

December 4, 2001  
Vol. 175, No. 47

**FOR THE RECORD**

- Missionary**  
Prayers answered as carjacked missionary released. *Page 2.*
- Georgetown**  
\$2 million grant to recruit more ministers. *Page 3.*
- Kentucky**  
Partnership ends with Tanzania Baptists. *Page 3.*
- Editorial**  
How far is too far in cloning research? *Page 5.*
- Nation**  
Research links prayer to healthy pregnancies. *Page 7.*



**World**  
Missionary works to halt spread of AIDS in Swaziland. *Page 9.*

**Study: Growth in church visits after Sept. 11 has not lasted**

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Attendance at houses of worship appears to have returned to normal levels after a short surge related to the events of Sept. 11, pollsters have found.

The Gallup Poll reported that 47 percent of adults surveyed Sept. 21-22 said they had attended church or synagogue in the previous week. That was the highest percentage since the 1950s.

But by Nov. 8-11, 42 percent said they had attended worship in the previous week, comparable to the 41 percent who said they had done so when surveyed May 10-14.

The Barna Research Group reported that 48 percent of adults surveyed in late October and early November said they had attended a church service in the past week compared to 42 percent polled between late July and mid-August.

"While current levels of adult attendance are higher than before the attack, they are not statistically different than the numbers recorded last November, thus reflecting the usual seasonal increase," the Ventura, Calif.-based research group reported.

Other findings by Barna Research Group noted an increase in concern about the future. In August, 73 percent of adults surveyed said they were concerned about the future. That figure increased to 82 percent by November.

Although church attendance increased after the Sept. 11 attacks, researchers found that six other measures of religious behavior, such as Bible reading, were identical in the summer and fall.

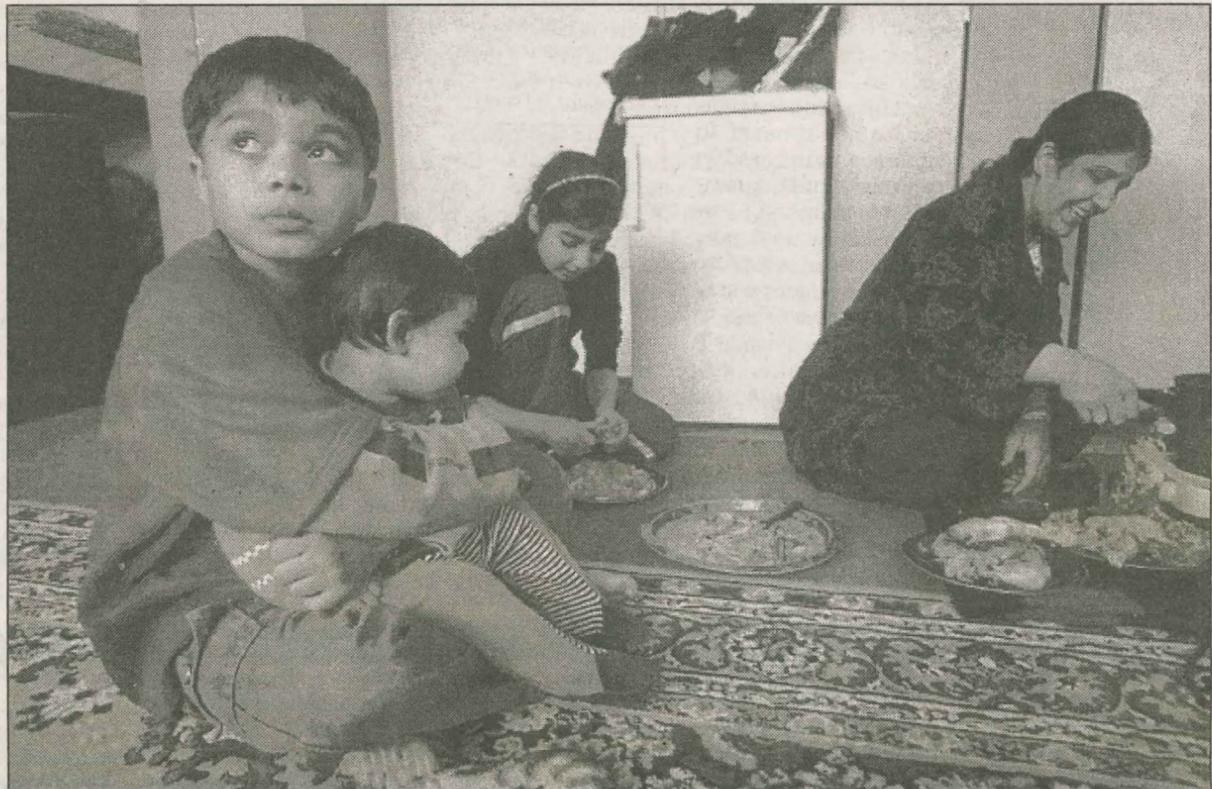
The survey also found that statistics before and after the attacks concerning those who have made a "personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in your life today" were identical, at 68 percent.

George Barna, president of Barna Research Group, said he believes churches failed to help newcomers deepen their faith.

"Our assessment is that churches succeeded at putting on a friendly face but failed at motivating the vast majority of spiritual explorers to connect with Christ in a more intimate or intense manner," he said.

The two research organizations surveyed similar numbers of people. The Gallup Poll reflected the views of 1,005 adults. The Barna Research Group polled 1,010 adults in the fall and 1,001 adults in the summer.

**'Just love them'**



**MAKING DO** Living in a single room with six children isn't easy for "Shanaz" (right) at a refugee center in Western Europe. But it beats life in Afghanistan under the Taliban. "I will go back when there is no fighting," she vows. Until then, she asks, "Please pray for me, my husband and my family." Her husband is missing in Afghanistan. (BP photos by Matt Jones)

**Missionaries hear of tragedies, share God's love**

By Erich Bridges  
SBC International Mission Board

SOMEWHERE IN WESTERN EUROPE (BP)—Every family has a story.

For Afghan families crowding the refugee centers served by Southern Baptist mission workers in Europe, it's usually a sad one.

Here's an example: An ethnic Hazara woman, once a teacher, was hit twice by Taliban bullets as she fled the Afghan capital of Kabul. She survived—barely—in her home village. She couldn't seek medical treatment because Taliban laws forbid male doctors to see a woman's body, much less touch it. Any women doctors were exiled to their homes long ago.

Her husband, a well-to-do businessman, was arrested two years ago. The Taliban demanded a high ransom for his freedom. She paid it, but her husband never returned. Instead, another group of Taliban thugs came in the night, demanding to know where he was. When the woman's 12-year-old son insisted his father was still in jail, they shouted, "You lie!" and threatened to cut off his feet.

They left after terrorizing the family, beating the boy and jabbing a bayonet into his knee. He's been traumatized ever since, the woman says, wiping away tears.

She paid a smuggler to take her into Pakistan the same week terrorists attacked New York and Washington. Then she flew to a Western European country, which isn't being named for security reasons.

Today she sits in a narrow room in



**SISTERS** "Lima," 12, helps her mother care for her 4-year-old sister. They might never again see their father, a medical doctor taken away by the Taliban before the family fled Afghanistan. But Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe will tell them of a loving Father in heaven.

a nondescript, four-story dormitory, waiting for a decision on her asylum application. She asks that her name not be used; the Taliban may be on the run in Afghanistan, but she still fears for the lives of her relatives there.

Her 9-year-old daughter stays close by her side, gripping her with one arm and a teddy bear with the other. Her son offers a crooked smile, but has a faraway look in his eyes. His knee bears the red scar of the bayonet. Three other children remain in Af-

ghanistan, hiding in the mountains with their grandmother.

Is the woman's husband alive or dead? Only the Taliban knows. They took his brother, too, but eventually freed him—after putting his eyes out. "They beat him so badly he couldn't move any part of his body," she says of the brother, adding sadly, "I know nothing of my husband."

Such stories are as common as despair among the thousands of refugees flocking to this European country for sanctuary.

They come not only from Afghanistan but many other places people flee because of war, oppression, ethnic turmoil or other miseries: Iraqis, Iranians, Palestinians, Algerians, Kurds, Azerbaijanis, Syrians, Chechens, Gypsies, even Burmese. They arrive by plane, in the backs of trucks, inside crates and rat-infested ship holds.

"One of the best things we can do is listen to their stories," says "Andrew," a Southern Baptist missionary who spends most of his days among the refugees. Missions work isn't illegal where he works, but because he interacts with people like the Afghan woman who wish to remain anonymous, he has asked that his identity also be kept secret.

"They just need someone to listen," he said. They need a lot more than that, and he and his co-workers provide a lot more. But listening is a start.

Andrew, a 32-year-old single missionary, has heard—and seen—some painful things in the centers. Like the Iraqi man who bared his chest to display an intricate pattern of circular

□ See Bowling Green ..., page 3

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, December 5

## Malawi missionary carjacked, released

**"I started praying face down in the floorboard."**

*Sam Upton, a missionary to Malawi, who was carjacked and later released unharmed*

By Sue Sprenkle  
SBC International Mission Board

LILONGWE, Malawi (BP)—Carjackers abducted Southern Baptist missionary Sam Upton Nov. 28 in Lilongwe, Malawi. He was safely released several hours later, after fellow missionary Tom Patterson of Kentucky jump-started a worldwide prayer network.

Upton and Patterson were returning home about 9:30 p.m. from a meeting in the city. Pulling into the driveway of Patterson's home, they found themselves suddenly surrounded by four armed men. The men pointed AK47s and Uzis in the two men's faces and demanded they turn over the vehicle.

The men pushed Patterson out, forced Upton into the floorboard of the back seat and took off in the truck and their getaway car. As Upton lay crunched on the floor, Patterson ran into the house to call the police and gear up an international prayer chain.

"I started praying face down in the floorboard," Upton wrote in an

e-mail to prayer supporters after he reached safety hours later. "I prayed as a guy sat on me with his knee in my back."

The armed robbers drove in circles for what seemed like hours and then finally stopped, pulling Upton out of the vehicle. The missionary could see the lights of nearby Lilongwe but was so disoriented he did not know where he was.

The men forced Upton into the trunk of a car they were driving.

"It was probably about that time that many of you got the message and started praying," Upton wrote. "And I do so appreciate that, for they put me in the trunk of a getaway car. In there was a gallon of petrol (gas), which sloshed out. The fumes were tremendous, but I had the assurance of God's presence.

"I did not panic. But I really did not like lying in petrol with my hosts smoking and driving erratically!"

Finally after about 45 minutes of driving around, they let Upton out in a remote part of the Lilongwe business district. The missionary walked to a hotel to call home.

## Baptist leaders urge prayer for nation, revival

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptist leaders continue to issue calls for prayer in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, called on Southern Baptists to use this week's National Day of Reconciliation at the U.S. Capitol in Washington as a day of prayer in every Southern Baptist church.

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, is urging prayer for revival in the midst of disaster.

Reccord described the Dec. 4 National Day of Reconciliation as a day of prayer, fasting and repentance that can make a significant spiritual impact on the nation. He urged churches to

set aside the day as a time of focused prayer for the nation.

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives approved resolutions authorizing the National Day of Reconciliation to be observed with an event in the Capitol Rotunda. Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, who sponsored the House resolution, said it sends the right message.

