



WESTERN RECORDER

January 29, 2002
Vol. 176, No. 4

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists
Texas Baptists plan to endorse their own chaplains. *Page 2.*

Kentucky
CP gifts fall below budget. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Why bother being a global Baptist? *Page 5.*

Nation
"Gender-accurate" revision of NIV Bible on the way. *Page 9.*



World
Baptists respond to volcano victims in Africa. *Page 10.*



Russia
Orthodox Christian holiday celebrates Christ's baptism. *Page 11.*

Music
A movie soundtrack has sparked a revival in old-timey gospel music. *Page 12.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, January 30

Speaker: Church leaders can learn from squirrels, geese & beavers

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Squirrels, beavers and geese can help teach church leaders how to be more productive, a management consultant told pastors during the recent Shepherding the Shepherd conference.

All three animals model the message of "Gung Ho," a Chinese phrase meaning "working together" and the title of a book by Ken Blanchard about the same topic.

Ray Snyder, a consultant and speaker for Ken Blanchard Training, said any group must focus on teamwork because it is among the first things to suffer when any group gets busy.

"Guess what? It's a busy world, isn't it?" Snyder said.

Speaking to Kentucky Baptist pastors and their spouses, Snyder outlined the lessons of "Gung Ho":

■ **The spirit of the squirrel.** One of the reasons squirrels work so hard is because they are motivated to store food for the winter. Likewise, Snyder said, workers or church volunteers need to understand that their work has significance.

Significant work has three components, Snyder said. First, workers know their efforts make the world a better place.

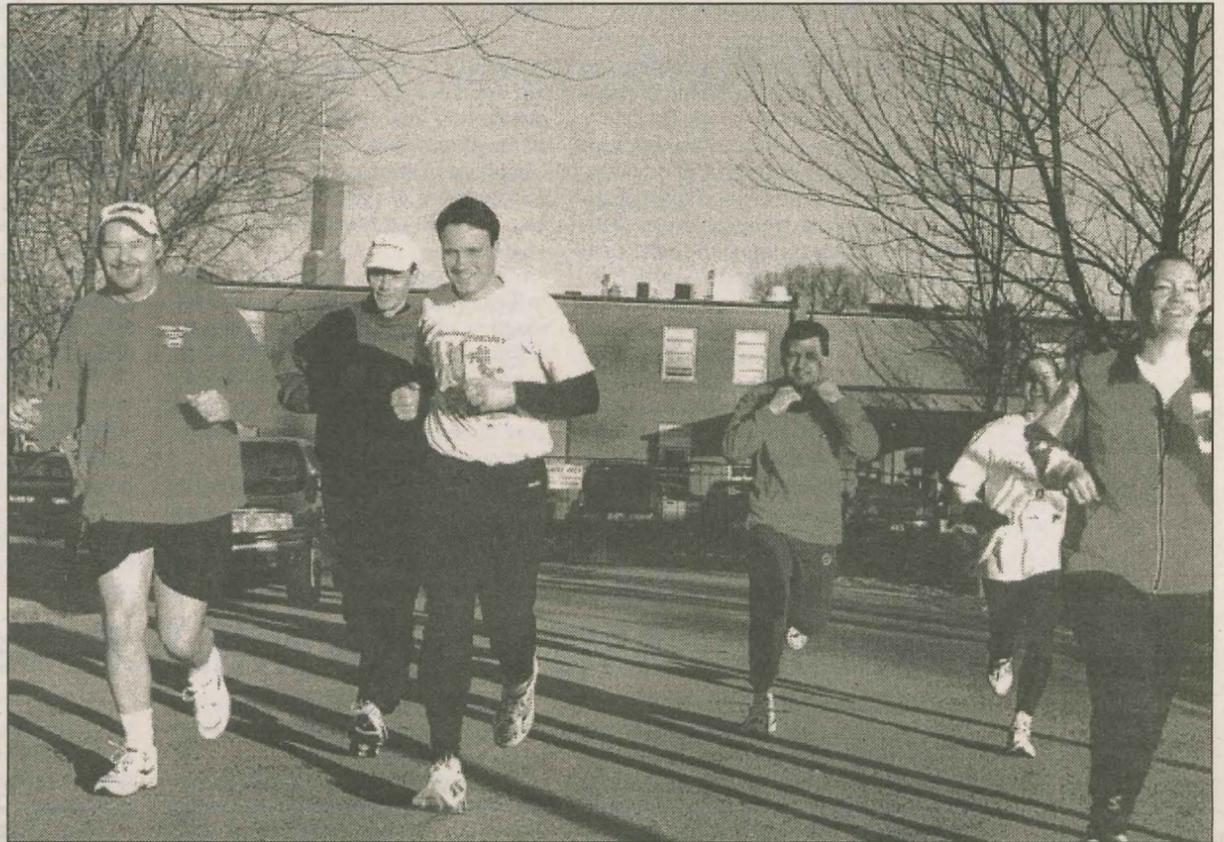
Second, everyone works toward a shared goal. Too often, churches have vague goals, such as wanting to grow or to be a friendly congregation. Snyder said every goal should be SMART, an acronym for specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time bound. Time boundaries often are missing from goals, he added. "A goal without a deadline is a wish, a dream."

The third component of significant work is that values guide all plans, decisions and actions as team members focus on "moments of truth." Snyder defined a moment of truth as any moment when a customer or client has an opportunity to form an opinion about your organization. For a church, that can be visitors' first impression when they attend church or the response they get when they call the church office.

"You need to manage every (moment of truth)," Snyder added, encouraging pastors to return home and decide what core values should guide their ministries.

■ **The way of the beaver.** Beavers work together, but each one decides how best to contribute toward a common goal.
□ See Consultant: ..., page 3

Getting outside the church



ON THE RUN Members of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville sponsor "Trekos," a runners training program for a local mini-marathon. Such marketplace ministries link churches with their communities through creative approaches. Approximately two-thirds of this year's Trekos participants do not attend Melbourne Heights.

Marketplace ministries take gospel to the streets

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—When Lisa Dohoney began training for last April's Kentucky Derby mini-Marathon, she didn't know it would ultimately lead her to accept Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.

But looking back, she said she can see how God directed her to "Trekos"—Melbourne Heights Baptist Church's training team for runners and walkers—and later into the church.

"I didn't understand God's plan in my life," Dohoney said recently. "But putting it in a timeline and telling people this is how my life was changed, ... there was a point in me being there."

Dohoney and her husband, Scott, started investigating a personal relationship with God after getting to know Pastor Bill Shoulta and other team members.

Seeing a peace in the pastor and children's minister Brina Stephens that the Dohoneys didn't have sparked their interest. They accepted Shoulta's invitation to a May service, a step that led to their baptism in July.

"He did a message paralleling running to a relationship with God," Dohoney said of that first sermon.

"He did such an elegant job; it hit me so hard," she recalled. "This running became a running to find God in my life."

Shoulta said that Trekos organizers initially expected about a dozen people to respond last winter. Instead, 53 runners and walkers signed up, and



DOWN & DIRTY Members of Four Rivers Baptist Church in Paducah sponsored an oil change for seniors and single moms last year as a way to meet people in the community.

about half of those came from outside the church.

In addition to the Dohoneys' conversions, two other runners now attend Melbourne Heights.

Shoulta said the idea followed the approach described in the book "Share Jesus Without Fear," getting to know people before telling them about Christ.

"We didn't do devotions on Saturday mornings," he said. "We wanted to develop a good relationship and draw them into church. Once they saw we weren't pouncing on them, they became more trusting."

Last weekend, Trekos hosted its first training run for this year's mini-

marathon. Of the 75 people who have expressed interest this season, about two-thirds are not church members, Shoulta said. "There are prospects in this group as well."

Dan Garland, leader of the evangelism growth team for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, calls this an example of a growing number of marketplace ministries.

Kentucky Baptist churches across the commonwealth are sponsoring fishing tournaments, wild game dinners, skeet shoots and community barbecues as new methods of evangelism, he said.

He applauds the unusual outreach
□ See Unique ministries ..., page 8

Texas convention may endorse chaplains, bypass NAMB

NAMB policies call affirmation of the current Baptist Faith and Message "essential" for chaplaincy endorsement

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (ABP)—The Baptist General Convention of Texas soon may endorse chaplains on its own, rather than depending on the Southern Baptist Convention.

The state convention has opened a new office of chaplaincy relations and hired Bobby Smith, a hospital chaplain from Galveston, to run it.

"The director of the office of chaplaincy relations will work at developing the network of Texas Baptist chaplains, building relationships with them, offering training and relational opportunities for them," said E.B. Brooks, coordinator of the BGCT church missions and evangelism section. "It is also our intent to provide endorsement for chaplains."

About 400 Baptist chaplains serve in Texas. Most are endorsed by the SBC North American Mission Board.

Texas Baptists began considering becoming an endorsing body, however, after NAMB indicated that new and renewing chaplaincy applicants must affirm doctrines in the 2000 Bap-

tist Faith and Message statement.

Texas Baptist leaders have criticized changes enacted in the faith statement by the SBC in 2000. The state convention is on record as affirming an earlier version of the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by the SBC in 1963.

A special committee that studied the BGCT's ties to missionary-sending agencies last year said the state convention "historically" has supported the process followed by the NAMB Chaplains Commission, believing that endorsement is a role best suited to a national entity rather than a state convention.

"However, the outcry of chaplains in Texas and other areas, and the retroactive change in prerequisites for service, may lead the BGCT to re-examine its position and reconsider ecclesiastical endorsement and support of chaplains," the committee report concluded.

BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade authorized a nine-member study group of hospital, military and criminal justice chaplains to report and make recommendations to the con-

vention's executive board regarding an expanded BGCT role in relation to chaplains.

The BGCT executive board approved the creation of the chaplaincy relations office as part of an organizational restructuring last year. An administrative committee is scheduled to consider a recommendation to set up an endorsing process this month.

The next step would be approval by the BGCT executive board Feb. 26 of a proposal that the convention seek Department of Defense recognition as an endorsing organization for chaplains. Once a denominational entity receives U.S. Armed Forces Chaplaincy Board approval as an endorsing agency, hospitals and other agencies typically recognize the validity of the endorsement.

Texas Baptist chaplains have voiced concerns about policies adopted by NAMB trustees, particularly the statement in the November 2000 endorsement manual calling for affirmation of "the Baptist Faith and Message as currently adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention essential for endorsement."

The BGCT chaplain study group asked NAMB to rephrase its policy to allow affirmation of a statement of faith adopted by an applicant's local Southern Baptist church, association or state Baptist convention.

But Don Yeager, chairman of the SBC Chaplains Commission, stated in a letter to Wade that the board's "current policies are consistent with the expressed wishes and intent" of the SBC.

"Therefore, we, the trustees of the Chaplains Commission, affirm and are committed to upholding the current policy of requiring applicants and chaplains seeking re-endorsement to affirm the current Baptist Faith and Message," he wrote.

Smith, director of the BGCT's new office of chaplaincy relations, has served as a Baptist chaplain at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston since 1997. He is a former pastor and minister of education.

Smith is a graduate of Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Reccord: NAMB dispute with D.C. Baptists 'unique situation'

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (ABP)—The president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board says a polity dispute with the District of Columbia Baptist Convention is an isolated incident. But he didn't rule out future discussions over areas of disagreement between the Southern Baptist Convention agency and other state bodies.

"This is a unique situation," NAMB President Robert Reccord said of the board's relationship with the D.C. convention in an interview with the North Carolina Baptist newspaper Biblical Recorder.

NAMB leaders in Alpharetta, Ga., wrote a letter in October citing concerns over the D.C. convention's triple alignment with the SBC, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and Progressive National Baptist Convention. The SBC, which provides a majority of outside funding for the D.C. convention, is conservative, while the other two national groups are more to the left of Baptist life.

Reccord said he knows of no similar theological concerns with other state conventions.

While the DCBC is the only Southern Baptist affiliate with more than one denominational identity, at least three state conventions allow churches to designate funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Asked about state conventions with ties to CBF, Reccord said, "The only way we would be responding to anything from any other (state convention) is if it arises. Anywhere along the journey if things arise that we feel need to be addressed we'll address them, but only at that time."

Reccord said NAMB is in "open communication" with the D.C. convention over concerns outlined in a letter dated Oct. 24.

NAMB annually provides DCBC with \$475,000, about a third of DCBC's budget and twice the amount that Washington churches give annually to the SBC through the Cooperative Program.

Among concerns cited in the letter were differences between the SBC and American Baptists in stated positions on abortion, homosexuality and the ordination of women.

Specifically, NAMB said it wants direct supervision of D.C. employees who are funded wholly or partially by Southern Baptists. The proposal also said the DCBC should not promote cultural festivals that include non-Christian religious groups, should not print articles in its newspaper that "denigrate the SBC and its leadership nor any of its agencies," should have speakers at its meetings that "reflect the theological tenets of the SBC," and should follow the biblical pattern of Matthew 18 when criticizing the SBC.

D.C. Baptist leaders reacted strongly to the proposal. Executive Director Jeffrey Haggray, an African-American from a PNBC background, called it an ultimatum that "offends fundamental principles of Baptist polity" and would turn the DCBC into "the only NAMB-run state convention in

the nation."

Reccord denied the letter was an ultimatum. "In fact, we started out the proposal saying we are seeking to find a win-win method of strengthening the partnership," he said.

He also said the proposal doesn't threaten the DCBC's autonomy.

The D.C. convention "has the full autonomy to decide what they will do, how they will do it and when they are going to do it," he said. "That's totally in their autonomy."

Reccord called the respective autonomy of state and national conventions "a real key part of Southern Baptist life."

"In the same way," he said, "we wouldn't want anybody infringing on the North American Mission Board's autonomy."

Reccord declined to say what might happen if the D.C. convention rejects the NAMB proposal.

"We'll just have to walk through the process and see where each step takes us," he said.

