington said. "I knew the competition would be tough, but I also knew we had some good quality steers."

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses

As a preacher's child, David Askins remembers taking his Bible and acting like his daddy in the pulpit.

"I never suspected I would be called," Askins said. "Sometimes it is more difficult for a preacher's son to accept the call. We do have to overcome what other people think we should do."

Askins said he faced the decision like Gideon. "I threw out my fleece. One day a woman at work asked me, 'David, do you ever think God has called you to the ministry?' God used that question as another confirmation. When things get difficult I look back and have the assurance God called me."

The call came as a shock to his wife, Tricia. "This wasn't what I had planned. We had a nice home, and Askins had a good job. But I saw his decision was real, and I was ready when we decided to move to Clear Creek," she stated. The family includes Grey, 6, and Mady, 3. Their home church, Macedonia Baptist in Owensboro, continues to provide encouraging support.

The certainty of Askins' call to preach is reflected in the willing-

ness to preach whenever asked. "I love to preach, and God has blessed me with preaching opportunities. The best way to learn to preach is to do it. My study at Clear Creek has really impacted my life and will continue to help me. The faculty and staff are the biggest impact of my experience here. They see this ministry as a privilege and are so faithful to follow the call at Clear Creek," he said.

Askins' father, Charles, graduated from Clear Creek in 1971. In 1980 Charles was pastor of First Baptist Church of Lewisport. As an 8-year-old Askins was saved and baptized.

"I treasure the memory of Dad baptizing me. I don't remember much about him," he recalled. His father died of cancer in 1981, now one of the "witnesses surrounding us," and an encouragement for Askins to "run with endurance the race that is set before" him (Hebrews 12:1).

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

# BOOKS

**Soul Survivor: How My Faith Survived the Church.** Philip Yancey. Doubleday, 2001. 321 pages. \$21.95 ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Philip Yancey is a breath of fresh air in the often musty, stale air of evangelical Christianity. His spirit, which is revealed in his books, sometimes seems far too ecumenical and flexible for a stream of American Christianity that has been plagued by fundamentalist scholasticism, political and social reactionism and a narrow, sanitized view of Jesus and the church.

How he survives within that world (he is a contributing editor of Christianity Today) is both amazing and encouraging. At one point he confesses he swung from a Goldwater Republican in 1964 to a Humphrey Democrat in 1968 (though he preferred McCarthy).

"Soul Survivor" is a blend of Yancey's autobiographical struggle with the church mixed with the lives of people who have expanded his soul and given him pegs on which he could hang his faith. The panorama of those who helped his faith survive the church include: Martin Luther King Jr., G.K. Chesterton, Paul Brand, Mahatma Gandhi, Everett Koop, Annie Dillard, Johnne Donne and others. Outside of Chesterton, not one bona fide evangelical is included in his book of saints.

Yancey grew up as a baby boomer in the independent Baptist culture of the Deep South. As he wrote about the church's response to the civil rights movement and Martin Luther King, long forgotten, yet painful memories flooded my mind. Every chapter opened new doors of insight into the depth of Christian faith.

"Soul Survivor" provides both inspiration and challenge as it manifests the life and message of Jesus and the power of the gospel. *Jim Holladay*

**The Night of the Child.** Text by Robert Benson. Photography by Dean Dixon. Upper Room Books, 2001. 132 pages. \$25. ♦♦♦♦♦

For more than 65 years, Upper Room Ministries has provided resources to strengthen the spiritual life of Christians around the world. In addition to The Upper Room, a devotional booklet that is available in 70 languages, Upper Room Ministries publishes book and study materials for individuals and groups.

One little-known aspect of Upper Room Ministries is The Upper Room Museum, which houses many items related to prayer and devotional activities. One collection of the museum is its nativity collection. Begun in 1965, this collection of crèches represents the many cultures in which The Upper Room is published.

The Night of the Child is an absolutely gorgeous collection of photographs of selected crèches from the museum's collection, accompanied by a textual reflection on the advent and Christmas message. The text moves from the promise to faith to hope to love.

Those responsible for putting this volume together paid close attention to the placement of photos and text. Rather than just inserting pictures at random places, careful consideration appears to have been given to the placement of pictures to provide maximum enhancement to the text. At times the photos show an entire crèche, while at others they focus in on a minute detail.