"It's never been more important for the leaders of our nation to come together and turn back to God. It's all made clear in 2 Chronicles 7:14," DeLay said.

"Our congressional leaders have recognized our need to seek God's face as a nation," Reccord said, noting that their actions are "a reminder of our need to humble ourselves before God."

"Finding out how quickly (supporters) got the news out is humbling," Upton wrote. "We serve a mighty God who is pleased by the prayers of His people."

Upton and his wife, Marlyn, have served in Malawi since 1971. Patterson and his wife, Ann, both Kentucky natives, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in 1999 as missionaries to Malawi. Patterson previously was pastor of Woodstock Baptist Church in Somerset as well as churches in Booneville and London.

An IMB leader in southern Africa praised God for keeping Upton and Patterson safe but urged Southern Baptists to continue praying for the safety of missionaries worldwide.

"We praise the Lord that Tom and Sam were not hurt," said associate regional leader Mark Hatfield. "This case is very similar to what happened two months ago to Lindy Howard (an IMB missionary in Zambia).

"No one in our region lives outside the threat of this happening," he added. "We desperately need your continued prayers."

Draper, writing in the December issue of LifeWay's Facts & Trends magazine, urges four actions: for pastors to examine their own spiritual condition; to call their churches to personal evaluation, repentance and revival; for Southern Baptists to make prayer their priority; and for every church to reach its community through praying with neighbors and witnessing.

"Today, we are facing our vulnerability in a new and frightening way," Draper said. "How can we deal with terrorists who are willing to die to destroy us?"

Citing the Old Testament example of Nehemiah, Draper added, "If God can find one person who has a heart for Him, He will act! Will you be that person God can use?"

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**California rejects newspaper board.** Messengers to the California Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting voted for the second year in a row against creating a board to oversee operation of the California Southern Baptist newspaper. Charlie Leffingwell, who introduced the motion, said the proposal would allow more opinion to be published in the paper and create greater accountability for the executive board. Following debate, messengers rejected the proposal on a show of raised ballots.

**Louisiana Baptists affirm CP.** Louisiana Baptist messengers underscored their support for the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program during their recent annual meeting. Noting that some people "are seeking to influence churches to redirect their Cooperative Program giving to alternate and competing giving programs designed to

undermine and replace the work of existing Southern Baptist agencies, seminaries and mission boards," messengers adopted a resolution urging Louisiana Baptists to "reject all appeals to divert all or part of their Cooperative Program giving to other channels." Messengers also adopted a resolution affirming the inerrancy of Scripture.

**Alabama president re-elected.** Messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting unanimously elected President Mike McLemore to a second one-year term. McLemore urged Alabama Baptists to have "one mission, the Great Commission; one purpose, global evangelism, discipleship and missions; and one program, the Cooperative Program." Messengers also adopted a resolution urging prayer for President Bush, government and military leaders and victims of terrorism.

## SBC president urges prayer for conversion of Muslims

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt is calling on church members to fast and pray for the Christian conversion of Muslims on the last day of Ramadan, Islam's holy month.

In a statement released Nov. 26, Merritt asked Southern Baptists "to pray and fast that God will miraculously and supernaturally reveal Himself through Jesus Christ to Muslims on that day."

Ramadan ends on Dec. 16 or 17, depending on the sighting of the new moon. It commemorates when Muslims believe Mohammed received the Koran from God. During the observance, Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset.

Merritt said Christians should join in the time of fasting.

"Just as they can pray and fast, we want to pray and fast that they will find the true way to heaven, and this is through Jesus Christ," he said.

Merritt also voiced concern about religious pluralism in America. "If Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven, the only true religion therefore must be Christianity," he said. "Every other religion gives a false hope of having a relationship with God. That's not what I say; that's what Jesus says."

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on Islamic-American Relations, responded to Merritt's words by saying he was free to make his statement.

"It's a free country," Hooper said. "If he wants to have Christians fast and pray, we're hardly in a position to tell people not to."

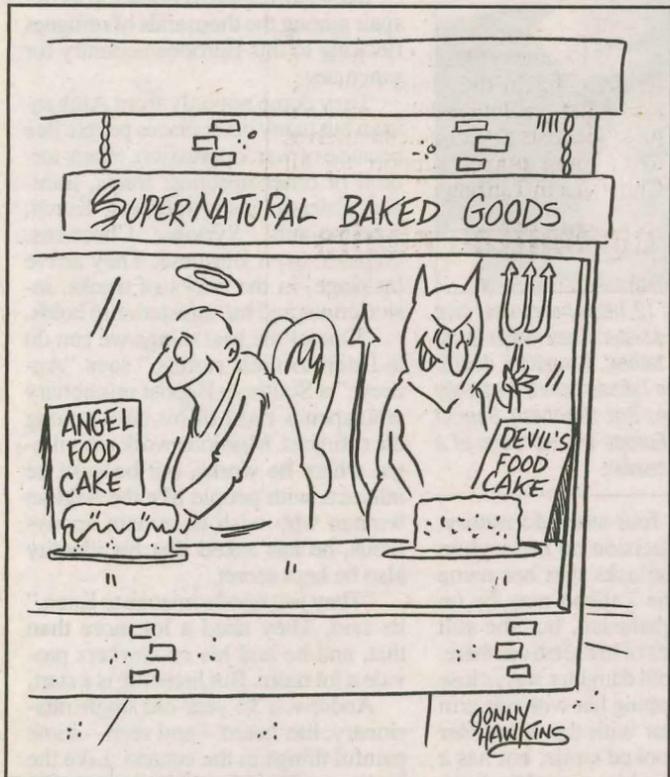
Southern Baptist officials generated controversy in the past when they issued prayer booklets encouraging members to pray for Jews to accept Jesus as the Messiah during their High Holy Days. They also have urged prayer for Hindus to convert to Christianity during their holy days.

Critics say it is disrespectful of other religions. Baptist leaders note the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and commands Christians to preach the gospel to everyone.

"There is this idea that we all worship the same God at these interfaith meetings, and we do not," Merritt said.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board also has published a prayer guide suggesting members pray for Muslims during Ramadan. The guide, published in 1999, recommends prayer during the 30 days of Ramadan and includes dates for the holiday in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press



## Georgetown gift aims to recruit career ministers

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown College has received a \$2 million grant to encourage students to pursue careers in full-time ministry.

The grant, awarded by the Lilly Endowment, is the college's largest gift ever, according to Georgetown Chaplain Dwight Moody.

"We feel very fortunate to have been included and look forward to all that this grant will enable us to do," said Moody, who will oversee the grant's programs.

The Indianapolis-based foundation awarded more than \$55 million to 28 colleges and universities to build programs that encourage students to look at becoming full-time ministers as well as ways to integrate faith in secular careers.

"The need for talented young people to enter the ministry is great, but the supply has been down for a number of years," said Craig Dykstra, the Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion.

A condition for the grant, Moody noted, is that the \$2 million be spent within five years while building programs that will continue indefinitely.

Georgetown plans to fund five initiatives from the grants:

- A colloquium with an internationally prominent speaker who will speak on the subject of one's career being a vocational calling.

- Adding curriculum to required courses that encourages students to reflect on their vocations.

- Developing a Christian leadership tract for students considering vocational ministry.

- Funding faculty retreats and seminars that encourage staff to consider their vocational calling.

- Organizing a network of college-related churches that offer leadership opportunities for students and that will partner with the college to host lectures, leadership courses or other programs for their members.

"This is not a new direction for us," Moody said. "We are convinced that one of the reasons we were invited (to participate) and received the money is that what Lilly wanted to do... is what our college has been doing for a long time anyway."

The grant is a great boost in morale for the Kentucky Baptist school, he added.

"Baptist colleges in general don't have a lot of money, and we have to make do on very little," he said. "To have this infusion of cash into our operations is a great encouragement. It energizes us."

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey and Religion News Service

## Partnership ends

### Kentuckians laud Tanzania work despite setbacks

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Traveling nearly halfway around the globe, more than 200 Kentucky Baptist volunteers participated in the state convention's three-year missions partnership with Baptists in Tanzania.

The partnership, which officially concludes this month, involved evangelism projects, prayer walks, vacation Bible schools, construction projects, medical teams and other ministry efforts.

While the number of projects and volunteers was smaller than convention leaders had hoped at the start of the partnership, the effort still proved significant benefits for Baptists in Kentucky and Tanzania, according to partnership coordinators.

Calvin Wilkins, who retired earlier this year as KBC partnership missions director, said Kentucky Baptists "may have done half of the actual requests that came in" during the partnership.

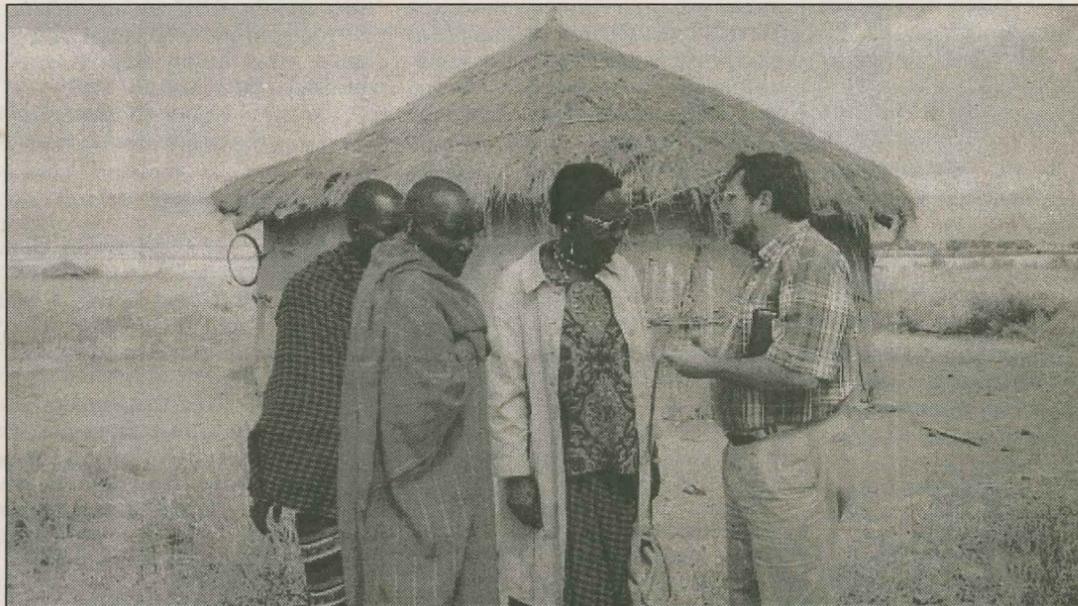
"There were a lot of things that impeded the amount of response we had from Kentucky Baptists," he noted, citing such factors as travel cost, length of travel and cultural differences.

"It seemed to me from the very beginning there was spiritual warfare going on," he added.

Despite those complications, Wilkins said, "You can't say enough about the numbers of people who became Christians." Though precise statistics were not maintained during the partnership, he said several evangelism teams reported several hundred spiritual conversions each as well as new churches being started.

Wilkins said other major projects included construction of a pastor training school in Dar es Salaam and a primary school in Morogoro. "This will be the first primary school operated by Baptists in all of eastern Africa," he added.

