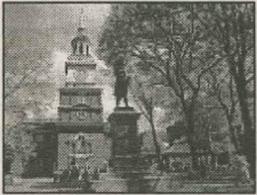


December 25, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 50

Notice: In observance of the holiday season, there will be no Western Recorder next week.

FOR THE RECORD**Baptists**

Seattle and Philly will get special attention in 2002. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

Small town churches have big hearts for children. *Page 3.*

Editorial

The grinch who is trying to steal autonomy. *Page 5.*

Survey

Forgive us our debts, but not our debtors. *Page 6.*

Nation

Panelists urge religious freedom in Afghanistan. *Page 7.*

Books

Jim Cymbala's latest book rates five stars. *Page 9.*

What else was there?

Other news overshadowed by events surrounding Sept. 11

We're sure something happened before Sept. 11. It's just hard to remember what.

From a news perspective, everything that occurred before the terrorists' attacks pales in comparison and everything since then somehow is impacted by the aftermath.

Four plane crashes didn't just plunge a country into war. They drove a nation to its knees in prayer, encouraged citizens to give selflessly and raised such issues as religious diversity and tolerance.

Churches were jolted out of business-as-usual to answer the questions from people who hadn't darkened their doors since Easter, if ever.

And a country suddenly didn't get upset if someone invoked God's name in a civic setting.

According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Sept. 11 unleashed an unprecedented awareness of the role of religion in public life. A recent Pew Forum survey found 78 percent of Americans polled said religion is on the rise.

"We can no longer pretend that there is this distinction between religion and politics," said Joan Rosenhauer of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "There's a heightened need for a deeper appreciation of the role that religion plays in international affairs."

But pollsters were careful to distinguish between public influence and private practice. Church attendance has returned to near-normal following a surge after the attacks, according to Barna and Gallup research organizations.

Some blame churches for failing to capitalize on the heightened interest created by the crisis.

"In the case of Sept. 11, it was ex-

trinsic motivation driving people to church—people seeking relief from their anxiety," said Paul Beard, co-author of "Motivating Your Church: How Any Leader Can Ignite Intrinsic Motivation and Growth."

"And what they found there was the same lack of relevance that made them leave the church years before."

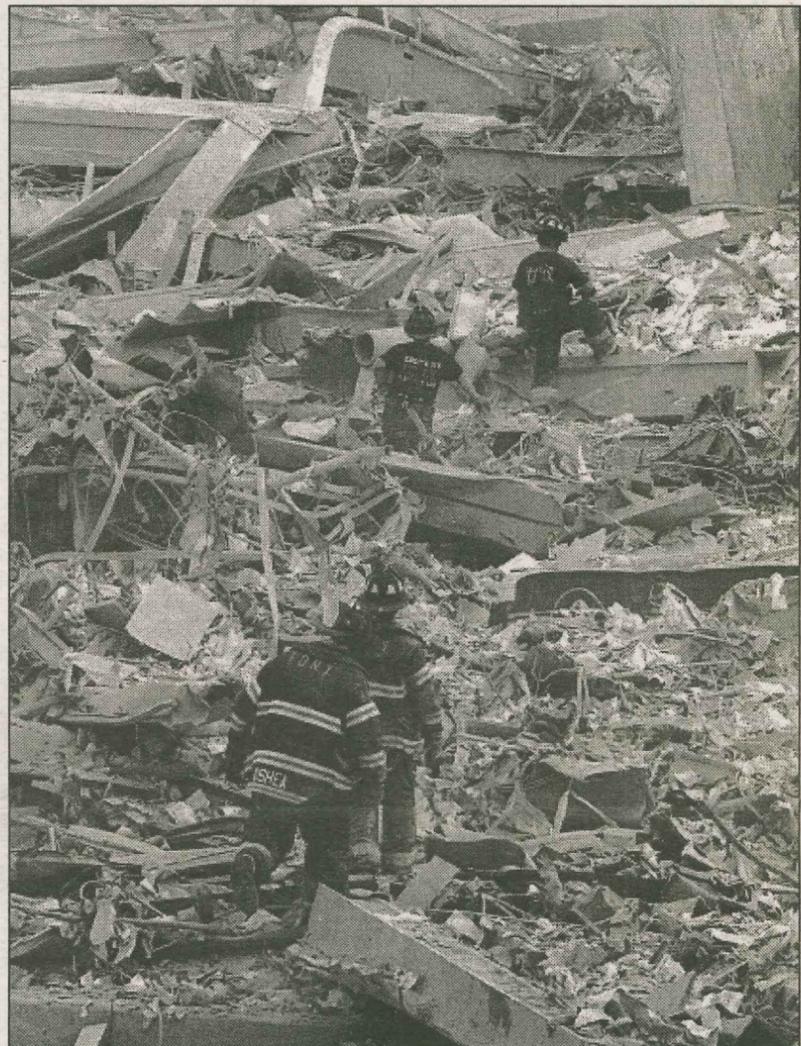
A review of events before and after Sept. 11 finds that other noteworthy news items did occur. Among the significant developments in Baptist life, the nation and around the world were:

■ **January.** President Bush was inaugurated as the nation's 43rd president after the disputed November election that introduced the nation to hanging chads and butterfly ballots.

Among Bush's first actions as president was to establish the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiative, designed to help channel government funds to secular and religious groups for a range of social services. Some groups praised Bush's plan; others expressed concern over church-state issues.

In international developments, devastating earthquakes hit El Salvador and India, killing thousands of people. Southern Baptist disaster relief workers were among volunteers who rushed to aid survivors.

■ **February.** The Georgia Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist North American Mission Board threatened to withdraw funding from Atlanta Baptist Association over its refusal to expel two homosexual-affirming churches. The actions followed an association vote of 253-164 in favor of a committee recommendation against dismissing the two churches. Later in the year, one church withdrew from the association and the



other was expelled. The association's funding was restored.

In Baptist work overseas, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board reported 6,520 new churches were established and more than 451,000 people were baptized during the past year. "God is at work," said IMB President Jerry Rankin, "and He is giving us the privilege of joining Him in astounding ways."

■ **March.** Santana High School in

Santee, Calif., became the latest school shooting scene March 5 when a 15-year-old gunman killed two students and injured 13 other people.

"This has been a difficult day for us," said Phil Herrington, pastor of Pathways Community Church, who helped coordinate counseling for students and families. "But this is the moment and time that we as Southern Baptists can be of tremendous help to

□ See Other news ..., page 8

Happy New Year! ... Four weeks too late, says Christian calendar

By Douglas Todd
Religion News Service

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (RNS)—Many Christians don't realize it, but their New Year's Day was Dec. 2—the first day of Advent and the beginning of the Christian church year.

But if Ed Searcy and his United Church of Canada congregation have anything to do with it, Christians throughout North America will begin paying more attention to the church year than the secular year.

Searcy and his congregation have created a unique calendar—"Salt of the Earth: A Christian Seasons Calendar."

Just as Jews, Muslims and Buddhists make an effort to follow their own particular spiritual calendar, Searcy's congregation wants Christians to recognize they too are a reli-

gious minority in a dominant secular culture and could benefit from being more aware of their own liturgical seasons.

"Our congregation began asking more than a year ago why we adopt the secular year. We realized creating a Christian seasons calendar was a cool idea and nobody else had ever done it," said Searcy, pastor of University Hill Congregation on the University of British Columbia campus.

Searcy said Christians need the guidance and courage to live out the Christian "narrative" of Jesus' ministry, suffering and resurrection in a way that is sharply distinct from secular culture, which turns the 12-day season of Christmas, for example, into a one-day consumer extravaganza.

"This is not an innocent project," he said. "This is not just a cute hang-on-the-wall calendar. It's a way to remind Christians that, even though we

are in this culture, we are not of this world."

Searcy's calendar does not look the same as a typical secular calendar, which Searcy said was invented by the Romans 1,600 years ago for largely bureaucratic reasons. Jan. 1 is significant, for example, mainly because it was the day Roman officials were assigned their new postings.

The Salt of the Earth calendar, instead of being divided into 12 months like the secular calendar, is organized into the seven liturgical seasons of Christianity.

The four weeks of Advent make up one page of the calendar, followed by a page for the 12 days for Christmas, as well as fold-out pages for the five weeks of Epiphany, seven weeks of Lent, seven weeks of the Easter season and five months marking the time after Pentecost.

Kudos have flowed in for the

Christian calendar from several major Christian figures.

Eugene Peterson, best-selling author of the "The Message" Bible translation and a professor at Vancouver's evangelical Regent College, said the calendar "brings fresh awareness to the essential sacredness of what is so easily profaned by hurry or sloth."

Walter Brueggemann, one of North America's foremost Old Testament scholars and a professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga., also praised the calendar: "This new calendar refers all our seasons back to the Lord of all time and may, in quite concrete daily ways, provide a form of resistance against the timelessness of consumerism back into the timefulness of our faith."

For more information, call the church at (604) 224-7011 or visit the calendar's Web site: www.thechristiancalendar.com.

BAPTISTS

Seattle & Philadelphia focus of 2002 Baptist outreach

A total of 169 churches have been formed and approximately 23,000 professions of faith have been recorded during the first two years of Southern Baptists' Strategic Focus Cities emphasis.

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Philadelphia and Seattle are a study in contrasts, from the historic birthplace of our nation's freedoms in the Northeast to the high-tech epicenter of the Northwest.

But Southern Baptists in both cities are gearing up for a common goal: impacting their communities with the gospel. They'll do it with the help of volunteers from across the country through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities outreach efforts.

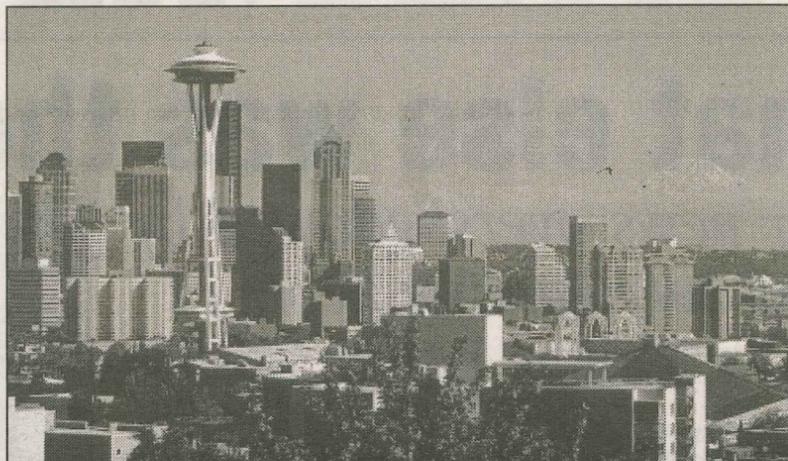
"We hope that we can work together with both Southern Baptists and other evangelical groups within these cities to make an impact for the kingdom," said Gary Frost, NAMB's vice president for strategic partnerships.

