

February 12, 2002  
Vol. 176, No. 6

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## Some Kentucky Baptists planning to observe Lent

By Victoria Moon  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Why do Christians observe Lent?

While historians agree it is a complex issue, some Christians in Kentucky Baptist churches and throughout the country find the ancient Christian observance of Lent simply a new way to prepare for Easter.

"If you were to physically take a trip, you would get what you needed for that trip together, pack and prepare for that journey," said Les Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Lent is a time when Christians spiritually prepare our hearts for a journey that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the huge miracle of Easter," Hollon said.

Lent originated around the practice of baptism, according to Robert Webber, chair of Northern Baptist Theological Seminary's Ministry and Worship program and founder of the Institute for Worship in Lombard, Ill.

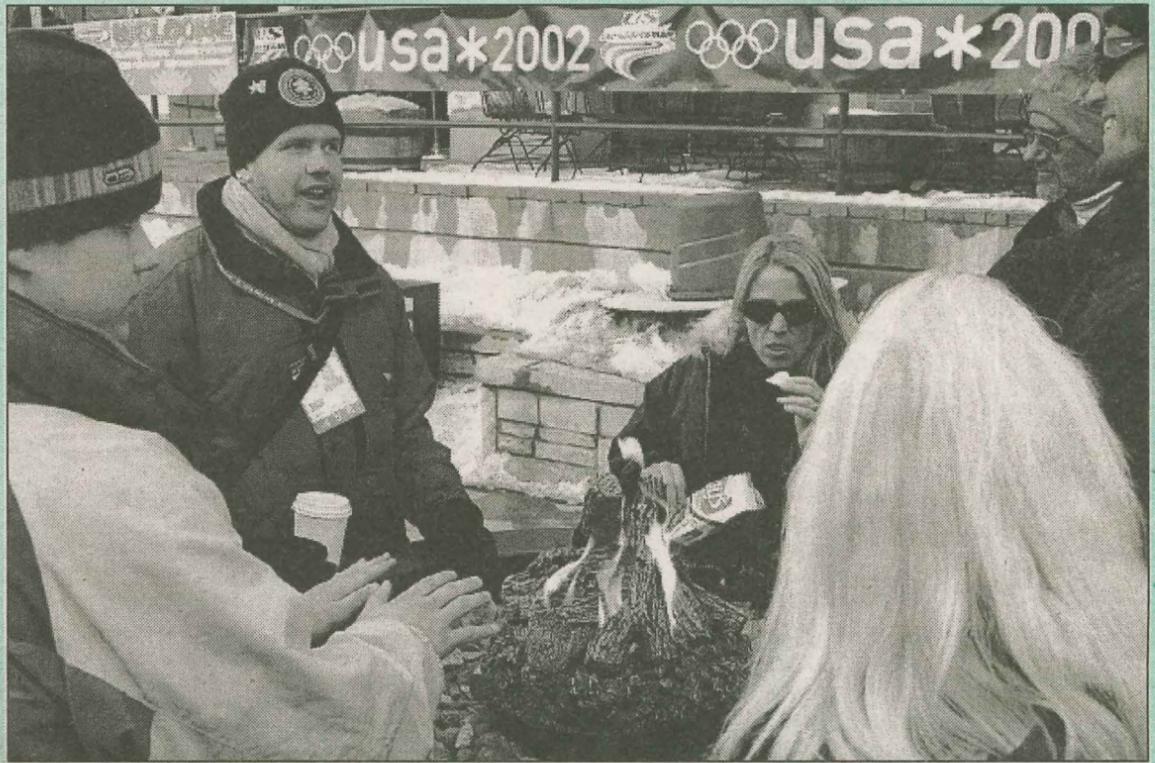
"The history of Lent is very complex, but the origin of its traditions grew up around baptism," he said. "In the early church, adult believers were instructed in the faith and fasted and prayed for six weeks prior to their baptism, then baptized by immersion on Easter Sunday.

"Gradually, the collective church body began to make this 40-day journey with the new believers and began using this time before Easter as a period of study, fasting, prayer and renewal."

Webber added that the number of days of Lent—40—sprang from the example of Jesus' time of fasting and prayer in the wilderness before He was tempted, and was also tied to Old Testament examples of times of waiting

□ See *Some Kentucky ...*, page 3

## Olympic ministry



At least 15 current and former Kentucky Baptists are in Salt Lake City to volunteer for Global Outreach 2002, the Southern Baptist ministry to the Winter Olympic Games. Volunteers provide a variety of ministries near venues for the games and build relationships with visitors from around the world, providing opportunities to talk about their faith. ■ Above: Jonathan Clark, a Baptist Student Union intern at Murray State University, talks with visitors to Park City, Utah. Global Outreach volunteers staffed gas-fire heaters on Main Street where visitors could get warm. This often provided workers opportunities to hand out evangelistic trading pins or discuss their motivation for volunteering. ■ Left: From left, Kevin Sigsby, an associate minister at First Baptist Church of Richmond, talks to an Olympic volunteer in Olympic Square. (Photos by David Winfrey)

## Researcher: Today's teen attitudes pose challenges for churches

By Jon Walker  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)—Teenagers born since 1985 might be the toughest youngsters yet to reach for Christ, according to Christian researcher George Barna.

This group he calls the "mosaic generation" is comprised of non-linear thinkers. Such teens cut and paste their beliefs and values from a variety of sources, Barna said on a recent radio show.

What's more, almost half the mosaics don't know and don't care about moral absolutes, Barna added. To them, it's just a non-issue not worth arguing over. This means that they're a generation comfortable with contradictions, he said.

Barna defines the mosaic generation as youth born between 1984 and 2002. "There's (no attribute) that really dominates like you might have seen with prior generations," Barna

said on "For Faith and Family," a weekday radio show sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Other researchers refer to this generation as millennials or Generation Y.

"When we try to show them logically that two things really don't work together—that either one is right and the other is wrong, or they're both wrong—typically what you get is a giggle and then the response, 'Yeah, how about that?'" Barna said. "They're not really concerned about trying to figure out where things stand on an objective continuum."

Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and host of the radio show, said the research regarding the mosaics shows America is cultivating a generation of mainly right-brain thinkers.

Such an approach is a radical departure from traditional Western thought, at least since the Renaissance, Land said.

Barna said society has taught mosaics to think in this different way through fast-edit videos, constant computer use and easy access video games. In addition, 91 percent of all mosaics, compared to 51 percent of all adults, use the Internet, where they absorb information and build relationships.

"We've taught them, 'You don't have to connect the dots the way your parents did,'" Barna said. "'What you have to do is just react to whatever you see out there, and as long as it feels good, as long as it makes sense, that's good enough.'"

Connecting with young people always has been a challenge, Barna said, but today that struggle is deeper.

