



WESTERN RECORDER

November 27, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 46

KENTUCKY NOTES



See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Illinois follows
Kentucky's lead on faith
statements. *Page 2.*



Henderson
Churches unite to
celebrate Operation
Christmas Child. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Family unity strengthens
Baptist witness. *Page 5.*

Lottie's offering
Learn about Southern
Baptist missions work
abroad. *Pages 8-9.*



Creative ministry
Time to start clowning
around. *Page 12.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 28

Baptists among group seeking charity donor tax incentives

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A coalition of religious and civil liberties groups that have differed over church-state matters has issued a statement urging Congress to adopt tax incentives that encourage charitable giving by low- and moderate-income Americans.

"We are united on the need for changes in the tax laws that affirm the generosity of all Americans who make charitable contributions and unleash significant new resources for America's armies of compassion," reads a statement from the Working Group on Human Needs and Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The statement, released Nov. 16, comes as the group prepares a more comprehensive report it plans to issue in mid-January. It was released in response to Bush's recent letter to Senate leaders seeking prompt action on his faith-based initiative by providing support for issues such as incentives for charitable giving and equal treatment of faith-based and community charities.

The group offered such recommendations as permitting non-itemizers to deduct their charitable gifts and easing limitations on charitable contributions from IRAs and similar accounts.

"The changes we recommend will be powerful symbols at a time when national unity is so important—when Americans are being asked to give from their time and treasure as never before," the statement said. "These incentives will also generate substantial increases in revenue for crucial community-based and faith-based organizations, groups that will leverage the dollars given with the time, energy and compassion of volunteers."

The group was formed in June by former Sen. Harris Wofford, D-Pa., at the request of Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., to find common ground on how to expand opportunities for needy people to get aid from faith-based and other community organizations.

Signers of the statement include Wofford; Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State; Aly Abuzaakouk, executive director of the American Muslim Council; Bob Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; and Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Holy mountain dancers



In China, Dong tribal men in traditional dress perform for visitors to their village. The Dong are among the many people groups around the world who need the gospel of Jesus Christ. During the Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Dec. 2-9, Southern Baptist churches will focus their prayers and gifts on extending God's kingdom around the world. This year's theme, "Planting with Passion," focuses on church planting efforts. This year's goal is \$120 million. (IMB photo)

'Throw-up ministry' pays off in China

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

CHENGDU, China (BP)—It's a two-day bus ride into the mountains from Chengdu, China. Two hard days.

"You need kneepads and a helmet for that ride," confides "Timothy" with a rueful grin—especially during the final hours of nonstop bouncing over muddy, rutted roads winding toward the remote clouds of the Himalayan plateau.

"Lots of people get sick before it's over," adds the 25-year-old Southern Baptist worker whose real name cannot be used for security reasons. "'Show up and throw up,' we say."

Not to worry. Timothy and his partner seize the opportunity to make friends with their queasy fellow passengers (many of whom are Tibetans) by bringing plenty of extra water to share. They call it "throw-up ministry." Necessity is the mother of invention.

It's worth a little discomfort to reach the mountain villages—some as high as 12,000 feet above sea level—where the Jiarong (GEE-ah-rong) people live in China's Sichuan province.

The Jiarong, who now number approximately 200,000, are historically related to the Tibetans. But they have lived for centuries in neighboring Sichuan, speak different languages and see themselves as a different people.

Most are Tibetan Buddhists; their prayer flags and wheels snap and spin in the wind. But many also practice magic and shamanism. They revere the Dalai Lama, but fear the gods of the mountains.

Most of the Jiarong are farmers; most are illiterate. Their villages remain mostly closed to outsiders. They have no church, no Bible, no Christian radio broadcast.

Only one man is a known follower of Christ among the Jiarong, and he has moved out of the region. The only previous attempt to evangelize them (by American Baptists in the 1930s) resulted in a Jiarong translation of the book of Jonah, which was later lost or destroyed as war and communism swept Sichuan.

Timothy hopes to bring the story of Jonah back to the Jiarong. Jonah? What do mountain people know about whales? Not much.

But God's amazing grace displayed toward the Ninevites shows

that He is the creator and redeemer of all peoples, not just the Israelites. That principle sets the stage for introducing the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Jiarong.

Everything seems to be made of rock in Jiarong country—the mountains, the houses, the Buddhist monasteries. So it is with the spiritual landscape, Timothy explains.

He hopes to spur the translation and audio recording of Jonah and other key Bible stories in the main Jiarong dialect. Until then, he invites trekkers and "vision teams" to come and walk the steep roads and paths of the Jiarong—and to pray.

He's also looking for "dancers"—admittedly not a traditional Baptist specialty. Young Jiarong love to dance in groups, and if you want to befriend them, you have to dance, too.

Timothy already has stumbled through his share of clumsy steps to the friendly laughter of Jiarong onlookers.

He doesn't mind. It's a small price to pay, along with the queasy bus rides to the mountains, and trading his beloved burritos and doughnuts for yak-meat soup.

"We need people to come out here and dance," Timothy says. "Our vision is that one day the Jiarong will be standing at the top of the Himalaya mountains, dancing and praising God."



Planting with Passion

Illinois Baptists follow Kentucky's lead on BF&M issue

"We're Baptists and we're best when we stand together."

Lanny Faulkner, director of missions for Central Baptist Association in Decatur, Ill.

PEORIA, Ill.—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee report, adopted recently by state convention messengers, also is making an impact beyond the Bluegrass State.

A week before the KBC annual meeting, messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association annual meeting used much of the language in the KBC recommendation to formulate their own response to the Baptist Faith and Message issue.

The Illinois Baptist motion, made jointly by a conservative and a moderate, is modeled after recommendations from state conventions in Kentucky and Tennessee, the Illinois Baptist newspaper reported.

Tennessee Baptist messengers voted last year to "acknowledge" the Baptist Faith and Message "as a source of information in assisting believers to express their faith." They voted against a motion to change the word "acknowledge" to "affirm."

In Kentucky, messengers adopted the study committee's recommendation to "adopt the Bible as the basis of all our faith and practice" and to "acknowledge the value" of historic Baptist faith statements, including the 1742 Philadelphia Confession of Faith, the 1833 New Hampshire Con-

fession of Faith and the 1925, 1963, 1998 and 2000 versions of the Baptist Faith and Message.

During Illinois Baptists' opening miscellaneous business session, Collinsville pastor Jim Donahue proposed affirming the same six faith statements. Lanny Faulkner, director of Central Baptist Association in Decatur, seconded the motion.

"We're Baptists and we're best when we stand together," Faulkner said. "It's time to put the fighting behind us. ... I want to spend all of my time and energy in winning the lost of Illinois for Christ."

Messenger Keith Stanford, describing the motion as a welcome surprise, said no single faith statement can claim superiority over others.

Faulkner said the six faith statements contain a basic body of doctrine that every Baptist could embrace. "I can sign any one or all six of these doctrinal statements," he noted.

Rather than following the path of Texas Baptists where conservatives broke away from a moderate-led convention, or Missouri Baptists where moderates are poised to break away from a conservative-led convention, Faulkner said Illinois Baptists could find common ground by rallying around all six faith statements and fo-

cus on sharing the gospel in Illinois.

Donahue's motion specifically referenced the Kentucky and Tennessee convention actions. "This affirms that no single statement can be established for every individual or every church," the statement noted. "It also affirms that the Bible is our basis of all our faith and practice and that Baptists have used various confessions of faith to better explain their understanding of the Bible."

After messengers adopted the measure, constitution and bylaws committee chairman Gerald Steffy announced the committee was pulling the first reading of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message off the table. He said the committee needed more time to study the issue in light of the messengers' actions.

The committee recommended in March that the 2000 faith statement should be added to the state convention constitution, replacing the 1963 version.

Outgoing state convention President Tim Lewis also decided not to appoint a planned six-member committee to organize a Baptist Faith and Message forum. Lewis had suggested the forum earlier in the year as a setting to debate the pros and cons of the

revised faith statement before the 2002 annual meeting.

In addition to the actions in Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois, several other state conventions have taken action in the past year related to the Baptist Faith and Message.

Mississippi Baptists voted last year to affirm the Bible as their "final authority for faith and practice," stating it is up to local churches to choose which faith statement they use.

Alabama Baptists affirmed the 1925, 1963 and 2000 versions of the Baptist Faith and Message as non-binding "guides for better understanding doctrinal practices of faith."

By contrast, Baptists in Florida and Louisiana adopted the 2000 version as their state conventions' official statement of belief and Baptists in Georgia voiced "approval and appreciation" for the revised statement.

In Arkansas, a proposal to amend the state convention's articles of incorporation to include the 2000 statement failed to gain a two-thirds majority last year. The proposal was reintroduced this year and was approved with 69.5 percent of the vote. It will require one more two-thirds vote next year to be implemented.

Based on reporting by Michael Leathers, editor of the Illinois Baptist

Convention studies president's role

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Tennessee Baptist messengers approved the extension of a special committee to study the role of the Tennessee Baptist Convention president.

Convention President Hollie Miller, who appointed the committee last year, said the group was not ready to present a final report at this year's annual meeting.

Noting that the Tennessee convention is the only state convention that does not give its president any kind of appointive powers, Miller said the committee needs to discover why that is the case.

Messengers also narrowly approved a proposal by messenger Joe

Stacker of Nashville to expand the committee to include all former TBC presidents residing in Tennessee.

While the committee already included five former state convention presidents, Stacker said, "We need the wisdom of others."

Memphis pastor Bob Pitman opposed the motion because some former presidents had signed a letter published in the Tennessee Baptist and Reflector newspaper citing their opposition to giving the TBC president appointive powers.

After debating the issue, messengers voted 760-742 to add other former presidents to the study committee.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ Women's group names leader.

Baptist Women in Ministry appointed Susan Miller as its first executive director. Miller, who previously served on the staff of Wornall Road Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo., said the 18-year-old organization's board decided it should have an office manager and an executive director. It previously had an office coordinator. Both of the current positions are part-time.

■ Convention marks 5 years.

The Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia celebrated its fifth anniversary at its annual meeting. The conservative group, which broke away from the Baptist General Association of Virginia, adopted an \$8.2 million budget and admitted 45 new churches. The SBCV now totals 334 churches, including 286 churches uniquely aligned with the new convention. Executive Director Doyle Chauncey told messengers the organization is "but one or two generations from returning Virginia to its conservative biblical roots."

■ CBF restructures positions.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has launched a search to fill a newly restructured coordinator for congregational life position. The position combines the initiatives of faith formation and building community. In a related move, Terry Hamrick, who has worked since 1996 as the CBF's coordinator for congregational life and leadership, has taken a new position as coordinator of leadership development. He will be responsible for congregational leadership, theological education and collegiate student ministries.

■ Utah-Idaho welcomes leader.

Messengers to the Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention welcomed new Executive Director Tim Clark to his first annual meeting. He previously was pastor of churches in Alaska, Georgia, Texas and Wyoming. Messengers also passed resolutions embracing the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and voicing patriotism and prayer in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. The faith statement resolution noted that Utah-Idaho Baptists "are in doctrinal unity and free and joyful compliance" with the Southern Baptist Convention's revised faith statement.

■ Hawaii retains 1963 statement.

Baptists in Hawaii will continue to use the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message as the state convention's statement of faith. A proposed constitutional amendment to change the faith statement to "any version that has been adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention" was defeated. An alternate amendment to change the wording of the faith statement to "the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention" was tabled.

■ Florida president unopposed.

Florida Baptist messengers elected Orlando-area pastor Dwayne Mercer as state convention president in an uncontested election. He served as president of the 2000 Florida Baptist Pastors' Conference. Messengers also approved a constitutional revision to allow state convention presidents to seek a second year of service. In other action, messengers approved a three-year partnership with Baptists in Indiana.



Operation Christmas Child



Henderson churches unite to celebrate Christian ministry

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

HENDERSON—About 2,000 people gathered this month in Henderson to watch a children's Christmas musical and donate more than 2,300 shoeboxes full of gifts for children in countries torn by poverty and war.

"It was a wonderful thing to see all those people and all those shoeboxes," said Yvette Eastham, who directed the Henderson performance of the musical "Operation Christmas Child." "It was so good to see so many churches and people joining together to focus on the love of Christ and giving to children who have absolutely nothing."

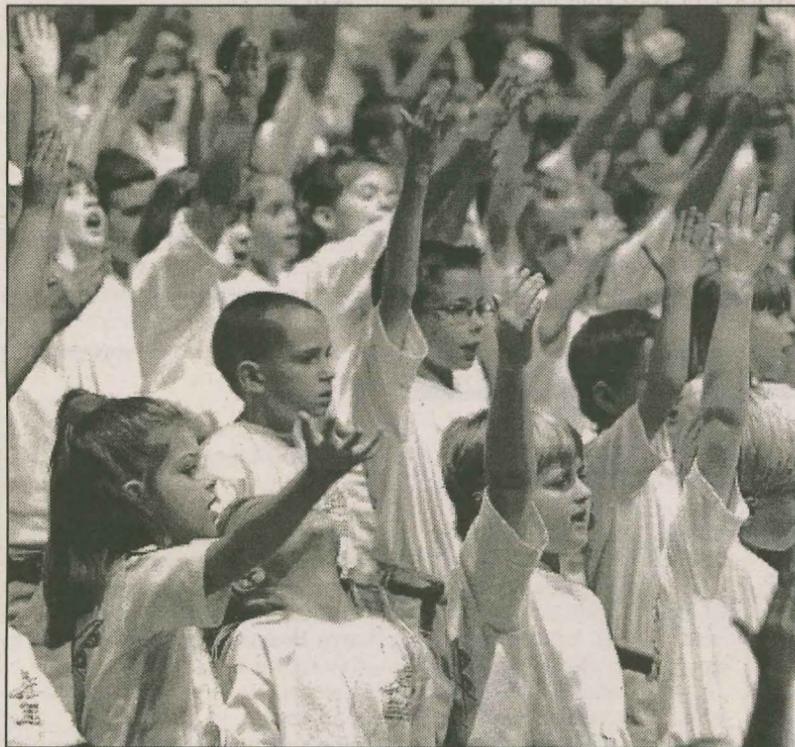
The Nov. 11 performance was the brainchild of members of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, Eastham said. The effort included more than 100 volunteers and 350 children from more than 20 churches throughout the community.

The musical was designed to raise awareness of Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest children's Christmas gift project. The non-profit organization Samaritan's Purse sponsors the project.

Donors to Operation Christmas Child bring wrapped shoeboxes filled with small toys, personal hygiene items and candies to a local drop-off center. The boxes then are sent to underprivileged children in such countries as Tajikistan, Romania, Poland, Serbia and Bosnia.

"With the \$5 shipping in each box, and the average value of boxes to be \$20, we figure over \$58,000 was donated locally," Eastham said.

Last year, Operation Christmas Child distributed more than 3 million shoeboxes to children in 70 countries, according to Lance Kaufman, Ken-



tucky and Tennessee field representative for Samaritan's Purse.

"Operation Christmas Child" the musical was developed by Kathy Hill, a writer of Christian children's musicals. After getting involved with Operation Christmas Child, she decided to write a musical that churches could use to promote their congregation's involvement with the project.

Eastham found out about the musical when her friend Hill asked her to write a letter to Samaritan's Purse endorsing the project and asking the ministry to agree to let Hill use their logo and text in the musical.

"That was about two years ago," Eastham said.

Samaritan's Purse, which receives

no proceeds from the musical other than the publicity raised by its showing, agreed to let their likeness be used, and Eastham said she determined then to stage the musical in her community.

While the musical was in the planning stages, Eastham said she noticed the Henderson religious community was sharply divided over a proposed "fairness ordinance" concerning homosexuality.

"People on both sides of the issue, I'm sorry to say, were not as Christlike as perhaps they should have been about expressing their views on this issue," she said.

Aware of the tension and also hoping to stage the musical with a larger

children's choir than the 80 to 100 children in Zion's choir, she sent out a plea to all the Henderson-area churches for volunteers.

"Many people were skeptical about this idea at first," she said. "They didn't think I'd ever be able to get everybody on the same page."