Kentucky Baptist partnership leaders also donated a van to the Interna-



tional Baptist Theological Seminary of Eastern Africa in Arusha. The van was used during the partnership to transport volunteers from the airport to ministry sites.

Ross Bauscher, who succeeded Wilkins as KBC partnership missions director, noted, "You measure success by the eternal significance it makes in fulfilling what God calls you to do. It's the eternal significance of what we're doing—being involved in missions."

Larry and Joy Lindsay, who previously served as on-site coordinators of KBC partnerships in Russia and Poland, served for the past year as coordinators in Tanzania.

Lindsay said he saw a lot accomplished through evangelism, education and medical efforts during the partnership.

"It was very encouraging to the people" in Tanzania, he said. "The encouragement the volunteers give the nationals goes further than anything else."

Noting that many Tanzanian Baptists were disappointed the partnership was not extended an additional year or two, Lindsay added, "Even though we're not there, it will still be beneficial for years to come."

Former KBC President Jim McKinley, a retired missionary to Bangladesh, accompanied Wilkins on a trip to Tanzania in October. Citing the ongoing impact of the partnership, McKinley pointed to the benefits for



Tanzanian Baptists, Kentucky Baptist volunteers and the congregations and associations where volunteers are members.

"Volunteer groups do make a difference," he said. "I believe it was a rich experience for those who went."

As Kentucky Baptists conclude their partnership in Tanzania, two current international partnerships include work with Baptists in Poland and with churches in the English-language European Baptist Convention.

The Lindsays plan to return to Poland in January as on-site coordinators, succeeding John and Jan Strimple who plan to become career missionaries in Poland.

During last month's KBC annual meeting, messengers adopted a resolution commending the Tanzania partnership. Noting that the partnership helped Kentucky Baptists in their efforts to "fulfill the Great Commission," the resolution called on Kentucky Baptists to "commit themselves to ongoing prayer support for all Christians in Tanzania."

#### MINISTRY PARTNERS

Kentucky Baptist volunteers worked in a variety of ministry settings during the state convention's three-year missions partnership with Baptists in Tanzania.

■ **Top:** Southern Baptist missionary Rob Moor (right), who hosted Kentucky volunteer groups, visits with Maasai tribesmen outside a small hut-style church. ■ **Above:** Volunteers helped build Tanzanian Baptists' first primary school in Morogoro.

## KBC President Harold Greenfield appoints committee chairs

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Harold Greenfield has appointed chairs to lead 16 standing committees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and KBC Executive Board for the coming year.

Those appointed to chair KBC committees are:

- **Committee on Arrangements:** Jo Pelham, member of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

- **Committee on Committees:** Ray Cooper, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association.

- **Committee on Constitution and Bylaws:** Jerry Oakley, director of missions for Warren Baptist Association.

- **Committee on Credentials:** T.A. Prickett, retired pastor from Owensboro.

- **Committee on Nominations:** Doug Anderson, pastor of Park Avenue Baptist Church in Madisonville.

- **Committee on Order of Business:** Mark Boes, pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church.

- **Committee on Public Affairs:** Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

- **Committee on Resolutions:** Rodney Travis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

Those appointed to chair Executive Board committees are:

- **Administrative Committee:** Charles Barnes, member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

- **Agencies and Institutions Committee:** Travis Collins, pastor of First

Baptist Church of Mt. Washington.

- **Business and Finance Committee:** Bob Long, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

- **Church Growth Committee:** Micki Robison, member of Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington.

- **Evangelism Growth Committee:** George Crabtree, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Franklin.

- **Leadership Development Committee:** Randall Rogers, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dawson Springs.

- **Missions Growth Committee:** Glenn Armstrong, pastor of First Baptist Church of Beaver Dam.

- **Nominating Committee:** Don Phelps, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sturgis.

## 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 Mantooh, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Charles Midkiff, Greenville; Linda Polley, Elizabethtown; David Proffitt, Salyersville; Bill Thurman, Lexington; Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

## Preserve autonomy

One messenger told me during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, "Since your church (First Baptist Church of Frankfort) is no longer supportive of the Southern Baptist Convention, you have no right to be a part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention." I beg to differ.

My church supports the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Both the 1963 and 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement on "Cooperation" reads: "Christ's people should ... organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation. ... Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches."

James Sullivan wrote in "Baptist Polity as I See It," "Without supreme authority being given to any Baptist body, all work must be done on a volunteer basis through merit. ... Each is free in Christ. Each is accountable to God." He went on: "If a person thinks state Baptist conventions and district associations are subsidiary to the Southern Baptist Convention, he is in gross error. He misunderstands Southern Baptist polity totally."

Frankfort Pastor Silas Noel, in 1829, sounded an alarm when the Campbellite movement threatened our Baptist heritage as we knew it. The result was the heresies were identified and Baptists in Kentucky grew stronger by conviction and perseverance. Noel was involved in Georgetown College and the KBC at their foundations.

I am not Silas Noel, but I do believe "the local church, whose head is Jesus Christ, should ultimately decide for itself its partners in ministry"—KBC, SBC, both, one or whatever the church decides!

I want everyone to know that First Baptist, Frankfort, desires to

stay in the Kentucky family. Please don't let "proposed heresy" deny this basic Baptist belief called "the autonomy of the local church." The SBC and the KBC are not dictators of who is in and who is out, and we know what being Baptist really means.

*David K. Hinson, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Frankfort*

## One true God

In response to Gene Iglehart's Nov. 27 letter, here are some words from Jesus which admit no varying interpretations:

"He that honors not the Son honors not the Father. ... No (one) comes to the Father but by me. ... He that has seen Me has

seen the Father. ... If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me ... because they know not Him that sent Me. ... He that hates Me hates My Father also. ... Hitherto you have asked nothing in My name. ... If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 5:23; 14:6, 9; 15:18; 16:24; 14:14). He "is the image of the invisible God ... the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 1:15, 2:9). "God ... has spoken by His Son ... the express image of His person ... (who) has ... sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Allah and his "attributes" are Mohammad's own creation. Mohammed, known to be dead while Jesus lives, also presumed to relegate Jesus to a status somewhat equal to himself. Islam rejects Jesus' uniqueness as the sole disclosure of God and means of redemption. The attributes of the one true and living God have been disclosed not through Mohammed's imagination but through the One whom Islam rejects and without whom God cannot be known.

Jesus predicted that the hatred He suffered "without a cause" would be shared by His disciples—including Albert Mohler and Bailey Smith—because the "servant (is never) greater than his Lord" (John 13:18-25). Muslims, Jews and all others need a saving knowledge of the world's only Savior. It should surprise no one when those who quote our Lord, "No one comes to the Father (including by prayer) but by Me," are hated by those who reject Him.

*Donald MacDonald  
Louisville*

## KBC reflections

I want to congratulate Harold Greenfield on his election as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He is a fine Christian brother as well as college classmate and fraternity brother. As I said after the presidential election, we agree on many things and I will walk with him and pray for him. Where we see things from a different perspective, we will acknowledge them and move on.

I appreciate all those who supported my candidacy for president of the KBC, including John Michael and the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network. The KBLN is made up of people who are passionate, loyal Southern Baptists, and they hardly deserve the label of extremist "rhetorical terrorists."

As I heard the reports at the convention, I was impressed with the sheer magnitude of the work that Kentucky Baptists are doing to spread the gospel, not only in Kentucky, but also around the world. I was also impressed with the number of laymen and laywomen who are involved in our mission efforts at home and abroad.

We are blessed to have Bill Mackey as executive director of the KBC. In addition to his skills as an administrator and organizer, the man can also preach.

*Tom Butler  
Paducah*

## CHURCH

### Discover ways to express thanks to church supporters

By Doug Strader

When I lead stewardship workshops and conferences, I usually encourage pastors and other church leaders to find some way of saying "thank you" to the people who give financially to support the ministry of their church.

While meeting recently with some pastors in a stewardship forum, one pastor reported that he had a good experience related to saying "thanks" to his people. He had written a note for the financial secretary to enclose in the quarterly statements sent to all of his people who had contributed financially to God's work during that quarter. Four people quietly had expressed to him their appreciation for his words of thanks.

When our hearts are right and our motives are right, we joyfully give our tithes and offerings to God through our church. However, it is a good idea to say "thank you" to our people at least two or three times a year for their contributions. If they give money to almost any other organization or cause, they will receive a "thank you" from someone in that organization or cause. Churches should be the pacesetters in expressing thanks to our people.

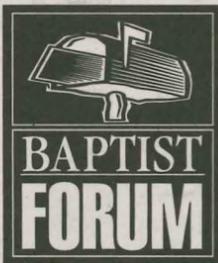
Pastors do not need to know the amount of money given by their people in order to say thanks. Just ask the financial secretary, the treasurer or the person responsible for recording church contributions to include a note from the pastor, a staff member or a lay member of the stewardship committee in each member's contribution statements.

Another effective way to express appreciation is to give thanks from the pulpit. Highlight some of the ministries the church has been able to accomplish because of the faithfulness of the members. We sometimes assume our people know about all our ministries, when in reality, many of them have no idea where the money goes after they put it in the offering plate on Sunday.

Pastors could invite the director of missions to share with the congregation how the association is able to do ministries because of the faithfulness of church members in giving tithes and offerings, and because the church gives to associational missions.

Look for creative ways to say "thank you" to your faithful financial stewards.

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



## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### The joy of missions at Christmas

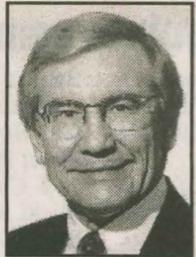
Christmas is a wonderful time of the year when we celebrate the joy of giving because God is so loving and gracious that He sent Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the best gift we could ever receive. He also is the best gift we can ever share with someone.

I continue to be surprised at the growing and exciting international student ministry here in Kentucky. Tommy Johnson of our collegiate ministry department is unrelenting in his effort to develop ministries and enlist volunteers. Over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, volunteers invited international students to their homes. Sharing Christian hospitality is a powerful witness.

Tommy has requested prayer for several international students who are near the moment of truth about Jesus and birth into the family of God. It is obvious that international students are being used by God to touch others.

There was a 20 percent increase over last year in the number of international students attending a special retreat over Thanksgiving weekend.

Add to Tommy's work the work in language and partnership missions that Kentucky Baptists are involved in, and it's easy to see how much Kentucky Baptists are on mission to internationals right here at home.



Bill Mackey

This is the season of prayer and study for international missions and an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with the world through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Not everyone can go, but every Kentucky Baptist can pray and give and befriend internationals in their own communities. I encourage you to find new and creative ways to minister to internationals in your community and workplace.

During the early '90s our family became the sponsoring family for a Brazilian student who needed to com-

plete her college degree in the United States. Dorine was a student at Furman University for at least one year with each of our daughters.

A few years later she returned to pursue a graduate degree and while in Washington, D.C., she met a man from Bristol, Tenn. They were soon married. Dorine lost her mother to cancer a few years ago and now with the births of two beautiful daughters, she has reached out to us—especially Kay—for support.

Dorine and her family hosted our oldest daughter and her husband for the Thanksgiving meal. It is amazing how simple ministry to someone who has a need can enrich your life and your family.