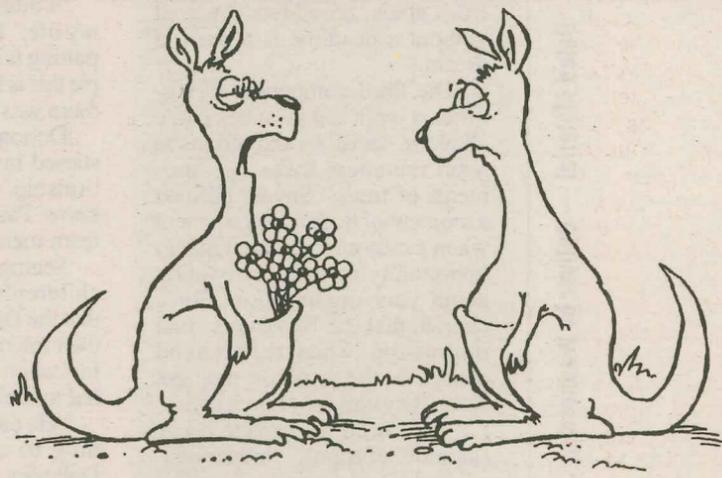
BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Shorter trustees reverse action.** The executive committee of Shorter College's board of trustees voted Jan. 16 to rescind earlier action to give control of the college to a newly formed Shorter College Foundation. College officials met Jan. 22 with representatives of the Georgia Baptist Convention to discuss concerns and future plans. GBC officials had announced plans to withdraw \$9.6 million in funding to the school. The two groups agreed to establish a joint committee to study the trustee selection process.

■ **Tanner to manage Glorieta.** Rick Tanner has been named general manager of LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center. The facility is one of two national conference centers managed by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist

Convention. Tanner, 37, previously was director of audio-visual services for the Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas. He also has worked with the Orchid Resort in Hawaii and the Ritz Carlton in Aspen, Colo. He worked at Glorieta in 1992-93 in conference support and audio-visual.

■ **Emeritus missionary dies.** Walter McNealy, an emeritus Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died Jan. 14 at age 93. A native of Catlettsburg, McNealy and his wife, Ymogene, were appointed as Southern Baptist missionaries in 1937. He served as a general evangelist and helped start 49 churches. He also played central roles in founding a Baptist state convention, two Baptist schools and a Bible press. He is survived by his wife and two children.



"I did it on the advice of my pastor. He said it would help me in my struggles with empty-pouch syndrome."

CP gifts fall below budget; KBC staff trims spending

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—After six straight years of record Cooperative Program gifts, Kentucky Baptist CP giving is 12.6 percent below budget four months into the current fiscal year.

Total giving for September through December 2001 also was 3.9 percent below the same period for the previous year.

Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders have responded by instructing KBC Executive Board staff members to reduce non-fixed program costs such as travel and event expenses by up to 10 percent.

Lowell Ashby, leader of the KBC business services team, said the move is based on projections that current giving patterns would result in the KBC receiving approximately 95 to 97 percent of its budget needs by the end of the fiscal year in August.

He said a 5 percent shortfall in KBC's Cooperative Program budget "equates to about 10 percent of our program dollars."

"In order to make sure we don't come up short, we have asked our staff to be careful in their spending without hurting delivery of services to Kentucky Baptists," noted KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. He said he encouraged staff members "to see if they can find new ways of enhancing their ministry such as the use of technology in equipping and sharing information with our constituency."

He said other measures include carefully evaluating staff positions before filling vacancies and "postpon-

Kentucky Baptist Cooperative Program giving

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2000-02
Sept.-Dec.	5,752,595	6,663,227	6,614,705	7,250,868	6,793,369	6,530,325
Over/under budget	-8.0%	4.0%	1.2%	7.7%	-3.0%	-12.6%
Total year	\$18,772,246	\$19,895,196	\$20,336,910	\$21,863,427	\$22,137,872	
Over budget	0.1%	3.5%	3.7%	8.3%	5.4%	

ing purchases that could be delayed for a year or so."

Despite the measures, "there is no great alarm or major cutback expected," Ashby said. "We want to be prudent to watch the dollars we do have control of. We're certainly not expecting any reduced ministries or mission activities."

"By the end of the year, I think we will be very close to budget," he added. "We just have to be careful. With as many ministries as we're funding, every percentage makes a difference."

"We've had very good receipts coming in during January," Ashby noted. "We're looking at January and February as always to see where we are at six months. That will help us determine how to go forward with next year's budget."

Projections a year ago also indicated a budget shortfall of up to 5 percent, Ashby said. By year's end, however, giving had exceeded the budget by 5.4 percent and topped the previous year's gifts by 1.3 percent.

This year, however, "the factors we are looking into are that we are further behind in budget at this time than

any time previously for the four-month period," Ashby said. The current total is \$942,175 below budget.

Any budget shortage for the year has a ripple effect, impacting KBC institutions and agencies and SBC ministries as well as the work of the KBC staff. This year's budget includes 35.8 percent for SBC causes, 35.64 percent for KBC Executive Board ministries and 28.56 percent for KBC institutions and agencies.

Part of the shortfall is due to calendar issues, Ashby said. When the final Sunday of a month is near month's end (such as Dec. 30, 2001), that leaves little or no time for churches to forward CP gifts to the KBC before the financial books close for the month. As a result, money received by churches in late December actually was counted in the KBC's January total.

Kentucky Baptists also "raised our CP budget 6.75 percent this year," Ashby said. "That's the largest CP budget increase in many years."

Due to last year's record receipts of \$22,137,872, however, Ashby said the actual increase needed to meet this

year's budget of \$22,417,500 is only 1.26 percent.

Mackey said the faltering economy and fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks also might be impacting gifts to churches and the Cooperative Program.

"A budget is always a faith statement about what you believe God wants you to do," he said. "No one could have anticipated Sept. 11."

"If we don't meet budget, ministries will not have the resources to accomplish the plans. There has to be greater prioritizing and greater care in how resources are utilized."

Affirming that Kentucky Baptist CP gifts have increased by an annual average of "at least 3-plus percent in the past five years," Mackey said it is important to take a long-term look at overall giving trends.

"Kentucky Baptists have been very generous and gracious in their support of ministries in Kentucky and beyond," he said. "I believe churches and individuals will do their very best to support ministries beyond their churches even if it requires sacrificial giving."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Correction:** A story in the Jan. 15 edition of the Western Recorder listed a chart from a poll in which pastors rated themselves on preaching ability. The poll should have stated that less than 1 percent rated themselves as "not too good."

■ **Campbellsville University's** Office of Church and External Relations will sponsor a public discussion on "Wisdom in Ministry" featuring Kentucky Baptist Convention veterans A.B. Colvin and Eldred Taylor. The session will be Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the university's Little Auditorium of the Student Union Building. For more information, call John Chowning at (270) 789-5520.

Short-term missionary dies serving in Niger

NIAMEY, Niger (BP)—Harold McMichael, 66, a short-term Southern Baptist missionary to Niger, West Africa, died Jan. 20 after a short illness.

McMichael began suffering from nausea, chest pain and breathing trouble after a ministry trip to Mali with other missionaries and volunteers. He was taken to a hospital in Niamey, Niger's capital, where he later died. The specific cause of death is not yet known.

McMichael, of Lebanon, Ky., and his wife, Jan, were serving a four-month assignment in Niger with International Service Corps, a short-term missions program of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

They arrived in Niger in early November and participated in agricultural and water development among the Songhai people. He helped improve water quality and increase crop production in the area. The McMichaels were planning to return to Niger for further service upon completion of their first assignment.

Besides his wife, McMichael is survived by four adult children.

Gallup consultant tells Kentucky pastors to build on their strengths

LEXINGTON—Every person has talent; the secret is discovering what it is and learning the best way to put it in action, according to a consultant with the Gallup Organization.

"We use the word 'talent' in a celebrity kind of way," said Dennis Hatfield, a former American Baptist pastor and now leadership consultant for Gallup. Hatfield was among the speakers at the recent Shepherding the Shepherd conference in Lexington.

"What Gallup believes, and what all of our research validates, is that every single human being is talented," he said.

Theologically speaking, "God shapes us with the talent He would have us to have as He sends us into the world," he said. "We lack nothing for the purpose to which Christ has called us."

Too often, however, businesses and churches try to recruit square pegs to do round-hole jobs. "If my talent doesn't make it go in this situation, it doesn't mean I'm not talented, second-class or inferior. It means I'm in the wrong darn place, and that can happen to anybody."

Leaders should be about the business of recruiting people with

strengths that match the job and then helping them develop their talent even more, he said.

"Human beings get an intrinsic satisfaction from using our talents," Hatfield said. "What that means is, if you can see what a person's talent is and position them so that the outcome you want fits with their talent, you don't have to make them do it."

You don't have to police them."

Organizations, including churches, should realize that no leader can have every strength, he added. "Almost no one sees both the forest and every individual tree."

Hatfield encouraged pastors to quit focusing on their weaknesses and start building on their strengths. "Your best way to lead is your best way to lead. If God wanted you to be Moses, you would have been, and you'd be really old right now."

He noted that society puts pressure on people to improve areas of weakness. "Gallup sees that essentially as a waste of time. We talk about managing weaknesses, which basically means if you find the sand in the foundation of your life, don't build the tower there. Let someone else do the things you're not good at."



Hatfield

Consultant: Churches can learn from squirrels, beavers, geese

Continued from page 1

Snyder said. The lesson is that each worker should be allowed to determine how best to do his or her work. The role of management or church leaders is to make sure all the workers share the same values and goals and let the workers determine how to accomplish the work.

■ **The gift of the goose.** Geese honk to encourage each other, and workers need encouragement as well, Snyder said.

A vital ingredient for encouragement, Snyder noted, is knowing when to shut up. Managers have been taught to find something good to mention before offering instruction or criticism, he said. As a result, workers who hear praise often ignore it, waiting for the other shoe to drop, Snyder said.

"Don't follow the cheering with anything else," he said.

Snyder's workshop was among a half-dozen offered during the fourth annual Shepherding conference in Lexington. Nearly 300 people attended the conference, which is designed to let pastors and their spouses recharge and learn, according to Richard Adams, leadership development specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Pastors and spouses often are on call 24-hours-a-day, regularly having to assess complaints or criticisms, Adams noted. "It can become very toxic to the spirit."

The Shepherding conference is designed to nurture the ministry couple, Adams said. "They're just here to enjoy. It lets them step aside for a time of spiritual and emotional retreat."

Garry Baldwin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, encouraged pastors not to set themselves on pedestals where their members can't relate to them.

"People are struggling with the same kind of stuff we're struggling with," he said. "Share stories from your lives so people see how faith works."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

TRENNIS HENDERSON
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN
Partnership Editions
Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Don't hide truth

The Jan. 15 letter by Gene Iglehart is a classic example of gospel compromise. Mr. Iglehart suggests that Christians should not quote Scriptures to Muslims which reference Jesus as the Son the God for fear that they will interpret these to mean that the Bible says that there is more than one God. We must conclude then that the apostle John was either mistaken or culturally insensitive when he declared the purpose of his Gospel: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

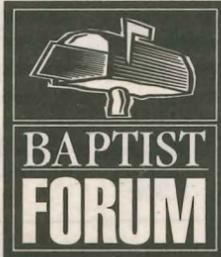
Mr. Iglehart is right about one thing. Our understanding of the nature of God is the main dividing point between us and other religions. The biblical teaching that there is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, goes hand-in-hand with the biblical teaching of salvation by grace through faith (see John 3:16), which other religions flatly deny.

The problem with Muslims and other unbelievers who misinterpret

biblical terms like "Son of God" lies not in Christian preaching but the lack of it. For sinners who do not know the truth naturally make themselves the measure of God.

We do not honor God or do good to men when we hide parts of God's truth that are culturally unpalatable. I learned this preaching to Muslims on the streets of Sarajevo, Bosnia, and I urge my brothers and sisters to contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Those who believe your testimony, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, will be eternally grateful for your loving, faithful witness.

Tim Berry
Louisville



Creedal demands

In the Jan. 22 issue of the Western Recorder, Wayne Ward, respected teacher and admired Christian, concluded his commentary article by stating that each Christian is free to follow his own path in concert with other like-minded Christians as it relates to the Baptist Faith and Message. My admiration for Dr. Ward is boundless,

Reflecting God's love in the workplace

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—Nothing is more startling in the workplace than someone who has "died to the world and the world to him" (Galatians 6:14). No one can make a transformational difference more than such a person.

That person also is more aware of the power to change lives and situations, for it is "no longer (him) but Christ" who lives out His life in and through that person.

Into his or her workplace Christ has

come, and His presence is real and personal and thorough. His love is experienced by everyone, and it is expressed to others,

The one whose life has been so deeply and thoroughly changed by the love of God has now become the means by which God's love is seen, felt, encountered and received by others in the workplace.

This is what God intended! A life changed by His love would be a "change agent"—salt and light—wherever He placed it. And Scripture

but in this instance he and many others continue to miss the point.

Southern Baptist Christians who feel called to teach in any seminary or preach in any church or serve on any committee within the convention and many associations will find this freedom null and void. The grace of our Lord is a shared and mutually held tenet, but any who will not embrace the current Baptist faith creed will not be asked to serve on any committee within the political control of those who presently hold the administrative offices of convention, seminary and church.

The committee who presented this recommendation, seeking the best for Kentucky Baptists, settled for embracing the past, where no argument existed, and inculcated into those dormant entities the present creed of political demand—and it worked.

For Kentucky Baptists, as a body of believers, to say that we recognize the validity of the current Baptist Faith and Message and the good within it, while knowing full well the deliberate diminishment of women and insistence upon creedal demands of doctrine, is folly.

Edward Clark
Danville

reveals this would be preeminently in the workplace.

God's love also would show itself in marriages and homes as a witness to how real and radically life-transforming God's love is. This still is His plan and purpose for life in our nation and world today. His love, lived out with transparent honesty, has not lost this life-changing power.

We who have been "crucified with Christ" are alive in Christ and He in us. No matter where we live or work, nothing is greater, or has greater power to change lives and situations, than God's love.

Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God," is president of Henry Blackaby Ministries

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Shepherding the Shepherd reflections

We are all grateful for the partnership between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Baptist Healthcare System that makes possible Shepherding the Shepherd. This year's conference was held Jan. 17-19 in Lexington.