But Eastham drew hundreds of adult and youth volunteers from denominations ranging from Assemblies of God and Roman Catholic to Independent Baptist and Presbyterian into the project.

To underscore the ecumenism of the project, the musical was held in the Henderson Fine Arts Center rather than one specific church, and performances were held on a Saturday to avoid conflicts with Sunday worship services.

"We wanted to eliminate every possible barrier to other churches participating," she said, adding that she's received calls from members of other churches thanking her for building a bridge among community churches.

"Our community really needed this," she said. "After the performances, people came up to me and said they had never seen our community come together like that."

Eastham said she hopes other communities will hear about Henderson's success with Operation Christmas Child Project and follow suit.

"I would especially like to see something like this happen in the larger cities, like Lexington or Louisville," she said.

"It's a lot of work to pull this together, obviously, but it could easily be replicated in other communities," she added. "It helps so much to raise the profile of Operation Christmas Child and the needs of other children in other countries who are living every day with poverty and war."

COMMUNITY EFFORT

Children perform "Operation Christmas Child" at the Henderson Fine Arts Center Nov. 10. The holiday musical featured approximately 300 area children representing at least 20 churches of various denominations. (Henderson Gleaner photos by Mike Lawrence)

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN
Partnership Editions
Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Directors: Barry Howard, Corbin, chairman; Laura Beville, Bowling Green, vice chairman; Mike Harmon, Princeton, secretary; David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville; Ken James, London; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Charles Midkiff, Greenville; Linda Polley, Elizabethtown; David Proffitt, Salyersville; Bill Thurman, Lexington; Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

Damaging view

I recently read your excellent article "Mohler: Muslims, Jews, Christians worship different Gods."

I easily identified with the Baily Smith information because I was in Jerusalem in 1980 when he made his damaging statement that God only hears Christian prayers. He immediately undermined years of Christian witnessing.

Now Al Mohler and other Southern Seminary representatives try to damage our image again with a similar teaching. They are preaching that "Allah" is the personal name of another God.

Allah in Arabic means "The God." The first two letters "al" is commonly used in Arabic and means "the." The remaining letters are the only word they have for our word "God."

If these experts want to teach that Islam assigns different attributes to God than Christians do, they would be correct. That doesn't change the fact that Islam acknowledges the existence of the same Supreme Being we do.

The attributes Christianity assigns to God vary from ethnic group to ethnic group. I was a pastor in South Africa for some time and met Christian groups there who saw God much differently than I did. They were still worshipping the one creator of the universe. Various denominations in the United States also see Him differently but we count them as knowing God. In fact, I disagree with some of the attributes I have heard assigned to Him by Southern Seminary representatives. For instance, He is not "exclusive." He calls all men and women.

Would it shock these teachers to learn that Paul didn't use the word "God" when he preached in Greece?

He used "Theos" there and he called Him "Dios" in Rome.

Jesus preached, "Believe in Me (God) and love one another." Beyond a doubt, Christians and Muslims are doing the first part. I fear neither Christians nor Muslims are making an effort to do the second part.

Gene Iglehart
Bowling Green

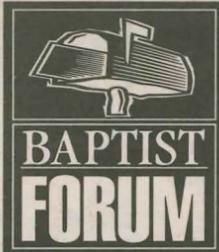
Seeds of division

I was greatly distressed to see the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network group once again handing out their propaganda sheet before the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting on Tuesday morning. I feel that their actions as well as comments made to the Western Recorder by their leader John Michael—in which he stated that they would

have to see if they would follow the wishes of the convention's vote last year not to do such—show their complete lack of respect for the KBC and all that it stands for.

They stated in their newsletter that they would distribute their material because last year's state convention vote was out of order. Why didn't they question it during the annual meeting last year?

They have continued to sow seeds of division in this state with their half-truths and personal attacks. They also have forgotten the most important part of Kentucky



Baptist cooperation—local church autonomy. It seems that their brand of autonomy is any that agrees with them.

This year's state convention theme was great: "Fulfilling the Mission." I wonder what fulfills the mission of Christ more—handing out divisive and inflammatory material or taking that energy across the street to the shopping center and handing out gospel tracts and planting seeds. I think we see their heart and where it is at.

Michael Parks
Georgetown

A joy to serve

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kentucky Baptists for the faith they placed in me by electing me to serve as state convention second vice president during the past year. It was a genuine pleasure for me to have had this opportunity.

It also was a joy to have been permitted to serve alongside Kentucky Baptist Convention President Jim McKinley and First Vice President Harold Greenfield. These are choice servants of God.

I would like to express my most sincere thanks to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and Associate Executive Director Steve Thompson for the assistance they provide to facilitate and make the task of the convention officers manageable and easy. There are others on the state convention staff who are too numerous to mention who also deserve thanks.

Dick Ham
Richmond

What are you thinking?

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Sharing words of thanks

"Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name" (Psalm 100:3-4).

Although the United States and other peace-loving countries have been challenged by terrorist acts as never before, we have so much for which to be grateful.

In a recent Christianity Today article about President Bush, the writer stated that the postmodern denial of absolutes may have come to an end. The writer said that "God is back" and this could be a time for spiritual awakening. I praise God that He has the full attention of more people than at any time in recent history. Pray that God will be pleased to pour out His Spirit upon His church.

I praise God that the president of the United States is a man of faith

who expresses his faith in appropriate and meaningful ways. His Christian character has surfaced in so many ways during this national crisis. The Christianity Today writer referred to Bush's personal piety and to his becoming a spiritual leader. Continue to pray for the president and for those who advise him that a just resolution to the current international crisis will come without additional loss of life.

In the commonwealth, I praise God for Kentucky Baptists and their commitment to support missions in Kentucky and around the world. If it were not for God-inspired pastors who lead churches to support missions, the Kentucky and Southern Baptist Convention missions programs would cease.

Please continue to pray for missions work here and around the world and do your best to maintain and even increase support of the Cooperative Program. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for all you do for

missions. Pray that we will work together to fulfill the mission God has for us.

I am grateful for the communications/media department and its outstanding work in coordinating the arrangements for the recent annual meeting. The video productions by Larry Brannin were excellent. I am grateful for so many staff members and volunteers who gave much time and energy.

I am also grateful for the way messengers conducted themselves in Murray. Although decisions did not satisfy everyone, I pray that God will lead us to continue to work together in the awesome mission that He has for Kentucky Baptists.

I am grateful for meaningful work that God can use to transform a life. I speak for all of our staff when I say that we are humbled and gratified at the opportunity to serve Kentucky Baptists and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Is now the time to refinance your home mortgage?

By Don Spencer

Short-term interest rates have declined dramatically in recent

months. While the reduction is not as dramatic, long-term rates, including mortgage rates, also have declined.



Now might be a good time for many homeowners to consider refinancing their mortgage. How do you know if it is a good time for you? In the past, the common wisdom was that if the current rate was about 2 percent lower than your existing mortgage, it probably made sense to refinance. That general rule still applies. However, a reduction of even 1 percent in the mortgage rate might make sense if one anticipates staying in that home for several years. Otherwise, the savings might not offset the cost associated with refinancing.

Interest rates are not the only reason to refinance. Here are several other reasons to consider refinancing:

■ *To utilize some of the equity in your house.* This might apply if there are other major debts or bills and the extra cash obtained through the mortgage refinancing could be used for those needs.

■ *To change from an adjustable rate to a fixed rate.* Often, new homeowners will opt for an adjustable rate in order to get a lower rate in the early years. Now, while all rates are lower, one might want to change to a fixed rate mortgage to avoid the possibility of higher rates in coming years for the adjustable mortgage.

■ *To accelerate the growth of equity in your home.* A 15- or 20-year mortgage generally will have a lower interest rate than a 30-year loan. Of course, one needs to be sure the higher payments each month are affordable.

■ *To eliminate private mortgage insurance.* If you finance more than 80 percent of the value of a home, lenders generally require private mortgage insurance. If the value of your home has increased to a point where you have more than 20 percent equity in your home and you refinance, you will eliminate the mortgage insurance. You also can have this eliminated on an existing mortgage but that generally requires a new appraisal.

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

Addressing key questions can help singles evaluate priorities

Q: As a single adult, I know I should just "let go and let God" take control of my life, but so far I've not been able to make it in love, in school or in work. Where should I start?

Determine the specific areas in which you are struggling. Keep in mind that you are the most important person in reaching your goals. The more of the following questions you can say "yes" to, the closer you will move toward achieving positive goals:

- **Check out your physical environment.** Do you treat your own living space with the respect you would treat an important guest? Are your personal papers filed in a neat and retrievable way? Do you keep your vehicle up to date in all required maintenance? Do you keep your clothes in good shape? Is your sleeping space structured to give you the best sleep possible? Do you make enough time to think and recreate?

- **Attend to your own well-being.** Do you minimize your television time? Do you see your dentist regularly? Do you avoid tobacco? Is your weight in an ideal range? Do you exercise consistently and take your vacation days?

- **Manage your money wisely.** Do you pay your bills on time? Do you have medical insurance? Are you in relationship with people who can assist your professional development?

- **Remember the priority of healthy relationships.** Have you told your parents recently that you love them? Do you keep in good contact with your siblings? Do you get along well with supervisors and staff at work? Do you put people before results? Do you avoid gossip? Do you refrain from criticizing others? Do you make requests rather than complain? Do you have a best friend?—*James Stillwell*

Q: How can I encourage my teenagers to develop healthy dating practices?

In a recent Family Forum column, I responded to this question by sharing five of the "top 10 mistakes in dating." Here are the second five:

- **"Black Hole" effect—beware of that gigantic sucking sound.** Teens should watch out when they find themselves spending too much time together to the exclusion of other friends and activities.

- **Putting the cart before the horse.** Teens should remember that the longer they wait to become physical, the better their chance of developing a healthy relationship unclouded by sexual sin.

- **Not courting enough rejection or "You have not because you ask not."** If teens want to go out with the sharpest people, they must take some chances and expect some rejection.

- **WWF Smackdown breakups.** Learning to end relationships well is a relational skill that speaks of character, honesty and integrity. Teens should remember that honesty, directness and speaking the truth in love are crucial. A good clean breakup usually is less painful and much kinder than a long, messy, convoluted one.

- **Forgetting who most deserves the "alabaster box."** When Jesus walked the earth, the family of a young woman who reached the age of availability for marriage would purchase for her an alabaster box and fill it with precious ointment. When a young man would come to ask for her hand in marriage, she would respond by breaking this box at his feet. We do well to remember the story of Jesus dining at the house of Simon the leper when a woman came in and broke her alabaster box, anointing Him for burial and giving her all to a heavenly bridegroom (Mark 14:3-9).—*Scott Wigginton*

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



Family unity strengthens Baptist witness

Thanksgiving 2001 has been described as the right holiday at the right time for Americans to celebrate. In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and our nation's ongoing military response, having a day set aside to focus on family, friends and the blessings of God was a welcome emphasis.

Why dwell on the impact of Thanksgiving when most of society already has shifted gears to the commercial clamor of Christmas? Because of what Thanksgiving represents in the midst of troubling, uncertain days.

Even before this year's Thanksgiving season arrived, the struggles of the past few months reminded Americans about the true priorities of life. Gratitude for faith, family and freedom has become a familiar refrain in recent weeks.

What about in Baptist life? Are we learning the same lessons about the importance of family unity or are we continuing to promote division that hampers our witness as the family of God?

Here in Kentucky, our recent state convention indicates we are making strides in some areas. But we still are facing the challenge of achieving Christ-honoring unity in other facets of our work.

The response to the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee report and recommendation is a prime example of setting aside minor differences in order to work together for the greater good.

Not every action proposed at the recent state convention focused on family unity, however. A motion to deny state convention membership to churches that cut ties to the Southern Baptist Convention would serve to divide and weaken the Kentucky Baptist family.

The proposal specifies that "any member church which ceases to support or otherwise cuts it ties with the Southern Baptist Convention would, by their actions, no longer be considered to be a cooperative, affiliated

member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, under Article III of the KBC Constitution."

Article III currently defines KBC membership based on a church being "in friendly cooperation with this convention; is sympathetic with its purposes and work; and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work."

That article says nothing about a church needing to be in sympathy with the national convention in order to work cooperatively with the state convention. Additionally, Article V notes that the convention "has no jurisdiction over the local churches or the district associations, and shall exercise no authority over them."

While the state convention has the right to determine membership qualifications, Kentucky Baptists historically have avoided actions that infringe on the autonomy of local churches. The Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee report reiterated that view as messengers adopted language that declares:

"As Kentucky Baptists, we affirm the autonomy of each local church and association."

Based on those truths, the motion to limit KBC membership to SBC-supporting churches easily could have been ruled out of order. Yet KBC President Jim McKinley, in consultation with his parliamentarians, wisely and graciously chose to refer the motion to the KBC constitution and bylaws committee. That will permit a full hearing on such issues as autonomy, church hierarchy and voluntary cooperation.

Whatever action the constitution and bylaws committee proposes, it hopefully will affirm a strong commitment to Kentucky Baptist unity for the sake of God's Kingdom.

If Americans can learn to set positive priorities, count their blessings and move forward as a unified family, surely Baptists can too.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Sanford succeeds Daley, highlights local church ministry

By Trennis Henderson

When C.R. Daley retired in 1984 after 27 years as editor of the Western Recorder, he was known as the "dean" of state Baptist paper editors.

Citing Psalm 16:6 in his farewell editorial, Daley wrote, "I shall be eternally grateful to Kentucky Baptists for making my lines fall in pleasant places. ... I leave the editorial responsibilities for other ministries with a mind full of happy memories and a heart full of thanksgiving."

R.G. Puckett, a former Western Recorder assistant editor who later was editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder, described Daley as "one of the greatest Baptist editors in the more than a century and a half of Baptist state papers."

"When the 'dean' retires," Puckett added, "Baptists will have lost a clear voice which always called for justice, fairness, truth, love, commitment and compassion."

Working in the shadow of Daley's legacy, Western Recorder directors faced the daunting task of naming Daley's successor. They

turned to Jack Sanford, a former Kentucky Baptist pastor who has served eight years as pastor of Colonial Baptist Church in Memphis.

A former religion professor at Bethel College in Hopkinsville and Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Sanford was the author of two books and more than 100 articles.

Though Sanford came to the Western Recorder post without any experience as an editor, Daley helped pave the way for his successor.

Sanford "has all the qualifications for an excellent ministry as Western Recorder editor," Daley wrote. "He knows, understands and loves Kentucky Baptists. He is a keen analyst of Baptist life in Kentucky and the Southern Baptist Convention and he has proven ability as a writer. He is as qualified as any editor in the history of the Western Recorder."

For his part, Sanford wrote in his inaugural editorial, "I sit in the editor's chair today convinced God has called me to this important ministry. But I am a little nervous. I am nervous because I follow one of the giants among Southern Baptist editors.

"I have never been an editor," he added, "so I ask only one thing of Kentucky Baptists: Pray for me and help me do a job that will honor God and advance His kingdom among us."

Sanford carved out his own identity as editor, highlighting the priorities of missions, evangelism and local church ministry. He also worked to strengthen the Recorder's circulation and endowment.

Sanford's tenure was unexpectedly cut short, however. After nearly five years as editor, he died of a heart attack May 24, 1989.

In a tribute to Sanford's ministry, Western Recorder board chairman Richard Bridges wrote, "The sudden loss of Jack Sanford left a wound in the hearts of Kentucky Baptists."

Noting that Sanford served during "years of turmoil for the Southern Baptist Convention," Bridges added, "With pressure from many different sides, with controversial and disrupting issues abounding, he steered a middle course for the paper. ... The only 'side' Jack ever took was that of Kentucky Baptists. He showed restraint and wisdom while he firmly held up Baptist ideals."

Sanford's editorials "reflected his commitment to the church, and his life reflected his faith in Christ," Bridges noted. "He never lost touch with the Baptist family."



A new refuge

Language and gospel uniting Haitians and Congolese

A former journalist, Pastor Paul Dumay fled Haiti at the threat of death from local military.

By Tom Lasseter
Lexington Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON—Monastere Sanon came walking down the aisle, his crème-white linen suit flapping.