Christmas is a wonderful time to befriend and share Jesus Christ with someone. It also is a wonderful time to pray for missions in Kentucky and around the world. In the spirit of the Christmas season consider making your largest gift ever to support international missions. You can experience the real joy of giving and missions.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*

## Take action to cope with pain of fresh grief during holidays

**Q: A recent death in my family has left me just devastated. How can I face Christmas with all of its festivities? I live alone (with my cat) and just want to pull the shades and hide.**

One of the best resources is Harold Ivan Smith's book, "A Decempered Grief." Helpful thoughts from his book include:

■ **Give your grief its voice.** Write it down, speak it out. However you choose to say it, verbalizing the grief will help "break the ice" for those around you who might be struggling with what to say. Give yourself opportunities to remember, both alone and with others.

■ **Let your church be a support system for you.** Your church family is likely looking for opportunities to pray, listen or just bring over a basket of food. Both giver and receiver are blessed when such transactions occur.

■ **Give yourself permission to pass.** When considering the multiple options available during the holidays, you might find that sitting comfortably at home with eggnog or spiced tea is more nourishing than the chatter of a typical Christmas party. You know best how much mingling you're up to.

■ **Give yourself permission to attend.** Make the effort to be present at some events of the season. Sometimes when we put forth the effort to be with others, we find that Jesus also has shown up. He often surprises us by turning the water of grief into the wine of His smile.

■ **Alter, rather than abandon traditions.** Alert your family or friends to the changes you need to make this year. This will help avert the almost inevitable "but we always..." It's the essence of the celebration (getting together, remembering your loved one in the light of the gospel of Christ) rather than the particulars (how much decorating, eating, preparing, etc.) that should be retained. Think of creative ways to remember your loved one in the context of the powerful images and symbols of Christ's birth.—James Stillwell

**Q. My husband has diabetes and he complains during the holidays about not getting to eat the desserts and candies he loved so much. Any recommendations?**

There are many people who need to restrict sugar intake and find themselves tempted by holiday treats. Here is an excellent apricot cheesecake recipe and a Web site that has information and recipes that might be helpful: [diabeticdessert.tripod.com](http://diabeticdessert.tripod.com).

What you need for the cheesecake: For the crust, press into springform pan 2 cups of finely ground almonds, 1/4 cup of light olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon of salt and 2 large, rounded tablespoons of flour.

For the filling, cream together in food processor: 3 8-ounce packages of reduced fat soft cream cheese, 3 eggs, 1 large rounded tablespoon of flour, a pinch of salt, 4 whole-fresh apricots (with seeds removed) or 6 halves of canned apricots or other fruit of your choice (packed in its own juice with no sugar added), 1/2 cup of sour cream and 16 small, individual packets of "Splenda."

Pour mixture into pan on top of crust. Bake at 400 for 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 and bake another 25 to 30 minutes, till top is lightly golden and middle section does not move when pan is tilted. Cool for 30 to 60 minutes.

For the topping, puree 6 fresh apricots (pits removed) along with 1/3 cup of "Simply Fruit" apricot jam. Spread this over the top of the cheesecake.

Sprinkle over the topping 1 cup of slivered raw almonds, heated on medium and stirred consistently in a non-stick fry pan along with 2 tablespoons of cooking oil.—Jon Rainbow

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



## How far is too far in cloning research?

How far is too far? That is a recurring question when scientific advances clash with moral and spiritual guidelines.

The latest example occurred last week when scientists in Massachusetts announced they had succeeded in producing history's first cloned human embryos.

President Bush, who announced in August his decision to allow federal funding of medical research using existing stem cell lines, immediately called for a ban on human cloning.

"We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it," Bush declared. "And that's exactly what's taking place." He called last week's scientific effort "bad public policy" as well as "morally wrong in my opinion."

Ever since the announcement of Dolly the sheep being cloned five years ago from adult cells, the scientific community has been moving toward the inevitable breakthrough in cloning human cells.

While many in the medical community view such technology as an opportunity to develop life-saving medical treatments, pro-life supporters see it as an ethical and moral barrier that should never be breached.

The same debate accompanied Bush's August announcement though many people in both camps expressed appreciation for the president's carefully reasoned response.

Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, who opposes embryonic stem cell research, still gave Bush's compromise decision "generally a thumbs up."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said that while he was "deeply disappointed" with the decision, he still commended Bush for "a reflective, thoughtful speech"

to "champion the humanity of human embryos."

As the stakes increased with last week's development, debate also escalated. While the U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation in July that would ban all human cloning, Senate leaders had announced plans to wait until spring to address the issue.

The latest development "trumps the situation we were in several weeks ago," noted Sen. Sam Brownback, R.-Kan., the Senate's chief sponsor of a comprehensive cloning ban. He said the Senate vote "needs to come up now."

For their part, researchers at Advanced Cell Technology reported that the cloned embryos grew for only a few hours and formed only four to six cells each. Expressing hope that their experiments would lead to specialized cells to combat such illnesses as spinal cord injuries, cancer and heart disease, they said their goal is to grow embryos into several hundred cells to isolate stem cells with the potential of regenerating tissues and organs.

The problem, however, is that their actions involve cloning human embryos for the specific purpose of destroying them to conduct future experiments. One key benefit of Bush's earlier plan was that it limited experimentation to existing stem cell lines.

As Congress and society wrestle with this latest moral challenge, several priorities should be clear. The Senate should take immediate action to establish strict limits on cloning and stem cell research, at least upholding Bush's restrictions. Additional options include continued research on current stem cell lines as well as adult stem cells that do not destroy life.

How far is too far? Producing embryos or stem cells to be destroyed at the will of scientists—or anyone else—definitely crosses the line.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Recorder turns to professional journalists in the 1990s

During most of the 20th century, Western Recorder directors followed a familiar pattern of naming pastors as editors of the state Baptist paper. After Jack Sanford's unexpected death in 1989, however, Recorder directors started a new trend of electing experienced Christian journalists as editors.

The shift began in 1990 with the election of Marv Knox who served as Western Recorder editor until 1995. He previously was feature editor of Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service, as well as associate editor of the Louisiana Baptist Message, director of news and information for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and assistant news editor of the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He left the Recorder in 1995 to become associate editor of the Texas Baptist Standard where he currently is editor.

Knox was succeeded in 1996 by Mark Wingfield, whom Knox hired in 1991 as Western Recorder's news director. Wingfield previously was associate director of news and information for the HMB, director of news and information for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and assistant editor of the Baptist New Mexican. He resigned in 1998, again joining Knox as associ-

ate editor of the Baptist Standard.

Western Recorder directors elected current editor Trennis Henderson in 1999. Henderson, who served more than six years as editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine, previously served for a decade on the staff of the Missouri Baptist Word & Way. His first state paper experience was as a Western Recorder intern in 1980-81 during C.R. Daley's tenure as editor.

Knox, Wingfield and Henderson all have seminary training as well as extensive experience in Christian journalism. That combination helped influence both the content and philosophy of the state Baptist paper.

"You deserve to know what is happening in the life of our denomination. That's a bedrock Baptist belief," Knox wrote in his inaugural editorial. "Ours is a ministry of information and a divine trust. We will prepare the paper without fear or favor, except for God alone."

Wingfield described the transition "from a pastor-editor to a layperson as editor" as "the most profound shift that occurred with the Western Recorder in the '90s." He noted that the Recorder "turned its focus from what I call 'bureaucratic' news to a broader focus on religious trends, Christian parenting,

current issues and in-depth analysis."

On the denominational front, during the '90s conservatives strengthened their control of the national convention, including Southern Seminary, and moderates established the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

"These changes altered the political landscape across the Southern Baptist Convention, Kentucky included," Knox reflected. "And the responses of Baptists to these developments provided the Recorder with miles of news copy throughout the decade."

Wingfield said he believes "what made the Recorder strong in the '90s was the advancement on two fronts—providing strong and thorough reporting on the changing denomination while at the same time offering major content on practical issues relevant to the church and church members."

Henderson was elected editor shortly before the 1990s drew to a close. As he prepared to lead the Recorder into ministry in the 21st century, Henderson told readers, "For the Western Recorder to effectively serve any Kentucky Baptist, it must fairly serve all Kentucky Baptists."

"That is my pledge to you," he added. "I will seek to accomplish that goal through accurate, balanced, comprehensive news and feature articles that make a difference in the lives of Kentucky Baptists."



## Missionaries share God's love amid stories of tragedies

Continued from page 1

burn marks from torture. Or the Chechen who stared with dead eyes and said, "Killing people makes you cold."

But he's also heard Iranian young men eagerly ask, "Can you tell me about Jesus?" and a little Uzbek girl say, "I love God!" after accepting Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.

"It's so open," Andrew says. "You can share the gospel with all these unreached people groups without worrying about getting arrested."

Andrew prays for power as he drives into refugee centers, the back of his minivan loaded with clothing, food, toys and Bibles in various languages. The kids come running first, shouting his name and jumping into his arms. Parents and other adults follow. His visits count among the few bright spots in their often-gloomy days.

He takes refugees to doctor appointments or outings to parks and fast-food restaurants, plays with the children, recruits helpers to clean up trash around the centers, introduces himself to new arrivals. He's even broken up a few fights between members of rival ethnic groups.

"Andrew is a very good man," says an Afghan whose father was beaten to death by the Taliban. "He helps us."

He also spreads the good news of Jesus at every opportunity. At the main refugee transit center in his city, he sets up chairs and a snack table in the kindergarten room, brews coffee and invites people in for a simple worship service.

Thirty or so refugees from a dozen countries—a third of them Muslim—come in. A cheerful cacophony ensues. The congregation sings, "God is so Good" and reads John 3:16 in five languages, followed by a brief evangelistic message from Andrew. He keeps a bookshelf against the wall well-stocked with Bibles and other materials.

"Arabic Bibles go like hotcakes," Andrew reports. "We've probably given out hundreds of them."

On Friday nights he screens a comedy or family movie, and invites people to stay for another film in their native language: the "JESUS" film. Sometimes the mood among Muslims in the room gets tense when the movie reveals Jesus as the Son of God, Andrew admits.

"Usually one will pop up and leave, then some others will follow,"

he says. "But others will look around—and stay until the end."

To date, more than 1,200 refugees have stayed for the entire showing, and at least 50 people have committed their lives to Christ through the film outreach alone.

Andrew originally came to this European city two years ago to help evangelize a people group in the area. While studying the national language, he spotted a bulletin board notice appealing for volunteers to help the needy—including refugees.

"I just called the number, and a week later I was in the main refugee camp serving coffee," he recalls. "I wasn't supposed to be doing it; it just opened up—and God did His thing."

Now he leads a four-person missionary team concentrating on refugee ministry. One challenge: locating them. The government doesn't divulge the locations of the refugee centers to protect families from foreign agents seeking escapees—and from local racists targeting foreigners.

By keeping in touch with refugee families who move from one location to another, Andrew has found more than 70 centers in his region alone—and personally visited at least 40 of them.

Most of the refugees eventually will be denied permanent residency in the country. But many remain in the centers for years at a time until their asylum requests are finally decided. "I can't see them sending people back to a place like Afghanistan" anytime soon, Andrew says.