This special conference for pastors and their spouses continues because BHS President Tommy Smith and the presidents of Baptist Hospital East, Central Baptist Hospital, Tri-County Baptist Hospital, Western Baptist Hospital and Baptist Regional Medical Center believe it is a powerful experience of encouragement and enrichment. It is my conviction that when you strengthen the primary caregiver in the church and community everyone benefits.

"This was my first experience and it came at a time when I needed it in many ways. All the speakers were uplifting and informative, speaking to needs. God truly answered prayers for help," wrote one participant in evaluating this year's sessions.

The purpose of the conference is to provide time away from tasks in an atmosphere where the couples can focus on their relationship to God and to each other. This enables ministry couples to return to their churches with renewed spiritual energy and vision for how God is at work.



Bill Mackey

Shepherding the Shepherd provided four powerful worship experiences for participants. It was moving to observe 290 ministers and their spouses praising God with all their hearts.

The messages during the plenary sessions provided encouragement and insight. The presenters were pastors and spouses who were willing to be transparent about their personal struggles and successes in ministry; and experts who have been insight into ministry and know how to offer encouragement.

Kentucky presenters and workshop leaders were Garry and Cheryl Baldwin from First Baptist Church of Owensboro; David and Gayle Butler of Springdale Baptist Church in Lou-

isville; and David and Melissa Cheek from Mays Lick Baptist Church. They shared powerful testimonies of how God has enabled them to minister through and beyond incredible challenges, including life-threatening illnesses.

One of the most significant developments in shaping a leader is self-understanding. The Gallup organization has developed an instrument that enables people to identify the five leadership talents and themes that drive them. Dennis Hatfield, a former pastor who is now senior analyst, managing consultant and lead teacher in the Gallup Leadership Institute and Management Programs, brought great encouragement with his message, "You are God's Beloved."

Each participant had completed an automated survey in advance and received a report on their individual leadership strengths during selected workshops. Most were not surprised. The theory is that you soar in your ministry when you are utilizing most of your natural, God-given talents.

Make your plans to attend next year's conference, Jan. 16-18, 2003. Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Traditional, Roth IRAs: What are key differences?

By Don Spencer

With the arrival of 2002, many elements of the new tax



law take effect. You should realize more money in your pocket due to tax reductions in this new law. The avail-

ability of this added cash to possibly invest and the changes in rules governing IRAs means you'll probably see much advertising about investing in an IRA. This is especially true at the beginning of the year because you still have until April 15 to contribute to your IRA for 2001.

Whenever I discuss IRAs I find most people lack a clear understanding of the differences in the traditional IRA and the Roth IRA. The primary differences are:

■ **Eligibility.** For both options, you or your spouse must have taxable earned income. For the traditional IRA you must be under age 70 and a half. There is no age limit on the Roth IRA.

■ **Contribution limits.** You can contribute 100 percent of your taxable income up to the annual limit. For the Roth IRA, contributions are phased out as your taxable income rises.

■ **Tax deductibility.** Contributions to the traditional IRA might be deductible on your tax returns, subject to your income and participation in other retirement plans. The Roth IRA contribution is never tax deductible.

■ **Annual limits on contributions.** For 2001, the limit on both is \$2,000. For 2002, the limit is \$3,000 for those under age 50 and \$3,500 for those over age 50. This limit is scheduled to increase in future years.

■ **Future tax liability.** Deductible contributions and all earnings in a traditional IRA grow tax deferred but are taxable when withdrawn. From a Roth IRA, contributions and qualified distributions of earnings generally can be withdrawn tax-free.

■ **Early distributions.** For both, distributions before age 59 and a half are subject to a 10 percent tax penalty except under certain qualifying circumstances.

■ **Required distributions.** Minimum distributions are required from a traditional IRA at age 70 and a half. There is no required distribution of the Roth IRA during the lifetime of the account holder. This is a major and unique advantage of the Roth IRA.

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

Take active role to overcome rejection, gain renewed hope

Q: I struggle with rejection. My wife left me for a younger man. My children never come to visit. The churches I visit make me feel unwelcome. How can I deal with such constant rejection?

It is a courageous step for you to ask for help. It shows that you have come to an "aha" moment in your life where you could be on the edge of personal growth. Some suggestions:

- Enlist a caring pastoral counselor who will give you objective feedback as you tell your story. You need a good sounding board for your struggles.

- You are likely (and understandably) dealing with recurring anger. Work with your counselor to help determine your "trigger points" that mark negative patterns in your life. When you're dealing with the same problems over and over again, there likely is a deeper cause at the root.

- Expect some rejection in life. Jesus was "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief ... there was no beauty that we desired of Him ... we esteemed Him not" (Isaiah 53). No matter what you do in life, someone will reject you, so you might as well do what you think is right.

- Recognize that some people will reject everybody. Some people are never happy. If you build your happiness on theirs, it will offer no foundation for a fulfilling life.

- Try to learn from your experiences. Ask a close friend to give you feedback. Go through a divorce recovery workshop. Experience small groups based on such books as "Making Peace with Your Past." Remember such verses as Jeremiah 29:11, which remind us of the possibility of using past problems as fertilizer for a brighter future, not as the predictor of how it always must be.—James Stillwell

Q: How important are stories to the moral development of my child?

In a speech titled "Why there are no Hittites in Brooklyn," John Patrick describes the impact stories in general, and Bible stories in particular have on a culture, and how the stories we hear shape our identity and moral fabric in important ways. He makes the point that where the influence of good stories is not present, children grow up in a moral vacuum, adrift in a sea of competing ideas and values.

Parents need to understand the power that stories have and the important part stories play in the moral development of children.

William Bennett says that along with precept, habit and example, children also need "moral literacy." Far beyond any entertainment value, stories shape a child's sense of good, bad, right, wrong, truth, justice and fairness. They help children with the important developmental task of constructing the world in which they live and deciding what is right and true and good.

Stories help children see the difference honesty, virtue and unselfishness make in a person, and subsequently in the world. Stories help children develop feelings, including the ability to have compassion—to think about and care about what happens to someone else.

Jesus, of course, told stories to His followers—stories that gave them glimpses of God as well as new understanding of themselves.

Pastor Paul Duke once said, "When we faithfully tell the stories of God's people, self-recognition takes place in many who hear. And not only self-recognition, but the discovery that Someone else has been quietly moving in their story to make all the difference." That's the kind of discovery our children need to make.—David Garrard

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



Why bother having a global Baptist view?

One of the most positive actions in the wake of Sept. 11 was the ability of Americans to put aside differences of race, religion, political party and other factors in order to pull together and help those in need. Though many of those barriers gradually have crept back into place in recent months, the valuable lesson of rallying together for a common cause hopefully will continue to impact our society for many years to come.

In Baptist life, however, some of those lessons still need to be learned the first time. Whether its Southern Baptists, American Baptists, National Baptists or the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, many Baptists tend to huddle in their own groups and shun cooperation with Baptists who are "different." The current rift between the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention is a prime example.

Fortunately, there is at least one place in Baptist life that not only accepts Baptists' rich diversity but honors and celebrates it. That place is the Baptist World Alliance, an international Baptist umbrella organization that includes more than 43 million baptized believers in 201 countries.

Why should Kentucky Baptists care about the work of BWA? For starters, BWA's stated goal is to "unite Baptists worldwide, lead in evangelism, respond to people in need and defend human rights." Those are priorities that should resonate with Baptist congregations of all sizes and settings.

Imagine the impact of mobilizing millions of Baptists around the world for the specific purpose of spreading the gospel. Just as Southern Baptists seek to do that through the Cooperative Program, our efforts can be further multiplied in cooperation with

other Baptist conventions and unions who know firsthand what is needed to reach their nations for Christ.

From the Baptist Union of Gambia with five churches and 479 members to the Korea Baptist Convention with 2,145 churches and 680,000 members, BWA involvement offers Baptists around the world the opportunity to give as well as receive.

Admittedly, I'm personally biased in favor of the work of BWA. As a member of BWA's communications committee for the past two years, I've seen firsthand the positive impact of Baptists from diverse cultures and regions working together to support ministry around the globe.

A current example is BWA's Baptist World Aid response to volcano victims in the Congo. Working with Congolese Baptist leaders, BWA sent an initial emergency grant of \$30,000 to provide basic needs for refugees fleeing the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo. The grant will help feed and shelter more than 800 families while the BWA and other organizations mobilize additional

aid (see article on page 10).

During the past year, BWA has provided assistance to earthquake victims in El Salvador and India and hurricane victims in Belize as well as establishing permanent medical and relief work in North Korea. BWA also has collected funds to aid victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and Afghan refugees.

In addition to humanitarian aid, BWA work includes evangelism, education, communications, study and research. Many of those research areas include such vital issues as Baptist heritage, worship, human rights and Christian ethics.

Sunday, Feb. 3, is Baptist World Alliance Day 2002. Take time in your church to celebrate being part of a global family of Baptists.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Questions of the Day

Why does God allow tragedies like Sept. 11 to occur?

Should children and teens be allowed to use the Internet unsupervised?

How can churches settle the debate over traditional vs. contemporary worship?

As Kentucky Baptists seek to minister effectively in the challenging world of the 21st century, what questions do you have that you would like to see answered?

Beginning next month, the Western Recorder will launch a new question-and-answer column addressing the pressing issues of our day. Pastors, professors, counselors and others will be invited to explore topics that impact today's churches, communities and society.

What's your part? Submit thought-provoking questions. Simply jot down your questions and send them to the Western Recorder by mail, fax or e-mail. We look forward to hearing what you consider the vital issues of our day.

**Send your questions to: Questions of the Day,
Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253;
fax: (502) 244-6474; e-mail: wesrec@ntr.net**

BAPTISTS

'Souper Bowl' Sunday includes focus on Baptist hunger funds

NASHVILLE (BP)—On Super Bowl Sunday, churches across the nation will raise money for the underprivileged by participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." Southern Baptists also will be given an additional opportunity to raise money for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Southern Baptists are being asked to donate \$1 each in large soup pots as they leave church on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, said Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

One hundred percent of the money donated to the World Hunger Fund will support efforts across the nation and around the world led by Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nondenominational effort to raise awareness and funding for hunger ministries. The emphasis was founded in 1990 by Presbyterian minister Brad Smith. Since then, more than 12,000 congregations have participated in the annual event.

The gifts do not go to the Souper Bowl organization, Nelson noted. Instead, individual congregations deter-

mine where to use the money.

"I want to encourage each church to embrace this opportunity to support the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund in addition to local hunger ministries," Nelson said. "Hunger exists everywhere though we are often unaware of it in our own communities. A few canned goods that we will never miss can mean the difference for a child between a good meal and going hungry.

"The cash gifts go directly to the mission field to be used 100 percent for hunger ministry, with nothing taken out for administration or promotion," he added.

This past year, the domestic portion of hunger funds was totally depleted, Nelson said.

"It is time for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund to occupy a place of prominence in Southern Baptist life," Nelson added. "We cannot hope to see the world reached if we fail to demonstrate Christ's love while we speak of His love."

For information, visit the Web site www.souperbowl.org, call (800) 358-SOUP or contact Nelson at (615) 244-2495.

True Love Waits stages satellite broadcast affirming sexual purity

NASHVILLE (BP)—Students around the country are being invited to gather in person or by satellite at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, on Feb. 13 to celebrate their commitment to remain sexually pure until marriage.

The event, "True Love Waits: Seize the Net Goes Live," will be broadcast live by FamilyNet at 7 p.m. CST, and rebroadcast at 9 p.m. CST.

In its latest national celebration, True Love Waits, the sexual abstinence movement begun by Southern Baptists and sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, is inviting teenagers and college students to join in satellite rallies across North America.

"This will be an incredible night that I think every student will want to attend," said Richard Ross, youth ministry professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, and one of the founders of the True Love Waits campaign. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance, and through the use of satellite tech-

nology, anyone in North America will have an opportunity to join us."

The one-hour nationally televised event will be hosted by the brother-sister Christian duo Phillip and Natalie LaRue. The event also will feature the new Christian band, Phat Chance.

The broadcast will include an interactive online commitment form, along with scrolling e-mails at the bottom of the screen. Those taking part in the event will be able to send and read student online commitments and testimonies.

"True Love Waits: Seize the Net Goes Live provides an excellent opportunity for students to join forces to lift the banner for sexual purity," said Jimmy Hester, coordinator of the event for LifeWay. "Airing the rally on Wednesday night gives local church groups a top-notch program they can use to reach students in their churches and communities."

Churches that want to tune into the broadcast will need satellite equipment. For transmission and reception instructions, visit the Web site www.truelovewaits.com.

ERLC program nominated for national award

NASHVILLE (BP)—"For Faith & Family," a 30-minute radio program sponsored by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, has been nominated for the National Religious Broadcasters' Talk Show of the Year award.

ERLC President Richard Land hosts the show that focuses on biblical family values and religious liberty.

The award, determined by a vote of NRB members, will be presented during the group's annual convention Feb. 16-19 in Nashville.

Evangelism Conference

February 25-26, 2002
Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
2840 Hikes Lane • Louisville, KY

Where
there
is no
vision,
the
people
perish...



For more information or to register, contact:

Evangelism Growth Team Office
Kentucky Baptist Convention

502.245.4101

or Toll Free 1.888.254.5722

Visit our Web site:

www.kybaptist.org

Featuring

Dr. Richard Jackson . . . Senior Pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Arizona . . . Dr. Jackson baptized more than 20,000 people in his 25 years as pastor, the majority of whom were adults.



Dr. Joe Stowell . . . President, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois . . . Dr. Stowell was a pastor for 16 years; most recently a Michigan church of more than 1,800, staff of eight, and a Christian school. He is the author of several books.



Dr. Ed Young, Sr. . . . Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston, Texas . . . Under his leadership since 1978, Second Baptist has reached people through a dynamic Sunday School while being innovative in evangelism and outreach.



David Nassar . . . Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Youth Rally and Crusade Speaker . . . His family escaped Iran in 1979 in the midst of a revolution to avoid execution. They eventually came to America, where David came to faith in Christ.