The 2002 efforts in both cities follow efforts in Chicago and Phoenix in 2000 and Boston and Las Vegas in 2001—although evangelism and church-planting efforts in each of the cities occurs both before and after the primary implementation year.

John Eckle, city coordinator for the "Embracing Seattle" effort, described that city as largely unchurched, with little Christian influence.

"It's an area that is so steeped in recreation and entrepreneurialism that people just don't seem to have time," Eckle said.

There are 120 churches in Puget Sound Baptist Association, "most of



STRATEGIC FOCUS Seattle will be one of two key cities for Southern Baptist evangelism and church planting efforts in 2002 through the Strategic Focus Cities emphasis. Baptist volunteers also will focus ministry efforts in Philadelphia.

them quite small," said Eckle. Ninety percent of the region's four million people do not attend church at all, and only 4 percent attend an evangelical congregation of any kind.

The population also is ethnically diverse, with a particularly strong contingent of Asians and Pacific Islanders. The largest Southern Baptist church, First Baptist Church of Tacoma, is a Korean congregation.

One of the most ambitious strategies for Embracing Seattle involves church planting. Organizers set a goal of starting 30 churches this year, and by mid-December 26 of those churches had been started. Plans also call for 60 new churches next year, and an-

other 90 the following year.

Prayer goals for Embracing Seattle also are ambitious, with 5,000 prayer warriors being enlisted across the country. Each volunteer is assigned to pray for a different family in the Puget Sound region each day during the next year, resulting in focused prayer for each of the area's 1.5 million families.

In Philadelphia, both the existing Southern Baptist presence and primary ministry areas are predominantly African-American and urban. Anglos make up only about 15 percent of the Southern Baptist churches, with predominantly African-American churches making up 65 percent and

other languages approximately 20 percent, according to Kathy Sheldon, associate city coordinator for the "Philadelphia Spirit" ministry effort.

"At the present time we have only one Anglo congregation in Philadelphia," she said, "so there's a great need for church planting."

Plans call for starting up to 70 churches during the next two years. Keystone Community Church, a flagship church established last year in partnership with First Baptist Church of Orlando, already has 300 members.

Multi-housing ministry, volunteer opportunities with a food bank and other local ministries, homeless shelters, clothing and feeding ministries and children's ministries will figure prominently into volunteer needs.

"We want to see people come to know the Lord, and we want it to be a lasting effect," Sheldon said. "We don't want it to be just a one-time thing."

"I don't really think people in Philadelphia have a clue about what Southern Baptists are," she added. "So if we can come across offering a positive influence, that will help us create a strong positive image."

Teams of volunteers will be needed in both cities to help lead block parties, vacation Bible school, prayer walking, door-to-door canvassing and other projects.

For more information about ministry opportunities, visit the Web sites www.embracingseattle.com or www.Philadelphiaspirit.com.

Former national WMU leaders launch new missions organization

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—Global Women, a new women's missions organization with ties to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was launched this month.

Officers of the group include former national leaders of Woman's Missionary Union, including president Dorothy Sample, a former national WMU president; vice president Carolyn Crumpler, executive director of WMU in 1974-1989 and later moderator of CBF; and treasurer Catherine Allen, a former WMU staff member.

Incorporators include Alma Hunt, WMU executive secretary in 1948-

1974, and Dellanna O'Brien, WMU executive director in 1989-1999. Suzannah Raffield, also an incorporator, will be the group's full-time coordinator.

The new organization will attempt to "create and cultivate global friendships among women for shared learning and service for all humanity," according to legal documents.

A purpose statement says the organization will "enable evangelical women to help women and their families to obtain a life of faith and benefit." Though started by Baptists, the organization is open to full participa-

tion from all "missions-minded evangelicals," including men.

The first year's work is projected to include international partnership projects, conferences for young women, building an infrastructure for appointing women as missionaries and working with others wishing to expand humanitarian aid and evangelism among women, Raffield said.

The group says it wants to complement work of both WMU and CBF.

Daniel Vestal, coordinator of CBF, said: "I am inspired by the founders of Global Women. . . . The birth of Global Women is fresh evidence of the

Spirit's continued empowering."

Gary Baldrige, co-coordinator of the CBF's global missions division, said he looks "forward to cooperating in every way possible" with the group.

"We want to multiply women missionaries," Allen noted. She said the organization "will be an advocate and also an action agent for women in missions."

Funding will be "by churches and individuals who have a global vision of ministry for and by women," Allen added. She said Global Women might also develop publications and projects that are "more-or-less self-funding."

Missouri board to retain attorney; moderates explore new convention

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—The Missouri Baptist Convention's Executive Board voted Dec. 11 to hire an attorney and obtain a legal opinion on whether trustees of five MBC entities acted illegally in voting to establish self-perpetuating boards.

The action came one day after the moderate Mainstream Missouri Baptists organization announced it is ceasing operation Dec. 31 in anticipation of establishing a separate state convention.

The MBC Executive Board vote is the convention's latest reaction to votes by trustees of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Windermere Conference Center, Missouri Baptist College, Word & Way and the Baptist Home to become self-perpetuating.

"We are appointing a subcommit-

tee to retain legal counsel and a legal opinion with the emphasis on restoration and reconciliation and to include Christian arbitration," said MBC President Bill Curtis. The group is expected to report to the full board in April.

In other action, a subcommittee was formed to study the feasibility of starting a new MBC newsjournal. Another subcommittee will review contractual and lease agreements the MBC has with the Baptist Foundation, Word & Way and Windermere.

Doyle Sager, president of Mainstream Missouri Baptists, announcing in a Dec. 10 letter the group's decision to close its doors. "We are stepping aside so that more permanent options in Missouri Baptist life may come to the forefront without confusion or duplication," he wrote.



Graham, Baptist Faith & Message head Kentucky news

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

A Billy Graham crusade, the work of a Baptist Faith and Message study committee and the ongoing legal issues facing the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children were among top news topics during 2001 for Western Recorder readers. Those and other Bluegrass State news stories in the Baptist Faith and Message study committee include:

1. Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade. The famed Baptist evangelist led a four-day crusade in Louisville June 21-24. It was the first Graham crusade in Kentucky in 30 years. Attendance at the interdenominational event at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium topped 190,000 and included more than 10,000 public spiritual decisions.

"People are searching for something that can only be found in God," Graham declared. "God hasn't changed."

Graham is scheduled to return to the region next year for the June 27-30 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission.

2. Baptist Faith and Message. Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers adopted the report and recommendation of a nine-member Baptist Faith and Message study committee Nov. 14 in Murray. The action affirmed the Bible "as the basis for all our faith and practice."

Avoiding the division seen in some other state conventions over how to relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement, messengers also

adopted the committee's proposal to "acknowledge the value" of faith statements dating from 1742 to the Southern Baptist Convention's current version.

3. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The KBHC made progress in its legal battles this summer. U. S. District Judge Charles Simpson ruled that the agency's decision to fire a lesbian employee three years ago did not constitute religious discrimination. In the same ruling, Simpson declined to dismiss the plaintiffs' claim that state funding of KBHC services violates the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. Court action on that issue still is pending.

4. Disaster relief. In addition to serving in New York after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers responded this year to disastres in El Salvador, New England, West Virginia and Eastern Kentucky. More than 60 volunteers worked in Floyd County in August, helping clean out more than 30 homes damaged by flash floods.

5. Ten Commandments. Posting the Ten Commandments on public property continues to be a topic of debate and legal wrangling in Kentucky. In Harlan County, the board of education reposted the Ten Commandments along with other historical documents in the school district's administrative offices. The American Civil Liberties Union, citing a pending lawsuit, earlier asked a U.S. District judge to hold two other Kentucky counties in contempt for similar repostings in their courthouses. Baptists

have come down on both sides of the issue with some citing religious freedom and others expressing concern over church-state entanglement.

6. Cross Over the Purchase. Kentucky Baptists hosted their first-ever Cross Over evangelistic emphasis in conjunction with last month's KBC annual meeting in Western Kentucky. Coordinator Dan Garland said more than 1,000 churches took part in prayer needs surveys, "Jesus" video distribution, block parties, servant evangelism projects and other activities.

7. Partnership missions. Kentucky Baptists launched a new international missions partnership in Europe and concluded a three-year partnership in Tanzania. The new partnership with the European Baptist Convention involves 68 English-language churches in 22 European countries. The partnership with Baptists in Tanzania involved more than 200 Kentucky Baptist volunteers. The state convention also has partnerships with Baptists in Poland and New England.

8. Baptist politics. Conservative and moderate leaders led efforts to mobilize messengers for the KBC annual meeting. The conservative Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network partnered with Students for Convention Involvement, an informal student organization at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, in an effort to elect conservative candidates as KBC officers. Mainstream Kentucky Baptists, a moderate group formed in response to the Laymen's Network, sought to en-

list messengers sympathetic to their views. Messengers elected Harold Greenfield KBC president by a vote of 909-651 over Tom Butler. While both men are theologically conservative, Greenfield received an unsolicited endorsement from Mainstream Baptists and Butler was endorsed by the Laymen's Network.

9. Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. Leaders of Modest Seminary of Kentucky, a moderate seminary that has been in the planning stages for several years, named a president to seek to move those plans into reality. Greg Earwood, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, was elected president by seminary trustees effective Sept. 1. The proposed seminary was incorporated in the mid-1990s in response to the conservative shift at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and other Southern Baptist entities. Seminary leaders hope to start offering classes next year.

10. Georgetown College reaffirms KBC ties. Trustees of Georgetown College voted to reaffirm their historic relationship to the state convention while pursuing Phi Beta Kappa status. Georgetown President Bill Crouch said trustees considered ways to alter the school's trustee selection process but determined that the college is "absolutely committed to our partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

Members of the KBC Executive Board voted in May to express "appreciation and affirmation" for Georgetown's decision to maintain its state convention ties.

Baptist hospital declines to sign anti-gay-bias pact

LEXINGTON—Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington has refused to sign an agreement that it won't discriminate against gay volunteers.

The refusal means the Lexington-based Community Action Council will no longer place volunteers with the hospital, according to the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Since August, the council has asked organizations that use volunteers from its programs to abide by the city's "fairness ordinance," passed in 1999. The law bars discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Central Baptist's lawyers have said they don't think the law applies to volunteers, the Herald-Leader stated.