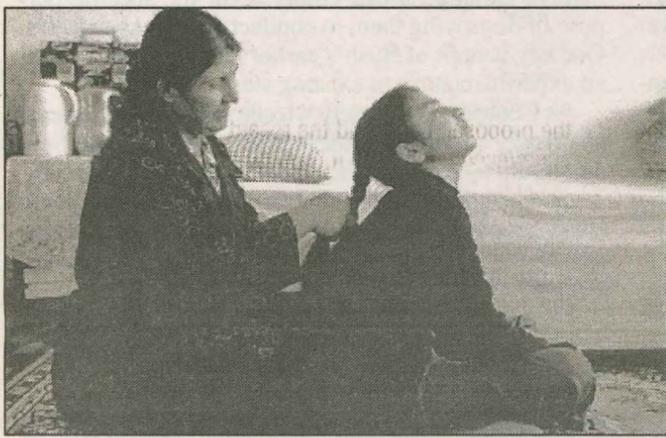
When they do go home, however, some will be carrying the gospel back to their people. That's the ultimate goal of the ministry.

Meanwhile, refugees keep coming. Andrew and his team members are mobilizing a growing number of local churches—and Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States—in the work.

"Sometimes I ask God, 'What can I do?'" he says. "And God keeps telling me, 'Just love them.'"

### MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

Before the Taliban's reign of terror, "Shanaz," 35, studied law in Afghanistan. Her daughter "Lima," 12, never saw the inside of a school. As women, both were forced to stay home by the Taliban. Now a refugee in Europe, at least Lima can attend classes. "The teacher says I have very intelligent children," her mother reports with pride. (BP photo by Matt Jones)



### Closing the gap

The vision of the International Mission Board is to lead us Southern Baptists to be on mission with God to bring all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ.

The IMB has identified around the world approximately 14,000 distinct ethnic-linguistic people groups that need to be reached with the gospel.

Although most of these groups have some access to the gospel, 2,161 of these groups do not. They represent 1.65 billion "Last Frontier" people, many of whom have never heard the name of Jesus. Thus, there is a gap between the vision of an evangelized world and current realities.

Record numbers of people are responding to the call to go. But will the financial resources be sufficient to provide the support necessary to close the gap? Research indicates the IMB will have to double our missionary force to assign just one missionary unit to each unreached people group. The God-called candidates appear to be available. But will we Southern Baptists provide the financial resources?

Since it's that time of the year we are called upon specifically to pray and to give for international

missions, I want to encourage you to be more intentional this year about two considerations. First, pray more fervently for our 5,000 missionaries and give more generously through the Lottie Moon Offering.

Second, seek more seriously the Lord's will in leaving a legacy of your passion to plant gospel seeds to close the gap to the Last Frontier people who have never heard the name of Jesus. Perhaps the words of Ezekiel 22:30 will have special meaning in your consideration. The Lord declared through Ezekiel, "I looked for one among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land..."

A simple bequest in your will, a provision in your trust, a beneficiary designation in a life insurance policy or retirement account are some ways you could respond to the Lord's leadership. Laurie Valentine and I are just a toll-free call away to assist you. There is no cost or obligation for our assistance. Please give us the privilege.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701; [www.ky.baptistfoundation.org](http://www.ky.baptistfoundation.org)

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

LifeWay™ CHURCH BUSES  
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

# CARPENTER

## BUS SALES, INC.

Since 1953

Capacity: 41 Adults or 37 with Rear Luggage

20' to 28' models • 15 to 30 passengers

- ◆ LifeWay Discount
- ◆ 12 to 47 adult capacity
- ◆ 15-passenger Vans
- ◆ We buy used buses
- ◆ More than 40 buses in stock
- ◆ "No-CDL" buses and raised-roof vans

**(800) 370-6180**  
[www.carpenterbus.com](http://www.carpenterbus.com)

Check our Web site for new & used inventory

## Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

## Research finds link between prayer, healthy pregnancies

By Mark Wingfield  
Texas Baptist Standard

NEW YORK (ABP)—A recent study gave birth to some new evidence to add to the growing list of research about the health benefits of prayer.

The study, reported in the September issue of the *Journal of Reproductive Medicine*, involved 219 women receiving fertility treatment in a South Korean hospital. The women were classified into two statistically similar groups. One was prayed over by Christian intercessors and one was not.

The women receiving prayer were nearly twice as likely to become pregnant through the treatment as those not receiving prayer. Women in the prayed-for group also became pregnant at rates higher than normal for treatment in the same program at the same hospital.

Results of the study were reported by Rogerio Lobo, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University in New York City.

Here's how the study worked:

■ The 219 women, ranging in age from 26 to 46, were treated between December 1998 and March 1999 at Cha General Hospital in Seoul. All were candidates for in-vitro fertilization.

■ Unknown to them throughout the period of study, they were assigned to one of two groups.

■ The two groups were divided and randomized by an independent set of researchers not affiliated with the rest of the study. One group of women served as the control group, and they were not the objects of prayer. The other group became the object of regular intercessory prayer.

■ All patients were treated with the same medical protocol.

■ Intercessors were enlisted in the United States, Canada and Australia to pray specifically for the women in the assigned group. The intercessors received only photographs of the women and did not know their names.

■ Groups of three to 13 intercessors were given photographs of five women undergoing treatment and asked to pray for their ability to conceive.

The group of women who received the unknown prayer support had a 50 percent pregnancy rate, compared to 26 percent in the control group.

Further, after adjusting for three spontaneous losses in each group, the group of women receiving prayer ended the study with more than double the rate of term deliveries seen in the control group. Forty-six percent of women in the prayed-for group delivered at term, compared to 22 percent of women in the group not receiving prayer.

The study showed particular success among women over the age of 30, an age at which more problems with pregnancy usually occur.

## Religious leaders decry cloning experiment

By Peggy Polk & David Anderson  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Religious and political leaders, from President Bush to the Vatican, sharply criticized last week's announcement that private scientists in Massachusetts had succeeded in creating the first cloned human embryo.

The scientists insisted their work was aimed at producing stem cells for new medical therapies, not cloning a human being. But the announcement served to push religion and science onto an expected but as-yet uncharted ethical frontier.

Scientists at Advanced Cell Technology of Worcester, Mass., said Nov. 25 they succeeded in growing—for only a few hours—cloned human embryos of four to six cells.

Bush responded during a press conference the next day. "We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it," he said. "And that's exactly what's taking place."

He called the scientific work in Massachusetts "bad public policy. Not only that, it's morally wrong in my opinion."

Federal money cannot be used for cloning research involving human embryos, so much of the scientific work in the field is being carried out by private firms.

The Vatican, responding with unusual speed, said Nov. 26 that despite the "humanistic intentions" of scientists, the first cloning of human embryos is an act of "moral gravity" that must be condemned unequivocally.

Researchers at Advanced Cell Technologies

reported that the human embryos they cloned grew only for several hours, long enough to form four to six cells each.

Their goal is to succeed in growing them to a mass of several hundred cells in order to isolate embryonic stem cells with the potential of regenerating tissue and organs. Stem-cell research has been touted as possibly allowing doctors to treat such illnesses as Parkinson's disease.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the announcement underscored the need for immediate congressional enactment of a "comprehensive ban on human cloning, including somatic cell nuclear transfers and parthenogenesis."

"By its own admission," Land said, "Advanced Cell Technology created cloned human embryos for the purpose of experimentation. Human embryo-destructive experimentation is unconscionable and must no longer be permitted."

In July, the House of Representatives approved legislation that would ban all cloning of human beings, but the Senate has yet to take up the proposal. Land said the recent announcement makes it "critical" for the Senate to act by Christmas.

Both Land and the Vatican rejected the language the researchers used to describe their work. In particular, the Vatican statement faulted the use of the term "early embryo" to describe the cloned embryos. "Here we face a human embryo and not a cell as some would like us to believe," it said.

## Peace

By Robert Dunston

Dennis Trickett, assistant professor of psychology at Cumberland College, wrote this week's Advent devotional on the theme of peace.

Trickett joined the Cumberland College faculty in 1997 and has established himself as an integral part of our psychology department.

His wife, Paula, is assistant principal at Whitley County High School. Trickett relaxes through rock-climbing, hunting, fishing, hiking and traveling with his family.

"One of my favorite M\*A\*S\*H episodes is about a huge battle that was fought on or around Christmas. The medical personnel were exhausted from endless hours of surgery, pain and death. The weather was cold and miserable. The camp was overworked and under-heated. Nerves were frayed and hope was waning. Near the end of the show, the medical personnel were huddled around a small stove in one of the tents complaining, despairing, grieving losses and wondering if their war was ever going to end.

"Amid the complaints, Father Mulcahy began singing softly

'Dona Nobis Pacem,' Grant Us Thy Peace. One by one, people ceased their complaining and joined their voices to the soft hymn of peace. Slowly the scene faded to blackness with only the voices repeating, harmonizing, echoing *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

"We often find ourselves in a similar frame of mind these days,

bombarded by stress, tragedy, grief, uncertainty and the unrelenting demands of living such a fast-paced lifestyle. Ours is not a peaceful world, either internally or externally, and despair leeches the energy and hope from us. However, Isaiah reminds us that the Messiah is the Prince of

Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and the angels themselves proclaimed that His coming was to bring 'peace on earth and good will to men' (Luke 2:14)."

May the peace of God that passes all understanding be yours this Christmas.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Possibilities

We know that the period between Thanksgiving and the new year is full of activity, but it is also full of possibility. As a nation, this holiday season will be unlike any we have experienced before. Yes, there will be the usual holiday busyness. But all this activity will take place in the shadow of Sept. 11. For thousands of families, this season may be one they hope simply to endure instead of enjoy.

That is why I say this time is also full of possibility. As believers, we were not immune from the anger and sorrow of Sept. 11. But, as believers living in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2001, there is much we can do and are doing to reflect God's greatness and goodness during these troubled times.

At the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Murray, I was excited to hear about the partnership ministry in Europe. I was encouraged to hear about the army of volunteers that participated in Cross Over the Purchase the weekend before the convention. They showered the region with good deeds and the good news of Jesus Christ. I was moved by the warm reception messengers gave to the residents of our Dixon Center

who performed an interpretive movement during KBHC's report.

As Kentucky Baptists consistently give of themselves and share the gospel, we prove that God's light is greater than any darkness evil can unleash on this earth. You have proven this through your support of KBHC this year. While many non-profits have experienced declines in giving because of the outpouring of dollars to victims of Sept. 11's attacks, you have actually given more to KBHC than during the same period last year. We have told you that KBHC needs your support now more than ever, and I see you responding. I believe you will work to meet our \$1.2 million goal for this year's Thanksgiving Offering.

In the coming weeks, presents will pour into our offices. You will come onto our campuses, bringing parties to our kids. You will provide necessities to families in need. You will pray and give. With every generous act, whether to our kids and families, or to others, the light of Christ shines that much brighter.

Bill Smithwick is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Contact KBHC at (800) 456-1386 or at [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org)

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Lutherans urge action against sex industry.** The nation's largest Lutheran church is asking its members and institutions to find ways to combat the "evils" of the sex industry, saying sex-for-money businesses degrade both partners in the transaction. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America must strike out against prostitution, pornography, strip clubs and escort services, according to a resolution approved by the Church Council, which acts as the denomination's board of directors.