"It's no longer just a difference in cultural icons, ones that young people respond to instead of their elders," Barna noted. "Now it's a whole different style of thinking and communicating. It's a completely different set of values based upon a very varied

interpretation of the meaning of life and how to achieve success or significance in one's life."

Such a shift forces Christians to question how best to share their message with today's young people, Barna noted.

"Is preaching the best way to communicate God's truths to them, at least the way we traditionally preach?" he asked. "How do we get them to understand and embrace God's Word without ever compromising it while still understanding they communicate very differently from previous generations?"

"They want spirituality; they want faith experiences; they want a taste of religion; but they don't want to have to go through all of the stuff that they see the adults doing at the typical church," Barna added. "But, because the Internet fits with their schedule—it's a 24/7 opportunity—they're using it to explore things they might not have access to otherwise."

## NAMB to stop endorsing ordained female chaplains

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board decided Feb. 6 that while the agency's Chaplains Commission "is committed to endorse chaplains, both men and women," it will no longer endorse women who have been ordained. The action came in response to a motion from the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"The Chaplains Commission has not required or considered ordination in the endorsement of chaplains in the past," trustees said in their response. "However, in the future we will refrain from endorsing ordained women to the office of chaplain. We recognize ordination as a local church action, but endorsement and its requirement is the action of a national agency."

The action was a response to a motion that the SBC direct the Chaplains Commission "to stop endorsing women to the chaplaincy and adhere to both the scriptural requirements and the requirements of the 2000 Baptist

Faith and Message involving the pastor, the exercise of spiritual authority and ordination."

The Chaplains Commission, which operates under the auspices of NAMB, is the Southern Baptist Convention body recognized by the military and other institutions for granting formal denominational endorsement to chaplains.

In the response, trustees noted that chaplains already are required to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Trustees also affirmed their support for women in a chaplaincy role, noting that chaplains "serve in numerous institutional settings and roles that are not that of 'pastor.'" The response added that chaplains "are called and gifted to serve in many caring roles and have a tremendous role in evangelism and spiritual care as they minister in the midst of crises."

As trustees studied the issue, however, it was ordination of women that became a key concern.

"The issue of ordination is not addressed in the Baptist Faith and Message, and the Bible does not clearly

set forth a detailed description of the practice of ordination as it is commonly observed today," the response stated. "However, Southern Baptists, following scriptural principles, have developed a rich and meaningful tradition of ordaining God-called men into the ministry. The generally agreed upon understanding held by most Southern Baptists is that ministerial ordination is related to a man's being 'set aside for the office of pastor.'"

The response also cites a 1984 SBC resolution encouraging "the service of women in all aspects of church life and work other than pastoral functions and leadership roles entailing ordination."

"It is felt that we, as an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, must follow suit with the positions of our convention," said Barry Holcomb, a trustee from Ashford, Ala., who spoke on behalf of the NAMB Executive Committee, which drafted the response.

Trustees also pledged their commitment to "stand with" female Southern Baptist chaplains in any situation where an employer seeks to make or-

dination a condition of employment, helping them "obtain their legal rights to not be discriminated against solely because of their religious conviction concerning ordination." Most institutions do not require ordination, although the Veteran's Administration and the Federal Bureau of Prisons are among employers who do have the requirement.

The measure was approved by a majority vote among trustees, with about eight of 45 trustees voting in opposition. A substitute motion that included support for women in chaplaincy but not the prohibition on endorsing ordained women failed by a similar margin.

In related action, trustees heard that 31 chaplains recently had received first-time endorsements by the Chaplains Commission.

Trustees also heard that the number of NAMB missionaries had increased to 5,154 by the end of 2001, an overall increase of 10.2 percent since the agency was formed in 1997. Thirty-five missionary candidates were approved or appointed during meetings earlier in the week.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

#### ■ Florida 'uninvites' former WMU leader.

The Florida Baptist Convention has withdrawn an invitation to former Woman's Missionary Union leader Dellanna O'Brien to speak at its annual statewide WMU meeting because of her involvement with Global Women, a new missions organization. "We do not believe that a person involved in a third-party parachurch missions organization would prove to be a valuable spokesperson for the missions education emphasis of Florida Baptists," said convention spokesman Don Hepburn. O'Brien, who led WMU's national organization 10 years before retiring in 1999, is one of several former WMU leaders who served as incorporators of the new organization. She said she withdrew from leadership in Global Women when she realized some people perceived it as being in conflict with WMU.

#### ■ Association issues seminary 'notation.'

Amid affirmations accompanying the extension of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's accreditation for the next 10 years, a "notation" has been issued by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The notation, or criticism, was reported Feb. 5 by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. The notation stated that the seminary "lacks policies or resources necessary (for the faculty) to fulfill their teaching or research responsibilities." The article cited increased teaching loads at the seminary due to retirements and faculty members who left after declining to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Seminary President Ken Hemphill said the notation is "not designed to be punitive" but is "part of the way of improving an institution." The seminary has two years to correct the notation.

#### ■ Registration under way for SBC DayCamp.

Children attending the 2002 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting with their parents in St. Louis this June will have an opportunity to experience missions through SBC DayCamp

2002. With a theme of "Gateway for Missions," the camp will be offered for boys and girls who have completed grades one through six by June. Registration is open to participants at a cost of \$75 per child for those before May 1, and \$85 per child from May 1 through May 27. Volunteers also are being enlisted to help staff the camp. For information and registration, contact Dean Green, SBC DayCamp 2002 Reservations, 192 Lovejoy Road, Sparta, TN 38583; phone (866) 813-336; e-mail: mktracks@blomand.net.

#### ■ SBC expands child care services.

In addition to on-site child care during the June 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in St. Louis, the service is being extended to include the pre-convention sessions of the SBC Pastors' Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. SBC child care registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Child care for infants through children who have finished kindergarten will be available Sunday through Wednesday. A one-time \$10 registration fee is charged for each child. For each session, a \$5 per child fee is charged, with a maximum charge of \$40 per family. Registration information is available by e-mailing sndyosbrn@aol.com, including the sender's name and address; by phone at (636) 227-7850; by downloading registration forms at the Web site of Ballwin Baptist Church, www.ballwinbaptist.com; or by writing to SBC Childcare, Sandy Osborne, Ballwin Baptist Church, 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011.

#### ■ Newman joins Baylor administration.

Carey Newman, a former professor of New Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, has been named director of church relations at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Newman has served the past four years as senior editor for academic books at Westminster John Knox Press in Louisville. He also has been pastor of churches in Kentucky, Florida and Texas.

## Graham endorsed for SBC presidency

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—Texas pastor Jack Graham "very likely" will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention when the annual meeting convenes June 11 in St. Louis, Jerry Vines announced Feb. 4 in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I have been told that it's very likely that he's going to be nominated to serve as president of the SBC this year," Vines told the annual pastors' conference at First Baptist Church, where Vines is senior pastor. "And if he is, I plan to vote for him."