The hospital follows all federal state and local laws that prohibit discrimination, according to hospital spokeswoman Ruth Ann Childers.

Tiny places with big hearts bless youth at Homes for Children

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

HYDEN—Kentucky Baptists who live and worship in small communities have demonstrated huge hearts for children and teenagers in crisis, especially this Christmas.

The congregations of Muncy Creek Baptist in Hyden, West Point Baptist in Centertown and First Baptist Church of Ludlow are three examples.

Members of Muncy Creek have sponsored KBHC foster children for three Christmases. "It started with a sock," said Rhonda Brashear, who gives the children's sermon each week at the Eastern Kentucky church.

Brashear said she collected odd socks from home and asked the children to save pennies, nickels and dimes in the socks and then give the money to a worthy cause. "The kids wanted to give the money to KBHC."

The sock offering eventually became "Nickel Sunday," a monthly offering of pocket change designed for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Southern Region Family Foster Care program. Brashear said that when the time came to start a Christmas project, the children and adults already were thinking of the Homes for Children.

This year the congregation, whose average attendance is 50 people, bought Christmas gifts for more than 40 KBHC foster children. The Nickel Sunday offering totaled more than

\$760.

Christina, 18, and Amber, 10, came to Muncy Creek with their foster care specialist to receive the gifts and to thank the congregation. The sisters have been in foster care for three years, after their mother died in a car accident.

"What you all do is so amazing," Christina said. "All of you bless us so much. ... It's not just the material things. It's your such loving hearts. That's all any lost child really needs."

West Point Baptist Church in Centertown began its ministry for the children's home with pajamas and the familiar Christmas itch "to do something special for someone," said Kay Rucker, wife of pastor Tommy Rucker.

"We made up gift bags for the girls at Spring Meadows last year," Mrs. Rucker said. "We put in toiletries, pajamas and things like that. We wanted to do the same this year, and since we bought for the girls last year, we wanted to buy for the boys this year."

The church's Women on Mission group coordinated the project, assembling the gift bags for the boys, and collecting enough money to buy other items, including portable CD stereos for each boy in one of the cottages located on the Louisville campus.

Another check of the budget yielded a new TV, VCR and videotapes for the cottage. Mrs. Rucker said she and the other women were amazed at the amount of money donated. "For our little church to be able to do that, it

was a God thing."

But that wasn't the end of their ministry, Mrs. Rucker added. "God had bigger things in mind. We found out that the (Spring Meadows) girls needed sponsors, too. I told the staff person that I knew that God would provide."

Mrs. Rucker said she did not think that God would choose to provide through West Point again. "By the time I got home that night, a friend called to say that she'd had another \$600 donated," Mrs. Rucker said. In just a few days, West Point reproduced its generosity for the Spring Meadows girls. In all, the congregation raised \$2,400 for KBHC children. "It made my Christmas to see the excitement on the kids' faces."

This year First Baptist Church of Ludlow received a record number of donations for its food ministry. Coordinator Clyde Martin attributed the increase to the spirit of giving prompted by the Sept. 11 attacks.

Students from the Ludlow Independent School District collected more than 11,000 items, Martin noted. Last year the total number of food items collected was 6,100, he said.

The outpouring of donations created a storage problem, he said. "I know how much I'm going to need in the year. It just came to me that we could give the overload to KBHC."

In a community of approximately 4,500 residents, the food ministry serves 65 families each month with a four-day supply of food and other es-



entials. The ministry's donation to KBHC's annual Food Roundup comprised the largest single contribution this year.

Tom Townsend, vice president for development and communications at KBHC, said the generosity of Kentucky congregations is humbling.

"In a time when many non-profits are seeing decreases in giving because of the overwhelming response to the victims of Sept. 11, KBHC has actually seen an increase in giving compared to the same period last year," he said. "The only reason this is happening is the faithfulness of Kentucky Baptists."

PLAYING SANTA
Tommy Rucker, pastor of West Point Baptist Church in Centertown, delivers Christmas gifts to girls at Spring Meadows Children's Home. West Point provided gifts for girls and boys at the Louisville campus for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. "We give these gifts because of the gift God gave us, Jesus Christ," Rucker said. (KBHC photo by Dannah Prather)

WESTERN RECORDER

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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*

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Futile exercise?

The lengths to which seminary pooh-bahs will go to achieve silliness is seen in the recent establishment of a position labeled "dean of globalization" at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The current dean of theology has been assigned the new position.

The dictionary definition of globalization is to make worldwide in scope or application. Theology is the study of religious faith, practice and experience, especially the study of God and God's relation to the world. In other words, the current theology dean has just been reassigned from teaching God's relation to the world to making something (presumably God) worldwide in scope. That sort of sounds like the same thing.

Since this makes no sense, perhaps the new "globalology" dean is supposed to apply the world's beliefs (assuming he can synergize them) to God. However, since evangelical consensus is that no earthly power, tangible or intangible, can enforce any action on God, such a deanship would constitute an exercise in futility, maybe one as impossible as Southwestern's abrogating the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

When I was in grade school, there was a global study called geography, in which I was required to locate countries, capitals, etc. Since the expert consensus is that college graduates (incoming seminary students) rarely know even U.S. state capitals, Southwestern might be on to something here, a remedial course in geography. How could any preacher possibly lead his congregation without knowing the latitude, longitude and capital of Tajikistan?

Southwestern is on the cutting edge. Churches will fall over each

other hunting pastors with doctorates in globalology. As for writing scholarly articles, men with PhDs, ThDs, MDivs, MMs, DMin and assorted other degrees will be spurned unless they have that price-less GID. Moses would have given 40 years for one.

James L. Clark
Lexington

The word of faith

Some brothers have taken umbrage concerning my comments about John Broadus and the notion of biblical inerrancy.

I have failed to find where Broadus used "inerrancy" to describe the Bible. Nor do I find where he used it as a political tool for control.

I do find in his commentary on Matthew

17:21 where he speaks of "spurious" texts in the New Testament. Also I see in his book on homiletics, "Preparation and Delivery of Sermons," where he presents a list of "spurious" passages.

Nor do I find the term "inerrancy" in Southern Baptist Seminary's Abstract of Principles, nor in the New Hampshire Confession of Faith.

The committee revising the Baptist Faith and Message wisely left out "inerrant" in reference to the Bible for it is an absolute adjective and does not apply. Left in are the statements that the Bible "is a perfect treasure of divine instruction" and has "truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter." These affirmations reference faith, "the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3). It is the faith that is without error. It is the good news of the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, the presence of Jesus in the Holy Spirit and His coming again at the end of the age.

I believe this is what Broadus

meant in saying the writers of the Bible made no errors. If he did not, then he must have meant the autographs (which we do not possess) were without error, a hermeneutic gymnastic of inerrantists who seek refuge behind the autograph bush when pressed for what they mean about believing in an inerrant Bible.

Jesus Christ is the Word (John 1). It is our joy to discover the Word within the inspired words of the Bible that witness to Jesus Christ, the Word of faith.

Henlee Barnette
Louisville

Major differences

Gene Iglehart contends in a Nov. 27 letter that Islam acknowledges the existence of the same Supreme Being that Christians do, but he agrees that it assigns different attributes to God than we do.

The importance of these differing attributes cannot be overemphasized. In short, we acknowledge and worship a Triune God; they do not. Jesus said: I and the Father are one (John 10:30).

Jesus also said to deny Him is to deny God (1 John 2:23) and to dishonor Him is to dishonor God (John 5:23). Yet Islam holds that Jesus is merely a prophet inferior to Mohammed.

It does not seem inappropriate to paraphrase Jesus when He spoke to the woman at the well: They worship they know not what (John 4:32).

Tom Frey
Springfield, Va.

Required reading?

Concerning the article of Dec. 11 about the distribution of 42,000 Pressler books to Southern Baptist pastors, I would like to ask two questions: Is it required reading and will there be a test?

Dick Meuth
Brandenburg

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Ministry opportunities in 2002

In Psalm 78:6-9 the writer describes what happens when a generation fails to obey God. The next generation loses hope, forgets the mighty works of God and disobeys God. Each generation is challenged to make known to the next generation the commands of God in such a way that they will teach the next generation. Consequently, the next generation should be stronger.

Ephraim is given as an example of what happens when a generation is not faithful. The next generation, although armed, "turned back in the day of battle."

Revival has come in the past because people were desperate for God to move and they were unwilling to settle for anything less. We can find consensus as Kentucky Baptists, but can we find the conviction to surrender everything to Jesus Christ?

Here are what I consider the keys for focus in 2002:

■ Mission is more important than money. I am grateful for the wisdom of Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders in being good stewards. We are in a good position financially because our leaders did not bury the "talent" but invested it wisely through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

But we cannot afford to lose sight of the mission. We must learn to complement each other and not compete. It's not about us; it's about the mission that God has for us. If we spend our time trying to protect what we have, we'll lose it.

Jesus said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:25).

■ Health is more important than harmony. We seek security in people of like mind instead of health in the body. Lack of physical health results in premature death. Lack of health in the church results in ineffec-

tiveness and tension.

Healthy relationships among the churches are more important than toleration. We might get along, but are we biblical in our relationships and our focus on mission? Have we experienced kingdom growth? We must build healthy relationships!

■ Obedience is more important than all of the above. How are we going to ensure that the next generation will not turn their backs in battle and that our hope in Christ will be shared with the nations? I think it begins with our personal walk with the Lord. Things might be back to normal for some people, but not for me. I am looking to the Lord, listening to the Lord and seeking to learn from the Lord more than ever. We must move to new levels in obedience to Jesus Christ.

We have new opportunities in 2002 to focus on the mission, build healthy relationships and move to new levels of obedience. How you respond begins today.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Informed choices help prepare for 'new' retirement

By Don Spencer

Many perceptions people have about retirement are based on retirement models that go back to the years after the Depression. Attitudes and approaches to planning for retirement have developed from these perceptions. However, the old models are no longer true. Several ways in which today's retirement are different include:

■ **Retirees are spending more years in retirement.** First, we are living longer. Second, more people are retiring at a younger age. More money will be needed to fund those added years.

■ **Retirees are spending active longer.** Extended retirement involves several phases. Some observers have referred to these as the "go-go" stage, the "slow-go" stage and the "no-go" stage. The financial needs differ for each.

■ **Increased activity requires increased finances.** For many people, the cost of the retirement lifestyle will be similar to the cost of the pre-retirement lifestyle.

■ **Inflation will increase the need for income by two or three times during retirement.** Many people retire with a reasonably adequate income at age 65 or 70, but when they are in their 80s inflation has cut their buying power in half.