■ **Music group disbands after sex charges.** The award-winning Christian music group Raze has disbanded after one of its members recently pleaded guilty to sex charges involving a back-up dancer for the group. Ja'Marc Antoine Davis pleaded guilty Nov. 1 to felony counts of rape by instrumentation, lewd molestation and sodomy, Associated Press reported. The four-member group earned a Dove Award from the Gospel Music Association in the dance/rap/hip-hop category in April.

■ **Mormons lose on census court case.** The U.S. Supreme Court sided with the Census Bureau's decision to refuse to count missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other nongovernment American workers living abroad. The bureau's policy cost Utah an opportunity for a fourth seat in the House of Representatives in the reallocation process after the 2000 census.

■ **Court sides with clergy.** New York clergy who reveal sensitive information about their congregants cannot be held financially responsible for breaking confidence, the state's highest court ruled last week. The judges said a Long Island Orthodox Jewish woman could not seek damages from two rabbis who disclosed information to her husband during divorce proceedings.

■ **NCC faces money troubles, cuts staff.** The National Council of Churches, facing a \$2.1 million budget shortfall, cut more than a quarter of its work force during its annual meeting in Oakland, Calif. The 52-year-old ecumenical agency, which represents 36 mainline Protestant and Orthodox churches, continues to face financial troubles two years after mounting deficits first came to light. Council officials also cut 16 positions from their work force, bringing the total number of employees to 39.

■ **Musician honored for adoption support.** Christian singer and songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife, Mary Beth, were honored last month by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption for their vocal support of the practice. Steven Chapman, a four-time Grammy winner, has written a song called "When Love Takes You In" to draw attention to the issue. The song's video also urges viewers to consider adoption. The Chapmans adopted a girl from China, and have created a foundation to help others interested in adoption.



**WELCOME HOME** President George W. Bush smiles with Dana Curry (left) and Heather Mercer at the White House last week to celebrate their release from Afghanistan. The Christian aid workers were detained by the Taliban before being released and rescued by American forces.

■ **Warner to buy Word Music.** Gaylord Entertainment Co. has agreed to sell its Christian music division, Word Entertainment, to Warner Music Group for \$84.1 million. Among the 30 artists on Word's roster are Amy Grant, Nicole Mullen, Sandi Patty, Point of Grace, Sixpence None the Richer and Jaci Velasquez.

■ **Hunger a suburban, rural problem.** Rural and suburban residents comprise nearly half of the 23 million low-income people who received emergency food assistance this year from America's Second Harvest, according to a report released by the national hunger relief charity. The study "punctures the myth that hunger is only a problem of the inner cities, homeless or the chronically unemployed," the charity stated.

## Lawmakers to gather for prayer of reconciliation

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Lawmakers will gather in the Capitol this week to ask God for "forgiveness, reconciliation, unity and charity for all people of the United States."

Under a resolution passed by both the House and Senate, the National Day of Reconciliation will be held on Dec. 4 in a closed-door ceremony inside the Capitol. Neither staff nor the press will be allowed to attend the voluntary service, led by the House and Senate chaplains.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, and 72 other House members. It also was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y.

"By coming together in the Capitol to pray, humble themselves before God and to seek repentance, America's leaders can guide the nation in the right direction," DeLay said.

Some religious leaders praised the bill and called for individual congregations to sponsor similar ceremonies. "This day of prayer, fasting and repentance can literally change the face of our great nation," wrote Robert Record, president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, in an e-mail to pastors around the country.

Conservative talk show host James Dobson also praised the bill, saying the country needs to seek reconciliation with God "and with each other."

## Turkey and a whole lot more

There are very few holidays when our students are here, but Thanksgiving is one of them. Our breaks throughout the year are scheduled so our students can be home for the holidays. I don't have to tell you that most students would rather spend holidays with family and friends than on campus.

Most of the 60 or so students on our campus for Thanksgiving live too far away to travel home or they are international students. International students do not fully understand Thanksgiving, but we have never had any trouble getting them to enjoy the day with us.

Several changes were made to make the day special. One was the arrangement of the dining room tables. Those who have eaten in our dining room may remember that our tables are arranged in rows that will accommodate the greatest number of students. On Thanksgiving the tables were rearranged and had tablecloths on them, just like home. It is interesting to see the expressions on the faces of our international students who are spending their first Thanksgiving with us when they enter the dining room. I can tell from the expressions that they sense they are in for a special treat.

The next noticeable change was the food on the tables. Thanksgiving is the only time we do not get our own trays and silverware and serve ourselves in the serving line. It is a real treat to eat food from a plate instead of a tray. After being seated, the students carefully looked the table over to see the bounty of food that had been prepared for them. Before we eat on Thanksgiving Day, we always express our appreciation to the cooks for spending the morning in our kitchen away from their families. After the blessing, well, you

can imagine the scene with about 150 hungry souls ready for a feast.

Our meal was a lot like yours, except we had to have a little more. All 22 turkeys had been baked, sliced and lovingly placed on very large platters surrounded with lots of dressing. Mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans and rolls were in dozens of bowls on the tables. It only took a few seconds for the international students to realize that this was not going to be like

any meal they had ever eaten at Oneida before.

The only real interruptions to their dining were the frequent requests to pass some food. After gorging themselves, many realized they had forgotten dessert. So it was off to the dessert table to see which of the many tasty treats they would choose.

A few years ago we began asking faculty and staff who are here for Thanksgiving to take three or four of our dorm students home with them for the afternoon. Even though most of the students who are still here do not fully understand the meaning behind

Thanksgiving, they always enjoy getting off campus for a few hours. This gives our staff an opportunity to not only open their homes to our students, but to explain the significance of Thanksgiving.

Other special events last week included a movie, a hayride and cookout, and a skating party. Possibly the best treat was being able to sleep in each morning. That is something that does not happen at Oneida very often!

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Training leaders for Ohio churches

For many years the Clear Creek enrollment has included a significant number of students from Ohio. We now have 144 graduates in the state of Ohio. Edgewood Baptist Church of Trenton, Ohio, has sent five students to Clear Creek. Keith Risner, pastor since the church started in 1981, emphasizes missions and calling out the called. Doug Saunders, a product of Edgewood, completes his class work in December and returns to Ohio as pastor of the Sycamore Chapel Mission, sponsored by the Edgewood church.

The Sycamore Mission is located two miles from Trenton. The Saunders worked there in the summer of 1998.

"We didn't know what to expect, we just went and did whatever

the Lord laid on our hearts. We had a great summer and knew God would do something with the mission. After three years they wanted us to come back and me to be the pastor. It was an exciting decision," Saunders said.

Attendance on a recent Sunday was 20 in Bible study and 32 for worship; 26 attended the Tuesday night service. Saunders baptized three new members in a joint service with Edgewood. "It was so

encouraging to be together with our mother church for the baptism and Lord's Supper," Saunders said.

Since August, Saunders has commuted from Trenton with Dustin Vorhis, a second-year student from near Dayton. They drive down on Wednesday evening and return Friday afternoon.

"It's a four-hour trip and great fellowship for us," Saunders said. "We discuss doctrinal issues and talk about our future. We share how God works to fulfill His calling in our life."

When the Saunders lived on campus, Saunders' wife, Molly, worked at the Irene Peterson Child Development Center. They have two children, Scott, 14, and Emily, 10.

Saunders described his first pastoral experience at Pond Baptist Church in Lincoln County, "That time sharpened my skills in preaching and showed me the importance of visitation. With family, school and church work I did not share Jesus enough with lost people. That is where my heart is, and now I take that opportunity regularly, almost daily."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Life-or-death issue

### Missionary urges Swazi teens to pursue God's solution for AIDS

By Sue Sprenkle  
SBC International Mission Board

MBABANE, Swaziland (BP)—The young girl listens intently to the guest speaker. A boy sitting behind pulls her ponytail.

She turns to make a face at him and then adjusts the beaded band holding the ponytail in place.

If her father found out a boy touched it, she could get in big trouble. As long as she is wearing the blue and yellow headpiece, boys and men are not supposed to touch her.

The ponytail, known as "umchwasho" (oomchw-ah-show), looks like a large tassel connected to a strand of beads. It announces to all that she is a virgin. The band requires girls to abstain from sex or even kissing someone of the opposite sex.

The age-old Swazi custom is back with hopes of eradicating the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Southern Baptist missionary Mary Wood hopes the umchwasho works as a reminder to save sex for marriage, but she knows this symbol alone will not stamp out the deadly virus. Wood spends her days promoting God's way of preventing HIV/AIDS in schools, hospitals and churches.

The retired Houston nurse left her home in Texas after hearing how AIDS was wiping out an entire generation of Africans. What she found in Swaziland was not exactly what she expected. In the news, AIDS in Africa is shown as emaciated people wasting away in the hospital.

"It's kind of strange that you don't see people like that here," Wood said. "So many have HIV and you don't even know it."

AIDS isn't obvious in the streets or homes. Yet all the United Nations reports say HIV is here. This small kingdom has so much of it that Swaziland is ranked second among all African countries for HIV infection.

AIDS, nicknamed the "slimming disease" because of the vast weight loss it inevitably causes, might be better named the "hidden disease" in Swaziland. Everyone knows HIV is there. Street vendors talk on and on

about the problem, yet no one seems to know someone personally with the disease. They say, "Everyone here is healthy looking."

But looks can be deceiving.

"Most people think if you're HIV-positive, you must be skinny and look like a walking ghost," one youth said. "But that's not true. I have had HIV for two years and I look just like my peers."

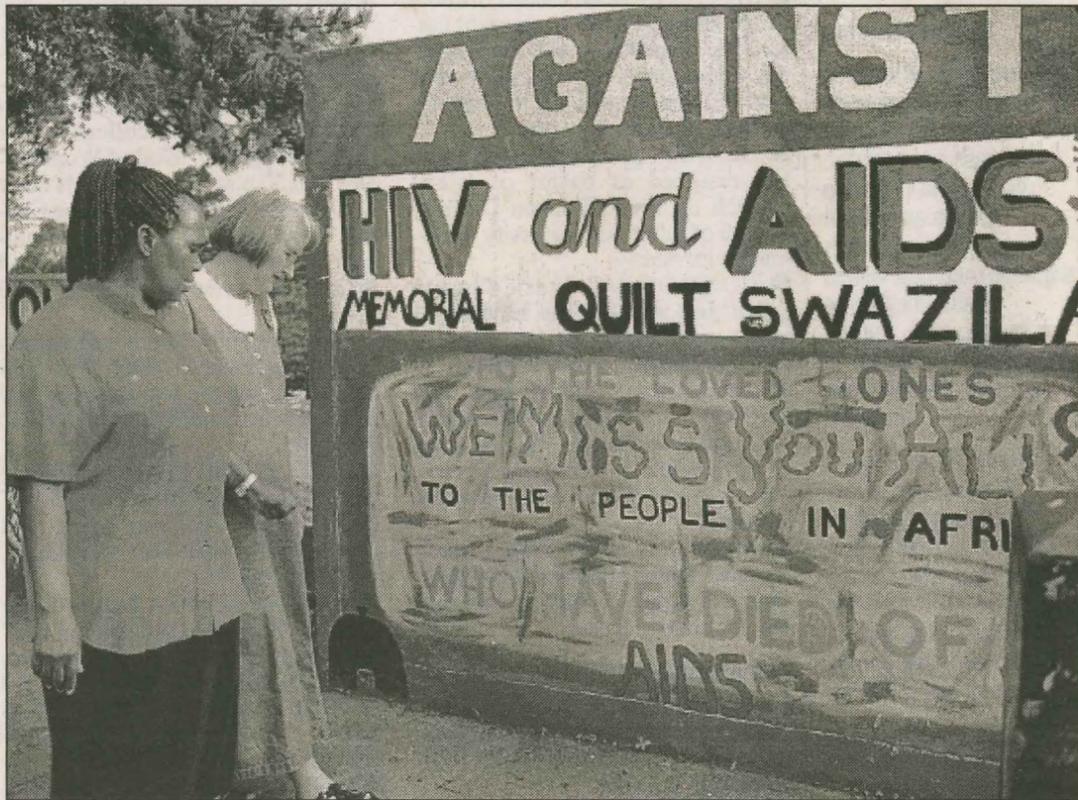
Statistics show that almost 43 percent of the citizens between ages 20 and 29 are already HIV-positive. More than 25 percent of youth under the age of 20 also test positive for HIV.