Graham is senior pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, north of Dallas. The church is one of the nation's largest Southern Baptist congregations, with more than 17,000 members.

The pastors' conference at the Jacksonville church has been a launching point for previously successful conservative presidential nominations during the past decade.

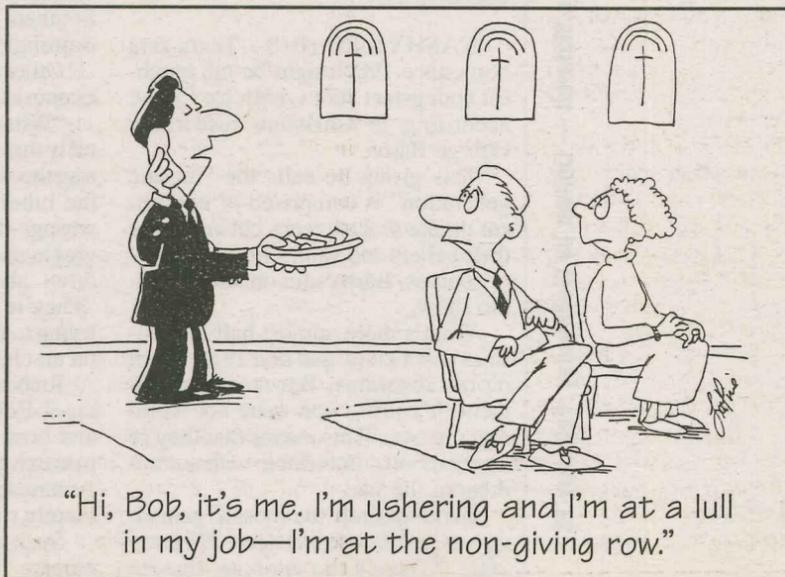
Prestonwood was one of the first mega-churches to join the conserva-

tive Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, while maintaining nominal membership in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Graham has been critical of the BGCT's movement away from the SBC. He has addressed several SBTC gatherings, including the first evangelism conference and last year's annual meeting, where he delivered the convention sermon. Prestonwood will host the SBTC student evangelism conference in May.

Graham is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been pastor of churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Florida.

Graham was president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in 1992. He delivered the annual sermon at the 1993 SBC and in 1994 nominated Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., for SBC president. Henry was elected over Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe, who was the choice of conservative leaders in the SBC.



## January giving sets CP record for Kentucky

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists contributed a record amount to the Cooperative Program in January, according to Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention business services team.

Ashby, reporting Feb. 7 to the KBC Executive Board's administrative committee, said CP gifts for the month totaled \$2,581,354, more than \$1 million above the previous month's total.

Other giving records set in January included \$2.1 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and more than \$5.3 million in total cash receipts.

The record giving followed a slow financial start in the first four months of the 2001-2002 fiscal year. KBC officials announced plans last month to reduce non-fixed program costs by up to 10 percent for the year.

At the end of December, state convention CP receipts lagged more than \$940,000 behind budget. The record giving in January reduced the budget deficit to less than \$230,000.

"January was a tremendous offering and February has started out well," Ashby said. "We're still watching our dollars very closely."

Ashby also reported that the Baptist Building is adding new security measures this week. Visitors to the building will be asked to sign a logbook when they enter and will be issued a guest badge to wear while in the building.

"There are times there are visitors in the building we do not know," Ashby explained. Seeking to keep unauthorized people from "coming into the building without notice," he added, "We want to take this step to insure we know who is in the building at all times."

Ashby said the KBC's property workgroup also is continuing its work although "nothing really major is on the horizon."

A proposal last fall to construct a new Baptist Building facility was put on hold in December after negotiations stalled with a prospective tenant for the current facility.

Ashby said the workgroup is "proceeding with some house-keeping kinds of things," including possible rezoning of the current property and assessing environmental issues.

In other business, committee members:

- Approved a base salary increase of 2 percent in the KBC's 2002-2003 pay grade structure.

- Heard a report that committee chairman Charles Barnes had named a subcommittee to study the alignment of the KBC's eight geographic regions.

## Literacy missions worker surprised by award

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Pat Howard didn't see it coming when she recently was recognized at her church for her 20 years of service in literacy missions.

Howard, who teaches English-as-a-second-language courses to international students, was presented the D. M. Aldridge Award. The award, from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's extension-ministry department, recognizes an outstanding literacy volunteer each year.

KBC literacy missions consultant Becky Carnell conspired with staff members at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green to surprise Howard during a recent worship service.

Pastor Mark Hopper asked Howard to pray at the end of the service. Since she typically is asked to give the offering prayer or prayer during special missions emphases, she found his request unusual.

When she approached the podium, Carnell surprised her with the award.

"That's probably the first time in my church anyone has seen me speechless," Howard said with a hearty laugh. "I was so appreciative that I was considered by my peers for the award. In the first place, doing anything with literacy is so rewarding in itself."

In addition to her literacy work, Howard also serves as vice president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and she helped establish a Hispanic mission in Bowling Green.

Howard has been enjoying the rewards of teaching English to students from around the globe for the past 20 years, but her journey into literacy ministry began years before when she was a student at Auburn University.

A member of the Baptist Student Union, she often invited international students in her dorm to activities. Her relationships with those students grew, and soon those students began coming to her for help.

"The Lord showed me when I was in college the joy of working with internationals, and I had been a missions volunteer since high school," Howard explained. She said she sensed a call to foreign missions, which she fulfilled years later by teaching English to students from around the world, all without leaving Bowling Green.

In the 1980s, Howard attended a missions conference in Bowling Green. At that time, Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees were immigrating to Bowling Green. At the conference, Howard was inspired to be trained as an English-as-a-second-language tutor, a ministry she has continued ever since.

Howard estimates she has taught more than 500 students. Most of her students are scattered throughout the

United States, and some have returned to their home countries. Howard has taught students from Cambodia, Ukraine, China, Vietnam, Iran, Kuwait, Eastern Europe, Japan, Mexico, El Salvador, Columbia, Brazil and several African nations.

Howard said her greatest joy comes from seeing international students achieve their goal of learning to speak English. Many have gone on to become citizens, attend college and contribute to their communities.

Coupled with that joy is a sense of humility that God is using her to touch so many lives. She routinely has opportunities to share her faith in Jesus Christ, and has seen at least 40-50 students become Christians. She said she's shared the gospel with many more.

Howard's ministry will be multiplied as she trains other literacy tutors. She recently was certified by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to train teachers, and already has led 10 training workshops.

"I have known Pat for about eight years since I became involved in literacy at the state level," Carnell said. "She has such a tender heart for internationals and helps them way beyond ESL classes."

For more information about literacy ministries, call the KBC extension-ministries department at (888) 254-5725. Information also is available on the KBC Web site, [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org).