Larnelle Harris . . . Passionate Christian vocalist with more than 18 albums, 5 Grammys and 11 Dove Awards.



Breakout Sessions and Dialogue Luncheons, including ones especially for women, are available during the conference. Check the KBC website for details.

If childcare is needed, call the Evangelism Growth Team Office.

BAPTISTS

IMB appoints 274 career workers in 2001

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Southern Baptists sent 1,155 new missionaries overseas during 2001, a “phenomenal 28 percent increase” over the previous high of 902 new workers two years ago, Jerry Rankin told International Mission Board trustees during a Jan. 21-23 meeting in Birmingham, Ala.

Those new workers brought the total number of long-term missionaries on the field to more than 5,100, Rankin said. That number, which represents 970 long-term and 185 short-term workers, included 274 career missionaries, the largest number ever appointed in one year.

Rankin also reported that though many short-term volunteers canceled their overseas projects after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the total number of volunteers for 2001 still exceeded the 31,000 who served in 2000.

The 33,700 IMB volunteers serving overseas during 2001 almost doubled the 17,423 recorded four years ago, said Bill Cashion, the IMB’s human needs consultant.

The challenge for the IMB in 2002 is to stay focused, Rankin told trustees.

“It’s not a matter of constantly creating a new vision or strategic thrust and keeping people off balance by

constant change,” Rankin said. “We must recognize that God is the author of our vision to lead Southern Baptists to be on mission with God to bring all the people of the world to a saving faith with Jesus Christ.”

Citing “a tendency to be manipulated by denominational politics, public opinion or the latest fad in missions strategy,” Rankin added, “We must never forget that what it is all about is the lostness of the world and a passion for God’s glory among the nations.”

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, Southern Baptists have “a unique opportunity to impact the disillusioned Muslim world and break down that last stronghold of resistance to global evangelism,” Rankin said.

In response, the board will be launching a multi-year project called “Beyond the Wall,” designed to give every Muslim the opportunity to know “the truth of Jesus Christ in a culturally relevant manner,” said Clyde Meador, associate vice president in overseas operations.

Among other things, Beyond the Wall will intensify and coordinate existing efforts among Muslims and create new audio and video resources built around chronological Bible sto-

rying material, Meador said. The hope is that overcoming Muslim misconceptions about the Christian faith will help spark church-planting movements among people groups in the Muslim world.

In other business during the three-day meeting:

■ Trustees responded to a request from a messenger to the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to review the agency’s policy on appointing divorced people as career missionaries. Trustees voted to affirm their existing policy of declining to appoint career missionaries who are divorced, noting that other channels of missionary service exist for people with divorce in their backgrounds.

■ Sam James, the IMB’s vice president for leadership development since 1994, and his wife, Rachel, were honored for 40 years of missionary service. The Jameses were appointed as missionaries to South Vietnam in 1962. He was an evangelist, church planter, pastor and seminary leader until the communist takeover in 1975. Since then, he has developed and directed the board’s missionary training program and served as a regional director for East Asia and vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. He will retire in March.

Red Cross partnership award honors Baptist disaster relief

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptist disaster relief efforts earned the recognition of the American Red Cross through the organization’s Agency Partnership Award. The award was presented to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board on behalf of disaster relief volunteers nationwide.

“On behalf of the Red Cross, I am proud to express our sincere appreciation to Southern Baptist disaster relief,” said John Clizbe, an American Red Cross vice president. “Since our partnership agreement was signed in 1987, we have seen their bright yellow shirts on literally hundreds of disaster relief operations, supporting our mass care efforts and sharing our commitment to care for people in need.”

Southern Baptist disaster relief is a nationwide network of more than 24,000 volunteers operating through units sponsored by state conventions and associations. The network is the Red Cross’ largest and primary partner in the preparation of hot meals for distribution.

The award was accepted by Mickey Caison, national Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator.

“Records from 1995 to 2000 indicate Southern Baptists have responded with Red Cross on over 500 relief efforts,” Clizbe said in presenting the award. “Southern Baptist volunteers, with training in American Red Cross disaster courses, have prepared more than 6 million meals.”

For information about becoming involved in disaster relief, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood department at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free at (888) 254-5720.

PASSPORT

Youth Camping with a Mission

Locations

Kentucky • Florida • North Carolina • Oklahoma

1-800-769-0210

- Bible Study
- Worship
- Daily Mission Projects
- Seminars
- Parties

www.passportcamps.org



Thanks Kentucky.

You have been the birthplace and home for PASSPORT for a decade! With new offices in Alabama we just can't stay away, so we decided to bring camp to Louisville this year!

Come join us for camp, celebrations, mission projects, Bible study and fun with youth from all over the country!

For more information, or a brochure, call us at 1-800-769-0210

or visit our web www.passportcamps.org

We would love to see your youth this summer!



Unique ministries take gospel to streets

Continued from page 1

efforts, saying congregations are limited only by their imaginations.

"We've gotten stuck in a rut," Garland said. "For the last 100 years, we've been teaching the way you do evangelism is getting people to come to church. In reality, the New Testament teaches you go to the people.

"We have to develop a missions mindset," he added. "Missionaries go and build relationships with people through medicine, digging wells or teaching them. A lot of times, buildings in and of themselves are barriers."

An awareness of popular activities is a key to reaching unchurched people, Garland added. By using members' skills and interests, congregations can help their communities, he said.

For example, members of Four Rivers Baptist Church in Paducah last year offered free oil changes for senior adults and single mothers. Another church sponsors annual golf tournaments as a way for members to interact with non-believers, Garland said.

Pastor Brad Henson said Four Rivers Church has approximately 300 regular members and visitors, but through projects like the oil changes

they have a goal of impacting 30,000 people this year.

In various churches, people who have gotten involved in community action say the rewards are long-lasting.

As director of Baptist Men at Westside Baptist Church in Murray, Curtis Gibson led the group last year to get involved in helping others.

Using the name Christians In Action, he had special T-shirts designed for crews to wear. But it wasn't just the group's unusual CIA acronym that attracted attention.

Thanks to their efforts, five Murray residents have wheelchair ramps at their homes. A Boy Scout camp near Land Between the Lakes has a refurbished outdoor chapel. Children in the church's neighborhood enjoy a large playground the group completed this year.

"I can't sit on the pew anymore," Gibson said. "Now God's given me a desire to build relationships with guys who want to go out and do things to help people."

Relationship-building was Charlie Davis' motivation for joining an over-30 baseball league in Louisville last summer. As pastor of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, he didn't have many opportunities to rub elbows with non-

Christians. But aside from the team's manager, he was the only Christian on the 14-man roster.

While his efforts didn't win any converts, he prayed with several players and invited them to last June's Billy Graham crusade.

"I initiated prayer with smaller groups and they all said yes to the offer," said Davis, who played baseball in college. "It was more one-on-one discussions with guys, talking about their relationship with Christ as we're stretching or warming up in batting practice."

Corinth Baptist Church in McQuady became active in its area by forming a servant evangelism team early last year.

Dressed in orange T-shirts with "It's all about God's love" on the back, in early June the group handed out ice water at an American Cancer Society Walk-a-Thon.

Among their other efforts are giving away goodies at Easter, sponsoring a free community barbecue, and handing out coffee and hot chocolate to Christmas shoppers at Wal-Mart.

Those efforts haven't attracted new members or sparked conversions, but the pastor of the Western Kentucky church said that isn't the point.

"That's not the goal of servant evangelism," Jake Huffman said. "It's to till the ground. We try to anticipate what's happening in the community and how you can meet a need by serving them."

"With the event at Wal-Mart, we didn't spend more than \$50, but 200 people are favorably disposed toward the church," Huffman said. "A lot of people are alienated to the church. The only way to build that trust back up is to do something. You can't just talk."

That action might touch someone searching for spiritual meaning, like the Dohoneys.

Angry at God after her mother suffered disabling injuries in an auto accident 10 years ago, Lisa Dahoney now enjoys peace, a better marriage and a new perspective on life's important issues.

"I'm like a new babe in understanding this relationship with God," she said. "I had shut God out of my life, but this has opened so many doors. It's exciting to learn more and more about how God works in our lives."

Skeet shooting, baseball among outreach tools

EMINENCE—Jeff Eaton likes being a regular guy.

When he finishes shooting at the skeet range, he encounters many people who are surprised to discover they just stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the pastor of a Baptist church.

Hope Community Church of Lawrenceburg started its skeet-shooting ministry last summer.

"It's opened a whole new world for me," said the leader of the three-year-old congregation. "People can't believe they're shooting with a pastor."

In addition to practicing regularly at a range in Eminence, members help sponsor Ronnie Conn, a former Olympian who competes in weekend meets. Conn accepted Jesus last year at Hope Community.

Eaton has seen this effort stir spiritual interest among various people, including one man who started attending church regularly and accompanying Eaton to revival meetings.

"There are a lot of people shooting and we're just taking the gospel to them," he said.

But introducing Christ in the marketplace calls for caution, according to Charlie Davis, pastor of Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville, who joined a baseball league last summer.

"I've tried to be real and glorify Christ by my attitudes and actions," he said. "It's been very easy to talk about Jesus, once I bring it up. I've found these guys to be very receptive."

And, don't overlook the primary element of prayer.

"Prayer was the key to everything," said Curtis Gibson, former men's ministry leader in Murray who recently moved to Knoxville, Tenn., after cutbacks at the Mattel plant.

"We started praying that God would work through us," he said. "Once guys got to the next level, they were ready to be servants."—Ken Walker

MARKETPLACE MINISTRY
Volunteers with Four Rivers Baptist Church in Paducah changed oil for senior adults and single moms last year. Pastor Brad Henson said he hopes such projects will lead the church to impact 30,000 people this year.



KBC evangelism conference to feature Young, Merritt, Reighard

By Kasie Moser
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists will be offered an opportunity to renew their vision for sharing their faith at the annual evangelism conference, Feb. 25-26 at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

Sponsored by the evangelism growth team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the annual conference is free, except for meals.

The first session Feb. 25 from 2-5 p.m. will feature: Joe Stowell, president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago; Richard Jackson, retired pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz.; Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt, pas-

tor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga.; and music by Sheila O'Bannon.

The evening session, 7-9 p.m., will feature: Ed Young Sr., pastor of Second Baptist Church of Houston; Walter Malone, pastor of Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville; and a testimony by Jennifer Kennedy Dean, an author and conference speaker on prayer.

Young and other staff from Second Baptist Houston will share their insights on growing an evangelistic church during the morning session of Feb. 26, 9-10:30 a.m. Roy McNeal will provide music.

Breakout workshops later that morning will address 18 topics, ranging from "Witnessing to Children" to

"Growing an Evangelistic Church." These sessions are designed to help participants apply what they will hear throughout the conference to their specific ministries.

The afternoon session of Feb. 26, 2-5 p.m., will feature Ron Shaver, pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church of Louisville; Evangelist Junior Hill; William Sheals, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga.; and a concert by Larnelle Harris, a Kentucky native and winner of five Grammys and 11 Dove Awards.

The closing session, 7-9 p.m., will feature Ike Reighard, pastor of Northstar Church in Kennesaw, Ga., and David Nassar, a Billy Graham Evangelistic Association youth rally speaker.

Lunch sessions on Feb. 26 will offer conference participants a chance to interact with one of six keynote speakers: Dean, Jackson, Reighard, Sheals, Stowell or Young. The dialogue luncheons cost \$5 per person and advance registration is requested.

A dinner for youth ministers also is scheduled with Nassar for Feb. 25 at 5:30 p.m. The dinner costs \$5, payable at the door, but reservations are required by Feb. 15.

For more information on registration for the luncheons, youth ministers' dinner and accommodations, contact the KBC evangelism growth team at (888) 254 5722 or (502) 254-4737 or visit the Web site, www.ky baptist.org/evangelismconference.

Abortion foes march in D.C. to protest Roe vs. Wade

By Patrick Rogers
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—With the specter of Sept. 11's terrorist attacks looming over them, tens of thousands of abortion foes gathered Jan. 22 in Washington to mark the 29th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing most abortions.

Anti-abortion activists and lawmakers made speeches, young abortion foes listened to anti-abortion rock bands and it was all capped off with a march to the Supreme Court steps.

Almost every speaker addressing the crowd at the March for Life mentioned the attacks and the death toll.

"We understand that a huge loss of life on our soil can't always be prevented, but we know that the huge loss of life that continues through abortion can be prevented," said Rep. Melissa Hart, R-Pa.

And for the first time in years, the crowd heard directly from a commander in chief when President George W. Bush addressed the crowd via telephone from West Virginia.

"Everyone there believes, as I do, that every life is valuable, that our society has a responsibility to defend the vulnerable and weak, the imperfect and even the unwanted, and that our nation should set a great goal, that unborn children should be welcomed in life and protected in law," the president said.

Bush, who declared Jan. 20 "National Sanctity of Human Life Day," also encouraged seeking "common ground" where possible between those divided on the abortion issue and urged the Senate to support a comprehensive ban on human cloning.

New York Cardinal Edward Egan blessed the crowd, which was domi-



MARCH FOR LIFE Abortion protesters in Washington, D.C., march up Constitution Avenue on their way to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 22 during the annual March for Life. This month marks the 29th anniversary of the landmark Roe vs. Wade decision. (RNS/Reuters photo by Win McNamee)

nated by Catholic groups from all over the country.

"What you stand for is good and solid and noble," he said. "What you stand for is what is in the heart of Jesus Christ. Each and every one of us is a mirror held up to divinity, a child of God. How could we tolerate anyone snuffing out the living?" he said.

And while some anti-abortion lawmakers admit the terrorist attacks and the war effort in Afghanistan have diverted attention from their agenda, others say it gives them another way to talk about the sanctity of life.

"It has laid the groundwork better for pro-life people," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kansas, in an interview. "They see death taking place on Sept. 11. They don't like it. I think it builds a stronger faith base in this country."

The crowd gathered in the shadow of the Washington Monument under

blue skies and bright sunshine, but some veteran anti-abortion activists claimed the ranks were thinner this year than in years past.