AIDS is a problem on the rise. While the drastic physical changes are not evident at first glance in this small country of 900,000 people, the social and economic problems related to the disease are easily seen.

Visible are the orphans, widows and families struggling to survive and grandparents who are raising 10 or more grandchildren orphaned by the dreaded disease.

Also widespread is the international symbol for AIDS Awareness, a red ribbon, in the beaded artwork in the marketplace.

Everyone is aware of the problem,



but no one deals with it or even recognizes it.

"No one ever admits to it if they do know they have AIDS or HIV," Wood said. "But mainly, most people just don't know because they won't get tested."

Government prevention campaigns tout the ABCs all over town. The signs exhort its citizens to "Abstain, Be Faithful and Condomize." Most have never heard of the biblical ABCs Wood teaches. She teaches "Abstain, Be faithful to your marriage partner and follow Christ."

National health agencies don't mention the love of Jesus Christ as a way of prevention.

But Wood tells Swasis that is the only way AIDS will be beat. God is the only way to have enough willpower to remain pure until marriage and during marriage, she said. Just doing this is breaking cultural customs.

"They say 100 percent of girls have sex before marriage just to prove that they are fertile. It is also an accepted practice here for boys to experiment sexually," Wood said. "It's also accepted practice for men to have mistresses."

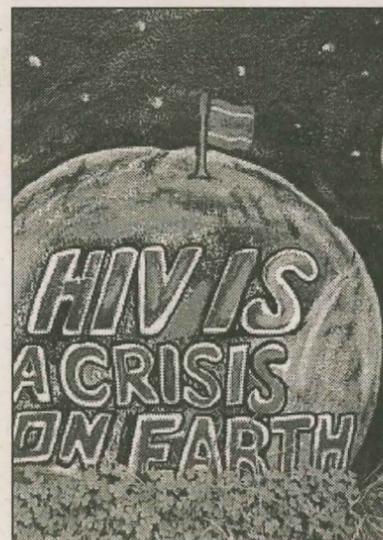
Wood spends a lot of her time visiting schools, especially high schools and middle schools, in hopes that the leaders of tomorrow will be the ones to break the silence.

As a question and answer period begins, the youth ask if white people get HIV or not. The students sit silently, listening to every word Wood says.

It's during these sessions when the massive burden of AIDS on this country is seen best. Every student in the room has a personal story about how AIDS has affected his or her own family. The stories are so commonplace, but they almost never are talked about except in rare cases like Wood's visit.

When one student ventures to ask if it is true that sleeping with a virgin can cure AIDS, all ears perk up.

Just the previous week, news agen-



cies reported that a father with AIDS had sex with his infant daughter because the local witch doctor told him to. Such child abuse is common.

"That's a good question," Wood answers. "It is a lie. If you are HIV-positive and you give it to another person, you are killing that person. Once you have HIV, you can't get rid of it."

She explains to the students over and over how an HIV virus is so small that millions of them can sit on the head of a pin, and thousands can seep through the smallest holes in condoms.

Most students are surprised to hear that condoms are not 100 percent effective in preventing AIDS.

"If I wanted to be rich, I would have stayed in America and invested in a condom company," she tells a group of middle-schoolers.

"But I care for you and don't want you to get sick," she adds. "That's why I'm here to talk to you about HIV and answer any of your questions."

"I'd like to see you change the fate of your country. With the strength of Jesus Christ, you have the power to do it."

**WORDS OF WARNING**  
Of the 900,000 citizens in Swaziland, more than a third are estimated to be infected with the HIV virus.  
■ Above: Maria Shandu (left) and Southern Baptist missionary Mary Wood work to help Swazi youth understand that Jesus Christ can give them the strength to resist their culture's sexual promiscuity and stay free of HIV infection. ■ Left: Sidewalks leading to the central bus stop in Mbabane, Swaziland, are lined with murals and signs promoting HIV/AIDS awareness. ■ Inset: A young Swazi girl wears the traditional "umchwasho" headband, warning men not to touch her because she is a virgin. (BP photos by Sue Sprenkle)



**ENCOURAGER** Missionary Mary Wood speaks to a young Swazi woman during a weekly hospital visit. Wood visits the children's ward mainly to speak to the grandmothers, aunts and mothers staying with the children. She offers encouragement to the women, who often also have HIV.

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Barry Howard

In a few days, unopened gifts will rest beneath Christmas trees all across our country. Giving and receiving gifts is an ancient holiday tradition. When the wise men first visited Jesus, they came bearing gifts. But the greatest gift ever given is not gold, frankincense or myrrh.

A couple of years ago, I was amused as my nieces and nephew opened their gifts, then argued over who got the "bestest" gift. The "bestest" of all gifts is salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

The Bible teaches that salvation comes "by grace, through faith. ... It is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation is a gift that includes receiving forgiveness of your sins, learning to follow Christ and abiding in heaven with the Lord for eternity.

How can you receive this gift?

■ *Admit that you are a sinner in need of such a gift. As a sinner, you have plenty of company. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

■ *Accept that this gift is for you. Imagine salvation to be like a gift under the Christmas tree. Look at the nametag, envision your name there and accept salvation as your personal gift from God. "God demonstrates His love toward us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).*

■ *Acknowledge that this gift is from God. Remember that "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).*

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Barry Howard is pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BENTON**—New Liberty Church called **Duane Fields** as assistant pastor. The church also will host Saturday night gospel festivals each week at 6:30 p.m. beginning in January. **Aubert Rose Jr.** is pastor.

■ **ISLAND**—**John Michael Galyen** has resigned as pastor of Island Church to attend Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

■ **LONDON**—Calvary Church called **Jeff and Debbie Earnest** as music and worship leaders effective Dec. 30. **Harlan Avera** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Mary Sells** will retire Dec. 31 as minister to preschool for Highview Church after 19 years of service. She will continue to serve part-time in the church's preschool ministry.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church ordained **Doug Gaskins, Tish Kneller** and **Cindy White** as deacons. **Jim Cobban** is pastor.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

■ **ASHLAND**—Liberty Missionary Church will present the cantata "Start at the Manger" Dec. 23, 11 a.m. **Phillip Haney** is pastor.

■ **BETHLEHEM**—The churches of the Bethlehem community will present their annual Living Nativity Scene Dec. 22-25, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church's adult choir and dramatists will present "The Music of Christmas" Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. The youth choir will present the musical "Welcome to Our World" Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. **Don Phillips** is minister of music.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church will present "For Unto Us: A Celebration of the Savior's Birth" Dec. 15 and 16, 7 p.m. The musical will feature the adult, youth and children's choirs, handbell choirs and drama team. For information, call (859) 331-2160.

■ **LEBANON**—Lebanon Church will present the cantata "A Christmas

Masterpiece" Dec. 9, 6 p.m., and "Journey to the Manger" Dec. 16, 6 p.m. **Bob Gaddis** is minister of music and **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church's youth and college/career choir will present "God of Wonders" Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. The children's choir will present "Christmas at Hope Central" Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. The sanctuary choir will present the musical "All Is Calm, All Is Bright" Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Crescent Hill Church will present "Christmas Festival" Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m., featuring the festival choir and handbells. For information, call (502) 896-4425.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—First Church will present "Return to Bethlehem" Dec. 8, 10 and 11, 5 to 8 p.m., and Dec. 9, 2 to 4 p.m. For information, call (270) 821-3611.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church will present "Advent Journey" featuring scenes of the synagogue, marketplace, inn and manger Dec. 13 and 14, 6 to 8 p.m., and Dec. 16, 5 to 7 p.m. For information, call (270)-684-4266.

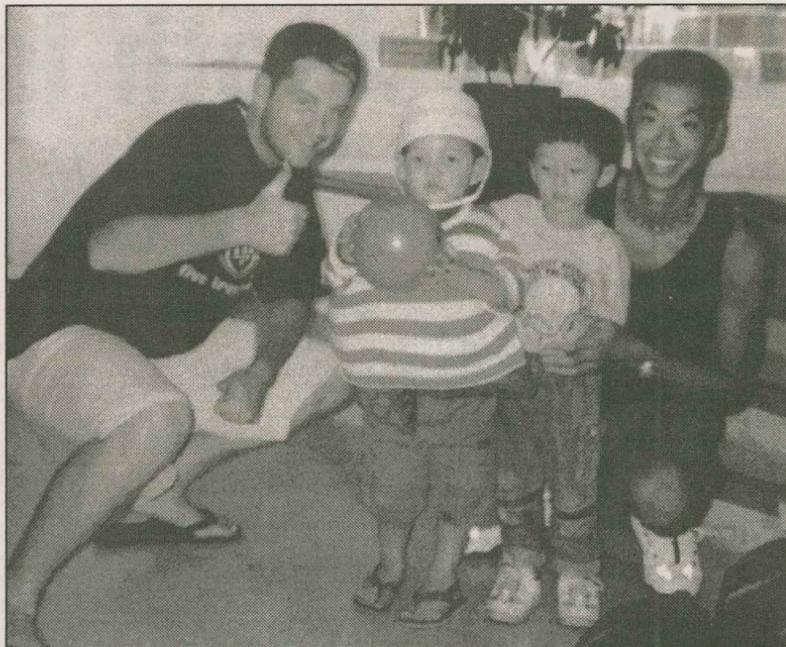
■ **RADCLIFF**—Stithon Church will present "Christmas Post," Dec. 5-7 with dinner at 6 p.m. and the performance at 7 p.m. For information, call (270) 351-6055.

■ **PEMBROKE**—Pembroke Church will present the cantata "Meet Him in the Manger" Dec. 23, 10:50 a.m. **Jack Studie** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSON**—First Church of Forest Hills will present a drive-through nativity drama Dec. 14-15, 6 to 9 p.m. **Carl Hess** is pastor.

### What's going on?

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



**INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH** Travis Westerfield (left), a semester missionary from Kentucky, and Darren Ho, a volunteer with Baptist collegiate ministries, entertain youngsters as part of a weekly ministry to internationals in Honolulu. Westerfield and Ho provide activities for the children while their parents attend an international Bible study each Friday evening.

## Mary Kay founder dies at age 83

DALLAS (BP)—Longtime Southern Baptist and cosmetics magnate Mary Kay Ash died Nov. 22 at her home in Dallas after spending several years in declining health. She was 83.