■ **Income sources are different.** In the past, people looked to the "three-legged stool"—pension income, savings and Social Security. Planners today suggest retirees think in terms of a "four-legged stool" which includes continued income from employment, even if part-time.

■ **Taxes, estate planning and insurance have become increasingly important to the retirement planning process.** In the past, generally only the very wealthy gave attention to these areas.

While a meaningful retirement involves much more than financial issues, adequate income is essential for retirement to be all that it can be. Evaluate your perceptions and how they compare to the "new" retirement.

Remember: Time and money are the two essentials in having adequate income in retirement. The more you have of one, the less you need of the other. Do you want to retire when you have enough money or do you want to have enough money when you retire? Plan accordingly now.

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



Bill Mackey

Invite teens to set life goals as part of New Year's focus

Q: My teenage daughter is not as ambitious as I would like her to be. How can I help her set some realistic life goals at the beginning of 2002?

Goal-setting can be a great activity for parents and teens to participate in together, provided that you are prepared to let your daughter set her goals instead of you. While you can provide ideas and guidance, the older the teen is the more important it is that he or she does the lion's share of the work.

I like to use four categories for goal-setting that parallel the ways the scripture documents Jesus' growth in Luke 2:52: mental, physical, spiritual and social. Next, I add the following if they are appropriate: emotional, financial, career and life experiences. Goals should be specific, measurable, attainable and energizing. Teens should be encouraged to set no more than two or three goals in each area and think about dividing these into short-term (less than a year), medium-term (one to five years) and long-term (more than five years).

Sharing the process of your own goal-setting can invite conversation about faith, morality and ethics as underlying motivation and rationale are discussed. Further, teens have the benefit of experiencing you in the much-appreciated position of player/coach.

One fun and stimulating variant of goal setting is an approach I first heard from legendary football coach Lou Holtz. He said that as a young man he made a checklist of 101 things he wanted to accomplish in his life. He has then proceeded to accomplish many of his goals and add things to his list along the way.

Additionally, I often ask teens to make a list of the things they already have accomplished in their life of which they are most proud. This is a good self-esteem builder.—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: With terrorism rocking the world and our country at war, it seems harder than ever to anticipate the new year. As a single adult, celebrating the coming of another 12 months is hard enough with all the pressure to have a date to share in the inevitable festivities. Any words of wisdom?

You touch on some issues affecting everyone this year. It can be especially challenging for single adults who have to process world events without the benefit of a marital partner. Some suggestions:

■ *You can make a difference in this war-torn world.* While supporting our soldiers serving overseas, we hurt for the children of war. The people of Afghanistan have endured three years of drought, two decades of war, and now aerial bombardment. About 70,000 of their children have died or been maimed by land mines during the past 10 years. Sharing a financial gift through a Christian relief agency would be a great way to shine the light of Christ in a darkened world.

■ *You can get together with other single adults, creating a special New Year's bash.* Make reservations at a nice restaurant and make it a big deal. You don't have to be a couple to have a really special time. You can surround yourself with special friends, recalling the past year and anticipating the year ahead.

■ *You might choose to take a quiet Sabbath retreat.* Evaluate the past year in terms of spiritual growth. Set some meaningful goals for the next 12 months. Pray, journal, read Scripture and other inspirational writings. Suggestions for this approach are in the video, "The Art of Doing Nothing," available from www.terryhershey.com.

Mark the year's transition with proven, spiritual ways and have a truly "Happy New Year!"—*James Stillwell*

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.



The grinch who is trying to steal autonomy

Picture this scene: The tiny village of Whoville is the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, a small convention of about 100 churches in the nation's capital. The grinch in this case is the powerful Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, a multi-million-dollar operation with ministry partnerships throughout the United States and Canada.

In addition to its historic affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, the D.C. convention is aligned with the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

NAMB officials reportedly are concerned about DCBC's affiliation with denominations that are less conservative than the SBC on theological and social issues. As a result, NAMB leaders have given D.C. convention officials a list of conditions for the convention to continue receiving NAMB funding.

DCBC Executive Director Jeffrey Haggray describes the action as "an unsolicited ultimatum." NAMB President Robert Reccord claims it is "not an edict or ultimatum, but a proposal."

The "proposal" calls for restructuring the D.C. convention's staff to make SBC-funded staff members supervised directly by NAMB. That, according to Haggray, "would undermine our autonomy and subjugate the work of our departments and staff to an appointee from NAMB."

But there's more. NAMB's document specifies that D.C. Baptists "must agree not to promote the cultural festivals that include non-Christian religious organizations," the convention's newspaper "should not contain any future articles that will denigrate the SBC and its leadership nor any of its agencies" and speakers of DCBC-sponsored meetings are to "reflect the theological tenets of the SBC."

If the D.C. convention fails to comply, it stands to lose up to \$475,000 a year from NAMB, nearly one-third of the convention's \$1.5 million annual budget.

Now you can see why Haggray considers NAMB's move an ultimatum.

The problem is that NAMB has no business seeking to dictate to an autonomous convention how it should organize its staff, what it should publish in its paper or what views speakers should espouse.

The purpose of a cooperative agreement between NAMB and any state convention is to determine the amount of funding NAMB will provide for jointly developed mission projects and missionaries. It is not to use Cooperative Program funds to force a convention to stay in line with NAMB's views on news coverage, speakers and other issues.

In fact, the DCBC's current agreement with NAMB specifies that "general administration and promotion of the strategic mission plan shall be by the state convention."

That fits in well with the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement on cooperation which notes that associations and conventions "are voluntary and advisory bodies" that "have no authority over one another or over the churches." NAMB's role is to serve as a resource to state conventions, not to dictate ministry philosophies to them.

Make no mistake. If NAMB succeeds in dictating ministry decisions to DCBC, it eventually will seek to do the same thing elsewhere. Conventions in Mississippi and Texas are opting to retain funds for mission work within their states, reducing NAMB's role as a ministry middleman. Perhaps it's time for Kentucky and other conventions to consider similar action.

In the meantime, hopefully NAMB's heart will grow three sizes and Whoville, D.C., will be saved—along with historic Baptist autonomy.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Western Recorder concludes 175th anniversary emphasis

This week marks the conclusion of the Western Recorder's yearlong 175th anniversary celebration.

Anniversary events have included display booths at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in February and last month's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Murray. The Recorder's annual report to the KBC featured a musical video tribute by Christian vocalist Larnelle Harris.

Staff members also distributed more than 500 free copies of the book, "Daley Observations: The Best of C.R. Daley's Western Recorder Editorials," at associational meetings and the state convention meeting. Daley, who served 27 years as Western Recorder editor, was considered the "dean" of state Baptist paper editors when he retired in 1984.

Another major project was the 50-part series on the Western Recorder's history that has run in each issue of the paper this year. The series was researched and written by Jack Birdwhistell, professor of religion at Georgetown College; Duane Bolin, associate professor of history at Murray State University; Recorder Editor Trennis Henderson; and

Joyce Martin, the Recorder's partnership editions editor.

Recounting the history of the oldest weekly Baptist paper in the nation has featured a variety of topics and individuals. Dating back more than a decade before the Kentucky Baptist Convention was established, the forerunner of the Western Recorder debuted in 1826 as the Baptist Register. The paper's name changed several times before it officially became the Western Recorder in 1851.

From pre-Civil War days to topics as current as KBC partnership missions, this series has examined consistency and changes reflected in the pages of the Western Recorder.

Among highlights of the anniversary series are:

■ "Among the early Baptist journalists in Kentucky, none was more influential than John L. Waller. ... Waller, a native-born Kentucky Baptist who gained recognition and influence at an early age and died at an early age (44), left a significant imprint on early Kentucky Baptist life. He successfully set Kentucky Baptist journalism on a firm footing and gave it a stability that continues 150 years later."

■ During the final decade of the 19th century, Kentucky Baptists and the Western Recorder became deeply involved in the "Whitsitt Controversy," one of the most divisive controversies in Kentucky Baptist history. William Whitsitt, elected president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1895, stated his view that Baptists did not begin to practice baptism by immersion until the early 1640s. Baptist historian J.H. Spencer and Recorder Editor T.T. Eaton attacked Whitsitt's views as "heretical." As opposition grew, Whitsitt eventually resigned as seminary president.

■ If you had been a reader of the Western Recorder in 1900, you would have needed to look no further than the state Baptist paper's advertisements to find cures for the body, mind and soul, including an ad for Swamproot. "We recommend it to all humanity who are suffering from kidney and bladder disease," the ad boldly declared.

■ "No editor had a larger impact on the Western Recorder than Chauncey Rakestraw Daley. ... Daley refused to ignore the pressing issues of the day such as segregation. Ever the visionary, he concluded that 'the years ahead will likely make Baptists who champion segregation today appear as ridiculous as those who now appear who championed slavery in the 19th century.'"



New York church sues city to let homeless sleep on steps

NEW YORK (RNS)—A prominent New York City church has asked a federal judge to prohibit police from removing several dozen homeless people who sleep on the church's steps each night.

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, in a suit co-filed with the American Civil Liberties Union, said recent overnight police raids violated the right to "free association" of the church and the homeless people and constituted trespassing on private property.

Beginning Dec. 4, police made three overnight raids, telling the 40 or so homeless people that they had to leave, go to a city shelter or face arrest. The church's pastor, Thomas Tewell, wrote Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik to express his "extreme disappointment," according to the New York Times.

The imposing church in the heart of New York's premier shopping district has run a 10-person homeless shelter since 1986, but it also offers sanctuary and a hot cup of coffee to the several dozen people who sleep on the church steps.

According to the church's Web site, church members "have made an intentional effort to get to know these church visitors." A recent study found that most of the homeless visitors stay only a few nights and some for several months. With the church's help, the Web site says, 14 people have found permanent housing, three have been reunited with families and six have received needed medical attention.

Under an informal agreement with the city, the homeless people can stay there only between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. and must abide by other rules, such as those prohibiting foul language and blocking of sidewalks.

City officials said the overnight homeless people amounted to an illegal shelter, and denied that police were targeting the homeless. "We can do better. It's not rounding up these people for arrest. It's providing meaningful social services." Daniel Connolly, an attorney for the city, told the Times.

Muslims among U.S.'s fastest growing faiths

HARTFORD, Conn. (RNS)—The number of mosques in the United States is on the increase, according to a study of 41 religious denominations by Hartford Seminary.

The number of mosques in the nation increased 42 percent between 1990 and 2000—to at least 1,200—outpacing the 12 percent average increase among churches for evangelical Protestant denominations and the 2 percent average increase among mainline Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox groups.