"I think it may be the effect of Sept. 11 and the increased concern that people have traveling long distances," said Robert Luckie, who made the trip from New Bloomfield, Pa. "Also, I do think some people feel that with a president with a more pro-life view that they don't have to be as active."

Nellie Gray, who organizes the March for Life, said she and other activists, while sensitive to issues such as terrorism, will continue to fight even if the spotlight turns away from their cause.

"We are standing up with our constitutional rights, asking for redress and we are going to keep on asking for it," Gray said. "We're not going away."

Anti-abortion forces face an uphill

battle this year in their attempts to repeal abortion laws. Instead they plan to focus on related issues such as fetal stem-cell research and human cloning. A cloning ban easily passed in the House last year and Brownback expects the Senate to vote on the measure in February or March.

"We are hopeful of bringing pressure on senators to support a total ban on cloning, not just a partial ban, not just on reproductive cloning, but on all types," Brownback said.

Anti-abortion lawmakers also will try to beat back an attempt to expand stem-cell research limited by President Bush.

Smaller crowds or not, March for Life organizers were ready for a huge turnout. The Knights of Columbus provided 7,000 "Defend Life" signs; the American Life League chipped in with 4,000 "Stop All Abortion" signs.

"Life Yes, Abortion No," chanted a group of about 50 from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.

Away from the main stage, Rock for Life, a group aimed at organizing young people who oppose abortion, presented two bands, Cool Hand Luke from Tennessee, and Hangnail, a punk-rock band from Wisconsin that sings anti-abortion songs such as "No Name Yet."

"It's the kind of music that the youth of today listen to and therefore provides a platform to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and a pro-life message," said 20-year-old Joseph Mulkey, who traveled from Minnesota to attend the rally and march.

Mulkey did not travel the farthest distance to the march. A contingent of four from Germany called S-O-S Leben, which means "life" in German, and a group of 10 from France called Droit de Naitre, which means the "Right to Be Born," also took part.

"We're not going away."

Nellie Gray, organizer of the annual March for Life

February 16 & 23
March 2 & 16

All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions

<p>Saturday, February 16 Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green 2:00-4:00 PM (CST)</p>	<p>Saturday, February 23 Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington 2:00-4:00 PM (EST)</p>	<p>Saturday, March 2 First Baptist Church, London 2:00-4:00 PM (EST)</p>	<p>Saturday, March 16 Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville 2:00-4:00 PM (EST)</p>
--	---	--	--

Kentucky Baptist high school students (grades 9 - 12) are invited to audition for a spot in the eighty-voice choir or forty-piece orchestra. Those selected will hit the road this summer (June 23 - 30) for a retreat and concert tour under the direction of outstanding conductors. The cost to audition is just \$10; download an audition registration form and check out other details at

www.kybaptist.org/allstate



KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Church Music Department
10701 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40243
502-254-4727 or Toll Free 1-888-254-5707
<http://www.kybaptist.org>



KENTUCKY BAPTIST
COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM

'Gender-accurate' edition of NIV Bible scheduled to debut in April

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—The International Bible Society and Zondervan announced Monday plans to publish a "gender-accurate" edition of the New International Version Bible despite previous criticism from conservatives.

The revised edition of the NIV Bible, called "Today's New International Version," will be available in the New Testament this spring and the complete Bible by 2005.

The idea of a "gender-neutral" Bible generated debate among Southern Baptists and other conservatives in 1997 when the conservative World Magazine reported that the Bible society was working on an "inclusive-language" Bible.

After meeting with critics, the Bible society halted publication of an inclusive edition already published in Britain. The society also stated it had "abandoned all plans for gender-related changes in future editions of the New International Version," according to Associated Press.

The Bible society hasn't abandoned that pledge, according to AP, because the TNIV won't replace the NIV but be sold alongside it. Released in 1978, more than 150 million copies of the NIV have been distributed worldwide.

The TNIV will change approximately 7 percent of the NIV, and more than 70 percent of those changes are not related to gender issues, Zondervan and the IBS stated.

"Responsible translation work never ends. English is always changing," said Ronald Youngblood, a member of the Committee on Bible Translation. "As a result, we must continue the work of translation to guarantee that the Bible is accurately communicated in the language of the day."

Baptist help sought for volcano victims in Congo, Rwanda

Donations to Baptist World Aid's "Congo Relief Appeal" may be sent to Baptist World Aid, c/o Baptist World Alliance, 405 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046.

WASHINGTON (BP)—A volcano eruption between the borders of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo is causing massive hardships for residents of both countries.

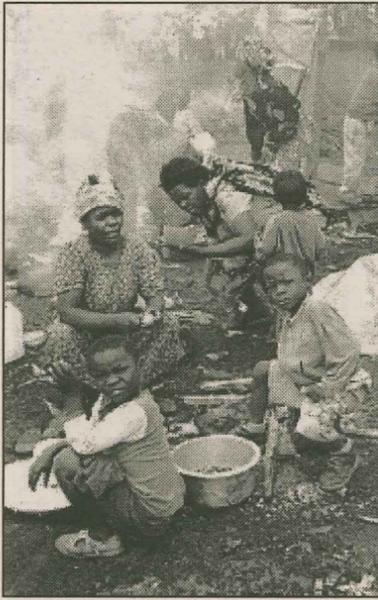
Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, has made initial emergency grants of \$30,000 to help people who fled the volcanic eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo.

"We are possibly on the verge of an enormous catastrophe," said Baptist World Aid Director Paul Montacute. "Many people already undernourished and living in abject poverty have now fled once again. Our Baptist communities in this part of Congo and Rwanda will need our support for many months ahead as they seek to bring relief."

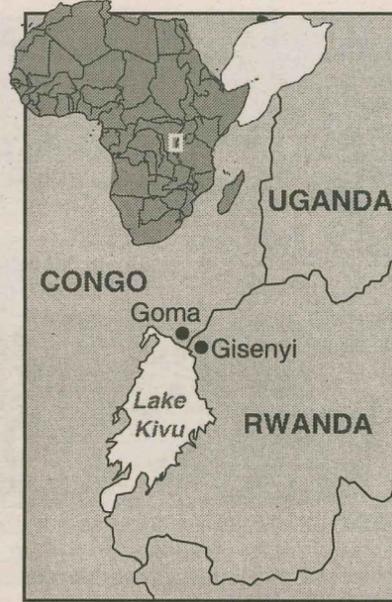
Mt. Nyiragongo is one of Africa's most active volcanoes, and one of eight along the border between Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. The cities of Goma in Congo and Gisenyi in Rwanda are twin cities on the edge of Lake Kivu. The volcano last erupted in 1977, claiming approximately 2,000 lives.

In an urgent request to Baptist World Aid, Faustin Bashaka, general secretary of the Baptist Association in Rwanda, said many people fleeing the eruption had crossed the border from Goma into Gisenyi and were seeking shelter in Baptist buildings.

He had spoken on the phone with one Congolese Baptist leader, now in Gisenyi, who reported that his Baptist headquarters, secondary and primary



CONGO VOLCANO Congolese refugees prepare their meal at the Nkamira refugee camp within Rwanda after fleeing the erupting Nyiragongo volcano in Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The volcano near Goma erupted Jan. 17 killing more than 45 people and sending thousands of others fleeing into neighboring Rwanda. (RNS/Reuters photo by Jacky Naegelen)



schools had been buried by the lava. The emergency grant will be used to purchase food and cooking utensils to help people who have sought shelter in Baptist buildings in Rwanda. But with many thousands of people on the move, more funds will be needed to help those made homeless.

Claver Buzizi, the projects officer of the Baptist Union in Rwanda, visited Goma. "What I saw in Goma was beyond my human understanding," he

said. "The people of Goma are safe because they ran away before the town was burnt down to ashes."

Rebuilding Goma is next to impossible, Buzizi said.

An emergency grant to the Baptist Union in Rwanda will help the 856 families seeking shelter in the organization's properties in Gisenyi. Food, blankets, sanitary supplies, jerry cans and wood will be provided to each family. Already, Rwandan Baptist

pastors have brought second-hand clothes, food and clean water to many of these victims.

Leaders of two Baptist groups based in Goma have reported needs and damage.

Mauka Mathe Bulalo, leader of the Union of Baptist Churches in Central Africa, currently is in Belgium. But he reported to Baptist World Aid that the Virunga Baptist hospital, the union's headquarters, the Virunga church, retired pastors' houses, staff houses, guest and missionary houses all have been destroyed.

"My family was rescued narrowly," he said, "and my wife fled with only a blanket."

Habimana Athanase, a leader of the Union of Baptist Churches in Congo, currently is studying in Tanzania. He asked Baptist World Aid to send funds and remember the victims spiritually and physically.

Baptist World Aid has not been able to contact officials at both unions who were in Goma during the eruption.

Baptist World Aid also is working to send medicine and medical supplies to the Union of Baptist Churches in Central Africa.

This area of Africa has suffered greatly in recent years from manmade and natural disasters. In 1994 the genocide in Rwanda forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee from Rwanda to Congo. In 1996 the area was invaded by Rwandan forces, and since then mainly has been under the control of Rwanda.

A global impact

Wherever there is persecution, wherever there is disease or famine, wherever there is a hunger for the gospel of Jesus Christ, there is where you will find the Baptist World Alliance. Wherever news is breaking in the world, Baptists are there. When the bombs started falling in Afghanistan, and Christians began to be persecuted in Pakistan, the BWA was there. Aren't you glad you are a member of a big family of 100 million Baptists in more than 200 countries around the globe working together to bring the light of the gospel to where there is darkness?

Sunday, Feb. 3, is Baptist World Alliance Day. Let me encourage each of you on this day to join BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and me in celebrating with your fellow Baptist brothers and sisters around the world the global impact for Christ we are making through the BWA. Let me suggest three ways for you to celebrate:

First, pray for your fellow Baptists around the world, many of whom are being persecuted and face great dangers. You can contact the BWA office for prayer guides with interesting facts about your fellow Baptists.

Second, respond to the needs of

evangelicals around the world by becoming a global impact partner through the BWA. Perhaps the Lord is leading you to help secure the future of the BWA with a global impact endowment gift of cash, appreciated securities, real estate, life insurance, retirement assets and/or a bequest in your will or revocable living trust. Give Laurie Valentine

or me a toll-free call for assistance.

Third, adopt a Baptist World Aid project personally, for your mission group or for your church. Contact the BWA for this year's project book.

If you are a minister, let me encourage you to consider participating in the BWA Ministers Exchange Program beginning in 2003. Also, lead

your church to celebrate BWA Sunday, either on Feb. 3 or some other Sunday during 2002.

I urge you to contact BWA for more information about how you, your mission group and church can celebrate and unite with worldwide Baptists to make a global impact for Christ. Call (703) 790-8980 or e-mail bwa@bwanet.org.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



Spring Women's Conference 2002

Register Today!

"Secret Longings of the Heart"

featuring Carol Kent

March 1-2

Immanuel Baptist Church

3100 Tates Creek Road

\$15 in advance & \$20 at the door

www.ibc-lex.org

859-269-5715 ext. 101

859-266-3174

Russian Orthodox mark Jesus' baptism with icy plunge

By Frank Brown
Religion News Service

MOSCOW (RNS)—The three ambulances and the van from the Ministry of Emergency Situations parked in the snow were a sure sign this was not going to be a typical Russian Orthodox Church service.

Another sign was the half-dozen policemen on the edge of the crowd as midnight approached and Friday, Jan. 18, became Saturday—Epiphany—in the northernmost country in the Orthodox Christian world.

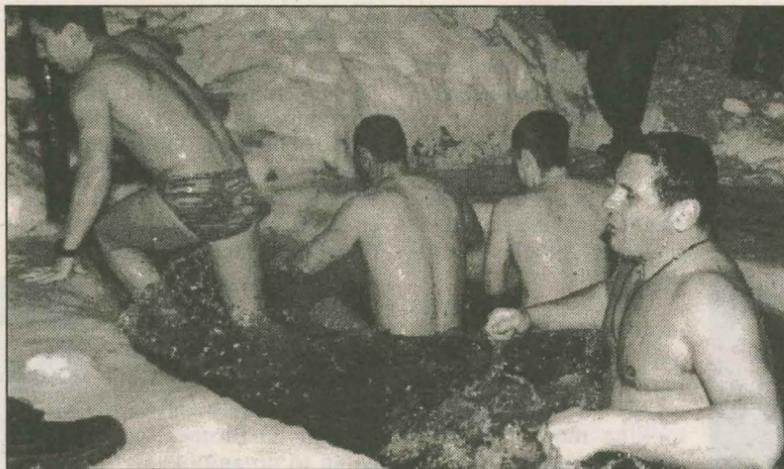
It turned out that the ambulances and the policemen had little to do other than keep warm as the temperature hovered just under freezing.

Midnight peacefully arrived and Father Mark Golovkov and his choir took their places at the edge of the ice-bound, snow-covered Moscow River. Golovkov crouched at the edge of a rectangular pool hacked out of the foot-thick ice. Three times he immersed his gold crucifix, blessing the small body of water.

Almost immediately after the wiry monk stepped away from the water's edge, a group of men wearing skimpy bathing suits walked purposefully across the snow and jumped into the river.

As pink flesh met frigid black water, the bathers yelped, gasped and sputtered. The process lasted over an hour as hundreds of men, women and a few children jumped in and—quickly—climbed out.

It was a scene repeated Saturday,



ICY CELEBRATION Russian winter swimmers get out of an ice covered lake in Moscow in the early hours of Jan. 19 as they celebrate Epiphany. (RNS/Reuters photo by Dima Korotayev)

Jan. 19, at hundreds of ponds, lakes and rivers all over Russia, where Orthodox Christians, following the Julian Calendar, mark the Epiphany 13 days later than in Western Christendom. At Epiphany, Orthodox Christians celebrate Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan rather than the appearance of the Magi. The holiday in Russian is known simply as "kreshcheniye"—baptism.

In the liturgical calendar of the 80-million member Russian Orthodox Church, Epiphany is one of the most fun and believer-friendly holidays. All day, believers make their way to local churches to get a yearlong ration of holy water. Only a hardy minority actually immersed themselves in the

holy water—which is what believers reckon any body of water becomes on Epiphany after it is blessed.