Ash made millions of dollars and became one of the most famous women in American business as founder of Mary Kay, Inc.

Ash's company grew from a sales force of 11 in 1963 to more than 850,000 in 37 countries as of last year, when wholesale revenue reached \$1.3 billion.

Ash was a member of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, where she served on several of the church's building committees. A memorial service was held Nov. 28 at Park Cities Baptist Church, where Ash's son, Richard Rogers, is a

member.

Ash's fans said she enriched women's lives at a time when it was difficult for them to succeed in the corporate world. Each year the convention she held in Dallas attracted thousands of saleswomen who were encouraged to move through the ranks of the company.

"I want you to become the highest-paid women in America," Ash often said in her motivational speeches.

Spokesman Randall Oxford said more than 150 women have made more than \$1 million with the company.

Mary Kay also created an award system for employees that was specifically designed for women, offering mink coats, diamond rings and, most famously, pink Cadillacs.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Hardinsburg Baptist Church seeks energetic servant to lead music ministry. The position will be part time. If interested, send resumé to: Hardinsburg Baptist Church, Box 54, Hardinsburg, KY 40143, Attn: Music Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate minister of music and youth. Monument Heights Baptist Church supports BGAV, CBF and SBC. Salary/benefits package commensurate with training/experience. Please submit resumé by Friday, Dec. 7, to: Personnel Committee, Monument Heights Baptist Church, 5716 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA 23226. E-mail: personnel@monument-heights.org.

**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:** Grace Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., is seeking a full-time minister of students. If interested, send resumé to: Grace Baptist Church, 1510 Old Hickory Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37207, Attn: Pastor André K. Dugger.

**SEEKING:** Director of Christian social ministries (managerial position directing the church's social ministries). Salary: \$20-25k plus benefits. Send resumé to: Walnut Street Baptist Church CSM Search Committee, 1143 S Third, Suite A, Louisville, KY 40203.

**SEEKING:** High Point Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 220 W Farthing St., Mayfield, KY 42066. E-mail: kent@apex.net.

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

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

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

# PEOPLE

## Wrist bands promote prayer for Sept. 11 victims' families

By David Gibson  
Religion News Service

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (RNS)—Given the appeal of inspirational wristlets like the ubiquitous "WWJD" band, plus the steady growth of the multibillion-dollar Christian merchandising industry, it probably was inevitable that someone would eventually market a prayer accessory to commemorate the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

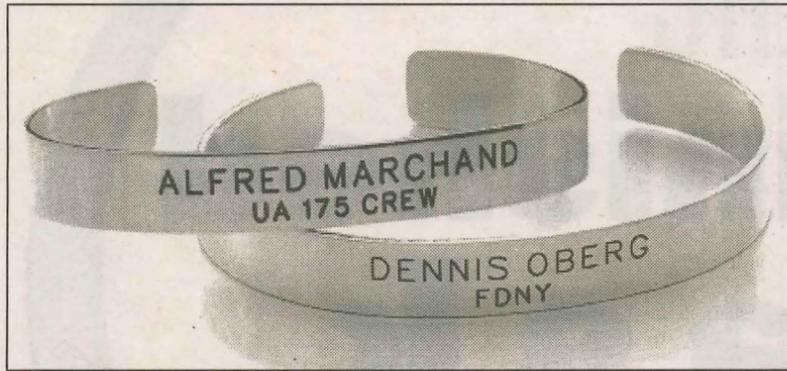
Sure enough, the wife of a pastor in New Mexico has come up with a product that already looks to be a winner: The Mercy BAND—the acronym stands for "Bearing Another's Name Daily"—a simple silver wristband, each embossed with the name of one of the thousands of victims.

The bands are intended to remind the wearer to keep that victim's family in his or her prayers, an idea that already shows great appeal.

Less than a month after going on sale, more than 20,000 of the "Mercy BAND" wristlets have gone to customers across the country, and there are plans to sell at least 50,000 more through the Internet, Christian bookstore chains and Billy Graham's evangelistic network.

The Mercy BAND is the brainchild of Lenya Heitzig, whose husband, Skip Heitzig, is the pastor of Calvary Church of Albuquerque, a 12,000-member evangelical Christian congregation that is the largest church in the state.

"We're really not trying to make money. We're trying to make mercy," said Heitzig, who sells the bands for \$20 through a production, warehousing and distribution system—complete with Web site—that she got up and running on Oct. 23. Within 24 hours, she had sold 1,500 bands, and the number is doubling each week.



**MERCY BANDS** Wrist bands, modeled after Vietnam POW remembrance bands, are being sold for \$5 to encourage wearers to pray for the families of terrorism victims.

Heitzig is donating bands to relatives of the victims. The bands already are popping up around the region as words spread.

"When I heard about it I was very, very touched," said Kathy Maher of Hamilton, N.J., whose husband, Daniel, died in the attacks on the Twin Towers. "I think it's a real comfort to the families."

Heitzig has mailed Maher and her two sons bands with Daniel's name on them.

Heitzig said Mercy BANDs have been shipped to all 50 states, as well as Canada and Europe. Each U.S. senator has one, courtesy of New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici. Churches are buying them in bulk, and coming back for more.

Heitzig's inspiration for the bands came as she was watching television coverage of the disaster and, like millions of others, feeling helpless. "I was saying, 'What can I do, Lord? Not just something nebulous.' I wanted it to be up close and personal."

Then the idea came to her: A band like the POW memorial bracelets she wore in high school that also incorporates a religious message like the pop-

ular WWJD and FROG wristlets, which stand for "What Would Jesus Do?" and "Fully Rely On God."

"What went through my mind is that 6,000 names is too many to wrap my brain around. But I could wrap my heart around one," she said during a telephone interview from the warehouse where she and a corps of volunteers ship out the bands.

"I think people all over the United States want that connection because we're not on the East Coast."

The bands cost about \$17 to produce and ship. The extra \$3 is a cushion, Heitzig said. And if there are any profits, she said they will be donated to small, targeted causes, such as a dead firefighter's fire company, or to rebuild a playground near the World Trade Center.

If a customer wants to request a specific name for a band, it costs an extra \$5. But Heitzig said more than 80 percent of the requests ask that the name be drawn at random from the list of victims in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. The list used is the Associated Press compilation of publicly confirmed names of dead and missing, which currently stands at

2,998. Of those, 2,430 had been entered in the Mercy B.A.N.D. database as of Nov. 27. Officials estimate the final death toll will total about 3,880.

Those who have requested a specific name have focused on a handful of victims: Barbara Olson, the conservative commentator and wife of Solicitor General Ted Olson, who died on the flight that crashed into the Pentagon, or Todd Beamer and Jeremy Glick, two New Jersey men who are believed to have tried to overtake the hijackers aboard United Flight 93 from Newark. The passenger revolt apparently forced the airliner to crash in Pennsylvania and likely avoided a wider massacre.

Heitzig wears the name of Alfred Marchand, a flight attendant from New Mexico who was on United Flight 175 that crashed into one of the towers.

"The idea of the BAND just fills me with more emotion than I can describe," said Marchand's widow, Becky. "The thought of people I don't even know and will never know wearing a BAND with Alfred's name on it, remembering him, praying for us, is tremendously comforting and reassuring."

Heitzig said she hopes the bands will be a tool for evangelism as much as a memorial. Included with each Mercy BAND is a brochure on how to recite The Lord's Prayer, the best-known Christian prayer.

"Saying, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done'—I think that's a great place to be right now," said Heitzig, who heads the women's ministry at Calvary Church. "I really don't know what's going to happen with the United States, with bin Laden, with the future."

"But I do know God has a plan, and He wants us to be in line with His will."

**"We're really not trying to make money. We're trying to make mercy."**

Lenya Heitzig, creator of the Mercy Band

## Book describes motivation behind inner-city Chicago baseball ministry

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—Inner-city kids grow up fast, learning to act tough and speak rough before many are even big enough to hold a baseball bat.

But their seemingly insurmountable list of problems—from random shootings to gang wars—didn't deter insurance broker Bob Muzikowski from figuring out how to use Little League baseball to such kids' advantage.

He tells his story, with the help of Gregg Lewis, in a new book, "Safe At Home: The True and Inspiring Story of Chicago's Field of Dreams."

Muzikowski's love of the game inspired him to bring Little League to kids in Chicago's roughest neighborhoods. For 10 years he has been the driving force behind a project that brings together volunteer coaches, many of them influential business executives, with youngsters isolated by poverty and other social ills.

He co-founded the Near North Little League for kids of Chicago's Cabrini-Green and is focusing now on the Near West Side

League, with more than 600 players. His first league won a "Point of Light Award" from former President George Bush and a Youth Services Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for helping change kids' lives.

His story was the basis for the movie "Hardball," starring Keanu Reeves, which was released this fall.

"How else would a guy from the Board of Trade meet a 12-year-old from Rockwell Gardens housing project?" Muzikowski asks of the unusual pairings of people initiated by his program.

"The kids are disconnected and what the league does, it just happens to be through baseball, is to connect people with means, education and a different perspective with kids in the inner city," he said. "Those people serve as mentors, foster parents. The carrot is baseball. There's no way these kids would meet a million dollar trader from the mercantile exchange but for baseball."

The relationships established go way beyond baseball. Volunteers, including men and women, mentor kids, tutor them,

provide scholarships to private schools, help parents find jobs and sometimes even become foster parents. These, Muzikowski said, are youngsters whose lives may be ripped apart by inner-city problems long before some finish elementary school.

In his book, he writes of going with a grandmother to the morgue to identify the body of her grandson, one of Muzikowski's players who was shot to death. He laments the times parents have dropped off players for a game and never returned to pick them up. With humor and candor, he writes of games disrupted and sometimes canceled by gunfire.

But not every story is sad. He tells of a player who played for the Oakland Raiders and now works for Coca-Cola and of another now finishing his junior year in college. Muzikowski's commitment to these Little League players includes being a model for them of such values as honesty, hard work and responsibility.

A 45-year-old evangelical Christian with an unabashed commitment to his faith, Muzikowski grew up streetwise in blue-collar Bayonne, N.J.

He played baseball as a kid, going on to

attend Columbia University on a scholarship. A detour into drugs and drinking almost ruined his career and his life. He credits Alcoholics Anonymous and a friend who bailed him out of jail and then took him to the emergency room for helping turn around his life. When the friend prayed with him, a gradual change began.

"Lightning didn't flash as we prayed," Muzikowski recounts in the book. "I heard no voices when we finished. But it was suddenly as if I had new eyes."

Those new eyes saw baseball as a way to bring change. It's a commitment he shares with his wife, Tina. The couple lives with their six children on Chicago's Near West Side. They are active in Armitage Baptist Church, an interracial congregation, and also keep an apartment in their basement, which they offer to folks struggling to get back on their feet, such as homeless people or recovering addicts.

Despite occasional setbacks, Muzikowski remains committed. All of his royalties from the book will go to his charities including Chicago Hope Academy, a nonprofit private school for inner-city kids which is scheduled to open next fall.

the  
**Unfinished  
Task**  
2001

*Planting with Passion*

Acts 9:31

**Week of Prayer for  
International Missions  
and  
International Mission Study**

December 2-9, 2001

**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

Offering goal: \$120 million