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky Baptist** leaders will learn how to grow Sunday schools by starting new classes and small groups during the annual Start-A-Class Tour this May. Each session will educate and equip Baptist leaders to develop effective classes and small groups within their own churches. The tour will be in Mayfield May 9, Madisonville May 10, Russellville May 13 and Beaver Dam May 14. For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department at (888) 254-5709

■ **Campbellsville** University recently was recognized as a "Champion of Character Institution" by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The honor recognizes that the school emphasizes five core character values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

■ **Kentucky Baptist** Homes for Children will sponsor adoption orientation classes in Louisville Feb. 19 and 26 at Highland Baptist Church. The Feb. 26 orientation will focus on adoption of children from Ukraine. Both sessions begin at 7 p.m. Registration is required. For more information, call KBHC at (800) 928-5242.

## Some Kentucky Baptists plan to take part in Lent

Continued from page 1

and preparation before being in God's presence.

Tom Nettles, professor of historical theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said Lent was part of a yearly Christian calendar originally set up to celebrate events in the life of Christ and passed out of liturgical use among Protestants during the Reformation.

"Reformers did not formally recognize the traditional yearly liturgical cycle of the church calendar, choosing instead to focus on a weekly model that made each Sabbath a high point," he said.

"Though they did not necessarily disagree with it, they were concerned that the observance of things like Lent had become about externals rather than about personal sanctification and matters of the heart."

Today, though, some Baptist churches have reinitiated the observance of Lent in order to have continuity and unity with fellow evangelicals in other denominations and as a season of renewal in their personal spiritual disciplines, Nettles said. "It's important that the focus of Lent not be following outward traditions but on personal sanctification."

At least two Baptist churches in Louisville are planning to participate in the Lenten season—which this year runs from Feb. 13 to March 31—in various ways.

Bill Johnson, minister of education at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, said one creative thing church members have done in the past to observe Lent was carrying a carpenter's nail in their pockets or purs-

### What could you do for Lent?

For some Christians, sacrificing something during Lent is a powerful reminder of the sacrifice Christ offered on the cross. But 40 days of sacrifice might be a scary prospect.

Here are some easier suggestions for observing Lent, adapted from Beliefnet.com, a religious online magazine:

- Go on a media fast. Write down the TV shows you normally watch and eliminate two of them during Lent.

- Call or e-mail a sick or shut-in friend and tell them you are praying for them.

- Use the "mute" button during

commercials when watching TV and use that time to pray.

- Instead of grabbing a pizza or fast food, eat in and give the money you would have spent to missions.

- Mindfully re-read the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

- For one day, stop yourself whenever you're about to say something negative about someone, even if it's true.

- For one day, abstain from eating red meat.

- Clean out your closets and find some good used clothing to give to charity.

- In traffic, choose not to honk.

es during those 40 days.

"We used it as a silent witness to our faith," he said, "and as a powerful reminder to us of the suffering and passion of Christ."

He said the church also creates a Lenten devotional book each year that members use to study various aspects and impact of Christ's life, suffering and crucifixion.

According to Hollon, St. Matthew's Baptist members usually participate in an Ash Wednesday service where those attending are asked to fast in some way during the weeks leading to Easter.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be food they fast from, but just some enjoyable activity they normally do. It could be watching TV, going to the mall, food or anything like that," he said.

"The point of fasting during Lent

is to take the discomfort that comes from giving something up and use it to stretch and grow," Hollon added. "It helps us not to take the death of Jesus Christ for granted."

Rather than give something up, some members at St. Matthews give of themselves. Examples include increasing their gifts to missions or increasing their time in prayer.

"The point about Lent is to be more intentional about your spiritual journey," Hollon said.

"Lent was never meant to be a dead ritual or practice," Webber said. "It was supposed to be a serious, intentional pilgrimage leading to personal repentance and renewal. If people treat it like a ritual, they are abusing Lent. It is a personal journey to the cross leading to the experience of the joy of Easter."

■ See related article on page 6

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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*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.

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## Baptist 'blackmail'

When the members of First Baptist Church of Frankfort left the Southern Baptist Convention, one of our primary reasons for leaving our 122-year-old relationship was based on the fact that we affirmed authentic "Baptists believe in soul competency under God and the priesthood of every believer which grants to every person the right to read and interpret the Scriptures as one is led by the Holy Spirit." That's the kind of Baptist we had always believed was right.

Now we read that the Southern Baptist International Mission Board has substituted the principles of Baptist soul competency and the priesthood of every believer with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement by asking all 5,000 missionaries to sign their agreement with the current

edition. IMB President Jerry Rankin said, "Signing this affirmation protects you from charges of heresy behind your back while you are overseas and cannot defend yourself."

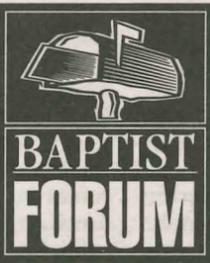
With the Holy Spirit's leadership and one's Baptist conscience being filtered through this revised faith statement, will one really be safe from charges of heresy? I can only say, "Please, please charge me with heresy. Behind my back or in my face, at least I'd still be Baptist, with my Bible to read and the Holy Spirit to guide me." I would never sign such

a man-made creed, and I believe real Kentucky Baptists are smart enough not to sign one either.

Next thing you know, all church members will have to sign the 2000 statement before they are baptized into the fellowship of a Southern Baptist church. Jesus is Lord, not the Baptist Faith and Message.

This decision must not pass without objection. It is blackmail, and I cannot be silent while even one Kentucky missionary has to choose between Baptist conscience or security. I am writing Jerry Rankin and Bill Mackey today.

David K. Hinson  
Frankfort



## What are you thinking?

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

## Did you know that ...

By Joe McKeever

**KENNER, La. (BP)**—Did you know that after the movie "Bambi" came out, deer hunting-related purchases in the United States dropped off by 25 percent the next year?

Did you know that after Clark Gable took off his dress shirt in a movie and was not wearing an undershirt, sales of undershirts the next year dropped off to nearly nothing?

Did you know that after a movie in which a teen stood in the middle of a busy street with cars zooming by on both sides, several kids tried to do the same and paid with their lives?

Did you know that after the movie "Natural Born Killers" was released, at least 30 people have been murdered

by young people influenced by what they saw on the screen?

Did you know that after the phenomenal box office success of the movie "Titanic," more than one young person lost his life trying to stand on the outer bow of a ship the way the stars did in the movie?

Did you know that after the movie "E.T." debuted, sales of Reese's Pieces soared into the stratosphere?

Did you know that movie makers take in big money from companies that want their product shown on the big screen?

And did you know that these same movie people want us to believe movies do not influence young people negatively, so they should not be subject to censorship or be held to any kind

of community standards erected for the protection of our people? Go figure.