Before him, a crowd sat in metal folding chairs. Two women were on their knees, praying out loud in a mixture of French and Creole.

There was no stained glass—only Scripture printed on poster-board—and communion came with saltine crackers.

"You need Jesus when everything is going right," Sanon yelled in French, clenching and unclenching his left hand into a fist.

"You need Jesus when everything is not good."

Bibles were thumped. People hollered and raised their hands. A cascade of "Hallelujahs" rippled through the congregation.

Shutting his eyes, the 73-year-old Haitian continued:

"Don't count on your mother. Don't count on your father. Don't count on your sister."

The synthesizer swung into full gear. His body shaking, Sanon's voice raised higher still:

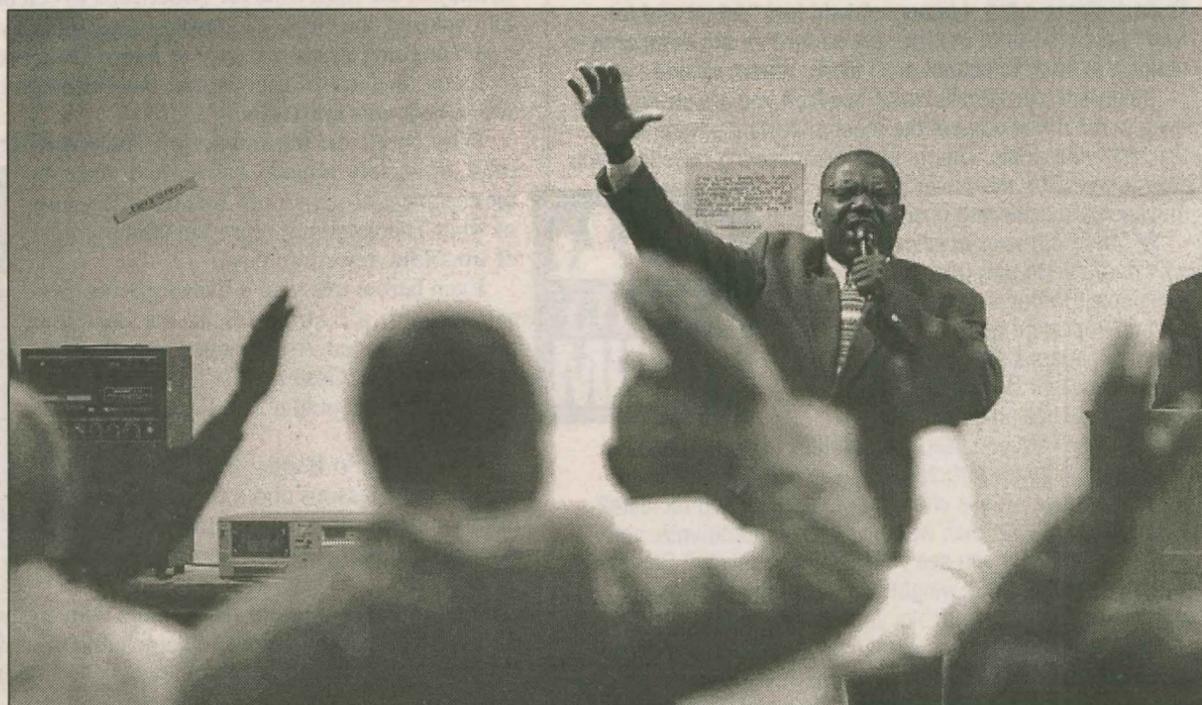
"They can't do anything for you. You must count on God."

Sitting a few rows back, Roger Robert nodded his head. He counted on God in 1981 when, as a 23-year-old, he got on a boat crammed with about 64 refugees and headed north.

For seven straight days of watching the dark ocean pass by, Robert said, he asked himself, "What are you going to do? What's going to happen to you?"

He counted on God when, about 700 miles later, the boat landed in Florida.

And he counted on God as U.S. immigration officials shipped him and 203 other Haitians to Lexington's Federal Correctional Institute, where,



WORSHIP Pastor Paul Dumay leads a worship service for Faith Tabernacle, held at Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington, this month. The church has about 50 Haitian and Congolese members. (Photos by Joseph Rey Au)

despite having committed no crimes, they stayed behind bars for 12 months.

The men and women of Faith Tabernacle, which meets on Sundays in the basement of Lexington's Trinity Baptist Church, are hesitant to discuss such things. That was a long time ago, several of them said, looking like they'd rather talk about anything else.

So they spoke about deliverance. The congregation of about 50 Haitians and Congolese is the dream of minister Paul Dumay.

A former journalist, Dumay fled Haiti at the threat of death from local military. He got the message from a friend, who beat on his door late one night in 1988 saying, as best Dumay can remember, "Go, go, go. Leave right now. You have to leave right now."

Without a word to even his mother, Dumay bought a plane ticket and was granted political asylum in Miami. He moved to New York where he got a job as a taxi driver. By 1997 Dumay had a sociology degree from Brooklyn College and got accepted to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Faith Tabernacle started with eight people having Bible study classes in

one another's living rooms. Dumay drove in from Louisville every weekend for the gatherings.

From there, they began meeting at Winburn Baptist Church. In what may be the Lexington area's only trilingual service—French and Creole, plus English for Haitians born in the United States—the handful of people turned into a room full.

When space got cramped, Dumay appealed to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, which linked him up with Trinity Baptist Church.

At first blush, it may seem a strange coupling. The Southern Baptists formed as a denomination in 1845 when they split from their Northern counterparts over the issue of slavery. Since then, even with a formal apology in 1996, Southern Baptists have not enjoyed a reputation for racial tolerance.

Trinity Baptist, however, has always been a little bit different.

Bob Brown came to the church in 1958 and quickly began advocating an integrated congregation.

That, many in the community thought, was what led to Trinity being firebombed 11 years later.

"I don't think there's an African heaven, a Haitian heaven," said Trinity's current pastor, Jay Robison. "We'll all be together then, so why not now?"

Shortly after Faith Tabernacle arrived in January 2000, Trinity raised the Haitian flag during a service.

Although he's happy to have a room, with its gray metal cabinets and portable microphone system—"praise God, they don't charge anything"—Dumay has plans to acquire a building of his own.

He estimates the start-up cost to be somewhere around \$200,000. So far, the congregation has gathered about \$2,000.

"We don't have anything because we're a poor population," he said.

Robison and Dumay have met to talk about that very subject. One so-

lution, they decided, was to increase the base of worshipers from which Faith Tabernacle could draw. With maybe 200 Haitians in the Lexington area, Dumay could expand his flock, but not enough to raise \$200,000.

While the flow of Haitians to the United States has slackened considerable since the "boat people" days of the early 1980s, the war-torn Congo has supplied a steady stream of immigrants as of late.

Why not invite French-speaking Congolese to the services, the two men asked themselves.

"It's so important because of the (French) communications," said Donat Namegebe, a 38-year-old Congolese man attending a recent service.

In addition to language, there's also the shared refugee experience, no small matter for Namegebe, who spent eight months in a Cameroon camp after escaping the Congo.

"We had some brothers and sisters in Christ who were here," he said. "They helped us forget all the trauma."

Taking Sanon's place at the Faith Tabernacle service, Joanen Floreal, a Haitian studying at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, turned to Psalm 68:20.

"He that is our God is the God of salvation..."

Floreal began listing the ways of salvation: faith, obedience, thankfulness and suffering. When he got to "perseverance," someone jumped up and said, "May God bless you, brother."

"Perseverance!" the crowd shouted. "Perseverance!"

Floreal's face brightened. "If you're waiting for deliverance this morning, raise your hands," he thundered.

A room full of hands, many that once grasped the side of a boat while a place called home got smaller and smaller, flew up, toward the heavens.

Copyrighted story of the Lexington Herald-Leader. Used with permission.



MUSIC Fidi Noel of Haiti sings with the Faith Tabernacle congregation, which meets in Lexington.



Plant your heart
your life
your gifts

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Goal: \$120 million

the
**Unfinished
Task**
2001

Planting with Passion

 **International
Mission Board**
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union. The International Mission Board has exclusive right to use this trademark. The International Mission Board is a Southern Baptist Convention entity supported by the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

MISSIONS

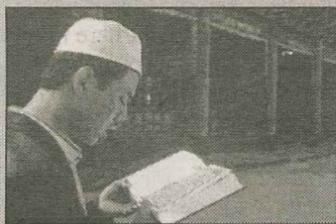
MISSIONS SNAPSHOTS

JERUSALEM—A young boy studies at an Arab Christian church in Jerusalem. “God is moving here like we’ve never seen....” says one



Southern Baptist worker who has served in Israel for 30 years. “It is the first movement in which Muslim-background believers are reaching out to other Muslims.”

BEIJING—“China is in a massive struggle between the forces of light and darkness,” says a Christian worker there.



“There are great opportunities right now to share the gospel, but they need to see that God is the God of all

peoples and that Christ is the Savior of all men.”

EL ALTO, Bolivia—More than 40,000 Aymara, a people group living high in the Andes Mountains, come to El Atlo



each year to escape starvation and look for work. But when they get there, they have no place to go. They set up plastic tarps until they scrape together enough adobe bricks for a house. Yet, it

is “a great opportunity,” Kent Shirley, a Southern Baptist missionary, says. “When the Aymara move to the city, they are open to new relationships.” And, Shirley says, many lay leaders among the Aymaras already are catching a missionary vision for the more than 2 million Aymara who have no idea who Christ is.

SOUTHEAST ASIA—The clock is ticking, say Christian workers in a country in Southeast Asia that cannot be named for security reasons.



The workers think they have a five-year window of opportunity to present the gospel. Still, they do not ask for relief from persecution. “We’re not

praying that politically things will change,” one says. “Persecution, in almost every instance, has caused things to spread rapidly.” And they pray for a strong indigenous model for the underground church now developing in their country.

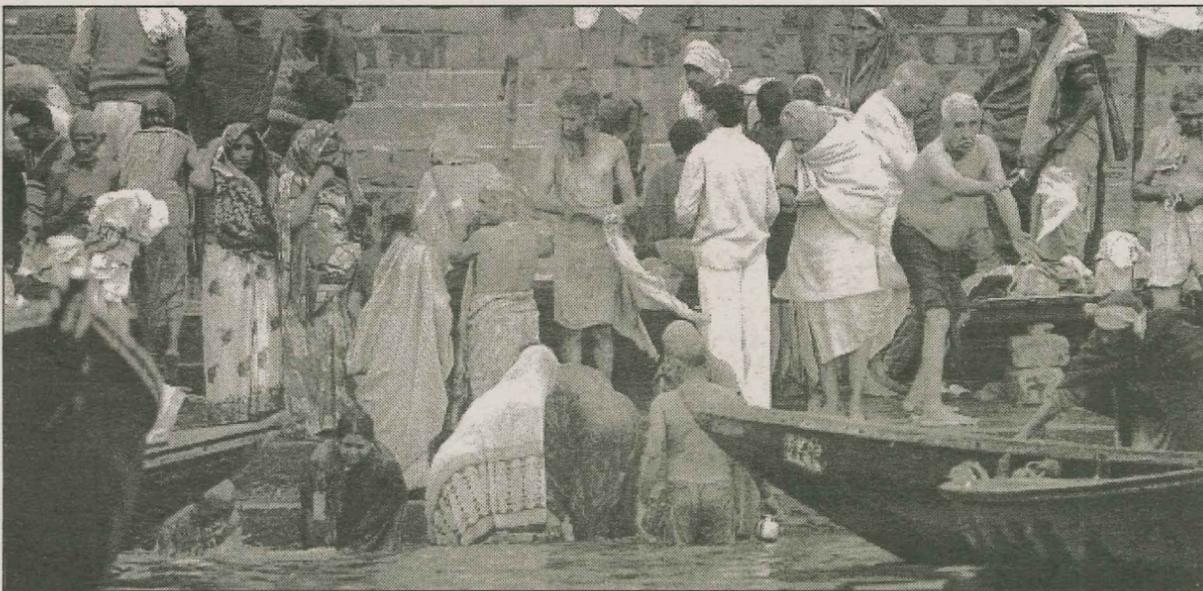
CZECH REPUBLIC—It took two years for missionaries Mark and Vesta Sauter to learn the spoken Czech language and the unspoken Czech sign language.



Now they are working hard to figure out how to reach the estimated 50,000 deaf among the Czech Republic’s 11 million people and the estimated

2 million deaf across Central and Eastern Europe. For years, the deaf have been second-class citizens. As one deaf man told the Sauters, “I’m an atheist by default, but I haven’t had a choice. Come here and teach the Bible so we can decide on our own if we want to follow this Christ.” (IMB photos)

‘Whatever it is, it’s exciting’



India farmers seeing ‘bumper crop’ as result of gospel seeds

NEW DELHI, India (BP)—Six men encircle a patch of stout seedlings. They shift the rust-red dirt of India with the toes of their shoes. One man, a local Baptist pastor, sweeps his right arm to encompass a whole field of rich, green shoots.

“Last year this was nothing, but look what’s happened. Next year if we want, we can move into that field,” he says, pointing to scrub brush and tangled grass.

Bad land, poor water yielding a bumper crop? It’s not supposed to happen.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board representatives knew their wasteland agricultural project, which helps transform useless land into valued fields, would appeal to local farmers. But what has their heads shaking is how apt some of these farmers are in cultivating the seeds of a church-planting movement.

IMB representatives had long worked with other Great Commission Christians in trying to reach this people group.

In the mid-1990s, the IMB began working with the Far East Broadcasting Association to air agricultural information and Bible stories in the group’s language.

“For several years people were interested in the agricultural information, but there was little interest in the gospel,” explains “Rick,” an IMB representative who has worked with this people group for more than four years.

Then something changed. “The Spirit of God moved in such a way that it made what we’re doing—and it’s so simple—appeal to them, and they took hold of it,” says “Rick,” whose name cannot be given for security reasons.

Today in one state of India there are nearly 80 Baptist churches and 300



TAKING ROOT In India, the gospel is taking root in villages once closed to the good news. In one Indian state, there now are nearly 80 Baptist churches and 300 prayer groups among a group of 50,000 people. But much work remains. ■ **Top:** Hindus believe bathing in the Ganges River in New Delhi will wash away sin. ■ **Above:** Along the banks of the Ganges, holy men wait to bless anyone who stops by. (IMB photos)

the
**Unfinished
Task**
2001

Planting with
Passion

prayer groups among a group of 50,000 people.

Rick recalls how closed to the gospel this people group once was.

“If it came from outside the village, it was held at a distance,” he says.

Mistrust of outsiders ran deep. Generations ago this people group settled in isolated parts of India’s jungles as a refuge from stronger groups. The jungles mostly disappeared, but suspicion of outsiders remained.

The people continued to hold tightly to their local worship—a mix of folk Hindu and animistic beliefs which depicted a world of spirits that may help one day and turn deadly the next, Rick says.

So when this people group not only began to embrace Christianity, but started taking the gospel to other groups, workers watched in wonder.

“They have gone from idol worshiping to leading a mission movement in such a short while,” Rick says. “Whatever it is, it’s exciting.”

“Allen,” another IMB representative in the area, says, “A church-planting movement (starts) whenever the salvation message becomes the talk of the community, and it spreads naturally from one person to the (next).”

For example, listen to a local Baptist pastor whose pride in thriving crops is only surpassed by his passion for evangelism: “Our vision is to take

what we know about planting and use it to spread His kingdom.”

Hours later, the pastor meets with a village prayer group at a believer’s home. It’s the heat of the day, as a dozen believers worship on the cool porch floor. The pastor speaks, then asks a young man in the back to read from the Bible.

The man stands and picks his way through the group to read at the front. He tracks the verses with an index finger and thumb. More songs, a devotional reading, a prayer and the service is over.

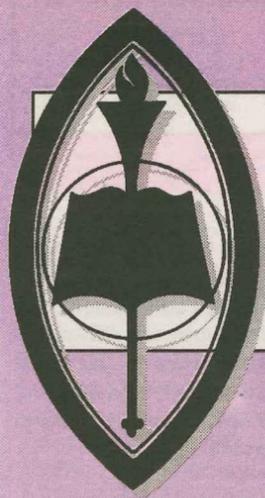
But no one moves to leave. The porch is cool, and these are neighbors who have become brothers and sisters in Christ, so they linger.