Robert Benson's text is a wonderful blending of biblical material, exegesis and devotional reflection.

The entire volume is beautifully bound and presented. It would make a nice early Christmas present. *Jim Holladay*

**The Web of Women's Leadership: Recasting Congregational Ministry.** Susan Willhauck and Jacquelyn Thorpe. Abingdon Press, 2001. 174 pages. \$15. ♦♦♦♦♦

The basic contention of this book is that the hierarchical method of leadership which has been the model for the church for centuries and has most often placed men in control has little place in the church of today. Yet, even churches that realize this have a hard time changing methods of leadership.

The authors propose a model for leadership which is based on the metaphor of the web. In a web, authority and power are circular and interdependent. Relationships and process matter more than tasks. Trial and error is a valid approach to problem solving because it involves constant communication. Strength comes because of the contribution of the whole not just a part.

This idea is not new with Willhauck and Thorpe. Their contribution is the thoroughness with which they present the model and the practical steps they offer to approach web leadership.

Some of the changes this style of leadership will bring to the church are: less distinction between laity and clergy; a focus on social justice ministries; a new look in worship; increased energy in Christian education; more interconnectedness between churches; a greater importance for the diaconate; increased value of women's leadership.

It would be a mistake to think this book is just for women leaders. If what the authors say about the effects of the hierarchical system are true, and I believe it is, then web leadership is not just for women as the title might suggest. It just seems it will take a lot more effort for men. *Wayne Hager*

**Traveling Light: Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear.** Max Lucado. W Publishing Group, 2001. 220 pages. \$21.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

"Traveling Light" is best-selling Christian author and pastor Max Lucado's look at Psalm 23, and though it makes for a quick, easy read, it still packs a powerful punch for readers interested in living a more effective Christian life.

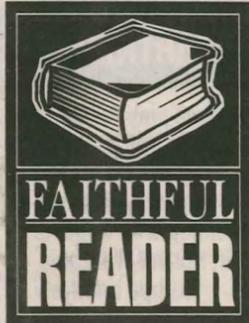
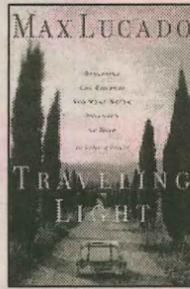
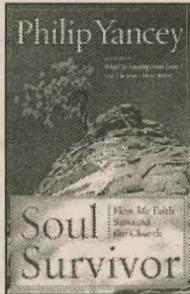
Lucado's strengths as a writer always have been his storytelling abilities and pointing out a verse or phrase of Scripture that supports the points he's trying to make with startling clarity.

Those strengths are in full force here, with Lucado using several different modern translations of Scripture to bring different passages to life, even for the most jaded of Christians.

His focus in the book is the need for Christians to place down their emotional baggage, such as envy, worry, fear, grief, pride and want, and be free of all the unnecessary "luggage" so we can more easily follow the leading of our Good Shepherd. He brings this focus a fresh meaning with an in-depth look at the habits of an ancient Israelite shepherd with his sheep.

Lucado's weaknesses as a writer include his overuse of short sentences, which leads readers to the unfortunate sense of his work being "theology lite" even when that might not be the case. He also has the habit of using cutesy alliterative phrases whenever possible.

Unfortunately, those tendencies do surface in this book, but "Traveling Light" is still an impressive inspirational work that will no doubt give readers new insights when they glance over the familiar phrases of the 23rd Psalm once again. *Victoria Moon*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and Victoria Moon, librarian for Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: [jwhager@surry.net](mailto:jwhager@surry.net), [docholladay01@aol.com](mailto:docholladay01@aol.com) or [victoria.moon@earthlink.net](mailto: victoria.moon@earthlink.net)

## Christian band asks to end Abercrombie & Fitch relationship

NASHVILLE (BP)—A Christian rock band whose partnership with Abercrombie & Fitch caused consternation among conservative family values groups has asked the clothing retailer to end their relationship.

The band Relient K asked the controversial retail store to pull their music from in-store music videos as well as the Abercrombie & Fitch Web site, said Joey Elwood, president of Gotee Records.

Billed as a "first-ever exclusive partnership with a band," Abercrombie & Fitch launched a massive multimedia campaign with Relient K on Nov. 2.