Sixty percent of the 416 randomly selected mosques reported at least a 10 percent increase in membership between 1995 and 2000, according to the seminary's "Faith Communities Today" study, which surveyed more than 14,000 religious congregations in 41 faiths.

Forty-eight percent of Mormon congregations reported similar growth numbers, as did 39 percent of evangelical Protestant congregations and 29 percent of Roman Catholic and Orthodox parishes.

About 27 percent of mainline Protestant congregations reported such an increase. Megachurches of all denominations ranked above Muslims at the top, with a reported average increase of 83 percent.

The increase of mosques suggests that "Islam is one of the fastest growing religious groups in the United States," said professor David Roozen, director of Hartford Seminary's Institute for Religion Research and a co-director of the study.

Survey: Americans feel forgiven, but aren't forgiving their enemies

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (RNS)—A University of Michigan study on forgiveness has found that almost 75 percent of those surveyed believe they've been forgiven by God for past mistakes and wrongdoing, but only 52 percent say they have forgiven others.

The study of a nationally representative sample of 1,423 Americans conducted by the university's Institute for Social Research also found that while nearly 60 percent of those surveyed said they had forgiven themselves, only 43 percent said they had actively sought forgiveness for harm they have done.

Older people were more likely than younger ones to feel forgiven by God, although respondents of all ages reported feeling high levels of divine forgiveness. That finding "slightly surprised" Loren Toussaint, a psychologist who is the lead author of the study report published in the Journal of Adult Development in October.

"I think all of us, at one time or another, when we've made the

same mistakes over and over again, have felt that we must be a disappointment in God's eyes," he said. "Yet there's a remarkably high level of confidence across the country that God forgives us, compared to a much lower level of forgiveness of oneself and others."

About 80 percent of adults age 45 and older said they knew that God forgave them for their sins and that this knowledge strengthened them in facing their faults and being better people, compared with 69 percent of adults 44 and younger.

Researchers discovered that some kinds of forgiveness led to negative outcomes.

"High levels of 'proactive forgiveness,' which involves asking forgiveness from someone you've hurt, asking God to forgive you, or praying to God to forgive someone who has hurt you, were strongly linked with high levels of psychological distress," said Toussaint, who currently is affiliated with Idaho State University.

Teamwork

Taking advantage of the seasonal slowdown at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, I am working with our leadership team on John Maxwell's "17 Indisputable Laws of Teamwork."

We have only begun this training series, but Maxwell's first law is not only true but also genuinely appropriate this time of the year.

Maxwell has proven to be a master of putting profound thoughts into easily understandable and transferable language that works. His first law in this series is known as "The Law of Significance." It says, "One is too small a number to achieve greatness." Oh how true this is of our ministry at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. When I consider the progress we have made, it is due to the collaboration and efforts of many individuals, some of whom have retired since we started, like Harold Barnes and Deward Hurst; many of whom are still on this team. Harold and Deward both invested significant parts of their lives, as did many before them, that both places would become camp and conference centers where God would move and work in glorious ways. Harold and Deward had teams that worked diligently to do the work

that had to be done. We have men and women who do the same now.

But Maxwell's statement brings to mind part of the core values of what Baptist work is about in Kentucky and around the world. Namely, that we can accomplish (with God working in us and through us) far more as we work together as a team than we can individually.

This is a season when we celebrate the birth of Christ. It's also a season when our hearts are more in tune to giving to causes we believe in. We give to our churches, which in turn give to our Cooperative Program, which in turn helps our ministry prepare for the years ahead. The point is that every time you give, you are a team member in our ministry, and we appreciate it. Were it not for the sacrificial giving of Kentucky Baptists, we would not have survived the transition of these four years.

So from all of us at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, we thank you for the role that you play in God's working in our ministry. As Maxwell adds, "Teamwork is birthed when you concentrate on 'we' instead of 'me.'"

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

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Rusty Ellison

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To register, call the Evangelism Growth Team office at (502) 254-4737 or (888) 254-5722 by Jan. 9.

Panelists plea for other faiths in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (BP)—A tolerance of minority faiths should be incorporated into whatever new government takes power in a post-Taliban Afghanistan, according to Southern Baptist church-state specialist Richard Land.

Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, was one of four speakers at a U.S. State Department-sponsored discussion about the role of religion in rebuilding a civil society in Afghanistan.

The Near-Eastern Asian country is in the process of establishing a new government after the American-led response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks removed the Islamic-militant Taliban regime from power.

In addition to Land, panelists representing Judaism, Islam and Hinduism provided perspectives on religious reconciliation and tolerance in Afghanistan.

It would be appropriate for the United States and other Western governments to recommend humbly a First Amendment-type of religious freedom to Afghanistan, which is predominantly Islamic, but "I don't think we should try to impose it," Land said.

"If Afghans feel as a group of peoples that they want to have an Islamic society, then they have the right to do that, as long as they don't deny the basic human rights of people who choose not to be a part of that society," he said.

He cited the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which calls for freedom of religion, including the liberty to change one's belief or religion and to practice that belief publicly.

"It seems to me that has to be the threshold below which we cannot go," said Land, a member of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. "In other words, to say, 'Look, if you want to build an Islamic society, you can recommend it, but you can't coerce it. And you have to grant freedom of conscience.'"

Howard University professor Sulayman Nyang, representing Islam, agreed. The United States can tell the Afghans it has the benefit of history and the inclusion of many Muslims in its society, Nyang said. "But in the final analysis, organize yourselves in a manner (in which) you will not be victimized and you will not victimize religious minorities."

Nyang said the greatest fear of the Afghans is the "U.S. will abandon them."

Land said another "legitimate fear" is that "the West will attempt to impose a secularism on them that seeks to make their religion and the religious aspect of their lives irrelevant, and that's also a form of fundamentalism . . . the fundamentalism of secularism."

Arnold Resnicoff, national director of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee, said, "It's not toleration that we should be aiming for but a celebration of diversity."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Aide: Bush to refocus on evangelical votes.** President Bush's top political adviser said the White House will do more to keep the powerful religious right in the Bush camp. Karl Rove said Bush was concerned by a drop in support by white evangelicals in last year's election. Data show that 15 million Christian conservatives voted for Bush, short of the 19 million the Bush campaign was counting on. Rove said the president needs to return to "values-related issues."

■ **Alleged embezzlement falls divinity dean.** Following an audit that revealed he took university funds for his own personal use, the dean of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University has resigned. The Hartford Courant newspaper reported that an audit of the school's records since July 1999 showed Ralph Franklin used school funds for personal expenses including dry cleaning, \$8,500 in dental bills for his daughter and airline tickets for his family.

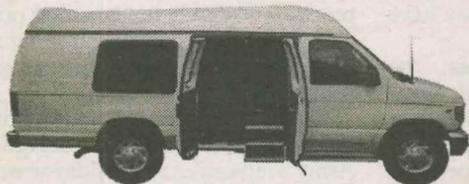
■ **Study: Prayed-for patients see minor difference.** A study of heart disease patients at the Mayo Clinic found their conditions did not significantly improve after people prayed for them, according to a new report. In the study, conducted from July 1997 to October 1999, five people prayed for half of the study's 799 participants at least once a day for 26 weeks. After six months, researchers found no significant differences between the two groups in the number of deaths, heart attacks, hospitalizations or strokes.

■ **Report: Hunger increasing in cities.** Hunger has increased sharply in cities across America, according to a new report released this month from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. In 25 of the 27 major cities surveyed, the report found an average increase of 23 percent in requests for emergency food assistance. "Hunger remains a very real problem in America and that problem has gotten worse over the past four years," said Robert Forney, president and CEO of America's Second Hunger, a national hunger relief charity.

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Christmas at Cumberland

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College celebrates the joy of the Christmas season in a variety of ways.

One way Cumberland College celebrates is through giving. On Nov. 15, Mountain Outreach provided a program called Kids Gift Day. More than 100 children had the opportunity to pick out two holiday gifts for someone in their family. Each child also received a pair of shoes and a ceramic nativity scene.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, Mountain Outreach opened its warehouse to help make Christmas a more joyous time for families.

A total of 1,807 people, representing 370 families, came by to secure needed clothing and gifts. Cumberland's men's and women's soccer teams raised money to help Mountain Outreach provide additional toys to distribute.

Appalachian Ministries had Christmas parties for the children of all four communities with whom they work. Members of Perdido Bay Baptist Church in Florida came for the 26th year, bearing gifts and providing major assistance in giving the Christmas party for one of the communities.

Our annual madrigal dinners provide a wonderful opportunity for both the Cumberland College campus and surrounding community to celebrate the joy of Christmas. Each of the three nights of madrigals, more than 200 people enjoyed a delicious meal and beautiful Christmas music.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



The Cumberland College family also worships together. Tuesday night, Dec. 4, featured our annual "Hanging of the Green" service. Various talented groups from our music department led us in a celebration of Christ's birth.

A special chapel on Monday, Dec. 10, allowed students to lead the Cumberland College

family through music and devotional thoughts.

We pray you also have been blessed by this Christmas season and pray God will guide you through the new year.

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

What can we say?

Trust doesn't come easy. Some people wait a lifetime and never believe that they can trust their souls to Jesus. For some reason, they cannot accept that Jesus is enough, more than enough, to secure our place in heaven and make our lives here on earth worth living.

Either the concept is too hard to grasp or perhaps too simple. Trusting people is hard too. If babies are well cared for, they learn to trust without that struggle of "Can I?" or "Should I?" It just happens if they are surrounded by trustworthy people. Unfortunately, that's a big "if."

The relationship that builds between a counselor and a child or family is the same. It isn't always an easy fit. It doesn't happen overnight and unfortunately, sometimes it doesn't happen at all. But still, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children tries. We try because we are called to try and we are able to try because you, Kentucky Baptists, equip us to do so. When that trust relationship does take place, how I wish you were there to see it.

I wish you could see the shy, reclusive boy who finally opens up to his counselor or his foster parents. I wish you could see the hurt couple in the counseling session who be-

gin to talk and to work toward healing their marriage. I wish you could see the mom and dad who rise above poverty, circumstance and poor parenting and are able to make a better home for their children. I wish you could see the hardened teenager, suspicious and cynical, whose heart finally breaks and accepts that God cares for her and sent

Jesus to die for her. I wish you could see that moment of trust and acceptance.

Kentucky Baptists, because you continue to be there for this ministry, we are able to be there for these children, teenagers, families, foster parents and adoptive parents. All of us cannot be there for those moments of trust, but those moments come, which is why we continue this work.