Shortly before setting out for the river bank with the choir on Friday night, Golovkov tried to explain Epiphany's wide appeal among the Orthodox.

"Here we've got the idea that we are blessing nature. Of course every person strives for saintliness and here, in an encounter with nature, he gets a little," said Golovkov, 37, who earlier in the evening took a dip in the ice hole—naked.

"There was no one around," he said.

Epiphany's strong link with nature combined with Russians' generally

superstitious nature put the holiday at risk of becoming a neo-pagan ritual for warding off evil spirits. Golovkov, who lived seven years in Jerusalem and bathed in the River Jordan itself, is having none of that.

"It was an event in the life of Christ, so we celebrate it, simple as that," said Golovkov, pastor of the nearby 16th-century Church of the Holy Trinity. "In a symbolic way, we each remember the baptism of Christ, our Lord."

That's not what every person was thinking about early Saturday morning on the Moscow River. "I am not religious but my soul demanded that I come here," said Slava Burunov, 40, a construction supervisor, as he dried and dressed himself after swimming.

Aside from "a colossal sense of relief" after emerging from the freezing water, Burunov was hard-pressed to put into words why he decided to strip down and jump in. After thinking a bit, he offered, "In general it is difficult to understand the Russian people." His wife, Natasha, chimed in, smiling, "Sometimes we don't understand ourselves."

Golovkov noted that during Russia's 70 years of Communist rule, public celebrations of Epiphany were illegal.

Even now, Golovkov doubted Epiphany celebrations would ever reach the level before the 1917 Russian Revolution.

"There just aren't that many rivers that aren't so polluted that they are absolutely poisonous," he said.



VERTICAL BAPTISM A Russian believer is doused with water Jan. 19 at the Neva River in central St. Petersburg as she celebrates Epiphany, which in Russia commemorates the baptism of Christ. (RNS/Reuters photo by Alexander Demianchuk)

Summer's Summer

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College student Chuck Sumner, son of Riley and Liesa Sumner of Lexington, worked with fellow Cumberland student Daniel McKee during the summer of 2001 as part of Kentucky's SonBurst team.

The team spent two weeks in training, three weeks traveling and five weeks working with young people at Cedarmore. On the weekends, the team ministered in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Typically every Friday, as soon as the campers left, the team members loaded their van and drove to a church, Sumner said. Friday evenings might feature a pool party, a workshop on puppets or a revival service. Most Friday and Saturday evening services were directed at young people. On Sunday mornings, team members led a more traditional service.

Sumner especially enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the young people in the churches. During the parties or after the worship services he would talk one-on-one or in small groups with those who attended.

Often the team ministered at one church on Saturday and another on

Sunday. One weekend, the team drove more than 600 miles.

Sumner thanks Kentucky Baptist churches for their hospitality, stating, "You don't have to feed Son Teams so well!" Saturday and Sunday usually found team members invited to huge potluck lunches and dinners. Sumner is amazed that all team members didn't gain 20

pounds. Fortunately, their work with the energetic young people burned off those extra calories.

During one week of camp, Sumner met a young girl who claimed to be an atheist. He prayed asking guidance for dealing with her. He talked with her several times during the week,

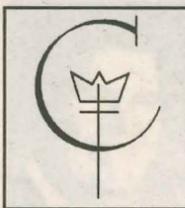
even though she tended to avoid him. On the last night when the invitation was given, she was the first one to come forward accepting Christ.

Sumner stated, "It was an awesome opportunity and I'm glad to have a chance to go and represent Cumberland College."

We at Cumberland give thanks for Sumner and his work for the Kingdom of God.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Play for the children

The trees are bare, the grass is brown, the air is cold, the car is covered in salt and sand. So naturally we here at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children are thinking about ... golf!

The calendar is set for our fourth annual "Play for the Children" tournament. This has become one of my favorite events because it gives me the opportunity to travel the state and meet new people. It also gives participants the chance to learn more about KBHC and enjoy a fun day on the links. We always have a great time and raise valuable funds for KBHC's programs.

This year we are once again offering an incentive to pastors and ministers, who can play free of charge if they have three teammates who enter the tournament. Something new this year is our first women's-only tournament, which will take place June 13 in Bardstown. Women are welcome to participate in any of the regional events, but we wanted to provide this new outing as a special time just for the ladies.

All of our regional tournaments begin at 1 p.m., local time. The top two teams from each regional event, and the women's outing, will advance to the finals on Aug. 12. As

always, we will provide you with some extras to make your golf day special. Brochures will be available very soon. You can find details on our Web site, www.kbhc.org, or you can call us at (800) 456-1386.

The dates and locations of the tournaments are: Monday, May 6, Arrowhead Golf Club, Cadiz; Monday, May 13, Nevel Meade Golf Club, Prospect; Monday, May 20, Indian Hills Country Club, Bowling Green; Monday, June 3, Greenbrier Country Club, Lexington; Thursday, June 6, Drake Creek Golf Club, Ledbetter; Women's Tournament, Thursday, June 13, Maywood Golf Club, Bardstown; Monday, June 17, Flagg Springs Golf Course, Alexandria; Monday, June 24, Gibson Bay Golf Club, Rich-

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

mond. I hope you will pass this information along to other golfers and KBHC supporters. I look forward to renewing friendships and meeting new people this year during our tournaments.

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

Sound track sparks revival for old-timey gospel music

The Coens called T Bone Burnett, the acclaimed musician who Rolling Stone magazine once called "one of the few confessed Christians in rock."

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

LEXINGTON (RNS)—Folks'll be fiddlin' in Philadelphia. They'll be yodlin' in New York. They'll be staying on the sunny side of life way out in cloudy Seattle. And they'll be dosey-doing to down-home-style bluegrass high up in Denver.

Such goings-on started last week when "Down from the Mountain," a North American concert tour, kicked off with a sold-out show in Lexington. In fact, most of the tour's 19 dates already are sold out.

It is the latest surprising chapter in the continuing, confounding success of a music-filled movie called "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

It all began when brothers Joel and Ethan Coen, the talented and twisted minds behind movies like "Raising Arizona," "Fargo" and "The Man Who Wasn't There," set out to film the story of a trio of prison escapees in Depression-era Mississippi.

Before filming began, the Coens called T Bone Burnett, the acclaimed musician and producer who Rolling Stone magazine once called "one of the few confessed Christians in rock."

Burnett assembled thousands of vintage songs from the 1920s and 1930s. Many of those selected for "O Brother's" soundtrack were old-

timey gospel classics. Most of the rest deal with the eternal battle between good and evil and the desire for paradise that always has been the poor man's daily bread.

"Songs like 'I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow' and 'Keep on the Sunny Side' are a part of our history and heritage," Burnett said in a recent interview from a Los Angeles recording studio.

"And as people become more electrified, more data-oriented and more immersed in the technological world, they are looking more and more for those parts of life that are connected to who we are and where we come from."

Movie soundtrack recordings often are designed to achieve the same ends as Hollywood's licensing deals with fast-food restaurants and makers of action figures. Goal No. 1 is to sell movie tickets.

Not the "O Brother" recording. When it was released in late 2000, The New York Times declared it "one of the least mainstream soundtracks ever offered for sale."

But the album has confounded all expectations. So far, it has sold more than 4 million copies. It won "Album of the Year" awards from the Country Music Association and the International Bluegrass Music Association, and is nominated for five Grammys. Rolling Stone called it one of the best albums of 2001, and Entertainment Weekly named "The

Musicians of 'O Brother'" as one of their Entertainers of the Year.

Last year saw the release of "Down from the Mountain," a live recording and video featuring many of the "O Brother" musicians. Now the tour promises to expose concert audiences throughout North America to the glories of authentic, traditional music that predates the slick, pop-oriented product promoted by Nashville's country and Christian music industry establishment.

"I don't think anybody could sincerely say we thought 'O Brother' was going to do any of this," said Sharon White, who sings lead vocals on "Keep on the Sunny Side."

White, her sister Cheryl, and their daddy, Buck, make up the Whites, who have been performing gospel, country swing and bluegrass music for more than 30 years. In recent years, staying true to traditional music hasn't been easy.

"There came a point for us when we felt that if we couldn't do the music we love in the way we feel called to do it, then we were just going to let it go," she said.

"We got into this because we love the music. And when it gets to the place where you're spending all your time haggling with record companies and fighting to get your records played on the radio, that's not what we're all about."

White hasn't had to haggle with record companies for years, now. The

Whites' latest album, "A Lifetime in the Making," was released on husband Ricky Skaggs' Ceili Music label, which the award-winning bluegrass musician created after he was dropped by major labels.

Now, with the runaway success of "O Brother," the trio's career is taking off once again. They appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman" last Labor Day, and their concert bookings are up. "It has kind of rejuvenated our career," she said.

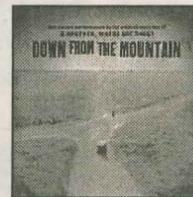
White said the "O Brother" phenomenon shows that people are fed up with the music-by-the-numbers approach which reigns supreme in Nashville.

"This music touches people on a level that we're not accustomed to being touched on in our culture today," she said.

"Modern entertainment is all about arousal and sensuality. Even sports, in some weird way, is about getting you all revved up. But this music is honest and pure, and it moves you like a mountain stream moves you. It's something so deep it almost defies explanation."

White, who describes herself as "loosely Southern Baptist," also said there are spiritual forces at play.

"God's in this," she said. "There's no doubt about it. We look at everything we do that way, and I hope the people at the concerts see this, because I, we are very unattractive, weak vessels."



He needed us!

In June 2000, we received a sad phone call. The call was from the aunt of a young man who was interested in coming to Oneida. She said that Randy (not his real name) had been living with her for eight months.

The aunt told us that Randy had just turned 15 and was not doing well in school. She said that he was "poor in reading, math and spelling." She also told us that Randy was a fetal alcohol syndrome child and that "some of his peers use him as a joke and he gets picked on a lot."

The aunt believed that he was being passed from one grade to the next without learning much of the basics. Randy kept his room pretty messy, and the aunt confessed that he was a little immature.

Other things about Randy were discouraging, but the most devastating information was yet to come. When we asked why the aunt was calling instead of his parents, she said that his mother was deceased. Randy did not know where his father was, and he had not seen him for years. His stepfather had kicked him out of the house. At age 14, Randy had been abandoned, and the aunt had taken him in.

With a family of her own to raise, the aunt needed some help. She had heard positive things about Oneida Baptist Institute, and she had been told that when there was legitimate financial need, OBI would help. The aunt had limited income, and she was not getting any financial help to care for Randy. It was agreed that she could afford \$1.50 per day for Randy to attend Oneida.

The next month Randy came with his aunt to visit our campus and to enroll for summer school. It was obvious that Randy had low self-esteem and was in great need of something positive in his

life. During the interview he confessed that he did have a bit of a temper and had been in a fight. Both were the result of being picked on and not having the family support any child needs. The aunt had done the best she could, but admitted she was limited in ways to help Randy.

When I asked Randy what he most wanted to accomplish at Oneida he told me that he wanted to get a "better education, and to learn a trade" so he could get a job.

We soon discovered that Randy was a loving, kind young man. He would rather work with adults than peers, and he would do about anything we asked him to do. When he turned 16 last summer, we let him mow the athletic field with a tractor and finishing mower. He did really well and was willing to work longer hours than his job called for.

Last Friday evening we had several inches of snow. Students normally work three or four hours each Saturday morning doing campus chores. Last Saturday I noticed someone using a tractor and grader blade to push the snow from our campus streets and parking areas. I could tell he did not have a hat on, and it was cold. When I walked down to the tractor, I saw the driver was Randy.

I got him a hat and a dry pair of gloves. As always, he was most appreciative. I had to leave campus shortly after that, so I don't know how much longer he worked. But if I know Randy, he worked well past his quitting time to get the job done. I think we have been a blessing to Randy, and I know he has been a blessing to us.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

A vice president called to preach

When I came to Clear Creek 14 years ago, some thought I was a student (the average age of a student at Clear Creek is 31). Few now mistake me for a student.

First-year student Tom Keim and I can discuss our three grandchildren and reflect on the years since high school in the early '60s.

A native of Covington, Tom married his high school sweetheart, did a term in the Air Force and settled in to a 25-year career with Sun Oil Company.

Starting as a company salesman in Columbus, Ohio, he was a vice president responsible for company real estate by 1991.

"I can certainly identify with the individual caught in company downsizing," Tom reflected. "I've encouraged them that the end of their life has not arrived. With God's help they will survive."

Tom took an early retirement package and he and Carolyn moved to Woodstock, Ga. God began to move him in an unexpected direction.

"I had walked a guilty distance from God for about 25 years and reached a point where I was full of rage. One day I fell on my face on the living room floor and with tears

prayed for God to remove the rage from me.

"The change was instantaneous. I called everyone I had hurt and confessed my sin and asked forgiveness. We were members of the dynamic Woodstock Baptist Church, and the Lord opened doors of service in the fellowship.

"As an assistant Bible teacher I experienced spiritual growth, and after some months I felt the Lord calling me to the ministry.

"I thought I was too old, and it seemed every sermon I heard referred to Moses being 80 years old when he led the exodus. After praying several months, the Lord directed me to 2 Timothy 4:2-5 and confirmed a call to preach the Word.

"I didn't want to preach without being prepared, and our search for training brought us to Clear Creek." Tom said, and added with a smile, "My memory is better than I thought."

The call and faithful response of Tom Keim demonstrates again what God has done at Clear Creek since 1926.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

BOOKS/MUSIC

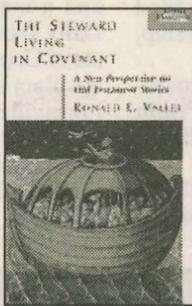
The Steward in Living Covenant: A New Perspective on Old Testament Stories. Ronald Vallet. Eerdmans Publishing, 2001. 251 pages. \$20. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

This book joins other recent books that take a new look at the old subject of stewardship. For too long, consideration of stewardship was held hostage by books on church finances. Vallet adds his voice to the understanding of stewardship as being a steward of God's creation. This book is a parallel work to Vallet's earlier book on stewardship, "Stepping Stones of the Steward," examining Jesus' parables.