But the American Decency Association, Focus on the Family and others criticized the band for partnering with Abercrombie & Fitch. Critics blast the clothing chain for its advertising campaigns and clothing catalogs featuring barely clad models in suggestive poses.

## 'Left Behind' authors: Sept. 11 does not fulfill Bible prophecy

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (RNS)—The authors of the popular "Left Behind" series of end-times thrillers recently said they believe the Sept. 11 attacks were not predicted in biblical prophecy.

But Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins said the events of that day provided an image of what could happen in the period of tribulation they believe will occur after the Rapture, a future time when they think Christians will suddenly ascend to heaven.

"We believe the tribulation period actually follows the Rapture ... when Christ returns to rapture the church so that what happened here is a picture of how bad it can be, but it wouldn't actually be that period yet," Jenkins said in a teleconference last month with reporters.

Added LaHaye: "It would be wrong for anyone to try to put this into the tribulation period. That period will not come until after Christ has raptured what probably could be close to a billion people."

The authors discussed their views at a time when their publisher released a study that showed split opinions among Americans about the Rapture.

The study, conducted by Barna Research Group and commissioned by Tyndale House Publishers, found that 44 percent of U.S. adults believe in the Rapture, 43 percent do not believe in it and 13 percent do not know what they believe about it.

The study defined the Rapture as "a time when all of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior will be supernaturally taken to heaven, leaving only people who do not believe in Christ on Earth."

Those attending non-mainline Protestant congregations were almost twice as likely as mainline attenders to believe that the Rapture will occur (71 percent to 38 percent, respectively). Thirty-three percent of Catholics said they believe it will happen.

The study, researched in June and involving 1,003 adults, found that 64 percent of U.S. adults had heard the phrase "the Rapture." Thirty-eight percent both recognized the term and gave an explanation of what it meant.

"Desecration," the ninth of the planned 14 books in the "Left Behind" series, was released Oct. 30.

Orders of the series have been on the rise since the Sept. 11 attacks.

## Researcher: Wesley's top tune not found in Methodist Hymnal

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (RNS)—John Wesley, the founder of Methodism and a prolific publisher of hymns, would not find his favorite hymn tune in the United Methodist Hymnal, a college researcher says.

Wesley, the 18th century British evangelist who gave birth to the Methodist movement, edited and published several hymnals. Most of the songs—an estimated 6,000 of them, including "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"—were written by his brother, Charles Wesley.

But Wesley's favorite tune, used in at least eight songs, cannot be found in the contemporary hymnal. Clark Kimberling, a composer at the University of Evansville, Ind., said the hard-to-sing tune "Wednesbury" was most likely replaced by newer music that was easier for the masses.

"I tend to think of 'Wednesbury' as a ... fine piece for a choir to sing, but it's not a congregational song," Kimberling told United Methodist News Service.

Kimberling came across his findings while researching one of Wesley's hymnals, "Sacred Harmony." In an old manuscript, Kimberling found Wesley leading a crowd in a song composed for the Wednesbury tune and saying, "I am glad to find you can sing my favorite tune."

But the tune was discarded in the early 1800s, Kimberling said, because its minor key and high notes were difficult to sing. The current hymnal, compared to Wesley's original, contains half as many minor-key tunes.

"It's just not published," Kimberling 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 European Baptist Convention is receiving resumes through March 31 for the position of general secretary. The EBC is composed of 68 English-speaking churches, mostly on continental Europe and has a fraternal and historical relationship to the Southern Baptist Convention. E-mail recommendations and resumes to [ebc@ebcparis.org](mailto:ebc@ebcparis.org).

■ International Service Corps teachers are needed to serve terms of at least four months at International Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa in Arusha, Tanzania.

■ Tanzanians who will receive medicines recently sent by Lancaster Baptist Church.

■ Four Bible study groups now meeting in the northern district of Moscow.

■ Missionary Robert Kaczmarek as he seeks to begin a basketball ministry in a school in Kielce, Poland.

■ Ignatius and Nena Meimaris, director of missions and wife of Greater Boston Baptist Association, and their families in Greece.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ CADIZ—Cadiz Church will hold a dedication service and open house Nov. 18 for a new education facility. The facility includes children's classrooms, offices and a choir rehearsal room. The dedication service will be during the 10:45 a.m. worship service with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. **Phillip Salmon** is pastor.