What can we say to your faithfulness and generosity? We say "thank-you" often, but it sometimes feels small. Still, your support compels us to say it again, hoping you trust that it is genuine and heartfelt. We are grateful and wish you all a very blessed Christmas and new year.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Other news overshadowed by Sept. 11 and aftermath

Continued from page 1

our community. . . . This is our time, our chance to be a witness to Jesus Christ.”

■ **April.** Southern Baptist leaders announced plans to end a series of dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church, reportedly bowing to pressure from a small group of Southern Baptists who oppose ecumenical dialogue.

“We’re not ecumenists,” said Phil Roberts, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. “We’re evangelicals committed to sharing the gospel.”

In Peru, a missionary and her infant daughter were killed April 20 when a small plane in which they were flying was mistakenly identified as a drug-carrying plane. Roni Bowers, 35, a missionary with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelization, and her daughter, Charity, were killed when a Peruvian pilot shot down the single-engine Cessna. Bowers’ husband, son and the pilot survived the incident.

■ **May.** Two professors at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, decided to resign rather than sign the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Old Testament professor Rick Johnson and ethics professor Jeph Holloway were told by seminary administrators they must leave within one year. Holloway said it would be a breach of his conscience to sign the revised faith statement.

In Atlanta, a federal appeals court ruled that students in a Florida public school district can choose a member

of their class to give a prayer or other brief message at high school graduations. In an 8-4 ruling, the 11th U.S. District Court of Appeals determined that the Duval County school policy is constitutional.

■ **June.** Timothy McVeigh, convicted of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, is executed June 11 at a federal penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind. His execution was delayed from May after undisclosed FBI documents related to the case surfaced.

Delegates to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly in Atlanta voted 701-502 to uphold a policy against hiring openly gay people as missionaries or employees or funding divinity schools that include sexual orientation in their open-admission policies.

■ **July.** The best-selling book “The Prayer of Jabez” by Bruce Wilkinson was named the 2001 Christian Book of the Year by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. The book, which has spawned numerous Jabez products in Christian markets, had sold more than 4.4 million copies by June and had been on the New York Times bestseller list for 12 straight weeks.

■ **August.** Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore placed a 5,280-pound monument of the Ten Commandments in the state Supreme Court building. “I’m the highest legal authority in the state, and I wanted it there,” Moore said.

Christian leaders gave President Bush mixed reactions to his decision

to allow federal funding of medical research using existing stem-cell lines. Scientists say stem-cell research offers promise for breakthrough treatment of debilitating illnesses. Many pro-life Christians, however, say human life, even in its earliest stages, should not be used for research.

■ **September.** A federal judge allowed the case of a former evangelical chaplain claiming discrimination by the U.S. Navy to go forward. Philip Veitch claims he suffered “unlawful retaliation” and that his religious and free-speech rights were violated under the First Amendment. He said he was forced to resign because he refused to stop including his conservative Christian beliefs in his sermons.

■ **October.** Jim Hill, embattled executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, resigned Oct. 4. Citing a conservative political takeover effort launched three years ago in the state convention, he said, “I do not agree with the Project 1000 agenda or the political process they have utilized to implement it.”

In related developments, the boards of five Missouri Baptist agencies and institutions voted to elect their own trustees. Convention messengers responded by escrowing Cooperative Program funds earmarked for the entities and authorized convention leaders to explore legal action against the organizations.

■ **November.** Fighting back tears, two Americans thanked God for pulling them through their more than three-month detention by Afghani-

stan’s Taliban government. Dayna Curry, 30, and Heather Mercer, 24, worked with Shelter Now International. They were among 24 people arrested Aug. 3 by Taliban officials and charged with attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity.

Scientists at Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Mass., reported Nov. 25 that they had succeeded—for a few hours—in growing cloned human embryos of four to six cells. Religious and political leaders criticized the experiments on moral and religious grounds. “We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it,” President Bush said.

■ **December.** Leaders of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, citing concerns about the direction of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, outlined several conditions for continued funding of Baptist work in Washington after next year. Jeffrey Haggray, D.C. Baptists’ executive director, said NAMB’s proposal “offends fundamental principles of Baptist polity such as autonomy, priesthood of all believers and soul freedom.”

Gay rights activists are stuffing fake \$3 and \$5 bills into the Salvation Army’s red kettles this holiday season, protesting its denial of benefits to gay partners of its employees. The current hullabaloo arises from the Salvation Army’s decision—and later reversal of that decision—to permit its 13-state western territory to offer health benefits to employees’ homosexual partners.

Name: Brad. Height: short. Weight: 72 pounds

This past summer we received a call from the adoptive mother of “Brad” (not his real name). She was from out of state and had heard about Oneida Baptist Institute from church friends. She had some concerns about her child and the possibilities of Oneida being able to help.

Brad had grown up in a difficult environment, including some foster homes prior to adoption. We knew from the initial phone interview that some of Brad’s problems probably were related to his size. At 72 pounds after eating a large meal, he was the smallest student on our campus. We had some concerns about his being able to live in a boarding school environment. Smaller children often have peer problems that other children do not face. While most students are kind and understanding, it takes just two or three youth to make life uncomfortable for those who are smaller.

We heard that Brad was excited about Oneida and was looking forward to a visit and enrollment in August. We had been told that he had an “attitude problem,” including some back talking. We also were told that a lot of his problems could be traced back to some of the difficulties he encountered in his earlier years. His parents believed that he had made a lot of progress in the past year or two but needed more structure in his life.

Brad did not have a problem with drugs or smoking, and he believed that he got along with his dad a little better than with his mother. At school his grades overall were average, with some lower and some higher. His teachers liked him at his old school, but there had been some problems with pushing and shoving. With his size, there were plenty of opportunities for people to push

and shove. Brad was not above pushing and shoving right back.

When I interviewed Brad, he told me his two primary goals at Oneida were to make A’s and B’s and to get along with people. I am happy to report that he is doing a very good job with both goals. His report card will be out in 10 days, so I don’t know what his second quarter grades will be, but he was on the B honor roll the first quarter. Apparently, he is getting along very well with his peers, which was his second goal.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

I was happy to see him join the cross-country team this fall. He didn’t set any school records, but he ran some really good races. He did not let his size interfere with his desire to compete. I think he earned a lot of respect from his peers by staying on the team even though the competition was a lot more difficult than he thought it would be.

He also had a part in the fall play, “A Christmas Story.” Brad was an instant hit with everyone as he played the part of Ralphie’s younger brother, Randy. If he had any stage fright, it was well camouflaged. It was my belief that he

really “hammed it up” when he got applause from the audience.

We were more than a little concerned that Brad would not be able to succeed here, primarily because of his size. On the contrary, he has done exceptionally well and has provided us with an early Christmas present. During the past four months he already has achieved his two primary goals. Now he can focus on other goals. We know his parents are just as proud of him as we are.

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

Give Bobby a driver’s license for Christmas

First-year student Bobby Daniels works at Kelly Hall. Earlier in the semester, my secretary, Roberta Lucas, discovered Bobby did not have his driver’s license. One day in the cafeteria line, she volunteered to help him learn to drive.

“I took driver’s education as a high school junior, but was unable to follow up on it,” Bobby said. “A lot of people didn’t trust me with their cars. My father-in-law gave us a car soon after coming to Clear Creek. It is so good to learn how to drive.”

In case anyone else needs her services, Bobby gives this evaluation of Mrs. Lucas as a driving instructor: “She’s good; she will give you a kick in the pants, but she is compassionate as well. I’m still driving with the permit, but I will get the license.”

Bobby and his wife, Karla, are members of Manchester Baptist Church, where she grew up. “After we got engaged, she introduced me to some of the members and Bro. Ken Bolin, the pastor. The church became a second home to me, and they have helped us grow so much,” Bobby said.

For a year before he met Carla, Bobby was involved with a Mor-

mon congregation. “I was really caught up in that organization until a youth minister told me the truth and I was saved,” Bobby stated.

The call to ministry came about 15 months later. “There wasn’t any whistles or bells to it. I attended a concert in Martin, Tenn., and God used a song to say He needed missionaries at home and overseas; someone to shepherd His flock,” Bobby recalled.

God’s leadership brought Bobby from another school. “I wanted the Bible emphasis that Clear Creek offers. We’ve had some of the typical problems of first-year students, but mostly they have been growing pains,” Bobby said. “I not only like the education here, but it is such a beautiful place with all the flowers and trees, especially beautiful in the fall.”

Three days after moving to campus, Karla was told that at Clear Creek you learn that God provides. “We’ve seen that so many times,” Karla stated. Future plans for the Daniels include seminary study. But first, Bobby has to take that driving test.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

BOOKS

Author recounts early history of literacy missions work in Kentucky

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—What if your child or grandchild begged to be read a Bible story and you couldn't do it?

That's the plight of millions of people in the United States who either cannot read at all or who read on such a low level that they are classified as non-readers.

Using the words of the hymn "Wonderful Words of Life," Cathy Butler has written a book by the same name to examine the history of literacy missions.

Proceeds from the book, which is published by Woman's Missionary Union, will support the WMU's two-year emphasis on literacy ministries.

Butler recounts the history of literacy missions in the first chapter, featuring the work of former Kentuckians John and Lillian Isaacs, who pioneered the ministry in Southern Baptist life.

An Eastern Kentucky woman named Ruth provided the impetus for the Isaacs' involvement in literacy missions in 1958. Ruth wanted more than anything to be able to read the Bible.

John Isaacs, a professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville, and Lillian also had observed that many young pastors were struggling to help their congregations in Bible study and discipleship. They realized that many of those problems stemmed from lack of reading skills.

The Isaacses began what turned into a lifetime of literacy missions effort throughout the United States. They taught hundreds of volunteers their methods for teaching non-readers.

Butler relates moving stories about adults being taught through the adult workshops as well as the work of international missionaries who tutor people in other countries who want to learn to speak English. Butler notes that people's enthusiasm to learn English provides an open door for teaching them the language and also introducing them to the Bible.

In addition to explanations of the different types of literacy missions and the poignant stories, Butler ends "Wonderful Words of Life" with a detailed chapter on beginning literacy missions in a church or association and a comprehensive chapter on resources.

"Wonderful Words of Life" can be purchased through WMU by calling (800) 968-7301 or visiting the online bookstore, www.wmustore.com. The book also is available through LifeWay Christian Bookstores. Information on Project HELP: Literacy is available from Kentucky WMU at (888) 254-5726.

Worship—A Way of Life. Patrick Kavanaugh. Chosen Books, 2001. 224 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦ (out of five)

After constant repetition, one soon gets Patrick Kavanaugh's point: Corporate worship is not all there is to the worship of God; we must worship God continually.