Vallet connects the issue of stewardship to the theme of covenant. In a fresh study of Old Testament stories from Creation to the book of Isaiah, Vallet makes the case for the importance of the promise and command aspects of God's covenant with God's people.

This is not a boring book on church finances, nor is it a handbook for running a "stewardship campaign." It is a first rate biblical theology of stewardship that should impact not only the approach to church finances but also all aspects of the ministry of the church. The contents of the book provide excellent material for preaching and teaching. Vallet's illuminating reading of the selected Old Testament stories is thoroughly grounded both in biblical scholarship and practical concerns for the witness of the church.

A nice addition to the book are two choral readings and three dramas by Wanda Vassallo. While the readings and drama flow from Vallet's work, they stand on their own as excellent offerings for a church's drama ministry. Minister and layperson alike will delight in this book. *Wayne Hager*



Unfreezing Moves: Following Jesus into the Mission Field. Bill Easum. Abingdon Press, 2001. 174 pages. \$14. ♦♦♦♦

For Bill Easum, the crucial issue facing every congregation is neither growth nor health, but faithfulness. He contends that churches can be healthy and growing, but not faithful, because the measure of faithfulness is not numbers or a healthy family system. "Faithful congregations follow Jesus into the mission field to make disciples who make a difference in the world."

Easum sees two types of congregations: stuck and unstuck. Stuck congregations are those who have yet to understand and incorporate in the fiber of their being the central truth that "disciple-making is the reason the church exists." Unstuck congregations, obviously, have the opposite point of reference.

In "Unfreezing Moves," Easum seeks to provide a different systems paradigm for diagnosing church effectiveness than the ones currently in vogue.

He prefers a model that rotates between two intersecting continuums: grace-law and think-feel. Churches that function in the two quadrants on the "grace" side are being more faithful, even as they move up and down the think-feel line.

After delineating his improved paradigm, the main portion of the book he dedicates to outlining 10 "moves" designed to unstick a church and free it to become faithful.

Easum's writings always are a challenge to the status quo, and he challenges his readers to think outside the box. This book is no exception. *Jim Holladay*

Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality. Beth Moore. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000. 289 pages. \$18.99 ♦♦

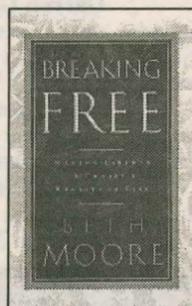
Beth Moore is, without a doubt, a Type-A personality. "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality" is proof of this: 289 pages stuffed so full of Scripture passages, memorization requirements, Greek and Hebrew word studies and expository exhortation that more laid-back readers may find themselves exhausted after just a few chapters.

In the book, Moore uses examples of Israel's kings and the book of Isaiah to show today's believers their need to explore true freedom in Christ, and remove any obstacle in their life that blocks the liberty of Christ from shining through.

The book is designed and written to be used with its follow-up study workbooks, meeting the No. 1 requirement for successful Christian marketing: Always necessitate a follow-up product. Without the study guide and a 10-week Bible study group to go with it, the book is, quite frankly, too jam-packed with labyrinthine outlines and side studies to be read and absorbed well.

The study also suffers from the unfortunate tendencies of many Protestant writers to not allow for space and contemplation of the material. It becomes an impersonal study despite her theme being so relational.

While fans of Moore and Christians looking for a vigorous study of Scripture with other mature Christians will find this book helpful, it is not a study for the typical, mixed-bag small group or for seekers looking to deepen and explore their faith. *Victoria Moon*



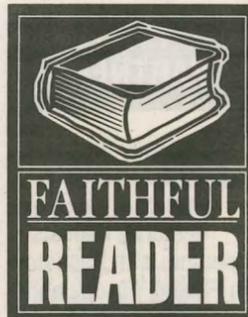
Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation. Kenneth Boa. Zondervan Press, 2001. 544 pages. \$24.95 ♦♦

I confess that I did not finish this book. I gave up on it half way through because it was too ponderous and repetitive. That is sad, because Kenneth Boa has produced excellent resources for the spiritual journey and is a true disciple of the spiritual life.

Boa sets an ambitious agenda for this book. Noting American culture's growing interest in spirituality, he also observes that far too many Christians, in their search for spiritual renewal, "have failed to discern the 'spirit of truth and the spirit of error' (1 John 4:6)." This book is Boa's attempt to outline the basics and parameters of an authentic biblical spirituality. His goal is to overcome the "fragmentary or one-sided" approaches and offer a "more comprehensive, balanced and applicable approach to what it means to know Christ."

The book is organized around the "12 Facets of Spirituality": Relational, paradigm, disciplined, exchanged life, motivated, devotional, holistic, process, Spirit-filled, warfare, nurturing and corporate. Like Richard Foster's "Streams of Living Water," Boa contends that, while there is a unifying theme to all 12 facets, one might be drawn more closely to some facets than others. Unfortunately, as I read through the chapters, each facet sounded much the same as the one before it, with only slight nuances and word changes.

On the whole, the book was filled with information but lacked inspiration. A better resource is the Foster work mentioned above. *Jim Holladay*



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

Four artists lead nominations for Dove Awards

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Four Christian artists have been nominated eight times each for honors at the upcoming 33rd Annual Dove Awards.

Steven Curtis Chapman, Toby McKeehan, Nicole C. Mullen and Rebecca St. James received the most nominations. Other top nominees were Michael W. Smith with seven and Third Day with six.

The nominations were announced last week in Nashville, where the awards ceremony will be held April 25. Nominations include:

Artist of the Year: Steven Curtis Chapman, Nicole C. Mullen, P.O.D., Michael W. Smith, Third Day.

Female Vocalist of the Year: Natalie Grant, Nicole C. Mullen, Nichole Nordeman, Rebecca St. James, CeCe Winans.

Male Vocalist of the Year: Steven Curtis Chapman, David Phelps, Mac Powell, Mark Schultz, Michael W. Smith.

New Artist of the Year: Downhere, Sara Groves, Shaun Groves, Joy Williams, Zoegirl.

Group of the Year: Avalon, P.O.D., Point of Grace, Selah, Third Day.

Song of the Year: "Above All," "Alive," "Call on Jesus," "God Is God," "God of Wonders," "I Can Only Imagine," "Live Out Loud,"

"Press on," "Wait for Me," "Welcome Home."

Pop/Contemporary Song of the Year: "Blue Skies," "Call on Jesus," "I Can Only Imagine," "Live Out Loud," "Welcome Home."

Inspirational Song of the Year: "Above All," "Every Season," "He Sends His Love," "The Glory," "Wonderful, Merciful Saviour."

Southern Gospel Song of the Year: "Day Three," "He's Watching Me," "The Blood Cried Out," "The Truth Is," "There'll Come a Day."

Bluegrass Song of the Year: "Above and Beyond," "Face to Face With Amazing Grace," "Just a Prayer Away," "Thank You, Lord, for Your Blessings on Me," "The Lamb Is Within."

Country Song of the Year: "Come Spring," "Goin' Away Party," "I See," "Thank God for the Preacher," "Will the Circle Be Unbroken," "Write Your Name Across My Heart."

Traditional Gospel Song of the Year: "Hold On," "Marvelous," "My Everything (Praise Waiteth)," "Stand," "Steal Away to Jesus."

Rock Album of the Year: "Big Tent Revival Live" by Big Tent Revival, "Come Together" by Third Day, "Empty" by Michael Tait, "Karaoke Superstars" by Superchik,

"Out Of My Mind" by G S Megaphone.

Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year: "Declaration" by Steven Curtis Chapman, "Free to Fly" by Point Of Grace, "Have I Ever Told You?" by FFH, "Invitation to Eavesdrop" by Shaun Groves, "Oxygen" by Avalon, "Talk About It" by Nicole C. Mullen.

Southern Gospel Album of the Year: "Day Three" by Lord Song, "Encore" by Old Friends Quartet, "Glory Mountain" by The Greenses, "No Distractions" by CrossWay, "Pressed Down, Shaken Together, Running Over" by Gold City.

Country Album of the Year: "From the Heart" by The Oak Ridge Boys, "God Is Love: The Gospel Sessions" by Ann-Margret, James Blackwood, The Jordanaires and The Light Crust Doughboys, "Inspired" by Lulu Roman, "It Feels Like Christmas Again" by Jeff & Sheri Easter, "My Gospel Hymnal" by Susie Luchsinger.

Praise & Worship Album of the Year: "In the Company of Angels—A Call to Worship" by Caedmon's Call, "Let My Words Be Few" by Phillips, Craig and Dean, "Much" by Ten Shekel Shirt, "Worship" by Michael W. Smith, "You Are My World" by Darlene Zschech.

Third Day to raise money on tour for Habitat for Humanity projects

NASHVILLE (BP)—Third Day will partner with Habitat for Humanity International to raise money for the nonprofit ecumenical Christian housing ministry.

A portion of every ticket sold during Third Day's upcoming "Come Together Tour" will go into a Third Day/Habitat fund; the money raised will build eight homes worldwide during 2002.

Third Day has committed to building at least three homes in Nashville; West Palm Beach, Fla.; and their hometown of Atlanta.

Through its partnership with Habitat, the band hopes to encourage its fans to become socially aware of the many people who need shelter worldwide and to provide an opportunity for them to help through volunteer efforts.

Third Day also will help recruit volunteers for each of the construction sites. Band members also plan to take part in some of the building themselves. Earlier this year, the band recruited its record label staff to participate in the construction of the Nashville home.

"At every show, in every city, we see God's diverse people united in worship to the Lord," explained Third Day member Tai Anderson. "These experiences have made a significant impact on how we view our role within the body of Christ. We hope to use this platform to challenge God's people to extend the unity of worship experienced at our concerts to a unity of worship expressed through service to the world around us."

Third Day's "Come Together Tour" will run from mid-February to early May. The tour is slated to perform in 51 cities, including Chicago, Atlanta and Nashville.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Four men who recently were ordained as deacons in International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria. They are from Holland, Russia, Japan and South Carolina.

■ The vision of missionaries and nationals to begin a church in Bombarral, Portugal. They will use arts, crafts and English-as-a-second-language classes as entrees into the community and will need a place to meet.

■ A pastor for International Baptist Church in Einhoven, The Netherlands. E-mail: Abeered@hotmail.com.

■ The vision of missionaries and nationals to begin Bible studies across Khabarovsk, Russia, and that Russian Christians will open their homes to host these studies.

■ The search for a director of missions for Maine Baptist Association.

■ The more than 850 youth from across New England who attended the Youth Encountering Christ retreat last week in Sturbridge, Mass.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church ordained **Will Compton, Karl Kemp, Sam Kirtley, Jason Meisel, Stan Snodgrass** and **Malcolm Taylor** as deacons. **Jason Pettus** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Delmont Church called **Wayne Glass** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Second Church in Eddyville.

Jesse Darnell resigned as pastor of Rock Front Church to serve in bivocational ministry in Phoenix.

Charles Brown retired Dec. 31 after serving 28 years as pastor of Sec-

ond Church.

■ **CARROLLTON**—**Larry Smith** resigned as pastor of Cove Hill Church.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church called **Darren Gaddis** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Liberty Point Church in Cadiz.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church licensed **Josh Patton** and **Justin Watson** to the gospel ministry. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host a women's conference March 1-2. Author **Carol Kent** will

highlight the theme, "Secret Longings of the Heart." For information, call (859) 266-3174.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church will host **Squire Parsons** in concert Feb. 24, 11 a.m. For information, call (606) 864-7701.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Audubon Church ordained **Rod Payne** as a deacon. **Carey Newman** is interim pastor.

Davis Memorial Church called **Mike Swift** as minister of worship. **Wes Brockway** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Walnut Memorial Church will host **Greater Vision** in concert Feb. 24, 6 p.m. **Odell Beauchamp** is pastor.

■ **PARIS**—Spears Mill Church ordained **Gary Jackson** as a deacon. **J.T. Rafferty** is pastor.

Campus minister Tony Curnutte dies

ASHLAND—Tony Curnutte, part-time Baptist Student Union campus minister at Ashland Community College, died Jan. 17 at age 39.

Curnutte also was associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Flatwoods and a copy editor for the Ashland Daily Independent. He was a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Curnutte is survived by his wife, Karen, and a daughter, Lauren.

His funeral service was Jan. 20. Memorial gifts may be made to BSU in care of Flatwoods Church.

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEEDED: Part-time medical technician. Mobile Vascular Screen Service in the Louisville area is looking for technician capable of accurately assessing blood pressure. Screening done in churches, senior centers, corporations, health clubs, etc. Qualifications: EMT, CNA or Medical Technician helpful, but will train; customer service oriented, CPR certification preferred. Other information: Part-time positions available; primarily daytime hours; Compensation: \$9-\$10/hour. Call or send resumé to: Life Line Screening, 136 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville, KY 40207, Attn: Office manager. Phone: (502) 894-9228. Fax: (502) 894-9230.

FOR SALE: New and used buses and vans. New 2001 Ford/Glaival 25-passenger demonstrator; new 2000 Dodge raised-roof van with wheelchair lift, \$28,200; 1996 Chev/Eldorado 30-passenger, low miles, loaded, \$34,900; 1995 Ford/MetroTrans Diesel 14-passenger, no CDL; 1993 Ford/Eldorado Diesel 25-passenger, high miles, \$5,900; 1988 Ford/Supreme 21-passenger with luggage rack, \$5,000. Call for details: (800) 582-7118.

FOR SALE: GMC Motor Coach, model 4905. Great condition; capacity is 47 passengers with reclining seats; excellent AC; restroom and large luggage bays. The coach has been very well maintained, has new paint, is serviced and ready to drive anywhere. GMC coaches are very reliable, comfortable and inexpensive to operate. Price is only \$22,500. The coach can be seen at Gardenside Baptist in Lexington, Ky. Call (859) 277-7301 (ask for Dale Hanson), or (859) 7224 (ask for David Dale).

SEEKING: Full-time minister to children. Oklahoma City, metro church has a dynamic AWANA club, Sunday school and children's church. Contact Associate Pastor Scott Kinney, Trinity Baptist Church, Yukon, OK. (866) 354-4830.