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Pleasant Hill Church called **Charles Pollard** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Magnolia Church.

■ LEITCHFIELD—First Church will hold a one-day youth revival Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. with evangelist **Jamie Ward** and the contemporary Christian band **Forty Days**. **Chris Butler** is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—St. Matthews Church ordained **George Cloutier**, **Scott Garren**, **Mac McCord**, **Tim**

**Outlaw**, **Gennady Podgaisky**, **Beth Potter**, **Mark Provano**, **Pam Rice**, **Jonathan Rich**, **Michael Shelton**, **Kevin Vest** and **Joel Wetherington** as deacons. **Les Hollon** is pastor.

■ MAYFIELD—New Liberty Church called **Aubert Rose Jr.**, as pastor. New Liberty also was Rose's first pastorate in the 1950s. He currently is interim pastor of Bardwell Church.

### Christmas plans

Is your church planning special activities for the Christmas season? Please send information about pageants, nativity scenes and other events by Nov. 26 to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax (502) 244-6474; e-mail: [wesrec@ntr.net](mailto:wesrec@ntr.net).

## LifeWay unveils new publication to address needs of Hispanic families

NASHVILLE (BP)—A family magazine aimed at the nation's growing Hispanic community is being unveiled by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

La Familia Cristiana de Hoy replaces El Hogar Cristiano and is being published quarterly, starting this winter. El Hogar Cristiano, which was published by Hispanic Publishing House and distributed by LifeWay, has stopped production.

Oscar Fernandez, editor-in-chief in adult ministry publishing at LifeWay, said the new publication is a translation of LifeWay's Home Life magazine, but with a special emphasis to address the needs of Hispanics living in the United States.

To give the magazine its Hispanic focus, translators from many Spanish-speaking countries and translators with diverse backgrounds will be

used. The magazine intentionally will focus on the cultural problems Hispanics face in the United States, Fernandez added.

The magazine's goal "is to help the Hispanic Christian families in America," he explained. "One of the challenges that we have is that the people we are targeting with this magazine come from different countries and sometimes it's hard to switch between cultures."

It will help Hispanics by providing information on managing finances, discussing health issues and giving spiritual reassurance.

"This is one of the most important moves we have made in the last seven to eight years to serve the Hispanic churches in America," Fernandez. "This is the only magazine in Spanish that is family oriented. We have nothing else in the market."

## Pro bowler's testimony leads listener to faith in Christ, missionary service

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)—Ron Stewart didn't particularly want to attend the local church revival services in 1971, but he went because a good friend had invited him. As it turned out, Stewart—an avid amateur bowler—found himself at the church the same night nationally known pro bowler Fred Duncan had been invited to speak.

Now he believes it was no coincidence.

"I don't think I would have listened to anybody else but him," Stewart said. "But I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ that night."

Stewart, now pastor/director of New Life Baptist Mission ministry center in Hamilton, Ohio, was one of 98 Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries commissioned Nov. 4 during a Sunday morning service at First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Among the new missionaries are a range of Christian workers from across the country, including church planter interns starting new congregations in new work areas, collegiate evangelism missionaries and directors of missions and state convention staff members assisting local churches in church planting and evangelism.

Stewart, a painter in a car manufacturing plant before his conversion, sensed a call to ministry within a few years of his conversion and served several years as a pastor and church planter. In 1988 he became pastor of New Life Baptist Mission, where he refocused the church's ministry and developed a full-service ministry center offering food, clothing, after-school programs and other ministries to the inner-city community.

It was in that capacity that Stewart realized a longtime dream of becoming an appointed missionary.

"Nothing greater could happen, I



**PERSONAL TESTIMONY** Ron Stewart, pastor of New Life Baptist Mission in Hamilton, Ohio, shares his testimony during a Nov. 4 commissioning for North American Mission Board appointees. (NAMB photo by James Dotson)

think, than salvation, marriage and being a missionary," said Stewart, who was appointed earlier this year with his wife, Melanie. "It's just unreal. I knew God had called me into the ministry, but I think the appointment is extra special to me because of the years I've been in it."