Later, the pastor tells how this fellowship started.

Last year some men from this village heard about the wasteland agricultural project on the radio. They wrote to request that someone come and talk with them about the farming techniques.

“We came and stayed with them for several days,” the pastor continues.

While they were there, a local woman became ill. The Baptist farmers told the villagers they were Christians and said they would pray for her. Within the hour the woman was healed, he says. “After that she and five others were saved,” he adds. “This is the power of God. It’s just God.”



KENTUCKY NOTES

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

Planting with Passion

Week of Prayer
for International Missions
Dec. 2-9, 2001

Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
for International Missions
National Goal: \$120 million

Kentucky churches gave
\$3,375,472 last year.
Can we give 15 percent
more this year?

Winter 2001



Down the Street

Around the World



Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church, Madisonville
April 12-13, 2002

Sessions: (All times are Central Time)

Friday - 9 a.m., 1:15 p.m., and 6:30 p.m.; Saturday - 9 a.m.

Speakers Include:

Carl and Martha Rees, International Missions, Middle America
Dottie Williamson, Multihousing Ministry, South Carolina
Kendale Moore, Literacy Missions, North American Mission Board
George and Cathy Chinn, Mission Service Corps, Eastern Kentucky
Jerry and Etta Butcher, Mission Service Corps, Boston
Charlie Simmons, Chaplain, Wrangler Campground

Special Features:

- Lunch with a Missionary - Friday, noon, preregistration for box lunch required
- Down the Street, Around the World Missions Fair featuring displays from churches and associations - Friday afternoon
- Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale & Wind Orchestra Concert—Friday, 6:30 p.m.
- Launch of the 125th year for Kentucky WMU
- Girls in Action/Children in Action Missions Event, Gym—Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
- Special Dinners, 5 p.m. Friday—preregistration required: Acteens/Youth on Mission Leaders and Members; Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Annual meeting promotional materials and meal registration information will be mailed to WMU directors and WMU contact people in January

A Personal Word

As we approach the Season of Prayer for International Missions, I have been reminded that we have a part in international missions right here in



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

Kentucky through our ministries to international students. Each year, with funding provided through the Eliza Broadus Offering, the collegiate department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention hosts a retreat in November for international students. We received the following note from Tommy Johnson, KBC international student campus minister:

"I want to express my thanks to the Kentucky WMU for sponsorship of the 2001 International Student Conference through the Eliza Broadus Missions offering. This year's event was the biggest ever, as we had a total of 350 people attend the conference. Of these, 275 were students with 200 international students from 40-plus countries. The attendance reflected an increase of 20 percent from last year.

"We had to move the conference to Bowling Green due to renovation problems at Cave City, but the move proved to be a blessing with excellent facilities. We had a tremendous Christian witness throughout the weekend with student testimonies, 30 Christian family group leaders, Christian seminars, the distribution of 'Jesus' videos and an excellent keynote speaker in Patrick Whyte of Nigeria.

"The conference provided numerous opportunities for discussions of Christianity with international students, as well as a tremendous time of cultural exchange and fun. I could hear a buzz of excitement from international students during the weekend. One student from Vietnam who attended the conference for the first time commented, 'I wouldn't miss the conference for anything next year.'

"Thank you again for your work in making this missions outreach possible.

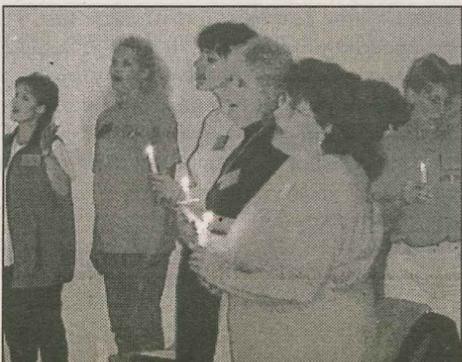
"In His grace, Tommy Johnson"

As we approach the Christmas season and remember the birth of our Savior, we must be ever mindful that lost people around the world need to hear the good news. In spite of terrorist attacks and an uncertain economy, this is not the time to cut back in our giving. Instead, world events should be a reminder of the importance of what we do.

Each one of our missions offerings is vital for supporting ministries in Kentucky, the United States and around the world. Don't miss the opportunity to give sacrificially to each of our offerings. You can give throughout the year as well as the time that each offering is emphasized.

In addition to your giving for international missions this Christmas, let me encourage you to give for state missions as well. It is my prayer that more Kentucky Baptist churches than ever before will participate in missions giving during our 2001-02 church year.

Getting Away To It All
More than 450 women attended retreats at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore in 2001.
➤ Top right: At Jonathan Creek, Philip and Cathryn Bruce, Southern Baptist North American Mission Board missionaries in Kentucky, shared their experiences.
➤ Bottom right: At Cedarmore, candles represented the light that missionaries bring to a dark world.



Kentucky WMU annual meeting lodging April 12-13, 2002

- **Best Western**
Pennyrile Parkway/
Mortons Gap
Exit 37
Mortons Gap, KY 42440
(270) 258-5201 or
(888) 298-2115
Cutoff date: March 29
Rate: Double - \$40 + tax
King - \$41.99 + tax
Use code: Kentucky WMU
- **Big Spring Inn**
1750 E. Center Street
Exit 44, Pennyrile Pkwy.
Madisonville, KY 42431
(270) 821-8700
Cutoff date: March 31
Rate: \$33.95 (\$4 each additional person)
Use code: Kentucky WMU
- **Days Inn**
1900 Lantaff Blvd.
Exit 42, Pennyrile Pkwy.
Madisonville, KY 42431
(270) 821-8620
Cutoff date: March 29
Rate: \$55 + tax
Use code: KWMU
- **Holiday Inn Express**
1891 Lantaff Blvd.
Exit 44, Pennyrile Pkwy.
Madisonville, KY 42431
(270) 821-2121
Cutoff date: March 29
Rate: \$62 + tax
Use code: Kentucky WMU



Information for WMU Directors

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is in the air. Churches are preparing for musical worship services, fellowship dinners, sharing with people in need AND they are involved in the Season of International Missions. This includes PRAYING, GIVING to the



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and LEARNING more about missions through the **International Missions Study**. This year the focus is on the Maasai people group in Kenya and Tanzania. Pastors and WMU leaders received informational and sample materials by September. *If you need envelopes, posters, prayer guides or other information, call us toll-free at (888) 254-5726.*

Focus on WMU provides a great opportunity to share with your church the many benefits of WMU organizations. Refer to your *WMU Year Book* and winter issues of *Dimension* and *WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit* for ideas and suggestions.

Near the first of November, packets were mailed to pastors by the North American Mission Board for use in promoting the **North American Mission Study**. The packet has an order form for books/teaching guides. The suggested dates are March 3-10. WMU directors or church contact people will receive a sample poster, envelope and prayer guide in early January for use during this **Season or Prayer for North American Missions**. Refer to your *2001-2002 WMU Year Book*, *Dimension* magazine and *Spring 2002 WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit*.

Take note—

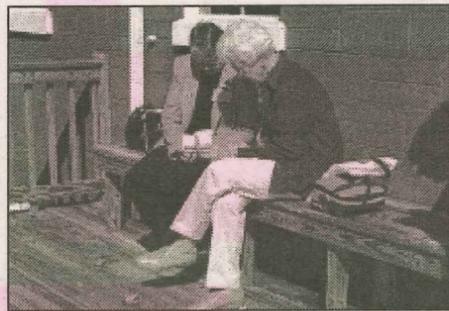
Use information in this *Kentucky Notes* to make plans for a group from your church to participate in the **2002 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting** in Madisonville on April 12-13. This can be a highlight of your year!

During these days—

Let's be faithful in praying for our missionaries who may be dealing with life-threatening situations. Use *Missions Mosaic* or other WMU magazines to keep in touch with the work of our home/international missionaries.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults



Women pause to pray at Jonathan Creek.

The **Fall Women on Mission/Baptist Nursing Fellowship retreats** were a great success. More than 450 ladies from across the state attended. If you missed out this year, don't fret;

2002 will be here before we know it! The dates for next year's retreats are Sept. 27-28 at Jonathan Creek and Oct. 18-19 at Cedarmore. Bobby Rankin (JC) and Barbara Joiner (Cedarmore) will be the keynote speakers. Mark your calendars now to join us for one of these exciting weekends!

The **Kentucky WMU Enterpriser Team** to the Olympics is now full! Fifteen ladies from around the state will travel to Salt Lake City on Feb. 19-26 to participate in the evangelistic efforts that will be led by Global Outreach 2002.

If you would like to participate in the promotion of the Olympics in your church or mission groups there are still ways for you to get involved! We need prayer! Contact the state WMU office to find out how you can pray for



all of the outreach efforts that will take place during this important world event.

You also can continue to collect items for hospitality bags. Global Outreach still needs **breath mints, lip balm and travel size hand lotion**. These items can be collected and sent directly to the GO 2002 office at 12401 South 450 East G #2, Draper, UT 84020.

Tonya's Tip—Do some research on Christmas traditions in other countries. Share the traditions with your group and make an ornament that represents the particular country that you are focusing on in your meeting. Pray for the missionaries who work in that region of the world.

—Tonya Williams

Youth

The third annual **Youth on Mission Night** was held at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown on Nov. 9 and 10. Attendance was up by more than 100 percent from last year! This year's theme was "Follow the Lamb." SonLife, the

Kentucky Baptist Student Union team to the Olympics, led the worship service. David and Cathy Brandon, missionaries to East Africa, challenged the youth to "follow the Lamb" wherever He might lead. Youth participated in "An Exercise in Despair: Separate Peoples," a simulation that examined problems which develop between people of different worldviews.

On Saturday morning, youth worshipped and then participated in a mission project for Helping Hand of the Heartland. Follow-

ing lunch, youth attended special interest seminars and had a closing celebration.

Stay tuned for information about Youth on Mission Night, Nov. 8-9, 2002.

Before you know it, **Exalt 2002** will be here. Exalt will be held at St. Matthews Baptist in Louisville on April 5-6. Exalt is open to all young ladies in grades 7-12. A special feature this year will be the joint summer missions commissioning service with Kentucky BSU's collegiate summer missionaries. See the ad on page 3 of this insert for more information.

It's not too late to be a part of the **State Activators Event** in Lynch, Ky. We will be working with Mission Service Corps Volunteers Lonnie and Belinda Riley the week of June 30 - July 5. The cost is \$150 for the week. For more information, please call LaRaine at (888) 254-5726.

Kentucky WMU is pleased to announce



Helping Hands Matthew Flarity of Falmouth Baptist Church participated in the group mission project for Helping Hand of the Heartland.

the members of the **2001-02 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel:**

- Ashley McElveen, Post Oak Baptist, Russellville.
- Jessica Pace, Okolona Baptist, Louisville.
- Mandy Warden, Post Oak Baptist, Russellville.

—LaRaine Dail

Preschool

Preschoolers can discover the joy of missions through Mission Friends! During the winter quarter:

• Involve preschoolers in the **International Mission Study** in December. Help them learn about missionaries in Maasailand, Africa and the people who live there.

• Observe **Focus on WMU**, Feb. 11-17, to help your church recognize Mission Friends as a part of WMU. Plan with the church WMU director for this special emphasis. Ideas are in the winter issue of *Start* and the *2001-2002 WMU Year Book*, pages 58-59.

• Begin preparing for the **North American Mission Study** coming up in March! Now is the time to set a date to have the study. The teaching guide will be in an insert in the spring issue of *Start*.

Did you know the Mission Friends at First Baptist Church of Carlisle are pictured in the winter issue of *Start*? Their leaders are Libby Clark and Lisa McLean. Thank you, Libby, Lisa and preschoolers, for sharing what is happening in Mission Friends in your church.



Children

Exciting adventures in missions education await the children in your church! Provide the opportunity for the children to participate in the **2001 International Mission Study for Children** in December. Children will learn about the

Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania. Encourage members of Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors and Children in Action to attend. Use this special time to invite boys and girls who are not involved in missions education.

It is not too early to begin preparation for the **2002 North American Mission Study** coming up in March. The emphasis will focus on helping children understand who the church is, how churches are started and what church planting is.

Girls and boys in Girls in Action and Children in Action are invited to the **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** on Saturday, April 13, during the WMU annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Madisonville. This is a special time for children and leaders to meet missionaries, make

new friends, sing and have lots of other fun. The cost is \$2 per person attending. No preregistration is required. Children attending the event can get involved in a ministry project by bringing one canned food per person to the event. The food collected will be distributed to programs for needy families in the

Madisonville area. Further information will be included in the spring issue of *Kentucky Notes*.

—Brenda Price





President's Perspective

Our world has changed since I last wrote you. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks penetrated our perceived safe and secure lives. "God" and "God Bless America" have become acceptable words. Our children's heroes are now firemen and policemen rather than fictional superheroes. Americans are quick to help. "Not getting involved" is a mindset of the past.



Sara Billups
Kentucky
WMU
president

Not only as Americans but also as Christians our lives have dramatically changed. Interest in God has peaked among Americans. Billy Graham was called to address the crisis. In those moments, for the first time in history, the entire world with access to television heard the gospel. What an exciting moment! In our everyday lives, opportunities to share the gospel abound. We need to boldly tell America in whom her safety and security truly rests.

The moment the first airliner hit the Trade Center, I was working as a neonatal intensive care nurse. My colleagues and I became glued to the television. We could hardly tear ourselves away to do our duties and finally rolled a television into the unit.

Suddenly, an alarm went off. A baby being born needed help. We rushed to the delivery room. We carried the small bundle into the unit and placed him on the bed. He cried. We all looked at him as if we had never heard such a sound. Methodically, without speaking, we began to do what we do every day. He whimpered again.

We stopped, looked at each other and one of the nurses asked, "What will the future hold for this baby?" My first thought was: "No one can answer that question."

But somewhere from the recesses of my shocked mind I replied, "Today is secure for him regardless of what happens. If we are blown off the face of the earth, this little baby will be with Jesus. Someday, however, he will decide to accept or reject Jesus. If he accepts, his future is secure: eternal life in the presence of the living God. If he rejects, he will surely spend eternity in a worse hell than Osama bin Ladin could ever create on earth. As a human being, I do not want to die and I use good judgement to keep from dying. As a Christian, I know my death will only begin a new phase of my life. So I do not fear what bin Ladin may do to me because One more powerful than he controls my life.

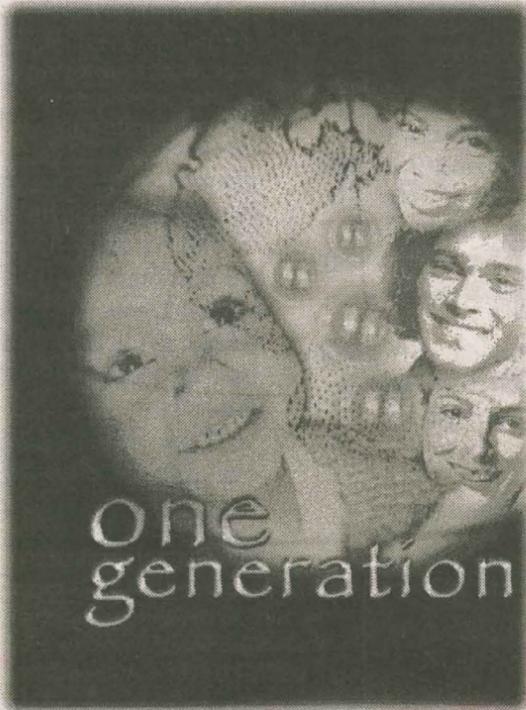
The baby whimpered again. A nurse picked him up and held him to herself. As nurses, a receptionist and a physician—Christians and non-Christians—gathered in the unit, I led a prayer asking God's protection for that little one and 22 other tiny babies in our hospital that day. We prayed for God to bless America, and then I prayed for God to empower those of us who are Christians to be bold witnesses as America looks for answers. We have prayed every day since the attack.