Finally, did you know that responsible parents do not buy that argument and do not allow their youths to buy those products or go to movies they deem inappropriate?

The mother who teaches her children to wash his hands and brush her teeth should make a commitment to safeguard their minds also. The father who would not allow a child-abuser into his home should likewise make it a priority to protect his family from abusive movies, dirty books and harmful music.

As a parent, you should make a commitment to do such things not because you are a right-wing activist or a reactionary nut, but just because you love your children. Period.

Joe McKeever is pastor of First Baptist Church in Kenner, La.

## COMMENTARY

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Thanks, Kentucky Baptists

Thanks to Kentucky Baptists, hundreds of ministries continue to be supported in Kentucky and around the globe. These ministries are proving to be valuable investments in expanding the Kingdom of God.

International collegiate ministry is a prime example of a great investment by Kentucky Baptists through the Cooperative Program and Eliza Broadus Offering. The Cooperative Program pays the salary of the consultant, Tommy Johnson, and most of the program funding comes from the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions.

On a recent Sunday night at the University of Louisville there were 45 students from 14 countries present for Bible study. Chinese students seem to be the most receptive to Christ. Johnson says that God has provided the workers so the harvest must follow soon. He requests prayer for a breakthrough with other groups.

Another great investment for Kentucky Baptists has been Randy

Record, who directs our youth evangelism strategies. Outreach groups are now organized on 150 high school and middle school campuses. Record has reported more than 1,000 professions of faith through this strategy.



Bill Mackey

I learned about one of these groups during a recent visit to Whitesburg. In the high school there, more than 400 students (out of a total enrollment of 550) are involved in a Bible club. Whitesburg Baptist Church Youth Minister Angie Tate coordinates the council of 25 youth who give leadership to the club.

Kentucky Baptists' faithful giving also is making possible the ministry of Alan Witham who helps start new churches. Cooperative Program funds strongly support this effort along with special gifts. A recent private gift to support new work is a reason for special celebration!

Another important investment for Kentucky Baptists is Missions Service Corps. MSC is comprised of volun-

teer missionaries who are willing to give at least 20 hours of their time per week. The number of Kentucky volunteers has grown from 50 to 98, a significant increase in one year. The Cooperative Program supports Eric Allen, our MSC coordinator, as does the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists for your faithful support of the Cooperative Program. In the Jan. 29 issue of the Western Recorder you read that we were behind budget by \$942,175. I am delighted to report that January was a record month with more than \$2.5 million given. We still are \$138,668 short of last year and about \$228,946 short of budget but the progress is good news. It indicates that ministries like the ones described above and all of Southern Baptists' 10,000 missionaries and more than 10,000 seminary students will be supported financially.

I pray that God will bless you and your church so you can support missions with a passion for God. Thanks, Kentucky Baptists!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

## Use discipline, planning to stash emergency cash

By Jeremy White

In Proverbs 22:3, Solomon says, "A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it."



In a nutshell, Solomon gave the financial principle of maintaining

a reserve or emergency savings account. In this world of uncertainty, we do not know when a lay-off might occur, the roof might need repair, medical emergencies might arise or a transmission might need replacement.

Therefore, we should have some emergency savings that can help for unexpected difficulties. Money will not solve every problem, no matter how much reserve is available. However, having the money to get the engine repaired or the doctor bill paid without going into debt can reduce pressure at an already tense time.

How much emergency savings should one keep on hand? It depends on the stability of your job, if your income fluctuates, your monthly expenses, overall net worth, the number of dependents you have and other personal factors.

Most financial planners recommend at least three to six months of living expenses. In dollar terms, emergency savings should be at least \$2,000 and up to \$10,000 or higher depending on your personal factors.

Where should you keep your emergency savings? In an account where you can get to your money without any penalties or surrender charges. The most common places are money market mutual accounts and savings accounts. These types of accounts pay a minimal amount of interest but are easily available when needed.

Your base emergency savings should not be kept in a stock market investment, an annuity or even a CD. These examples may either incur penalties or surrender charges or may be the wrong time to sell when funds are needed.

If you tap into your emergency savings, you should immediately work on replenishing it to the original level.

As aptly noted in Proverbs 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." Make it your priority to establish and maintain emergency savings.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.

## Older adults have lots to offer and gain in life of the church

**Q: Our middle school Bible study class has chosen the church's older members to connect with in some meaningful way. What are some of the faith needs of the older adult?**

The Bible is filled with wonderful stories relating to the blessings of aging. In Genesis 12, we read about the call of Abram. He was 75 years old when God called him to leave his homeland and depart for Haran. In Exodus, we read about Moses at the age of 80 being told by God to return to Egypt and free God's people from slavery. These are just two examples of older adults in the Bible who were called by God for a special ministry and purpose.

Older adults have faith needs that might be overlooked by active, growing congregations. We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and this doesn't mean just making disciples of children, youth and young adults. Older adults need to experience a new—or renewed—relationship with God through Jesus Christ and to grow in faith maturity too.

Be aware that older adults need to:

- Know that God loves older people.
- Experience a church that cares about older adults as individuals and as a group.
- Remain a vital part of the church by making significant contributions (beyond financial) to its ministry.
- Find new ways of serving others, even when health and physical strength decline.
- Serve as mentors and role models for the benefit of succeeding generations.
- Have available support systems for coping with losses.

Be intentional and informed in your ministry with older adults. Are older adults participating in the life of your church and invited to share their faith with others? Hopefully your Bible study class can proclaim, as did Job: "With the aged is wisdom, and with length of days comes understanding" (Job 12:12).—*Jon Rainbow*

**Q: What kind of stories will strengthen my family?**

Christian educator Bob Fulbright advocates the importance of narrative theology—of telling the story over and over, again and again—allowing it to shape not only our understanding, but also our living. The principle is as biblical as it is sound, and it carries important implications for parenting.

When Joshua led the children of Israel across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land, the people paused long enough to choose 12 stones from the riverbed—stones that would serve as signs among them—a lasting memorial of God's work in their lives. Joshua said to the people, "In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them. ..." (Joshua 4:5-7).

Whether we're talking about our faith or our family, it is important to tell our own story, for as we do, we own it again as our own. We learn something about ourselves. We also teach others and invite them to share in the story in new ways. That's the way it should be—especially with our children and with others we love.

So, tell your own story to your children. Look at pictures, scrapbooks, home video—anything to get the conversation started. Then tell them the story of your life, of their life and of your life together—and make sure you mix in your faith. They will connect your children to the history, traditions and values that are important to your family, and that make your family unique.—*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.*



## Consistency: Is it too much to request?

The tendency in Southern Baptist life in recent years has been to couch every disagreement in terms of conservative vs. moderate. Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, has done that once again amid the current dispute dividing Missouri Baptists.