Laura Gilbert, a US-C/2 missionary serving two years assisting with the Christian Ministries to the United Nations Community in New York, shared how a trip to the jungles of Ecuador during her senior year of college led her to re-evaluate God's call in her life.

A missionary speaking at a revival "challenged me about my salvation and the way I was living my life," she said, noting that she responded to a call to missions service.

NAMB President Bob Reccord emphasized the importance of all Christians living out the call of God in their lives, including the responsibility of sharing their faith.

"One of the greatest tests of our faith is if we have enough Christianity to give it away," he said. "And if there is not, there is probably something wrong with the Christianity we've got."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Nursery Maid brand, two-unit crib. Unit includes four white baby beds with mattresses. Like new condition; used in church nursery. New cost is over \$930 plus shipping. Selling for \$400. Call Pastor Bill Vaught, (270) 726-7002.

**SEEKING:** Heritage Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., is receiving resumés for two full-time staff positions. The associate pastor for family ministries will coordinate ministries for children through college singles, with an emphasis on junior and senior high student ministry. The associate pastor for worship will coordinate music, media and worship aspects of the church. Please send resumés to 257 Swigert Ave., Lexington, KY 40505, Attn: Patricia.

**SEEKING:** Associational director of missions for Bethel and Logan associations located primarily in Logan and Todd counties in south-central Kentucky. Send resumés to: Resumé Search Committee, PO Box 538, Russellville, KY 42276. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2002. Please include a return address without personal name.

**SEEKING:** Green River Memorial Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Ky., is accepting resumés for full-time pastor. Average worship attendance: 140. Send to: Tommy Wright, 37 Birdie Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**SEEKING:** Washington Baptist Church, Washington, Vt., is seeking a full-time pastor to lead our church of 91 members—mostly young families, many new Christians—in a blended style of worship. Mission-minded congregation in the process of building a retreat center. Seminary degree and some pastoral experience required. Salary: \$22,000 plus full benefits and 10-room recently renovated Victorian parsonage. Send letter of interest and resumé to: Green Mountain Baptist Association, PO Box 203, Washington, VT 05675.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky., is presently looking for a part-time preschool director. If you are ministry-minded and ready to work with a growing preschool ministry, contact FBC at (270) 683-3505 for more information and an application.

**SEEKING:** The Kentucky Baptist Convention is seeking a part-time (10-20 hours/week) computer technician—would mainly assist in upgrading workstations from Windows 95 to Windows 2000 and other various Windows OS-related tasks. Some experience required. Send your resumé to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253, Attn: Administrative Services Department.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth/children for First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. Please send resumé by Nov. 30 to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 303 East Cedar St., Franklin, KY 42134.

**SEEKING:** Organist for mid-sized, dynamic, growing church, Sunday morning worship services. For more information, please call Cedar Creek Baptist Church, (502) 239-2129.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to students (first grade through college) If interested, please send resumé to: Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 East Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724. For a job description, please call (270) 862-4228.

**SEEKING:** Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.scottsvillebaptist.org](http://www.scottsvillebaptist.org) and click on "Pastor Search Information," or send requests and/or resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Scottsville Baptist Church, PO Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164.

**SEEKING:** North Fork Baptist Church, located 6 miles from Frankfort, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 3660 Rocky Branch Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Phone: (502) 695-1499.

**SEEKING:** Growing church in Northern Kentucky is looking for a part-time youth pastor. Please send resumés to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, Bullittsburg Baptist Church, 2616 Bullittsburg Church Road, Petersburg, KY 41080.

**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.

## Jailhouse rock

*Ministry takes food, music to inmates to share gospel*

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

JACKSON, La. (BP)—It's not every day that prisoners at Dixon Correctional Institute enjoy jambalaya under the huge oak tree on the prison grounds, much less a relaxing two-hour outdoor program of Christian humor, entertainment and inspiration.

But that is just the idea with Operation Starting Line, a national effort by a variety of evangelical Christian groups to reach out to the broader prison population—those who wouldn't likely attend chapel meetings and Bible studies that characterize the Christian presence in most correctional institutions.