I pray God will make you a bold witness today. Now more than ever, American Christians need to boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. You may be the last opportunity someone has to hear the gospel. We need to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so our missionaries can continue to do kingdom work. We need to boldly give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions so we can increase mission work in Kentucky. We cannot afford to wait to see where the economy goes. In Israel, some are saying they hear the footsteps of the Messiah!

In His great love,
Sara Billups

Exalt 2002

THE event for all young ladies in grades 7-12



✓ **April 5-6**
St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville

Speakers:

- ✓ Wanda Lee, Executive Director-Treasurer, WMU, SBC
- ✓ Bobbye Rankin, former missionary to Indonesia

Worship leaders:

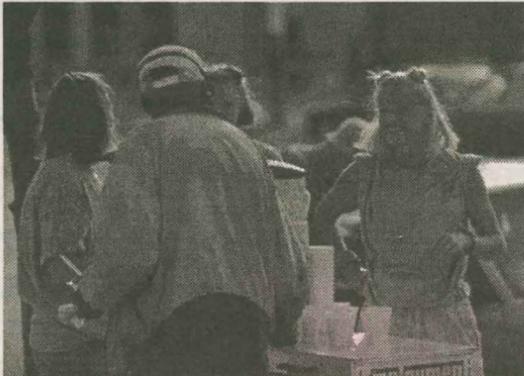
- ✓ Michael and Terri Higdon

Commissioning service:

- ✓ Acteens Activators, youth mission teams and more than 150 college students will be commissioned

Cost: \$15 before March 1; \$20 after March 1.
Includes T-shirt and gifts

State Activators Event



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

Contact LaRaine for information.
(888) 254-5726

Scholarships available

Do you know ...

- an Acteen who is a senior in high school?
- a student in one of our Kentucky Baptist colleges preparing for a church or missions related vocation who needs college funds?
- the daughter/son of a state missionary who will be attending Georgetown, Campbellsville or Cumberland?
- a Kentucky woman attending seminary in preparation for a missions, social work or church-related vocation?
- a Kentucky man attending seminary in preparation for a missions career?

If you know any of these, ask them to contact Kentucky WMU toll-free at (888) 254-5726 for further information. All scholarship applications must be in the Kentucky WMU office by Feb. 1, 2002.

Exalt 2002 Hotels

Holiday Inn, Hurstbourne
1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway
I-64/Hurstbourne
(502) 426-2600
Rate: \$69
Cutoff: March 15
Use code: KY WMU

Hurstbourne Hotel
9700 Bluegrass Parkway
I-64/Hurstbourne
(502) 491-4830
Rate: \$69
Cutoff: March 22
Use code: One Generation-Exalt Conference

Microtel Inn
1221 Kentucky Mills Drive
I-64/Blankenbaker
(502) 266-6590
Rate: Single: \$49.95 + tax
Double: \$59.95 + tax
Cutoff: Feb. 4
Use code: WMU

Fairfield Inn
9400 Blairwood Road
I-64/Hurstbourne
(502) 339-1900
Rate: \$63 + tax
Cutoff: March 5
Use code: KWMU

Sleep Inn East
1850 Priority Way
I-64/Blankenbaker
(502) 266-6776
Rate: \$59 + tax
Cutoff: March 5
Use code: Group #1479

Mainstay Suites
1650 Alliant Ave.
I-64/Blankenbaker
(502) 267-4454
Rate: Double: \$79.95
Queen: \$69.95
Cutoff: March 22, 2002
Use code: Acteen Conference;
Group #10094



KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

CAMP 2002

Mission Adventure Camp for Girls - Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore)



June 17-21	Girls Camp, Grades 4-6
June 21-22	Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 24-28	Girls Camp, Grades 4-10
June 28-29	Mother/Daughter Overnight
July 1-3	Express Camp, Grades 4-6
July 8-12	Girls Camp, Grades 4-10
July 12-13	Mother/ Daughter Overnight
July 15-19	Girls Camp, Grades 4-6

Mission Adventure Camp is for all girls who have completed grades 4-10. This includes girls who are members of missions education organizations such as Girls in Action, Children in Action, Mission Kids (Brotherhood), Acteens and Youth on Mission. Girls who are not presently involved in a missions education organization also are invited to attend.

COST: \$135 for week-long camp (includes T-shirt, meals, lodging and program fee)
\$70 for express camp (includes T-shirt, meals, lodging and program fee)
\$30 for Mother/Daughter Overnights (includes meals, lodging and program fee)

Overnight Camp at Jonathan Creek

June 21-22 **Mother/Daughter Overnight** (for girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their moms/or mom substitute)

GA Overnight (for girls who have completed grades 4-6 and their chaperones)

Acteens Splash (for teenage girls who have completed grades 7-12 and their chaperones)



COST: \$30 for Mother/Daughter Overnights (includes meals and lodging)
\$35 for Acteens Splash (includes meals, lodging and waterfront activities)

The 2002 camp information is available and will be mailed to church leaders in January. For further information, contact the Kentucky WMU office at (888) 254-5726.



Calendar

December

- 1 Acteens Activator Applications Due
- 2-9 International Missions Emphasis, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Goal: \$120 million

February

- 8-24 24/17 Prayer Emphasis for Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City
- 11-17 Focus on WMU
- 25-26 Kentucky Evangelism Conference, Canaan Missionary BC, Louisville

March

- 1-2 Youth Missions Workshop/ Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Seminary, Louisville
- 2 Meeting of Spanish-speaking women, Elizabethtown area
- 3-10 North American Missions Emphasis, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Goal: \$50 million
- 31 Easter

April

- 5-6 Exalt, State Acteens Conference, St. Matthews BC, Louisville
- 11 KY WMU Executive Board, Madisonville
- 12-13 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting and related events, FBC, Madisonville
- 12 Baptist Nursing Fellowship and Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinners
- 13 GA/Children in Action Missions Event
- 16 Senior Adult Celebration, Murray
- 18 Senior Adult Celebration, Henderson

The Heritage Society

The Heritage Society was launched at the Heritage Fund Dinner in April 2000 to recognize individuals who have chosen to make a planned gift to Kentucky WMU. Any person who names Kentucky WMU as beneficiary of any one of the following may be named as a member of the Heritage Society: will, life insurance policy, charitable remainder trust, charitable annuity trust, charitable gift annuity, retirement plan death benefits or other bequests. Charter membership in the Heritage Society will be open through April 30, 2002.

The following people already have become charter members of the Heritage Society: Joy Bolton, Anna Mary Byrdwell, Utha B. (Sally) Deen, Myrna H. Deweese, Velma A. Clifton, Ray and Dee Gilliland, Carlann B. Harris, Maribeth Hambrick, Garnett Hutchinson, Frankie Johnson, Jane Kent, Marilyn Lamkin, Brenda Price and Mary Pat Price.

If you will be making a planned gift to Kentucky WMU in any one of the ways noted above and your name does not appear on our list, please contact Frankie Johnson, Kentucky WMU development specialist, by phone at (502) 863-0509 or by e-mail: rcjohn@lex.infi.net. We would like to include you as a member of the Heritage Society!

The world is coming to Salt Lake City for the 2002 Winter Olympics! Join Kentucky WMU and churches across the state in praying for the 17 days of the Olympics, Feb. 8-24.

To be a part of this ministry, contact KY WMU. Your church or

group will select one of the 17 days to pray for

Global Outreach 2002, the SBC ministries in Salt

Lake. You will receive a special 24/17 prayer and

devotional guide to direct you as you pray.

For more information, contact LaRaine or Doris at (888) 254-5726.

24/17

Be a Summer Missionary! Be a Cedar Crest Camp Staffer!

Positions	Length of Service	Qualifications	Application Deadline
Unit Leader	6 weeks	College age	Feb. 15
Lifeguard			
Cabin Leader			
Kitchen Coordinator			
Assistant Cabin Leader	5-6 weeks	High school junior or senior	Feb. 15
Volunteer Nurse	1 or more weeks	Certified	May 1

For an application form and more information about camp positions, contact Kentucky WMU office at (888) 254-5726; P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569; e-mail: tonya_williams@kybaptist.org

MISSIONS



BELIEVERS BAPTIZED Southern Baptist missionary Kirk Jones (right) and a Maasai Christian baptize new believers in a village in Tanzania. (IMB photo by Charles Ledford)

Who was Lottie Moon?

A native Virginian, Lottie Moon was appointed as a Southern Baptist foreign missionary on July 7, 1873; she sailed to China on Sept. 1 of that year.

For 39 years she labored chiefly in Tengchow and in P'ingtu. At first, residents of the area distrusted her, calling her names such as "devil woman." Lottie responded by baking tea-cake cookies: The smell of the cookies began attracting many children; soon her concern for them and their families earned her the name of the Cookie Lady.

Later she found that wearing local clothing went far toward gaining acceptance among the Chinese.

She fought many battles on behalf of the Chinese she grew to love: She was a leader in the effort to ban the foot-binding of young girls; she broke down barriers against the education of girls. Also, she was a leader among missionaries: She was among the first to suggest the idea of a furlough.

Her influence inspired the formation of the Woman's Missionary Union, and ultimately it led to that organization's establishment of the offering that bears her name.

In her greatest act of empathy for the Chinese, as local Christians were facing famine due to floods and war, she stopped eating, giving instead her meager resources to others. On Dec. 24, 1912, at age 72, she raised her fists together in fond Chinese greeting and died.

This year's national goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is \$120 million.

Indigenous church planting grows around world

By Mary Jane Welch
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—What may be the world's most exciting development doesn't make the evening news, but it is creating a stir among evangelical Christians.

Missiologists call it church-planting movements. Basically, it is indigenous churches multiplying within a people group at a rate that almost defies belief.

More specifically, it is Bible-believing churches led by local laypeople meeting as cell groups or house churches. It's healthy churches with evangelism and church-starting in their DNA. It's churches who count it as joy to win others to Christ, start other churches and teach others to do the same.

These movements are popping up in places where you'd least expect it—places where missionaries have not been welcome, places where a Bible is hard to come by, places where believers are likely to face persecution, the last places many would consider "white unto harvest."

Take China, home to one-fifth of the world's people and several church-planting movements, largely centered in house-church networks.

Or North Africa, where a Muslim cleric complained that more than 10,000 Muslims living in the nearby mountains had become Christians:

Or India, where almost 2,000 churches were started among a people living in a region with several Hindu holy sites.

Or a Latin American nation where



MISSIONS MOMENT Missionary Kent Shirley talks with a witch doctor on the streets of La Paz, Bolivia. (IMB photo by Matt Jones)

the
**Unfinished
Task**
2001

Planting with
Passion

Christians have long been persecuted, but where the number of Baptist churches grew from 235 in 1990 to more than 1,500 with more than 33,000 believers in 2000.

To many Western Christians, being part of a typical church-planting movement might feel like walking a tightrope without a net.

"It scares the bejabbers out of people to say they're going to start a church because all they ever did was sing in the choir," says one Southern Baptist International Mission Board regional leader about new personnel coming into his region.

But, he continues, "It's not rocket science to start a church. It's simply people who love Jesus and are committed to Him, following Him and getting together to worship."

"When people learn that, they have

an 'aha' moment, and say, 'I can do this.'"

Not only can new missionaries start churches, so can new believers—and it's essential that they do if a church-planting movement is to happen, says David Garrison, associate vice president for overseas strategy at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"God has given new believers everything they need to make a church," he says.

A church-planting movement must quickly become indigenous, but that doesn't mean missionaries can't contribute. They can share the gospel with a new people group, for example.

Garrison says he's never seen a church-planting movement without two elements: massive prayer and massive sharing of the gospel.

Prayer, says Garrison, is "the be-

ginning for everything, the glue that holds everything together, the blood that flows through us."

Missionary teams are urged to assemble prayer-support networks, and Southern Baptists are urged to participate in prayerwalks, become prayer advocates for specific people groups, population segments and cities.

Massive seed sowing, he says, answers the key question: "How many of my people will hear the gospel today?" And that is where missionaries become most creative.

They tell the stories of the Bible to people who can't read them. They use volunteers to distribute thousands of "Jesus" films, Scripture portions and tracts to tourists returning home to restricted-access countries.

Southern Baptist personnel also partner with local believers, helping them secure resources for abundant seed sowing, introducing ideas they might use to reach their own people.

What they can't do, without harming a church-planting movement, is take charge, create dependence or introduce extra-biblical requirements, such as American-style buildings.

Those who have been involved in such movements are quick to say, with a bit of awe, that what they're seeing is the result of the Holy Spirit at work.

A strategy coordinator in China has seen God's Spirit working among house-church networks that have doubled in size each of the last two years.

Those networks are led by Christians whose faith and leadership skills were forged in the persecution of the Cultural Revolution, people who exhibit a passion for God and for planting churches.

"For them it's a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week ministry," he says.

Muslim interfaith relations showing signs of unraveling

Iranian president condemns violence in the name of religion

NEW YORK (RNS)—In a plea for international understanding and in a potent symbol of what appears to be growing international multifaith dialogue, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has condemned any religious justification for terrorism and praised Christian thinking that promotes religion as "a venue for social solidarity."

Speaking Nov. 12 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the Iranian leader rebuked "vicious terrorists who concoct weapons out of religions," calling them "superficial literalists clinging to the most simplistic ideas."

"They are utterly incapable of understanding that, perhaps inadvertently, they are turning religion into the handmaiden of the most decadent ideologies," he said, addressing U.S. religious leaders and others at a symposium convened by the World Conference on Religion and Peace.

"While terrorists purport to be serving the cause of religion and accuse all those who disagree with them of heresy and sacrilege, they are indeed serving the very ideologies they condemn."

Khatami's address at the cathedral, as well as earlier appearances last week at the United Nations with other world leaders, seemed to further enhance his growing stature in the United States as a moderate Islamic leader committed to a dialogue with the West—coincidentally or not, at a time when the United States is seeking broad international support for its campaign against terrorism.

By Mark O'Keefe
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Immediately after Sept. 11, religious leaders reached out to harassed American Muslims as President Bush declared, "Islam is peace."

But Jewish leaders' dismay over recent exposures of incendiary, anti-Semitic comments by some Muslim leaders, and evangelicals' outrage over the massacre of Christians in Pakistan has soured the ecumenical mood.

It's not hard to find Muslims, Christians and Jews still interacting, but long-standing religious conflicts seem to be surfacing with new intensity. The shift has the potential to affect not only religious relations, but the general perception of Islam, a religion that is still a mystery to many Americans.

"There's a cultural clash between evangelical Christians and Muslims," said Richard Cizik, a Washington-based spokesman for the National Association of Evangelicals. "It's just there. It would be foolish not to acknowledge it."

And despite years of dialogue between American Jews and Muslims, there is a clash between many adherents of those two faiths as well.

"The near horizon for interfaith dialogue is not very promising, because I happen to think not only has Osama bin Laden hijacked Islam for his terrorist purposes, but Islamic extremists have taken over most of the Islamic organizations in the United States and intimidated the people we would call moderates," said Rabbi James Rudin, senior interreligious adviser of the New York City-based American Jewish Committee and a columnist for Religion News Service.

Zahid Bukhari, director of the Washington-based Muslims in the American Public Square, said that Muslims' relationship with American Jews "is not ideal."

Nonetheless, echoing the reactions of many Islamic leaders and organizations, Bukhari said the comments of the misguided few in Islam should not be used to judge the whole of the religion and its followers.

"In American society, there are all sorts of groups on the fringes, publishing all sorts of absurd things," Bukhari said.

A series of revelations about Islamic leaders has only exacerbated the domestic distrust:

■ A Cleveland television station aired a 10-year-old videotape on which Imam Fawaz Damra said that Muslims should be "directing all the rifles at the first and last enemy of the Islamic nation, and that is the sons of monkeys and pigs, the Jews."

■ In an interview with an Arabic-language newspaper, Sheik Muhammad Gemeaha, leader of Manhattan's Islamic Cultural Center, said, "The Jews were behind these ugly acts (of Sept. 11), while we, the Arabs, were innocent." He also claimed that Jewish doctors were poisoning Muslim children in Amer-

Franklin Graham defends calling Islam 'wicked' religion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—Evangelist Franklin Graham is not backing away from his statements that Islam is "wicked, violent and not of the same god."