Kavanaugh wants to move the question of the current worship was behind the debate over form, style and other differences to the responsibility of each believer to engage in the worship of God on a daily basis.

This worship should transcend the daily Bible reading and prayer to a God-consciousness that moves us toward an intense personal relationship with God that infuses every aspect of our life. Now that you get the gist, don't bother buying the book.

One of the problems with Kavanaugh's approach is the tendency to overstate his case. For example, in the chapter titled "What is Worship?" he argues, "Yet even in the largest group, worship is still a private experience between each worshiper and God. The group simply happens to be together in the same room, outwardly doing the same thing (generally)." Come now, surely corporate worship is more than a bunch of isolated individuals getting together in the same place to experience their private relationships with God.

As much as he tries to pass his understanding off as biblical, I do not think he can make the case. When the people of God get together for worship, the situation is transformed, and some aspect of the experience becomes common to all.

Another problem is his use of Scripture. For example, in an attempt to argue that God desires private worship over corporate, he quotes Jesus'

response to the disciples' request to be taught to pray. He treats the "you" in Matthew 6:9 as singular, when it appears to be plural in the Greek.

Perhaps the picture on the book's cover tells the story of Kavanaugh's view of worship—a singular man sitting on a rock in the wilderness. *Jim Holladay*

The Life God Blesses: The Secret of Enjoying God's Favor. Jim Cymbala. 2001: Zondervan. 154 pages. \$9.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

Jim Cymbala presents his understanding of faith with a clarity and conviction that draws the reader into an experience that is challenging and thought provoking.

Many readers experienced that with his first book, "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire." It continues in this brief look at six aspects of a life God blesses.

"The Life God Blesses" blends case studies of six biblical characters with the lives of people whom Cymbala has encountered through his ministry at Brooklyn Tabernacle. Each embodies certain spiritual characteristics that allow God to work through them.

I find myself drawn into Cymbala's vision of the faith. His pithy, homespun, blatantly honest observations about life and faith offer refreshing insights into Christian discipleship.

While discussing the need to "wait on the Lord," Cymbala states, "The challenge before us is to have faith in God, and the hardest part of faith is the waiting. And the hardest part of waiting is the last half hour. We start by believing and praying, but we need to go further by waiting. . . . What a tragedy it is when we give up short of the goal."

This highly readable book will provide Christians from all walks of life something to ponder. *Jim Holladay*

When He Doesn't Believe: Help and Encouragement for Women Who Feel Alone in Their Faith. Nancy Kennedy. Water Brook Press, 2001. 208 pages. \$12.95. ♦

There is no question that a book such as this has needed to be written.

One of the constant counseling issues for most pastors is the wife who comes, with her marriage in trouble, and shares her experience of being married to a man who does not share her faith or is not growing spiritually.

When I saw this book's title, I desperately hoped I had found a resource to use in such counseling situations. I almost made the unpardonable mistake of handing this book to a woman who is in this situation. I am glad I did not. This is not the book to use.

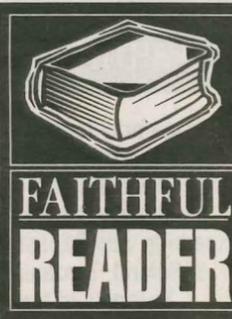
Kennedy's book does encourage a woman to have a positive attitude in an "unequally yoked" marriage. Some of what she says may be helpful in a few situations.

But I could not get past Kennedy's desire for the woman to see her situation as a part of God's plan for her. For Kennedy, this is fundamental to being able to stay in the marriage.

In my theology, people sometimes make very regrettable mistakes. Every situation we are in is not God's plan for us.

Kennedy, thankfully, does not encourage women to stay in a marriage that is life-threatening or physically abusive. She does, however, condemn all other women to taking full responsibility for the marriage and working through their misery.

For the women I counsel, this book would raise more questions about the goodness of God than any possible help that could be drawn from it. *Wayne Hager*



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

Coffee-table book explores architecture of world's churches

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

Judith Dupre's new book, "Churches," literally opens at the center to reveal the glory and wonder at the heart of Christian architecture.

Like a child's Advent calendar, this lovely volume offers one window after another into the Christian faith in its word-and-picture portraits of 64 churches around the world.

"It was enormously difficult to make the final selections," Dupre said in a telephone interview. "The way that I began this book was actually I used a nonscientific approach. I began to poll friends, colleagues, people with no particular interest in architecture or theology."

"This is a wonderful way to gauge those structures in the popular imagination. Then you start hearing about certain structures over and over. Some you'd expect: St. Peter's in Rome, Westminster Abbey, the great French cathedrals. From that point, then I go into the photographic and the text research. The photography in the book is not

merely illustrations. They stand on their own. I do photography research and text research in tandem."

As she researched, Dupre examined thousands of photographs with what is obviously an artist's eye. Her figurative easel is a special 22-foot-long table in her studio. She had it designed specially for this sort of work.

A cultural historian with a background in art, architecture and education, Dupre holds degrees in English literature and studio art. She wrote five previous books on art and architecture, including "Skyscrapers" and "Bridges."

Using the written word and visual images shapes her approach.

"It's an interesting way to think as well," she said. "It gives you a three-dimensional understanding of the subject. I'm not simply looking at text. I'm not primarily operating in the world of words. I'm looking at the world of images as well. Meaning in churches is largely conveyed in images and symbols and it is critical to think in images."

Her approach comes through because her new book, in many ways, is a visual and

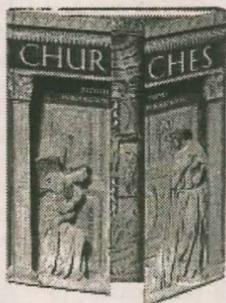
literary tour and a history of Christianity. Its golden, split cover opens like a church's double doors, luring the reader into houses of worship built across two millennia and representing six major Christian denominations.

Included are structures built by ancient and modern architectural masters. Dupre uncovers the wondrous story of a rock-hewn Ethiopian church, the fascinating history of France's Chartres Cathedral and the still unfinished tale of St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City (which was damaged last week by fire).

Her book begins with the Pantheon, the Roman architectural wonder consecrated as a church by Pope Boniface IV in 609 A.D. When consecrated, it was named Santa Maria ad Martyres but came to be known popularly as Santa Maria Rotonda.

On the opening pages, Dupre writes that her book explores "the sheer variety of buildings, celebrated and anonymous, that have proliferated in the name of God."

For, she says, "As no other human endeavor can, churches synthesize the disparate influences of religious doctrine, political hierarchy, geography and technology."



PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ The health of Baptist representatives serving in Bucharest, Romania. Many have been plagued with illness recently.

■ Forty new believers among the Serbs of Southern Europe who are attending a discipleship class.

■ A ministry among university students in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

■ The ongoing work of Baptist churches and other ministries in Tanzania as Kentucky Baptists' three-year missions partnership with Baptists in Tanzania concludes at the end of 2001.

■ The 1,000 people in Khabarovsk, Russia, who recently received Bibles from missionaries. "We hope to gain enough response to begin small Bible studies in the area," writes missionary Janet Terrell.

■ Ray Allen, evangelism team leader for the Baptist Convention of New England.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church called **Darryl McGaughey** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—**Richard Monk** resigned as pastor of Russell Cave Road Baptist Church.

■ **LONDON**—Clifty Grove Church called **Scott Nix** as pastor.

■ **NANCY**—Piney Grove #2 Church called **Scott Neal** as pastor.

■ **NORTONVILLE**—Nortonville Church ordained **Larry Jones** and **Kim Littlepage** as deacons.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—Pleasureville Church called **Jerry Anderson** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Southside Church called **David Scott** as minister of music. He previously was minister of music and senior adults at Ormsby Heights Church in Louisville.

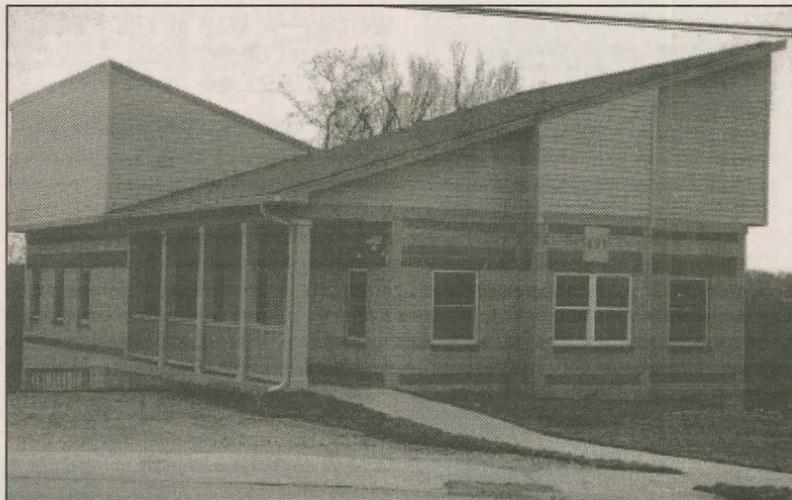
■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Run Church called **Sam Adkins** as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

Sunnyside Church ordained **Jack DeBord**, **Darrell Davenport** and **Barry Phelps** as deacons. **Rick Lawson** is pastor.

■ **UPTON**—Lucas Grove Church called **Andy Weaver** as pastor. He previously was minister of youth, children and education at Central Church in Paris.

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.



CAMPUS MINISTRY Kentucky Baptist leaders dedicated a new Baptist Student Center Dec. 2 located next to the campus of Kentucky State University in Frankfort. The two-story, 3,600-square-foot facility was built at a cost of \$275,000. It features a chapel/worship area, student lounge, offices, conference room and kitchen. Mikel Robinson is the Kentucky Baptist campus minister at the university.

Dying policeman's testimony leads 29 fellow officers to Christ

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (BP)—Chattanooga Police Sgt. John Baker made his final pitch for his faith to his fellow police officers on Dec. 15—the day of his funeral.

At his funeral at Grace Baptist Church, a tape was played of a Sept. 27 sermon Baker delivered to about 250 officers at an area restaurant.

Baker knew he had a cancer "death sentence," and the message he shared at the restaurant resulted in 29 police officers accepting Jesus Christ as Savior.

Paul Lee, a sergeant in the Chatta-

nooga Police Department, said Baker "has successfully accomplished his last mission. He has accepted his transfer. He is now pounding his new beat on the streets of gold."

Baker died Dec. 12 after a short bout with cancer in his pancreas and liver. The 36-year-old Southern Baptist police officer is survived by his wife, Zina, and two young sons.