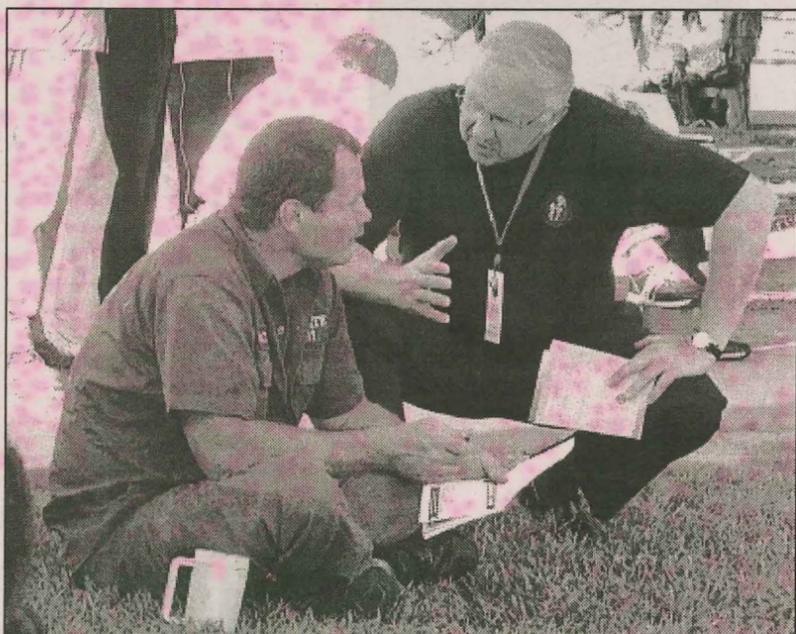
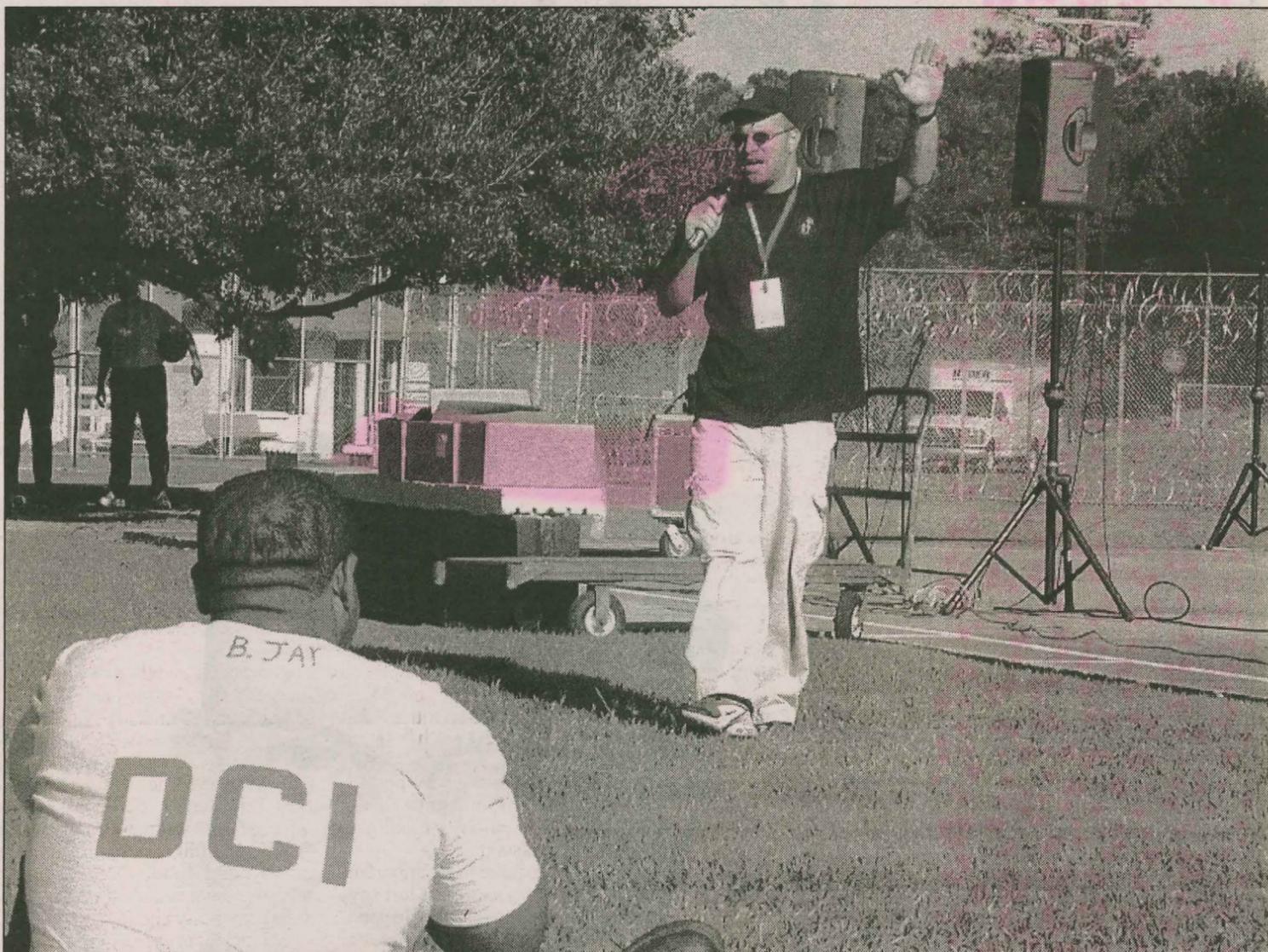
"Our intent is to try to touch people who aren't normally touched in the prison," said Southern Baptist Gary Pearce, director of chaplaincy for Dixon.