While it often seems necessary to pull out generalized labels in order to identify differing factions in Baptist life, it is important to remember that most Baptists still have far more in common with one another than differences. The vast majority of Southern Baptists across the political spectrum strongly affirm such bedrock beliefs as the full authority of Scripture, the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ and eternal salvation by God's grace through personal faith in Jesus.

Recognizing the urgency of spreading the gospel, Southern Baptists increasingly have reached out to partner with other "Great Commission Christians" who share similar views about the Bible, Christ and salvation. Yet, 20-plus years of Baptist infighting have left many leaders on both sides leery of working with each other to advance God's Kingdom.

In Missouri, philosophical differences between current and former convention leaders are very real. But theology has not been the cause of those differences. Additionally, both sides include strong churches with historical commitments to global ministry through Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program budget efforts.

In fact, after one group gained political control and the other group opted to form a separate convention, leaders of both sides voiced a desire to continue to support the Cooperative Program. But that's where the conservative vs. moderate rhetoric took its toll.

Chapman told leaders of the new Baptist General Convention of Missouri that their Cooperative Program

support is neither wanted nor needed on the SBC level. While the SBC certainly has the right to reject a partnership with an upstart moderate convention, it's interesting that when the tables were turned in Texas and Virginia, Chapman and other SBC leaders enthusiastically welcomed breakaway conservative state conventions into the SBC fold.

Chapman carefully explained that "a single state Baptist convention per area is the ideal and best serves the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention for the collection of funds and other cooperative functions"—except in Texas and Virginia, of course.

He went on to say that one of the problems with the new Missouri group is that it apparently intends to "create several giving tracks, some of which do not benefit the SBC." Interestingly, the established Texas and Virginia conventions also have giving tracks that do not fully benefit the SBC. But that apparently isn't reason enough to decline the millions of dollars those two conventions still channel into SBC causes.

Rather than using conservative vs. moderate as a measuring stick, why not use consistency as a model to determine appropriate partnerships? If the new Missouri convention is rejected for being the second established convention in a state, why not also decline to partner with the new conventions in Texas and Virginia? If the problem with Missouri is that it allows diverse giving options, why not cut ties with the historic conventions in Texas and Virginia that do the same?

Better yet, if new conventions in Missouri, Texas and Virginia desire to advance Kingdom growth through Cooperative Program support, why not set political labels aside and focus on the spiritual needs of a lost world?

Consistency. Is it really too much to ask?

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## How can churches avoid 'worship wars'?

By Doug Crawley

In times past, when people moved from one town to another, they typically chose a new church based on its denominational affiliation and doctrine. How times have changed. Today, a growing number of people choose a church because of the style of worship, with little or no regard for denomination or doctrine.

Christian worship is in a constant state of renewal. On one hand, many churches are experiencing a revival of worship. There is a new spirit of growth and excitement as people sense God moving through the Sunday morning corporate worship in fresh and dynamic ways.

Unfortunately, many churches are facing unprecedented controversy over worship style or expression. Some churches have even split over the argument of traditional versus contemporary; hymns versus choruses. Others are slowly dying as their members drift away to other churches, attracted by more contemporary music and preaching styles. There are still other members who feel that their church has abandoned them in favor of a younger congregation. They feel (perhaps justly) that their pastor and leadership no longer care about their

worship needs or music preference.

A new form of elitism has evolved where proponents of various expressions of worship ("worship bashers") exclaim to others, "We are more spiritual because we worship the right way!" What an incredible tragedy that worship, the very act that should bring Christians together, should have the potential for dividing churches.

What can your church do to avoid the battle of worship styles? First, admit there is no simple solution that will address every problem encountered by every church. There are, however, some basic truths to contemplate when considering change and some steps that can help with the transition to a new style of worship.

Five basic truths of worship style are:

- Worship is first and foremost a vertical action. It is our response of gratitude and offering of praise to Almighty God.
- No single paradigm of worship can claim to be the only valid expression of worship to the exclusion of others.
- No single church can please every one or provide a worship style to meet every need.
- No single church is gifted to ex-

press worship through every style. No pastor or music minister is gifted to preach or lead in every style.

■ The average age, education and income of church members, church location and many other factors will help determine the style of worship that will work best for your congregation.

Five suggestions to avoid a worship war in your church are:

■ Effective worship should emphasize the unity that believers have in Christ Jesus more than our differences.

■ Teach your congregation about worship on an ongoing basis.

■ Make sure there is a real need for change in worship style before implementing changes. Make sure the congregation shares a similar vision and is ready for change.

■ Consider introducing any change by gradually blending in new with the old. Connect a contemporary chorus to a traditional hymn that shares a similar theme. Try to avoid large numbers of "casualties" from people deciding to leave.

■ Consider adding an alternate worship service for those who want more drastic changes in worship style. This might avoid undue conflict by allowing traditional worship times to remain more traditional.

*Doug Crawley is minister of music at First Baptist Church of Paducah and adjunct professor of music at Mid-Continent College in Mayfield*

## Bush's revamped faith-based plan gains bipartisan nod

### Evangelicals host PRAYWorld 2002 during Lent

HOUSTON—Beginning Ash Wednesday, or Feb. 13, an estimated 100 million Christians from around the globe are predicted to spend the next 40 days in prayer and fasting for their communities.

The event, called PRAYWorld 2002, joins evangelicals from diverse organizations including Bill Bright from Campus Crusade and Randy Sprinkle, director of the International Prayer Strategy Office of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"We wanted to focus on spiritual revival," said Steven Hawthorne, director of the Texas-based WayMakers, a global prayer ministry coordinating the event.

"This event invites its participants to engage in the best form of corporate repentance and renewal: praying and fasting for our friends and neighbors."

Hawthorne said PRAYWorld 2002 grew out of a vision by several organizations to create a worldwide focus on prayer.

He said the decision to hold the event during the Lenten season was made because many Christian denominations already observe times of prayer and fasting during Lent.

He said PRAYWorld's Web site, [www.prayworld.org](http://www.prayworld.org), offers a daily prayer calendar to focus participants' prayers during the event. While fasting is encouraged, it isn't required.

"No one has to fast to join with us in prayer," he said, "but fasting is a way to engage ourselves more fully in the act of praying and recalibrates our desires to hunger after God."  
—Victoria Moon

By Adelle Banks and Kevin Eckstrom  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Bush and Senate negotiators unveiled the latest attempt to revive the president's plan to allow religious groups to gain access to federal money and provide incentives for taxpayers to donate to charity.

The plan, which emerged last week after months of negotiation between the White House and the Senate, drastically scales back Bush's original \$80 billion plan to a proposal that will cost about \$11 billion, and includes many provisions that will expire after two years.

"This legislation will not only provide a way for government to encourage faith-based programs to exist without breaching the separation of church and state, it will also encourage charitable giving as well," Bush said.