Lee said Baker, known as "Gabby" to his co-workers, "loved to laugh and he loved a well-placed practical joke. But his ultimate mission was to tell others about his commitment to

Jesus Christ."

Chattanooga Police Chief Jimmie Dotson said Baker "had a great work ethic and attitude, but he will best be remembered as being true and honest to God's calling."

Dotson recalled Baker's mission trip to Romania where he helped form an international chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Peace Officers.

"But his greatest concern was for you"—that his fellow officers would join him in heaven, Dotson added.

Chief Dotson asked ministers and chaplains at the service to stand, and

he urged officers to speak with them after the funeral. "If you want to be with John, spend some time with them before you leave today," he said.

After Dotson's remarks, the tape was played of Baker's sermon, in which he said, "I can stand up here and be happy because I know where I'm headed. I love you guys too much to let you go to hell on my watch."

The tape concluded with Baker singing, "It is Well With My Soul."

"There were a lot of tears," said fellow officer John Stuermer. "It was a very powerful moment."

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Ordained Southern Baptist minister seeks conservative, Spirit-led church to pastor—full-time or bivocational. Open to traditional, contemporary or blended worship. Some experience in leading worship as well as youth ministry. Requests for resumé or more information can be sent to: Rev. George M. Bryant, 390 Nottingham Road, Lexington, KY 40517; or call and leave a message: (859) 272-7156.

SEEKING: Minister to families. First Baptist Church, Middletown, Ky., is seeking candidates for a newly created, full-time ministry position. The minister will develop and strengthen the current ministries to preschoolers, children, youth and their families. This minister will work with youth, grades 7-12, in a program of outreach, discipleship and ministry. He/she also will work closely with the leadership of the preschool and children's ministries to develop ministries in those same areas. The candidate should possess a love for children and youth and the desire to strengthen family life. A seminary master's degree or equivalent experience is required. First Baptist Church is an 80-year-old congregation in eastern Louisville with a growing youth and children's membership. Send resumé and a cover letter to: Dr. Jim Cobban, pastor, First Baptist Church, 11721 Main St., Middletown, KY 40243, or fax to: (502) 245-7945. Resumés preferred by Jan. 15.

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Southern Baptist church. Average Sunday morning worship service attendance: 60. Send resumé to: Mt. Eden Baptist Church, PO Box 310, Hawesville, KY 42348, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of students. Salary negotiable. Church is centrally located between Louisville and Lexington, 11 miles north of Shelbyville. Please submit resumé to: Minister of Students Search Committee, Eminence Baptist Church, PO Box 134, Eminence, KY 40019. For information, call (502) 845-4154.

SEEKING: Audubon Baptist Church seeking full-time pastor to lead a moderate church who has adopted the 1963 faith and message statement. Located at the edge of the Audubon Park area. Seeking an individual who will be a partner in defining God's direction for the church. Thankful for more than 50 years of service and excited about God's plan for the future. Currently 80 to 100 in Sunday school and 100 to 150 in Sunday morning worship service. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217.

SEEKING: Growing, Christ-centered church seeks part-time children's/preschool director (25 hours a week). Interested candidates should submit resumé to: Personnel Committee, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 5708 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40219; fax: (502) 964-9678.

SEEKING: Minister to preschoolers. Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is seeking an experienced seminary graduate to be on the cutting edge of preschool ministry with a strong leadership gift and a passion for reaching preschoolers and their families. Enthusiasm, a heart for God and an enthusiasm for preschool children and their families are a must as well as creativity, strong organizational, relational and communication skills. Responsibilities include the development of age-appropriate Bible education goals, recruiting and leading both volunteer and paid staff, and administrative duties consistent with a large church and ministry team. Respond to IBC Personnel Committee, PO Box 22022, Lexington, KY 40522-2022, or rusbar@gte.net.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for growing church in south central Kentucky. Please send recommendations or resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, Ky. Average worship attendance: 140. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 577, Lebanon Junction, KY 40150.

SEEKING: Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is seeking a qualified person of Christian faith for the position of minister to the deaf. Responsibilities include assisting in the proclamation of the gospel, Bible teaching, church life, pastoral care and clerical services to the deaf members of the church. Individual must possess a bachelor's degree—seminary degree is preferred. Individual must be fluent in ASL and PSE. Qualified applicants should submit cover letter, resumé and salary expectations to: IBC Personnel Committee, PO Box 22022, Lexington, KY 40522-2022, or rusbar@gte.net.

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.

PEOPLE

Hoops standout sees God at work preparing future

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The first thing people notice about Patrick Whyte is the obvious. He's tall.

And with a 6-foot, 10-inch frame, wide wingspan and huge hands, most would envision Whyte blocking shots and grabbing rebounds rather than roaming the halls at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

But if you spend any amount of time with the former Union University basketball star, you'll discover that his most exceptional gift is not winning games, but winning souls.

And people are beginning to notice. Having gained renown as a speaker and evangelist, Whyte, a master of divinity student from Lagos, Nigeria, was chosen as the keynote speaker for last month's international student conference in Bowling Green, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Student Unions and Kentucky Women's Missionary Union.

The event drew more than 300 students from 15 Kentucky colleges and universities. Almost all of the students were non-Christians.

For Whyte, though, the opportunity to preach the gospel at events like these is far from the future he, as a lanky student in Lagos, would have predicted. In fact, for most of his youth, he remained unconverted.

Whyte grew up in a middle-class Catholic family in Nigeria's capital. The young Whyte soon found himself finding more trouble than faith.

Whyte's searching finally led him to attend an evangelistic crusade. Four rows from the top of Nigeria's national stadium, he became a Christian.

A belief that God had called him to become an evangelist led him to accept a basketball scholarship to Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He received the scholarship even though he had played the sport for only a year and a half. But, looking back, Whyte said he sees God's providential hand at work.

"There are about three or four million people living in Lagos," Whyte said. "There are better basketball players. ... But God, I believe, had a purpose for my life."

Whyte was a star at Union, collecting school records in rebounds and blocked shots.

He said he considered pro basketball, but knew God was calling him to seminary.

After seminary, Whyte said he remains open to wherever God places him. "Just as much as I was open to the calling, I want to be open to wherever He decides to lead me," Whyte said.

Just as long as it isn't Alaska, he added with a smile.

Party trailers help churches share Christ

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—The evangelistic block party has been one of the more innovative and effective tools for evangelism in recent years.

Baptist churches throughout the country have hosted community parties, with food, entertainment and an explanation of the Christian faith.

Now a strategy to help churches in larger cities has taken that model one step further.

By assembling "party trailers," local Baptist associations have found they can help churches host the parties for years to come without the expense and logistics of renting expensive equipment each time.

Such trailers include games, cooking equipment and other attractions to help a church have a successful event.

"We call them a block party trailer, but the associations are finding out that they are useful more than just for block parties," said Tim Knopps, an Oklahoma City-based vocational evangelist who has helped put together several of the units in Las Vegas and Seattle. "They are also useful for vacation Bible schools, sports camps, church picnics and church outings."

The concept arose a few years ago, he said, when evangelism leaders began to realize considerable savings by purchasing rather than renting equipment. This was particularly true in "Strategic Focus Cities," large metropolitan areas where the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board focuses money



INSTANT PARTY Four block party trailers give churches most of the equipment and resources they need to host an evangelistic block party like this one at First Baptist Church of Boulder City, Nev. (BP photo by James Dotson)

and personnel for a year.

"We began to see that most of the block parties started using many of the same materials over and over again," Knopps said. The common denominators usually included a "moonwalk"-type inflatable ride for the children, popcorn and snow-cone machines, grills for cooking, helium and balloons, a selection of games, a portable sound system, a generator to keep it all running, small tents for shelter and several other related items.

The block party trailer became a one-stop solution for churches, who simply would follow the instructions that came with the unit and focus more of their energy on meeting their neighbors

and talking with them about the Christian faith.

The first units began to appear in Illinois, Oklahoma, Indiana and other states, he said. They also have been used in Phoenix and Seattle.

Scotty Smith, a youth minister responsible for delivering the unit to each event in the Seattle area, said pastors often are surprised at how much they could do with the trailer. Often they are quick to start planning their next event, he added.

"You can just put up in the middle of nowhere and have an automatic outreach," he said. "And it's pretty effortless. There's just a ton of possibilities."

CenturyMen sing of God's love in New York, D.C.

NEW YORK (BP)—A hundred men in tuxedos likely would turn a few heads in most towns. But not New York City.

The CenturyMen—a 100-voice, all-male choir of Southern Baptists—used buses, trains and subways to maneuver through the city, but hardly drew a casual glance from New Yorkers.

"Only in New York could 96 men in tuxes move around and not get noticed," said CenturyMen member Lee Hinson, assistant professor of church music for Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

But the tour might not have happened, if not for the determination of the men in the choir. Scheduled for Oct. 1-9, the tour included stops in New York City, Washington, Baltimore, Richmond and Williamsburg, Va. It had been planned for two years, and CenturyMen president Paul Clark said that in the wake of the Sept. 11 attack, the men expressed commitment instead of fear.

"Initially, I had questioned whether the guys would go, flying in from all over the country, but it was a momentary lapse of faith," said Clark, worship and music specialist for the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

"Instead, there was a stronger determination than ever to go there and declare the gospel in song," he said.



CENTURYMEN The audition-only male choir is made up mostly of Southern Baptist music ministers. Their last recording was nominated for a Dove Award.

"The timing, indeed, was providential."

Hinson noted that the CenturyMen often sing in places Southern Baptists normally don't go. The group sang in an off-Broadway gospel show and a couple of minutes on the CBS "Early Show."

"I believe the audience of the off-Broadway show sensed that it wasn't just music to us—it was the gospel," Hinson said. "We weren't just singing about a sentiment, we were singing something we believed."

Traveling around the city was complicated because of constantly changing barricades in Manhattan streets, but it ended up providing opportunities to sing in subways and other opportunities to witness about Jesus Christ.

"The song, 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,' caused subway riders' faces to light up, and many applauded," Hinson said. "That kind of thing happened all of the time. We had never sung on a subway car before."

One night, a few CenturyMen got close to Ground Zero and sang for the rescue workers.

"They were spotted by a news crew and made the local late night New York City news," Hinson said.

Another small ensemble of men sang at a fire station down the street from the studio where they spent 12 hours recording a new CD.

Hinson said it was a unique time to be in New York. "People were very open to talk about spiritual things and even open to hearing the gospel," he said. "We were constantly having conversations with people."

"They are also useful for vacation Bible schools, sports camps, church picnics and church outings."

Evangelist Tim Knopps

"Only in New York could 96 men in tuxes move around and not get noticed."

CenturyMen member Lee Hinson

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