Graham initially made the remarks in an interview at the October dedication of a chapel in Wilkesboro, N.C. His remarks were broadcast by NBC News on Nov. 16.

"I don't believe this is a wonderful, peaceful religion," Graham said. "When you read the Koran and you read the verses from the Koran, it instructs the killing of the infidel, for those that are non-Muslim."

Asked by NBC News to clarify his statement, Graham stood his ground.

"It wasn't Methodists flying into those buildings, it wasn't Lutherans," Graham told NBC. "It was an attack on this country by people of the Islamic faith."

NBC News released the Gra-

ham interview on the first day of Ramadan, the holiest season of the Muslim year and it has drawn fire from Muslims as well as the White House.

A spokesperson for the White House noted that President Bush "views Islam as a religion that preaches peace," and that the terrorists do not represent what Islam teaches.

Regardless, in a Nov. 18 statement, Graham said he stood by his earlier comments.

"As a Christian minister, my calling and focus is to proclaim the God of the Christian faith to all who will listen and hear, and to love all people regardless of their faith," Graham said. "It is not my calling to analyze Islam or any other religions though I recognize that all religions have differences. In the past, I have expressed my concerns about the teachings of Islam regarding the treatment of women and the killing of non-Muslims or infidels. I do not

intend to comment further."

Graham's response came one day after his ministry's Operation Christmas Child began processing 1 million shoeboxes of toys, school supplies and personal hygiene items for needy children overseas, including thousands destined for many Muslim nations.

"As the leader of an international Christian relief organization, my calling is to provide food, clothing, housing, supplies and medical care to hurting people everywhere regardless of faith," Graham said. "Samaritan's Purse has provided more relief and aid to Muslim people than to any other people in the world—support amounting to tens of millions of dollars in places like Bosnia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Sudan and Afghanistan. As America continues its healing process, I am encouraged by a national surge of faith. I pray that out of tragedy and pain, millions of people will find a renewal of faith."

ican hospitals and that "Zionists" working in the nation's air traffic control towers aided the suicide hijackings.

■ University of South Florida professor Sami Al-Arian said in a videotape aired by "Dateline NBC" that "the sons of Israel through David and Jesus, the son of Mary, those people, God made monkeys and pigs. Jihad is our path. Victory to Islam. Death to Israel."

What makes recently revealed comments by some Muslims so damaging is that they were made not by people considered extremists, but by influential leaders thought to be in the Islamic mainstream.

In the national Islamic community, some blame the media for increased religious tension.

But Rudin said the burden to define Islam is on moderate American Muslims, not the media, non-Muslim religious leaders or Islamic extremists.

"They're going to have to start speaking out and saying, 'You know, this is not all there is to Islam,'" Rudin said. "Until they do that, it won't be possible to have any real serious and systematic conversation, much less dialogue, between Jews and Muslims."

The prospect for dialogue between Muslims and evangelical Christians appears even bleaker, especially after the murders of 15 Protestant worshippers and a Muslim policeman last month in Pakistan, allegedly by Muslim extremists. Persecution of Christians in Islamic countries, documented for years by U.S. State Department reports, has been a thorny subject for Muslim-Christian relations.

Muslims are relative newcomers to the American religious scene.

President Bush repeatedly has stressed that the post-Sept. 11 war is against terrorism, not a religion. He has appeared at a Washington mosque and includes a reference to Islam with nearly every mention of Judaism or Christianity.

The change of tone has not sat well with some evangelicals, including television broadcaster and Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Robertson recently told his television audience, "our president said Islam is a peaceful religion, (but) I beg to differ with our distinguished leader."

But even in the midst of this religious tension, new signs of interfaith outreach are emerging.

Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago, one of the largest evangelical congregations in the country, recently invited a local Muslim leader to speak to 17,000 churchgoers.

Good times in Western Kentucky

Two weeks ago at the annual meeting of Kentucky Baptists I was reminded again of the remarkable way in which God works in us and through us as churches from across the state cooperate in the name of Christ.

It was quite a convention for me personally, and for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. On Sunday I had the opportunity to preach twice at Hazel Baptist Church. What a blessing that was (for me anyway, don't know about them). When I was a young boy, I spent every summer in Murray on farms with my grandparents and aunts and uncles. These farms were only 10 miles or so from Hazel. As a result, many of those in the congregation at Hazel knew my family.

It was a wonderful privilege for me to have the chance to go back to my roots and preach. I enjoyed the day so much. What a blessing God has given me as He has placed me in a ministry setting that takes me back to Western Kentucky every week and the people that I love so very much. I lived in Paducah twice and was pastor of my first church out of seminary in Benton, so I know and love many, many people there.

The convention itself was wonderful for Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. Jonathan Creek was almost full with convention guests. As we worked our booths in the exhibit corridor we had many, many of you all come by and offer encouragement to us in our ministry. We also had the chance to continue to talk with you about the exciting things God is doing at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

Please understand that I am always aware that we are not doing everything right, but that we have made such progress in our first four years. My report to the convention reflected that progress. In my enthusiasm, I know I get excited when I have a chance to talk about God's work through our ministry. But that excitement comes from the fact that there is so much to celebrate.

It was a great time. I'm thankful and proud to serve Kentucky Baptists. God is at work across this state, and we are grateful to be a part of the work that He is about.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

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

Salvation Army reverses gay partners' benefits

LOS ANGELES—In the wake of sharp criticism from Christian conservatives, the Salvation Army's Western Territory has reversed itself and dropped a recently announced plan to extend insurance benefits to employees' domestic partners.

The Salvation Army's Western Territory had said it would offer health-care benefits to "one legally domiciled adult," which could include an employee's same-sex partner. The changed policy now restricts benefits "to employees' spouses and dependent children," according to a statement by the Western Territory.

Headquartered in Long Beach, Calif., the Salvation Army's regional territory is made up of 13 states, including Alaska and Hawaii. It is one of four Salvation Army "corporations," or regional agencies, nationwide.

Major George Hood, national public affairs officer for the Salvation Army, said the Army's four national territories ordinarily govern themselves autonomously. But when policy issues cut across territorial lines, Hood said, the commissioners from each independent territory come together with the national commissioner to make decisions.

The reversal in policy toward domestic partners resulted from a conference call among the five leaders, Hood said.

"I assure you, again, that the Salvation Army has not changed its position on marriage and the family, homosexuality or other position statements, nor have we changed any of our basic doctrines or moral positions," said Lawrence Moretz, who is among the Army's top U.S. officials. The Western Territory statement

said the Salvation Army made the change after "an exhaustive critical review and examination of the issues related to providing its employees access to expanded health benefits." The decision took into account "the thinking, concerns and fears shared by our constituents," the statement said.

The catalyst for consideration of a benefits change was San Francisco's 1996 Equal Benefits Ordinance, the first of its kind in the nation. The ordinance requires organizations doing business with the city to provide the same benefits to same-sex couples and other domestic partners that it does for married couples.

Unlike thousands of other companies and nonprofit organizations, the Salvation Army had resisted offering same-sex benefits. It paid a steep price, losing \$3.5 million in contracts with San Francisco in 1998 alone.

Congress passes resolution encouraging school prayer

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A non-binding resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives has sparked a debate over school prayer.

Critics said the Nov. 15 resolution endorses government-sponsored prayers in public schools, which the Supreme Court has ruled unconstitutional. Supporters countered that it simply encourages schools to allow students to pray voluntarily, a practice recently upheld by the high court.

The resolution passed on a vote of 297-125, with three Republicans voting in opposition and 84 Democrats

in support. The House suspended its own rules to pass the resolution without first sending it through the usual committee process.

House Concurrent Resolution 239 stipulates that "schools in the United States should set aside a sufficient period of time to allow children to pray for, or quietly reflect on behalf of, the nation during this time of struggle against the forces of international terrorism."

Religious-liberty groups quickly denounced the resolution. In lively debate on the House floor Nov. 13,

proponents of the measure contended that critics' fears were misdirected.

"This resolution encourages and does not require the schools of America to set aside a sufficient period of time for children in America to pray for or reflect on our nation," said Rep. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.).

The resolution does not carry the force of law but expresses the "sense of Congress" on the issue.

Proponents also noted that the language of the resolution endorses not only prayer, but also secular forms of "meditation" or "reflection."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Presbyterians face \$2.5 million shortage.** The nation's largest Presbyterian church is facing a \$2.5 million budget shortfall that could result in staff and program cuts next year. The 2.5 million-member Presbyterian Church (USA) is looking for ways to trim expenses to its \$140 million budget at its Louisville headquarters, according to Presbyterian News Service. John Detterick, executive director for the denomination's General Assembly Council, said an uncertain economy, combined with ongoing conflicts in the denomination, have painted a bleak financial forecast.

■ **"God Bless America" a national hymn?** A Texas congressman wants to make "God Bless America" the country's national hymn. Rep. Gene Green, D-Texas, and 29 other House members from both parties want to give Irving Berlin's patriotic anthem official status. Green's bill has been referred to a House committee. American Atheists claims the bill is an example of "feel-good religion" that offends nonbelievers.

■ **Falwell suing state.** Jerry Falwell has sued the state in which he preaches, claiming that portions of the Virginia constitution infringe on the rights of churches. The lawsuit, filed Nov. 9, challenges the constitution's prohibitions on churches incorporating and on owning more than 15 acres of property in a city or 250 acres in a county. His church, Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., is building a new sanctuary on a nearby 60-acre plot of land.

■ **White House hires staffer for Muslim outreach.** The White House has hired its first staffer assigned specifically to reach out to American Muslims. Suhail Khan, a Muslim American who worked for former Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Calif., will work in the Office of Public Liaison. He will work with other staffers whose duties involve relating to Christians and Jews.

Hope

By Robert Dunston

Part of Cumberland College's Christmas tradition is the production of a daily devotional guide to help students, faculty and friends appreciate the Advent season. This year Cumberland College faculty and staff wrote the devotionals.

Mark Bay, the electronic resources librarian at Cumberland's Hagan Memorial Library, wrote the devotional on hope featured this week. Bay and his wife, Laura Dennis-Bay, assistant professor of French, joined our Cumberland College family this fall. Within that brief time, they already have become very involved on campus and in the community.

Mark writes:

"To me, there are no feelings more wonderful than the anticipation, expectation and joy that come from knowing hopes are about to be fulfilled.

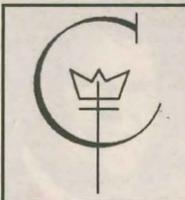
"When we hope, the thrill builds a little each day until the time arrives for the desired event to take place. Each year as Christmas approaches, many of us feel a growing sense of excitement, anticipating good food and time spent with family and friends.

"Imagine how you would feel

if not just your hopes but the hopes of generations before you were about to be realized and you were right in the center of the action!

"After hearing from the angel of the Lord about the part she was to play in bringing the Messiah into the world, Mary hurried to visit her cousin to share the good

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



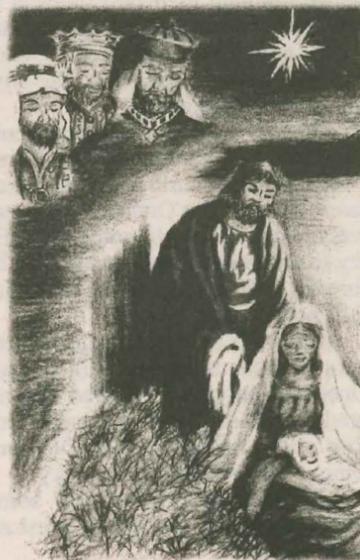
news. Her words of praise from today's scripture passage (traditionally The Magnificat, the first word in the Latin translation) are some of the most beautiful anywhere: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His

servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed' (Luke 1:47-48).

"May the beauty and thrill of hope fulfilled through the Advent of our Lord make you echo Mary's song of praise."

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

Share The Love!



2001 design available in full-color
artist: Christin

This Christmas, share the message of God's greatest gift and tell others about the work of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, too.

To purchase your KBHC Christmas cards, designed by teenagers in the agency's care, call 1-800-456-1386. Two designs are available, one for \$10 for a package of 25 and a full-color card for \$15 per package of 25.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas!



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Since 1869... 'We'll Be There'
1-800-456-1386 www.kbhc.org

Start clowning around, speaker tells arts conference

By Charles Willis
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Janis Roberts has always believed Proverbs 17:22, but since the terrorist attacks on the United States in September that verse has taken on new meaning.

"Now, more than ever, we know a merry heart doeth good like a medicine," she told participants in a session on hospital ministry during the National Creative Arts Festival, Nov. 8-10 in Nashville.

"We can be happy because we know our Redeemer lives and is in control," she told fellow creative artists.

Roberts, a clown and entertainer from Ocilla, Ga., said clowning at hospitals is a ministry designed to cheer patients and their families. But she noted that some situations are inappropriate for clowning antics.

She told of walking through a hospital one day and noticing two people standing outside a room, apparently very concerned about a loved one behind the closed door. Roberts, dressed as her alter ego, Clancey the Clown, walked on by the pair and simply smiled.

"Then I heard one of the people issue me an invitation by saying, 'At least someone is happy today.' I walked to their doorway, hugged one of the women and said to her, 'Clowns cry, too.'"

Roberts offered a list of 10 tips for clowning for people who are ill:

■ Glorify God. Seek His will.

■ Get the cooperation of the hospital. Set an appointment with the appropriate authority. Tell them your goals.

■ Always let the hospital staff know when you are coming, especially in light of today's heightened security.

■ Learn the hospital rules, particularly those that relate to the kinds of items allowed in the hospital.

■ Ask if a nurse can make the rounds with you.

■ "Read" the hospital room to know how to conduct your ministry. Be aware of communicable diseases, open wounds and the need for sanitary conditions.

■ Do not diagnose the patient by telling them they will get well, and do

not ever ask a patient when they are going home. Do not say you will be back if you will not.

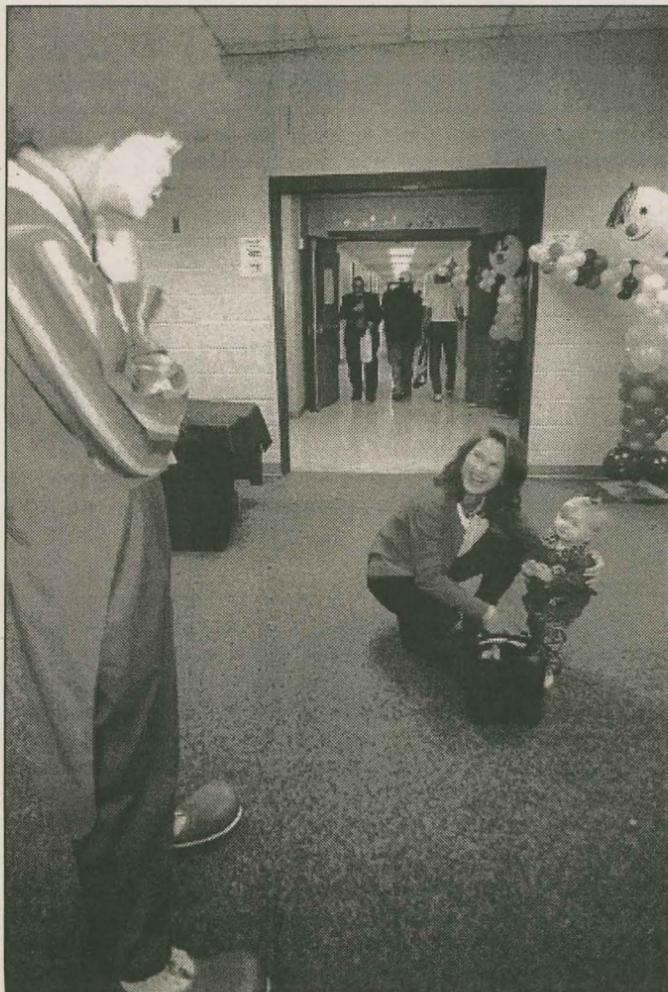
■ Light-hearted conversation is an important entertainment tool.

■ You may ask the patient if they would like you to pray with them.