A compromise bill crafted by Sens. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., and Rick Santorum, R-Pa., would create tax incentives to encourage charitable giving, remove barriers that prevent faith-based social service providers from qualifying for federal aid and expand ways to help low-income working families save money.

Previous versions of the bill, including a bill passed by House Republicans last summer, were stalled by concerns about church-state separation and questions of whether some faith-based organizations would be permitted to discriminate in hiring while receiving federal funds.

The new bill drops an expansion of "charitable choice" legislation, the 1996 welfare reform program that opened government funding to faith-based social service groups.

Under the new version, an applicant for government grants cannot be "disqualified" if it has a religious name; has facilities that contain religious art, Scriptures or other symbols; or has religious criteria for membership on its governing board.

Lieberman said he thinks this new version will attract support from both parties, but conceded that

## Bush at prayer breakfast: 'Faith will ... give us strength'

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Bush said the same faith and prayer that have comforted a wounded nation since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks will continue to guide the country in the uncertain months and years ahead in the war against terrorism.

Bush, speaking Feb. 7 at the 50th annual National Prayer Breakfast, told a packed hotel ballroom that he has been comforted by prayers for him and his family during the national crisis.

"Since we met last year, millions of Americans have been led to prayer," Bush said. "They have found comfort in time of grief; for understanding in a time of anger; for protection in a time of uncertainty. Many, including me, have been on bended knee."

### Bush names Towey to lead faith-based initiatives

WASHINGTON—President Bush has named Jim Towey, an attorney who has worked on end-of-life issues and served as legal counsel to Mother Teresa, as the new director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

In an announcement Feb. 1, attended by dignitaries from religious groups, Bush praised Towey for working with both Republicans and Democrats as well as the famous nun.

"He understands there are things more important than political parties," the president said. "And one of those things more important than political parties is to help heal the nation's soul."

Bush said Towey will work with Congress to pass legislation to enhance governmental aid for faith-based and other community organizations.

"Government must expedite and stand on the side of faith-based programs," Bush noted. He said Towey will promote legislation "that will put government squarely on the side of our faith- and community-based groups."

it still has to be reconciled with the more comprehensive version already passed by the House.

"This is not just a faith-based bill," he said. "It is a civil society bill. It is aimed at strengthening support for the broad range of community, civic and philanthropic groups, including the religiously affiliated, that are strengthening our social fabric."

The legislation is designed to help stem what the White House calls a "charities crisis." Many groups have seen a decrease in contributions due to Sept. 11 relief efforts and a weakened economy.

Among the provisions of the Charity Aid, Recovery and Empowerment Act is the creation of a \$150 million "Compassion Capital Fund" that would expand technical assistance for smaller charitable organi-

Bush said the heroism of rescue workers and the courage of military personnel in Afghanistan have shown the importance and need for faith.

"Tremendous challenges await this nation, and there will be hardships ahead," Bush said. "Faith will not make our path easy, but it will give us strength for the journey."

"The promise of faith is not the absence of suffering, it is the presence of grace," he said.

The prayer meeting—the first held since the terrorist attacks—took on special significance this year. The hundreds of guests, including members of Congress, military leaders and rescue heroes, seemed to embody the national spiritual openness that has emerged since the terrorist attacks.

The appointment made clear that Towey's position and office have been reduced in stature. Originally a cabinet-level position, Towey's office now is under the newly created White House office on national service. Towey will serve on a new Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, chaired by USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland and involving five Cabinet secretaries and the chairman for the Corporation of National and Community Service.

Towey, founder of the Florida-based Aging With Dignity, ran the state of Florida's health and social service administration during a Democratic agency and earlier worked as legal counsel for former Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore.

"I'm deeply grateful to God and to you, sir, for entrusting me with this honor to serve my country, particularly those Americans who are hurting and in need," Towey said after the president's introduction.

"Mother Teresa introduced me to this joy that comes from befriending those in need, and discovering

their tremendous dignity."

While groups such as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, critics such as Americans United for Separation of Church and State continue to question aspects of Bush's initiative.

Towey succeeds John DiIulio, a prominent University of Pennsylvania professor who became the center of controversy as groups with concerns about church-state separation questioned aspects of the initiative.

The president's effort calls for legislation to expand the ability of government agencies to provide direct grants to churches and other pervasively religious organizations that provide social services. The measure has passed the House but is stalled in the Senate.

The plan has both liberal and conservative critics who say such grants would provide unconstitutional government endorsement of religion as well as endanger the integrity of the religious organizations receiving money from the government.

Combined from reports by Religion News Service and Associated Baptist Press

zations to help them compete for federal contracts and grants. It also increases funding of the Social Services Block Grant program, which provides support for community and faith-based groups, to as much as \$2 billion over the next two years.

"The president has been promised by (Senate Majority) Leader (Tom) Daschle a vote on this in the Senate this year," said Mercy Viana, a White House spokesperson.

The proposed legislation immediately drew praise and criticism.

"This consensus package is a leap forward in the drive to have public policy support the work of America's faith- and community-based charities with a new infusion of private and public resources," said Nathan Diament, director of public policy for the Union of Orthodox

Jewish Congregations.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State and a vocal critic of the original Bush plan, said the new language still poses threats to the Constitution.

"The White House claims this plan will offer equal treatment for all groups, but it actually gives special treatment to religious groups," he said.

Santorum said the controversial expansion of the charitable choice program eventually could be back on the table as part of a welfare reform package, but urged a vote now on areas of consensus.

"Let's pass what we can agree upon and let's deal with those other issues when we take up welfare reform," he said.

Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., prayed that "we are stripped and scarred, oh Lord, and we need the savior of your love." Edwards prayed for "strength and for strength of character, that we may reach across aisles and borders and oceans to do the good that You would have us do."

He was joined in prayer by Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, whose father was a Presbyterian minister.

"These have been months when our intellect has been insufficient to answer the question of why," Rice prayed, "and our vulnerability to evil and the certainty of our mortality has been all too clear."

Much has changed since Bush's first appearance at the annual prayer breakfast a year ago. Just weeks into

office, Bush was trumpeting his plan to funnel federal funds to religious charities that provide social services.

After the breakfast, Bush met at the White House with Sens. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Rick Santorum, R-Pa., to announce a scaled-back, compromise version of the plan (see related article above).

The renewed legislative push, coupled with Bush's remarks at the prayer breakfast, highlighted again the president's public embrace of religion and how its values have shaped his administration.

"Faith gives the assurance that our lives and our history have a moral design," Bush emphasized. "As individuals, we know that suffering is temporary and hope is eternal. As a nation, we know that the ruthless will not inherit the Earth."

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



## Evangelism Conference

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

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### Featuring.....

**Dr. Richard Jackson** . . . Director, Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement, Brownsville, Texas . . . In his 25 years as senior pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Jackson baptized more than 20,000 people, the majority of whom were adults. His current ministry focuses on spiritual growth and offers church development seminars.