The Dixon effort, sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, was just one leg of a 10-day blitz of Louisiana prisons in late September characteristic of the Operation Starting Line strategy.

The ministry networks chaplains, volunteers and churches to help evangelize and disciple inmates at a time when they are most receptive to spiritual change, said Ken Ellis, NAMB's chaplaincy associate who coordinates the agency's involvement in Operation Starting Line.

"Southern Baptists, with our tremendous network of churches and chaplains, ... can pool those resources so these men and women won't fall through the cracks when they come out of the criminal justice system," Ellis said.

"It is amazing how often major initiatives of the Lord throughout Scripture occurred in prisons," added NAMB President Bob Reccord, who spoke to prisoners the day before at another unit at Dixon.



**WITNESS** John Yarbrough, vice president of evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, talks with an inmate during the Starting Line event.

"Wouldn't it be just like God to start the next Great Awakening in the context of the prison?" Reccord asked.

The program at Dixon was fairly typical of Operation Starting Line events. A master of ceremonies introduces a succession of speakers and musical artists, each of whom blends their talents with a word of

testimony or exhortation.

Christian singer Eddie Middleton sang a medley of Motown favorites, with lyrics revamped to reflect the gospel: "Jesus, I need your lovin'. Got to have all your lovin'."

Vocalist Matt Seward of Columbus, Ohio, and an Operation Starting Line veteran, punctuated his music to reiterate the same theme, "We've been in about five other states just to tell you one thing. God loves you, and He has a plan for your life."

The final speaker was John Yarbrough, vice president of evangelism for NAMB, who brought the purpose of the event to a focus.

"The greatest thing we can tell you today is not how much talent these guys have. ... It's not what they do, it's Who they know," he said before launching into several illustrations to communicate the truth of Christ.

He told of his own experience assembling a ride-on toy for his daughter, and how he discovered too late that he had irreversibly put the wheels on backward.

"Have you ever gotten the wheels on wrong and looked in the instruction book and found out it is too late?" he said.

And in a direct illustration of God's sacrifice, he recalled a time when he was a boy and his brother took the punishment that he deserved.

"My brother said, 'Don't spank

Johnny. Spank me instead,'" Yarbrough related. "What Jesus did is He looked up at His father and said, 'Don't take Johnny. Take me instead.'"

By the end of the program many inmates had drifted away, but most of those who remained responded. They sat on the ground filling out cards describing how God had dealt with them, talked with volunteer counselors and made commitments to God. Twelve people recorded first-time professions of faith in Christ.