■ Don't over-stay a visit; always leave them wanting more.

"Remember, the key words for hospital ministry are joy, cheer and sanitation," Roberts quipped.

More than 1,600 people attended the festival, sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. The conference offered 450 workshops from drama and clowning to interpretive movement and puppetry.



HELLO FROM BOBO *Jeremy McDonald's clown persona Bobo says hello to Daree and 14-month-old Sonii Ellis from First Baptist Church of Clinton, Miss. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)*

LifeWay™ CHURCH BUSES
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

CARPENTER BUS SALES, INC.
"Raised Roof" Vans in Stock (No CDL)



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

2002 Models: \$37,900 (New) (800) 370-6180
2001 Models: \$36,900 (New)

www.carpenterbus.com *Since 1953*

Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

OBI athletes make state after regional run

By Tamara Cochran
Oneida Baptist Institute Publications

Senior Kyle Benefiel and sophomore Jennifer Martin finished in the top 20 male and female runners in the region, qualifying for state as individual competitors.

Veteran boys' team member, Brandon Newton, a junior from central Kentucky and Oneida student since '99, also gave a remarkable regional performance. He crossed the finish line just six seconds behind Kyle, missing a shoe and his chance at state.

Kyle enrolled at Oneida at the start of this school year from Western Kentucky. To comply with KHSAA player eligibility rules, Kyle could not run with the team, not even in practice, until just three weeks before the regional meet. Assistant Coach Allen Kendrick commented, "To run for (three) weeks and be ... chosen to go to state, that's pretty good!" He added that both Kyle and Jennifer ran their fastest times of the season at state. "They both did really well."

Jennifer is the daughter of Oneida staff members Ken and Nancy Martin. Following the Lord's lead, the family came to Oneida from the Hopkinsville area in 1995. Jennifer was in the fourth grade. This was Jennifer's seventh season with the team and sixth trip to state. She was 13th in the region this year. Coach Keith Davenport noted her hard work and individual drive for success throughout the season. "Jennifer always knows what she needs and goes out there and gets it."

Davenport was impressed with the effort of all the team members. "I knew going into regionals, they all needed to drop at least 20 seconds off their

times. ... They really worked and did what I asked them to do." He noted that most of the team rose to the challenge, running their best times at regionals. Of course he was pleased to have two students make it to state. Jennifer finished 108th out of about 270 runners. Kyle completed the boys' race as number 130 of about 320.

The team's honors did not end at state. Jennifer earned the first place conference title. Senior Joy Beth Woods received fourth place on the conference team. The Oneida men's team was ranked third in the conference. Every team member was recognized before the student body during the annual fall sports awards.

This year's cross country team members of both boarding students and Oneida faculty/staff children spanned grades six through 12 and hailed from four states including West Virginia, Ohio, New Jersey and Kentucky.

The 10 Kentucky students' homes pepper the state from east to west and north to south.

The team also ranged from students brand new to the sport to athletes with more than seven years' experience. This cross-section of ages and abilities is typical of most Oneida organizations and can prove challenging. Because of the obstacles the students must overcome, our coaches and sponsors recognize the value in every achievement, small or large, made by individual and team. As Coach Davenport stated, "It's a reward (just) to go and represent the school at state."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Offering hope and help to the hurting

Two of our graduate families illustrate how God uses our experience as preparation to help others. Consider including these two ministries on your Christmas gift list.

In January 1996 Carl and Eileen Mullins (he is a 1970 alumnus), had the pain of watching their 30-year-old son begin serving a 20-year prison sentence for killing his wife.

On prison visits to their son, they saw the desperate need for a ministry to hurting family members. When the announcement came that a 2,000-inmate maximum security prison would be built on the Martin-Johnson county line, Mrs. Mullins saw the answer to her prayers that something good would come from her family's tragedy. She had a vision to build a facility offering free lodging and ministry to visiting families.

The owner of the land where the prison was to be built donated two acres as a future site for Haven of Rest Ministries. The Kentucky Baptist Convention contributed \$2,000. Additional help is needed to complete this vision.

Contact Enterprise Association, Box 1436, Prestonsburg KY 41653, or Mrs. Mullins at hrfmull@netburner.net

After teenage years living on the

streets and involved in crime, Ralph Reagan went to jail with a 10-year prison sentence. While there, he received a Gideon Bible and was saved. After his release he returned to Crossville, Tenn., and started an outreach to street people through First Baptist Church. At age 40 he enrolled at Clear Creek and earned the GED and a bachelor's degree.

In October 2000 he and his wife, Connie, launched The Bread of Life Rescue Mission. The purpose is to glorify God through the salvation of souls and rehabilitation of individuals. The ministry provides temporary shelter, medical attention and food for the homeless and transient. Reagan counsels and conducts worship services. Mrs. Reagan does most of the housework, cooking and office work and counsels women residents. Since March the ministry has served more than 100 people, but also had to turn away 50 because of limited space. Freedom Baptist Church in Stanford (Pastor Stewart Dawson is a 1991 graduate) sent volunteers three times to assist with expansion of the facilities. Contact Reagan at Box 1414, Crossville, TN 38557.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

The dust busters

Baptists taking vacuums, Bibles & prayer to New York apartments

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW YORK CITY (BP)—Marchieta Young saw both planes hit the World Trade Center the morning of Sept. 11 from her 28th-floor apartment directly across the street.

She and her daughter escaped unharmed, but more than a month later when they were allowed to return she faced the emotionally draining presence of a thick layer of dust and ash covering their most personal possessions.

It was about that time that she heard about the Southern Baptists.

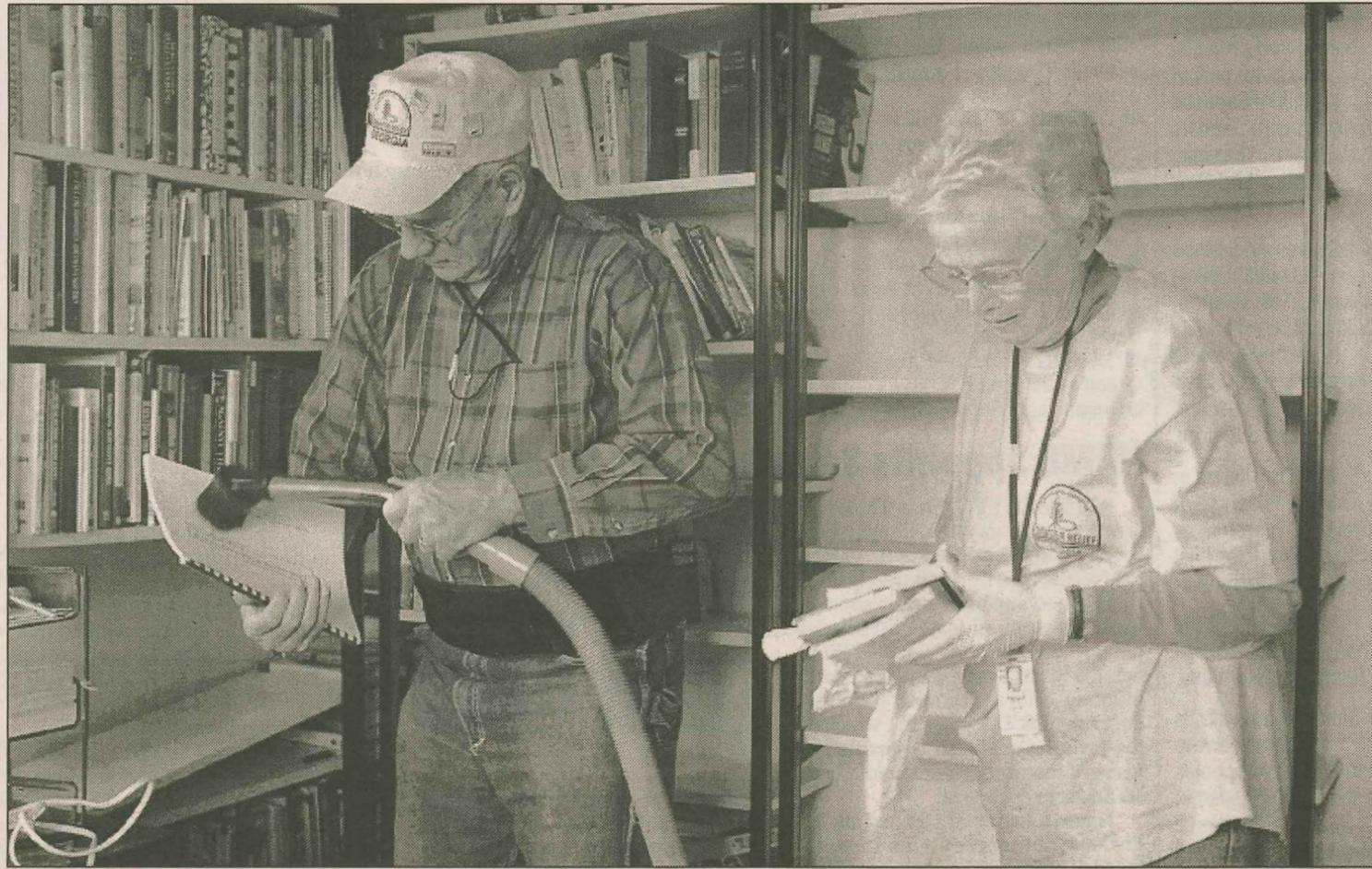
Neighbors told her of teams of yellow-jacketed volunteers offering to clean their apartments—coupling professional-level services with the compassion and understanding of volunteers. At a time when the pressures seemed to be unrelenting, there were people with smiling faces offering to help make things better—for free.

“The miracle to me was that people who were so lovely and nurturing are going to come into my house and clean,” she said, taking a break from working with a team of volunteers from Dublin, Ga., who were finishing up her apartment. “It would have been a much different experience with anyone else, because it would have just been a big company coming in and doing this.”

Southern Baptists began this most recent ministry to the New York tragedy in October, when the American Red Cross asked them to consider the ministry.

Since then, nearly 400 apartments have been cleaned by a volunteer force that in mid-November numbered about 125 strong.

It is a ministry that has grown even beyond the Southern Baptist disaster relief network, which is coordinated



nationally by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. More than 50 volunteers affiliated with American Baptist Churches recently were assisting with the effort.

Last week during the Thanksgiving holidays, a group of 90 college students and single adults served on the cleaning details as part of a special World Changers project.

The routine for the volunteers begins at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a former U.S. Navy base and current industrial park that has been a primary site for Southern Baptist disaster relief operations since a few days after the attack. Shortly after the attacks, Southern Baptists from Kentucky and elsewhere were on the scene preparing hot meals, which the American Red Cross distributed.

These days, most of the effort at

this location goes to the apartment cleaning services and the related support operations.

Most volunteers are assigned to six-member cleaning teams, which leave from the site each morning by bus to catch a subway, then another bus, to the apartments adjacent to ground zero. Other volunteers ferry their equipment in on vans, while still others work to take applications from residents, assess needs and schedule teams.

Inside the apartments, the protocol is simple but specific. Special commercial vacuums are used to clean everything from the walls and ceilings to books, records and even clothes in the closet. Dishes are washed, refrigerators are cleaned out and pictures on the wall are wiped clean.

“The care they take with everything is amazing, especially the books,” said Young, who originally was concerned that most of her husband’s library might have to be thrown away because of the damage.

Many residents in this area are moving, or considering a move, seeking to get away from the memories associated with the site. In some cases, residents instruct volunteers to throw away items that are salvageable.

“They just don’t want to keep things that they associate with that day, so they throw out perfectly good furnishings, perfectly good clothes,” said Susan McDaniel, a volunteer from Atlanta.

The project also provided plenty of opportunities for the Southern Baptist volunteers to share the motivation for their labors. One team from North Carolina began and end-



THE CLEAN TEAM Baptist volunteers have been cleaning apartments in New York City ever since the American Red Cross turned to the Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief coordinators looking for assistance with this job.

■ Above: Helen and Josh Durden, members of First Baptist Church of Dublin, Ga., clean books in the apartment of Marchieta Young and her family, located across the street from the former site of the World Trade Center.

■ Left: William Malcolm of Surf City, S.C., vacuums the top of a storage center. Cleaning teams vacuum ceilings, walls, floors and everything in between. (BP photos by James Dotson)



SCARRED VIEW The previous spectacular view of Manhattan’s skyline from Marchieta Young’s apartment is breathtaking now for another reason, as it overlooks Ground Zero, the former site of the World Trade Center buildings.

ed projects with prayer, and they left a Bible autographed by each of them as a memory of their visit. Working side-by-side with residents helped them develop relationships that made the impact of their words that much stronger.

“The residents were overwhelmingly appreciative, and most of them couldn’t comprehend why we would come so far to do something so physically challenging, and totally on a volunteer basis,” McDaniel said. “We had had several opportunities to share that the reason we were doing this was that we had been blessed by having God in our lives. And in some physical way we were trying to share that blessing.”

Traditional socio-economic barriers also have been broken down, with affluent New Yorkers working alongside and forming relationships with the disaster relief teams.

“A lot of times we’ll end up helping people who don’t have insurance or are in some way on the lower end of the social scale,” said Frank Patterson, a volunteer from Wingate, N.C. “Here, most of these people are living in the prime real estate of New York City, and I don’t think it ever occurred to them that they would have this kind of need.”

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:

■ These women leaders in Tanzania: Sekela Makajire, Esta Waston, Sikola Mkubwa, Elisia Namkondai, Maria Nyandoa, Raeli Kiota, Mama Mwaipasi and Helena Samsoni.

■ Missionaries in language school in Morogoro, Tanzania, as they prepare for final tests in early December.

■ Leaders of the Romany/Gypsies church in Bucharest, Romania.

■ Some 81 individuals and families who recently received copies of the "Jesus" video in Spain; International Service Corps workers Ron and Kathy Frost as they seek to talk with many of these people about Jesus.

■ Recent visits by a group of Western European missionaries to a camp in Europe that is home to refugees from a part of the world that is unreached with the gospel. Pray that missionaries will be able to begin English as a second language classes there and share the gospel.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BALLARDSVILLE**—Ballardsville Church called **Don Wright** as minister of youth. **Tommy Purvis** is pastor.

■ **CORYDON**—Corydon Church called **Mike Fambrough** as bivocational pastor.

■ **CYNTHIANA**—Silas Church honored **Berry Risk** as deacon emeritus. **Curtis Coots** is pastor.

■ **FLEMINGSBURG**—Flemingsburg Church ordained **Albert Simmons** to the gospel ministry. **Chris Beckman** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland and Green Hills churches have adopted a covenant agreement which reconsti-

tutes Green Hills as a mission of Parkland Church. **Tom Curry** is pastor of Parkland Church.

■ **MAYFIELD**—**Emmanuel Church** called Wallace Smith as pastor.

Christmas plans

Is your church planning special activities for the Christmas season? Please send information about pageants, nativity scenes and other events by Nov. 28 to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax (502) 244-6474; e-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.

NAMB appoints 3 Kentuckians for service

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—Three missionaries with ties to Kentucky have been appointed by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Heather Nunn serves as a strategic focus cities missionary in Philadelphia, where she works with the Philadelphia Spirit evangelism and church planting effort. She was appointed under the US/C-2 program, which allows young adults to complete two years of missions service in the United States and Canada.

Nunn, a native of Henderson, is a graduate of Campbellsville University. She previously conducted sports camps in Malta and participated in sports prison ministry efforts in five states. She also has served as a recreation intern with Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

Tony and Kimberly Daniel serve as missionaries in Franklin, N.H., where Daniel is a church planter intern and pastor.

Daniel, a native of Alabama, is a



Daniels



Nunn

graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He served seven years in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician and nuclear power operator.

Mrs. Daniel, a native of Kentucky, is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. She has worked as a juvenile services worker and as a student summer missionary in Richmond, Va.

The Daniels have four children: Jenny, 7; Emily, 6; Matthew, 5; and Jonathan, 2.

Three missionaries with Kentucky ties among record IMB appointees

RICHMOND, Va.—Three missionaries with Kentucky ties were among 118 people appointed Nov. 13 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board during a service at First Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C.