SEEKING: Full-time, experienced pastor for a well-established Southern Baptist-affiliated church with a membership of approximately 300. The successful candidate will have graduated from a theological seminary, supports the basic belief of the Southern Baptist association, be willing to relocate and be able to furnish references upon request. Send resumé with work history to: Highlands Baptist Church, 2032 Parallel Road, Lexington, KY 40511, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: The people of Valley Station Baptist Church are presently seeking an individual to serve as their part-time children's minister. This individual will be responsible for the planning and directing of ministry for children four years old through fifth grade. The children's minister also will work in conjunction with other staff of Valley Station Baptist in the overall leadership of church ministry. This position will require approximately 20 hours per week. Annual salary is \$12,500. For more information about this position, please contact Pastor Jerry Gifford at (502) 937-1730. Please send resumé to: Valley Station Baptist Church, 5415 Valley Station Road, Louisville, KY 40272, Attn: Dennis Sebastian.

SEEKING: Conservative Southern Baptist church is seeking senior pastor. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 1604 Sherwood Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky., is accepting resumé for the position of full-time youth pastor and activities. Beacon Hill is a purpose-driven church located in one of the fastest growing communities in Kentucky with an average weekly worship attendance of 550. Responsibilities will include middle and high school youth, college and recreation ministry, including oversight of activities center and supervising youth and activity center interns. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 274 Old Monticello Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Associate minister of discipleship with main emphasis in youth. Active youth group of 50-60. Please submit resumé to: Versailles Baptist Church, 125 E Green St., Versailles, KY 40383, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Leitchfield, Ky., is seeking a qualified person to serve as the associate pastor of a purpose-driven church and headmaster of a growing Christian school. Resumé should include experience and/or education in the areas of administration and pastoral ministries. Send resumé to Pastor Chris Butler, 106 East Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Ashby Lane Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Robert Marquess, c/o church, 6617 Ashby Lane, Louisville, KY 40272.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children (ages 3-12) for church in northern Kentucky. Minister will work with 30-plus children and their families for 12-15 hours per week. If interested, send resumé to Rev. Denny French, Paint Lick Baptist Church, Route 1 Box 207, Warsaw, KY 41095.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth for Simpsonville Baptist. Average worship attendance: 350. Submit resumé by Feb. 17 to: Personnel, Box 56, Simpsonville, KY 40067.

SEEKING: Rineyville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Located in a growing community near Elizabethtown, Ky., the church averages 230 in Sunday school attendance. About 300 in two morning worship services, and has a full-time director of children and youth ministries and a worship planning committee. See our Web page at www.homestead.com/RineyvilleBaptist. Please send resumé or questions to: Pastor Search Committee, Box 197, Rineyville, KY 40162.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for Simpsonville Baptist. Average worship attendance: 350. Submit resumé by Feb. 17 to: Personnel, Box 56, Simpsonville, KY 40067.

SEEKING: Jamestown First Baptist Church, Jamestown, Ky., is presently seeking a full-time minister of students and associate pastor. This dual position emphasizing student ministry (1st-college) is a great opportunity for God's chosen one—competitive salary and benefits. Ministry experience and seminary education preferred. Send resumé with cover letter before March 10 to: JFB, PO Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629, Attn: Associate Search.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth for Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, Hodgenville, Ky. Salary negotiable. Currently the church has 100 to 125 in Sunday school and 150 to 175 in Sunday morning worship. We have 10 to 15 in our youth program and are expecting a large increase in the next several years as young people come out of our AWANA into the youth program. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Ovesen Heights Baptist Church, PO Box 253, Hodgenville, KY 42748-0253.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Highland Park First Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. Please submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 7321 Billtown Road, Louisville, KY 40299.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a minister to students. The church is located in the downtown area of Bowling Green near Western Kentucky University. The minister is to provide leadership and guidance to students and parents and assist the pastor in the development and coordination of a comprehensive educational, activity and outreach program to students. A seminary degree is desired. Salary open with benefits. For additional information, contact Steve Snodgrass, Youth Search Committee chair, (270) 781-2718, ext. 221. Church Web site is www.firstbaptistbg.org.

SEEKING: Children/family minister; individual who is passionate about relational ministry with children (birth through 6th grade) and their families. Minister will develop, coordinate and implement a dynamic in-reach/outreach program for children and families. Seminary degree strongly preferred. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 612 E 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort. All communications should be directed to the Pastor Search Committee, Thornhill Baptist Church, 1142 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601. (502) 223-7303. E-mail: thbchurch@dcr.net.

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

SEEKING: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., is receiving resumé for the position of minister of music. This position is full time with the possible addition of a second ministry area (education, missions, administration, etc.) to be determined by the candidate's interests, experience and skills. Ormsby Heights is a conservative church with a blended style of worship (gospel, hymns, praise/worship, contemporary) and a very strong interest in developing contemporary worship opportunities targeting young adults. Please send resumé to: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, 2120 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216.

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

New York ministry offers hope to female drug addicts

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

NEW YORK (ABP)—When Marta Serrano counsels women in the South Bronx that faith in Christ can help them overcome addiction to drugs, she speaks from experience.

Just 18 months ago, Serrano showed up at Casa Lydia, a drug rehab ministry sponsored by Baptist churches in New York.

"I met Jesus Christ here. I didn't know anything about Him when I came," Serrano recalled. "I was all tied up, taking all kinds of drugs—heroin, crack, whatever—and I had run a prostitution house."

Serrano said she first met the people at Casa Lydia through a girl who used to do drugs with her. "She had changed, and there was something about her that I wanted," Serrano recalled.

Turning to Casa Lydia for help with her own problems, Serrano said she found a loving acceptance she had never known before. "I felt something here. I was hugged. And I felt a peace in my heart I had never felt before," she said.

After completing her own nine-month rehab program, Serrano decid-

ed to continue working at Casa Lydia, helping other women.

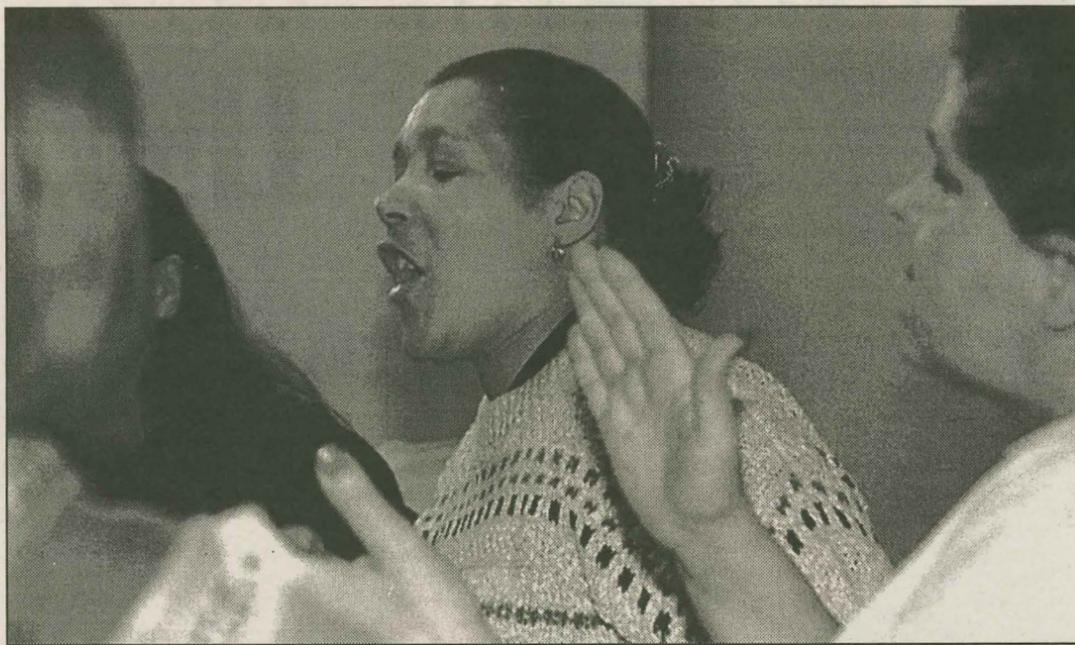
"Now I'm a new person, totally free from drugs," she said. "God has given back what addiction took away. My family came looking for me. Now, they want to be with me. They like having me around."

Ana Ayala directs Casa Lydia, a 12-bed residential rehab facility for women ages 18-60.

"Fifteen years ago, I was a narco-trafficker, an alcoholic and a prostitute on the streets of Queens," Ayala said. But the Christian witness of a Baptist minister led her to faith in Christ. "It's been 15 years since I was washed in the blood of Jesus and five years since I became director of Casa Lydia."

In five years, 28 women have graduated from the program. One is a schoolteacher, another is a truck driver, several graduates have been reunited with family, and a few, like Serrano, continue to work with the ministry.

The program has drawn women from a variety of ethnic backgrounds—including a recent arrival from West Africa—but is based in Spanish. Many of the residents are undocumented aliens.



The approach is simple. Casa Lydia introduces structure, routine and discipline into fragmented and undisciplined lives. "We wake up at a certain time, go to bed at a certain time and eat at a certain time," Ayala said. "And we study the Word of God."

Spiritual disciplines are the major

part of the Casa Lydia curriculum. Residents learn to read the Bible daily, and every Thursday is devoted to fasting and prayer. Any drug use—including tobacco and alcohol—is strictly prohibited. Residents are allowed to leave the facility only for off-campus parenting classes.

LYDIA HOUSE A resident of the drug-treatment facility in New York City's Bronx borough participates in worship.

Enron collapse has ripple effect in area churches

HOUSTON (RNS)—The catastrophic collapse of the Enron Corp. is having ripple effects across Houston's spiritual community, with church members banding together to help each other through their newfound unemployment.

The energy giant has laid off more than 4,000 employees and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

For one Episcopal parish in Houston, the crisis unleashed a torrent of human need. Jim Nutter, rector of Palmer Memorial Church, opened his parish for churchgoers who suddenly found themselves without their retirement savings or meaningful employment.

"We spent about an hour and a half together, sharing support and solace," Nutter said of an impromptu counseling session held at the church.

Nutter spearheaded a job bank at the church, offering the church's Web site as a place to post resumes and job openings. A member with years in human resources offered to teach job-hunting and interview skills to people looking for jobs.

The church also instituted a morning "coffee house" where unemployed members could meet together to talk and offer progress reports.

"This is not what life is about," one member told the church. "Who you are is not changed. You are and always will be a beloved child of God."

'Watchman' group offers education on cults

By Brian Blackwell
Alabama Baptist

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—It began 22 years ago with a Southern Baptist layman and a former Mormon. Today, Watchman Fellowship has grown to more than eight states offering education, counseling and "noncoercive intervention" related to religious cults.

The interdenominational organization offers resources not only on non-Christian religions like New Age and Wicca, but also warns about unorthodox teachings of groups that many people might not ordinarily recognize as a cult.

David Henke, a Southern Baptist layman, began by witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses and speaking to churches. Eventually, he met a Mormon who was soon converted to Christianity. Together, the pair launched Watchman Fellowship in 1979.

Today there are offices in Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas along with a national Web site, www.watchmanfellowship.org.

The Alabama office is the second largest. State director Bob Waldrep said his office, located in Birmingham, fields between 100 and 150 requests for information each month and has 1,800 files on various people and groups, ranging from the authors of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" to yoga.

While it is an interdenominational ministry, Waldrep said the Alabama office employs seven Southern Baptists, which is more than half the staff. Most are ordained Southern Baptist ministers.

One of them is Steve Godwin, who has worked with Watchman Fellow-

ship since the summer of 2000. Godwin teaches churches about Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Age and Wicca.

He said Watchman Fellowship is a ministry comprised of dedicated men and women who serve Christ by helping others understand the true teachings of groups that teach "another gospel," borrowing from a phrase used by the apostle Paul in Galatians 1:6-9.

"It is a very important ministry as evidenced by many of the letters we receive from people whose lives have been changed because we were able to counsel them," Godwin said.

"Watchman Fellowship is also an evangelistic ministry in that we are actually witnessing to people who do not know the real Christ."

Watchman Fellowship's goal is threefold: to educate the community, to equip the church and to evangelize the cults.

"We go to churches and give presentations on Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and other cults as we are inculcating the body of Christ," said Waldrep, who is in his ninth year as state director.

"Statistics say that 80 percent of those who join a cult or false Christian group come off the pews of mainline denominational churches," he said.

He also said Mormons have been claiming since 1988 that they're reaching more than 270 Southern Baptists weekly. Waldrep said he believes the claim is true. That's one reason his organization makes presentations to Baptist and other denominational churches on a regular basis.

Waldrep said his office focuses on educating churches, in which members have access to reach cult members. As individual cult members are reached, they in turn can witness to

other cult members.

"A large part of our time is given in Christian counseling through a family member or friend of a cult member who then shares with that cult member," Waldrep said.

The local church also is critical to the group's success, Waldrep said, because many cults warn their members not to talk with Watchman Fellowship.

The approach Watchman Fellowship takes on intervention with cult members is to undermine the credibility of the group in the member's eyes. By showing the person that the group isn't credible through the cult's material he might have never seen before, that member might then question if he can trust that cult.

Waldrep said the most frustrating part of his job is when a person believes the information provided by Watchman Fellowship is authentic but still refuses to leave the cult.

Watchman Fellowship is not only a resource to churches and religious media, but many secular media also use it. "Our perspective is from a Christian viewpoint, but the secular media know we're credible and have learned they can trust us," Waldrep said.

Waldrep has appeared on "ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings," ABC's "Night Line," "MSNBC with Brian Williams," CNN and has been quoted in USA Today, The New York Times, Time and Newsweek.

A Japanese television program similar to "60 Minutes" spent a week with his office to enlighten the Japanese about what a cult is.

Watchman Fellowship rarely charges for its services, with the exception of certain magazines and tape sets.

Mormons have been claiming since 1988 that they're reaching more than 270 Southern Baptists weekly.



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

Didn't think so.

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

PRactical Resources for Christian Living
WESTERN RECORDER