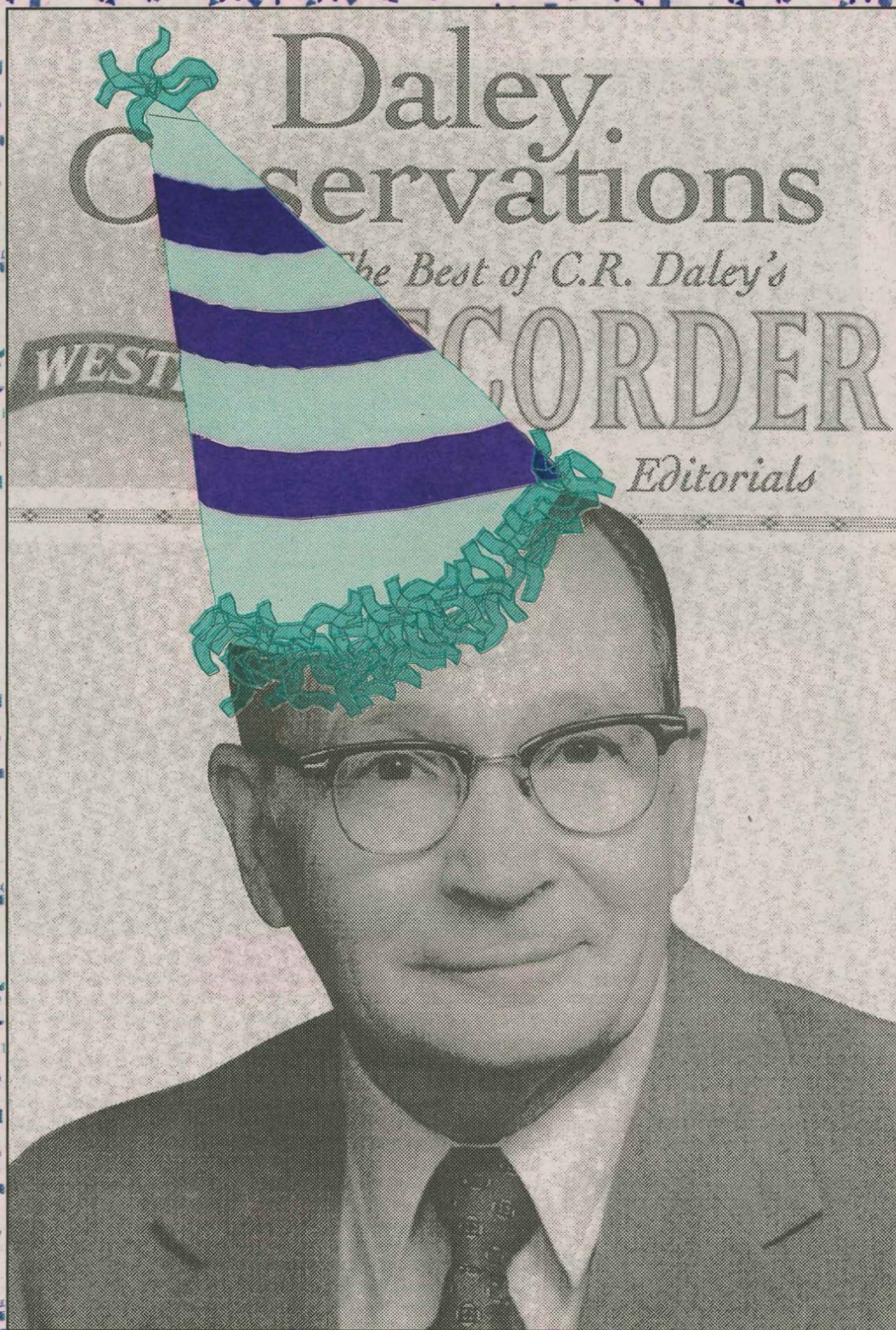
After the event, Yarbrough noted he hopes Southern Baptists will "jump on board" with the effort both as volunteers and as part of the long-term follow-up network.

"As a pastor I had people who would go to prison and share their faith on a one-to-one basis for the first time in their lives," Yarbrough said. "And they turned out to be some of my greatest soul-winners. When they left the prison they would go and talk to their grocery clerk, or their neighbor, or their cousin, because they had been liberated to share their faith in an environment that was so conducive to the gospel.

"It gets to be addictive to pray with people and see people saved," he added. "And this is just another shot of adrenaline in the process of putting soul-winners on point day by day in their life."

**STARTING LINE** Comedian Thor Ramsey entertains inmates at Dixon Correctional Institute in Jackson, La., during an Operation Starting Line event. Organizers offer food and entertainment for an opportunity to talk about Christianity. (BP photos by James Dotson)

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but you get the gift!***



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