Suzanne Watson and Cal and Patty McIntire joined more than 5,000 IMB workers sharing Christ in 185 countries and among 1,125 ethnic people groups. The appointment service included the largest group of long-term Southern Baptist missionaries ever appointed at one time. The new missionaries will fill diverse job assignments that range from starting churches to using sports, education and music as tools of ministry.

Watson will work as an apprentice strategy coordinator for a people group who are devout followers of another religion in Southeast Asia.

She taught English in Southeast Asia after college and has worked as a data coordinator at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. A graduate of the University of Kentucky, she is studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Watson lives in Lexington where she is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church. She was born in Kinshasa, Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo), to former missionaries Keene and Glenda Watson, now of Lexington.

Watson will go to the IMB training center in Rockville, Va., for orientation in January before going to Southeast Asia.

The McIntires will serve in West Africa, where they have been working for the past two years through the IMB's International Service Corps



C. McIntire



P. McIntire

program. McIntire will serve as strategy coordinator for a people group, while Mrs. McIntire will work in community outreach.

"We are anxious to see what God reveals to us as we concentrate on doing what it takes to start an indigenous church planting movement," McIntire said.

Before serving with ISC, McIntire worked as minister of music and youth at Plum Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville and as a house parent at Natchez Children's Home in Natchez, Miss. Mrs. McIntire has worked as a teacher assistant in Taylorsville and as a house parent in Natchez.

McIntire was born in Okinawa, Japan, to Cam and Archer McIntire, now of Richmond, Va. He is a graduate of the University of Montevallo in Alabama, Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Mrs. McIntire is a graduate of the University of Montevallo.

The McIntires have two children: Maggie Brooke and Michael Dillon.



Watson

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time publications secretary. Computer skills required for data entry and publications setup and editing. Includes some general office duties. Send resumé to: Buechel Park Baptist Church, 2403 Hikes Lane, Louisville, KY 40218; fax: (502) 452-1023; e-mail: rogers@bpbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/minister of youth. Position includes youth ministry and administrative duties. Resumé must include experience and/or education in areas of youth ministry and church administration. Applicant must have been an active member of a Southern Baptist Church for the past three years or more. Please submit resumé to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015; e-mail to: kswaters1@aol.com.

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: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Burton Memorial Baptist Church, four miles east of Bowling Green, Ky. Average worship attendance is 75. Submit resumé to: Search Committee, 1342 Cardinal Way, Bowling Green, KY 42103.

SEEKING: Historic First Baptist Church, Tusculumbia, Ala., is seeking a pastor. Send recommendations or resumé to Jerry Wages, c/o First Baptist Church, 203 North Dickson St., Tusculumbia, AL 35674. (256) 383-1515; fax: 383-8713.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for Petrey Memorial Baptist. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701, or e-mail to pmbc@kih.net.

SEEKING: Loving, growing mid-sized mission/ministry-church seeks full-time pastor to lead the ministerial staff and church in reaching the lost, serving others and encouraging Christian growth. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 170 Madison Ave., Whitesburg, KY 41858.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and worship. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 8645 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242.

SEEKING: Liberty Baptist Church in Litchfield, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested candidates may submit resumé to: Gladys Dewall, PO Box 88, Millwood, KY 42762-0088.

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

SEEKING: Conservative Southern Baptist church seeks an interim pastor. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 1604 Sherwood Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103.

SEEKING: Heritage Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., is receiving resumé 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 resumé to 257 Swigert Ave., Lexington, KY 40505, Attn: Patricia.

SEEKING: Part-time day worker at downtown fish carry-out restaurant serving lunch only. Christian operation; parking furnished and on bus line. Pay: \$8/hour. Experience not required; ideal for student or spouse. (502) 244-5474; 585-3474.

SEEKING: Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, visit our Web site at 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: Organist for mid-sized, dynamic, growing church, Sunday morning worship services. For more information, please call Cedar Creek Baptist Church, (502) 239-2129.

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

WANTED: Obsolete metal letters for old church outdoor sign—flat, 3-inch hook-on type. Oneida Baptist Church, (606) 847-4718.

Evangelical group rejects 'open theism'

By Eric Gorski
Religion News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)— Taking a stand in line with their conservative core, members of the Evangelical Theological Society have approved a resolution rejecting "open theism"—the belief that God does not fully know the future because people have been given the freedom to help shape it through their decisions.

The society was far from united, however, on how to deal with the small number of scholars in their ranks who advocate open theism, which has been called heretical by some and enlightening by others. The issue dominated discussion at the society's 53rd annual meeting Nov. 14-16 in Colorado Springs.

The resolution, approved by roughly 70 percent of the 360 society members who cast ballots on Nov. 16, states, "We believe the Bible clearly teaches that God has complete, accurate and infallible knowledge of all events past, present and future including all future decisions and actions of free moral agents." About 18 percent of the voting members opposed the resolution and another 11 percent abstained.

Resolution supporters characterized it as a "snapshot" of the society's opinion that would be used to guide future decisions on a critical issue. Critics called it an attempt to run open theists out of the society and a precursor to a vote to exclude them.

Still others complained the open-theism movement is far too new for members to take a stand on, and that the resolution would stifle discussion on an evolving issue.

Wayne Grudem, a member of the society's executive committee, which wrote the resolution, called it a "gentle nudge" for open theists to either change their minds or "seriously consider leaving." Grudem, of Phoenix Theological Seminary, and others say

open theism undermines the central evangelical belief of biblical inerrancy.

Open theism, also called free-will theism, was introduced to the general public in 1994 with the publication of "The Openness of God" by five evangelical scholars. Dozens of books and articles—pro and con—have appeared since then. The issue caused a rift in the 900-church Baptist General Conference, which in 1999 narrowly rejected a motion challenging open theism. Open theism has found some popularity among Pentecostals, who are drawn to the idea of a spirited give-and-take with God.

John Sanders, a leading proponent of open theism and professor at Huntington (Indiana) College, has written that "God does not control everything that happens. Rather, He is open to receiving input from His creatures. In loving dialogue, God invites us to participate with Him to bring the future into being."

Speaking at the annual meeting, Sanders defended open theism as part of a tradition of reform in church thought. He said evangelicals have demonized other evangelicals over issues such as megachurches, women in clergy and dialogue with the Roman Catholic church, and open theism is "today's enemy that must be destroyed." He called those trying to squelch open theism the "evangelical Taliban."

Sanders said "open theism may not be more than a footnote in historical theology. We may be wrong." But he said more work needs to be done to explore its possibilities.

Bruce Ware of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville countered that open theism undermines the deity of both God and Jesus. He argued that under the openness view, substitutionary atonement—the belief that Jesus died for the sins of everyone—wouldn't be possible because Jesus could not have known at the time of His death who would live in the future.

In an address to the 1,800 people who attended the annual meeting, ETS president Darrell Bock compared the society to a public square or a village green. He urged members to "go slow" when considering the open theism question.

The debate about the resolution ran past midnight on the eve of the vote. One society member called open theism a "cancer." Others quoted Scripture and talked about the importance of making a statement against what they called dangerous theology.

Much of the discussion, however, focused on concerns about the timing, wording and motivations behind the resolution. Before the vote, a motion by ETS president-elect David Howard of Bethel Theological Seminary to delay the vote for a year was defeated, 176-126.

After the vote, three major open-theism scholars who presented papers at the meeting—Sanders, Gregory Boyd of Bethel (Minn.) College, and Clark Pinnock of McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario—said it won't cause them to leave the theological society or change their course of study.

"This whole thing was political, not theological," Sanders said. "They want control over the evangelical mindset."

Sanders said he thinks the executive committee will use the resolution to make it harder for open theists to gain faculty posts and be ordained.

Pinnock said the resolution was a mistake. "They probably hurt the society," he said. "The society exists for open discussion. What are they going to do now?"

Boyd, whose writings set off the fight within the Baptist General Conference over open theism, said he was encouraged by the number of people who voted no or abstained.

Grudem said he was pleased with the outcome of the vote. "The society overwhelmingly declared the Bible rejects open theism."

Pacifists face challenge of gaining converts during war

By Jason White
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Swimming against a tidal wave of public opinion, America's religious pacifists have been advocating a nonviolent response to the events of Sept. 11, even as they have come under attack for their pacifist beliefs.

The challenge they face is convincing a public united behind the war on terrorism that there are alternatives to military action.

A related and no less daunting task is defending pacifism against charges that it is passive, unpatriotic and tolerant of terrorism.

"We have been grieved and shocked by the events that occurred on Sept. 11," said Janis Shields, spokeswoman for the American Friends Service Committee, a Nobel Prize-winning peace and justice organization. "But we have urged the president and Congress to choose a different path and not choose the path of vengeance and violence that will only continue the cycle of violence."

American Friends has been working with the United Nations to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The organization also has been coordinating relief efforts in the United States as well as in Middle Eastern countries affected by American military action.

Many other pacifist organizations have undertaken similar peacemaking activities since Sept. 11: They have held prayer vigils and peace marches; they have started relief funds; and they have been trying to sway an American public united behind military action.

The responses they've received range from rare expressions of gratitude to more common charges of being unpatriotic or, in some instances, death threats. A column in the Washington Post called pacifists "Liars. Frauds. Hypocrites." A recent poll pegged American support for military action at 90 percent. So how do pacifists respond to all of this?

Stanley Hauerwas, a professor of ethics at Duke University, looks to the example of Jesus on the cross.

"In a world of war, pacifist is the only way Christians can be," said Hauerwas, a United Methodist influenced by Mennonite teachings on pacifism. "God chose to respond to evil by dying on the cross. I need to be nonviolent because that's what God was."

This is the classic and prevailing view among Christian pacifists, who look to the life and teachings of Jesus as the source of their nonviolence.

Daryl Byler, a lawyer and minister who heads the Washington, D.C., office of the Mennonite Central Committee, remains undaunted by America's overwhelming support for war even as he lobbies for peace.

"It's a long-term view of trusting God," he said. "That even in the face of evil, if one is temporarily defeated, God will somehow bring victory out of that. In some ways, it's a difficult sell. On the other hand, there are a number of people who are realizing that just responding with more violence is probably not likely to produce long-term security for Americans."

Byler admits the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have caused some pacifists to reconsider their commitment to nonviolence.

"It in some ways shakes pacifists to the core," Byler said. "There's something about this event that makes people evaluate again if they believe in a nonviolent response to evil. But it's been a great time also for people to commit themselves to a life of service and peacemaking."

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation, founded in 1919 as a Christian organization, today represents every major world religion and has affiliates in 40 countries.

"We try to draw upon the peace traditions of the various religions," said Richard Deats, spokesman for IFOR. "Gandhi and Martin Luther King are the people we most look to in the modern world. They exemplified the renunciation of violence, but not to be passive in the face of violence."

Study: Faith & science should fight addiction together

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—Religion and spirituality are having a positive influence in reducing the levels of teen and adult substance abuse in America, according to a new report by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse.

But in a country known for the religious commitment of its citizens and the advances of its medical personnel, the center also concluded that clergy and medical professionals need more training to help prevent drug abuse.

The findings were detailed in "So Help Me God: Substance Abuse, Religion and Spirituality," a report released Nov. 14.

"Too often clergy and physicians, religion and science, are ships passing in the night," said Joseph Califano Jr., chairman and president of the center based at Columbia University in New York, in a statement.

"When we separate the worlds of

medicine and spirituality, we deny effective help to a host of individuals with substance abuse problems."

The center analyzed several studies that linked religion and health and found that adults and teens who attended church services at least weekly are far less likely to be involved in drinking, smoking and illicit drug use.

The analysis also showed that treatment programs that included a spiritual component, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, are more likely to have participants who remain sober than those programs without a spiritual base.

In its own survey of clergy, the center found that 95 percent consider substance abuse and addiction to be important issues in their congregations.

But only 12.5 percent of pastors reported receiving substance abuse training during their theological studies and 36.5 percent said they had preached a sermon on the issue more than once a year.

The report cited "two profound disconnects," one between clergy who view substance abuse as a problem but lack training to deal with it, and the other the link between spirituality and sobriety and the medical profession's hesitancy to consider that link when treating addicts.

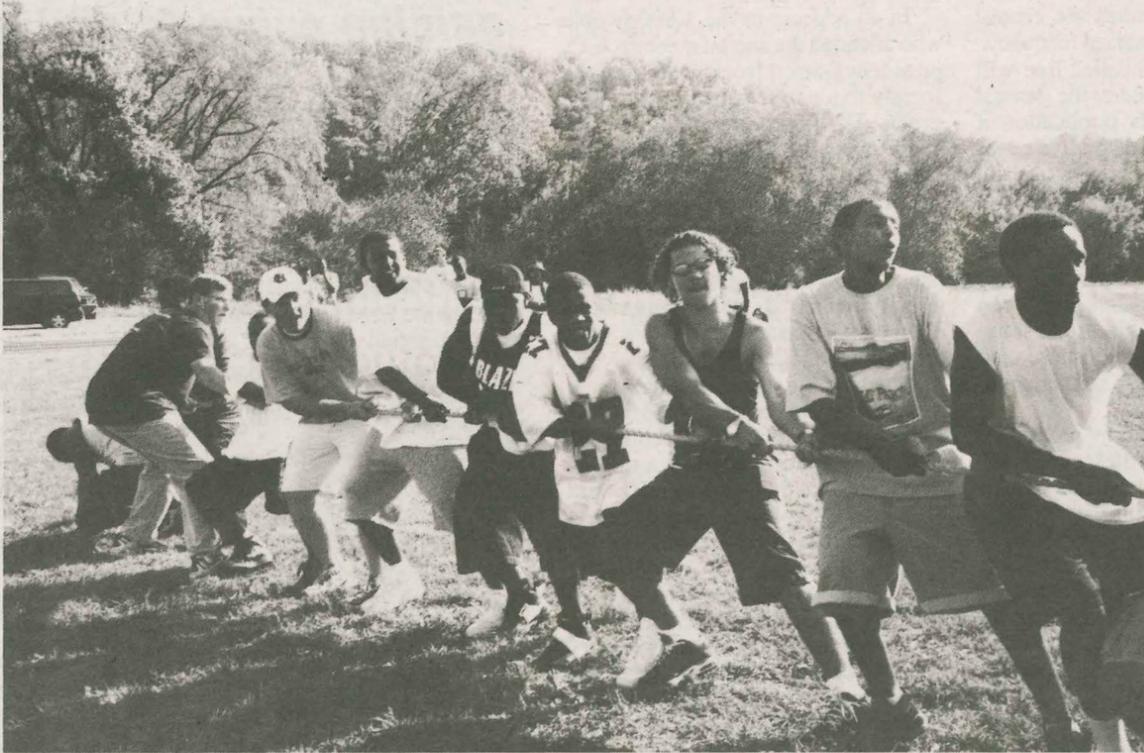
The center urges more training of clergy to recognize signs of substance abuse and become familiar with treatment services in their communities.

It suggests medical professionals should be trained to recognize the importance of religion and spirituality in substance abuse prevention and treatment and the availability of spiritual and religious resources in their communities.

"If ever the sum were greater than the parts, it is in combining the power of God, religion and spirituality with the power of science and professional medicine to prevent and treat substance abuse and addiction," said Califano, the former U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee . . .

— Psalm 84:5a



Junior boys competing in "tug-o-war" at the 2001 OBI Fall Festival

Daily chapel has helped me to grow as a Christian... Of all the things I have gained while I have been here, I have strengthened my faith. I have grown and matured, and I have started a whole new relationship with God.

— Scotty,
class of 2001

Strength of character.

We'd all like our children to have it, but how is it attained?

At Oneida Baptist Institute, we offer a climate for young people that fosters responsibility, honesty, respect, and morality. Christian houseparents, coaches, and support staff provide positive role modeling. OBI faculty teach in the context of a Christian worldview.

Many students come to know Jesus each year on our campus. Young Christians find plenty of support and room for spiritual growth. Please pray that our young people will be strong in the Lord.



Education for Time and Eternity

To learn more about OBI, contact us:

P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Kentucky 40972
Phone: (606) 847-4111 Fax: (606) 847-4496
Web site: www.oneidaschool.org