**Dr. Joe Stowell** . . . President, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois . . . Dr. Stowell was a pastor for 16 years; most recently Highland Baptist Church, Southfield, Michigan, a church of more than 1,800 with eight staff members and a Christian school. A graduate of Cedarville College and Dallas Theological Seminary, he's written several books including *Following Christ*, *Loving Christ*, and *Shepherding the Church*.



**Dr. James Merritt** . . . Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Georgia . . . As pastor of a 12,000-member church averaging over 3,500 in Bible study, Dr. Merritt brings a wealth of insight into how to reach people for Christ. He is currently the President of the Southern Baptist Convention.



**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. Dr. Young will bring key staff members to help cast the vision of how they are reaching people for Christ, sharing principles applicable to churches of all sizes and types.



**Dr. Walter Malone** . . . Senior Pastor and founder of Canaan Missionary Baptist Church, Louisville . . . Under Dr. Malone's leadership since 1983, Canaan's congregation has grown from 97 to over 2,500 and has become one of the premier African American congregations in the state. He has an inspirational passion for preaching and depth of experience.



**Dr. Ronald Shaver** . . . Senior Pastor, Little Flock Baptist Church, Shepherdsville . . . Since 1986, Little Flock has grown from an average attendance of 200 to 1,300 through building a dynamic Sunday School and strong, relevant preaching. Dr. Shaver will share his experience of growing a church and his passion to see Christ change lives.



**Dr. Ike Reighard** . . . Senior Pastor, Northstar Church, Kennesaw, Georgia . . . Ike's unique approach to speaking engages listeners through humor, energetic delivery and a humility of having "been there" himself. His varied audiences include pastors, youth and management in companies like Delta Air Lines and Chick-fil-A.



**David Nasser** . . . 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 through the persistent witness of Christians, David came to faith in Christ. God has blessed him with an ability to reach the hi-tech, attention-lacking culture of Generation Next. He brings his passionate and urgent love of Christ to over 200,000 people annually at revivals, rallies, camps and schools.



**Junior Hill** . . . Evangelist . . . Since 1967, Junior has led over 1,400 revivals and spoken in Evangelism conferences all across the Southern Baptist Convention. He will bring practical insight, humor and strong biblical preaching that will challenge and bless.



**William Sheals** . . . Senior Pastor, Hopewell Baptist Church, Norcross, Georgia . . . During his 20 years of leadership, Hopewell's membership has grown from 150 to over 10,000, and gone from two worship services per month to three services per Sunday! Situated on 27 acres with a 10-building campus called the "City of Hope," Hopewell has more than 50 ministries.



**Jennifer Kennedy Dean** . . . Conference Leader, Speaker and Author . . . Jennifer has authored five books and is a popular leader of workshops on spiritual life. She and her husband, Wayne founded and work together in their ministry, The Praying Life Foundation in Missouri.



**Larnelle Harris** . . . Contemporary Christian Vocalist . . . Passionate Christian vocalist with more than 18 albums, 5 Grammys and 11 Dove Awards, Larnelle maintains a passion for his work that finds its roots in Scripture and gives him a powerful command of communicating God's word.



## Evangelical leaders question 'generic language' Bible

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Evangelical broadcaster James Dobson and a group of more than 20 evangelical scholars have issued statements opposed to a newly announced "Today's New International Version" of the Bible.

Zondervan, a Christian publisher based in Grand Rapids, Mich., and the International Bible Society announced Jan. 28 that they would publish the adaptation of the popular "NIV."

The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood released a "statement of concern" signed by a variety of evangelical officials, including Bruce Ware, president of the council; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"In light of troubling translation inaccuracies—primarily (but not ex-

clusively) in relation to gender language—that introduce distortions of the meanings that were conveyed better by the original NIV, we cannot endorse the TNIV translation as sufficiently accurate to commend to the church," reads that group's statement.

In response, International Bible Society spokeswoman Judy Billings said: "The TNIV uses a generic language only where the meaning of the text was intended to include both men and women and these changes reflect a better understanding of the meaning of the original Hebrew and Greek."

She said the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based society does not consider the TNIV to be "gender-neutral," but rather "gender-accurate." All references to God remain masculine.

"The TNIV does not neuter any passage of Scripture," she said.

Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, initially withheld comment on

the translation but later came out against it.

"I have now received sufficient feedback from a large number of evangelical scholars to convince me that this new work is a step backward in the field of biblical translation," he said in a statement. "Accordingly, I am now adding my name to the list of those who disagree with the liberties (the International Bible Society) has taken with God's Word in the new translation."

According to a Web site about the new translation, several evangelical and Christian leaders also have endorsed the TNIV, including author Philip Yancey; John Ortberg, teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill.; John Kohlenberger III, editor of the Exhaustive Concordance to the Greek New Testament; and Gilbert Bilezikian, a professor of biblical studies at

Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, based in Louisville, also issued a lengthy list of what it considers "translation inaccuracies" in the TNIV.

"The Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood is disappointed to announce that many of the changes in the TNIV actually mis-translate Greek words, thereby distorting the meaning of the text of the Word of God," its officers said in a statement.

Billings said the scholars who worked on the TNIV are "very, very credible."

The goal of the TNIV, Billings said, is to reach "an entire generation of people who may be turning their back to the Bible, not seeing the Holy Scripture as relevant in their life."

*Compiled from reports by Religion News Service and Baptist Press*

## Health plan to insure the unborn draws praise, criticism

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services plans to allow states to provide health insurance for fetuses, a proposal cheered by anti-abortion groups and condemned by organizations supporting abortion rights.

Current regulations define "child" in the State Children's Health Insurance Program as those younger than 19. The new rule would include coverage for children "from conception to age 19," a statement from the department said.

"Prenatal care for women and their babies is a crucial part of the medical care every person should

have through the course of their life cycle," HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson said Jan. 31.

The proposal, which will be published in the Federal Register for further consideration, could allow states to make funding available to low-income pregnant women as soon as the spring, Thompson said.

The announcement prompted a range of reactions from groups on both sides of the abortion issue.

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, called the plan the administration's "latest ploy in its ongoing stealth campaign to have

government make abortions illegal."

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said the proposal "effectively relegates women to second-class status."

Cathleen Cleaver, a spokeswoman for the Roman Catholic Bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat, said abortion rights groups are "seriously misguided" if they oppose the proposal.

"Denying low-income women access to state-insured prenatal care in the name of abortion is senseless," she said.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious

Liberty Commission, said every person "who truly cares about children and their mothers should applaud and support" the proposed regulation.

Michael Schwartz, vice president of government relations for Concerned Women for America, a conservative organization, said: "Common sense tells us that children's health begins with good prenatal care. As we recognize the humanity of unborn children whose mothers intend to give birth, that inevitably raises the question: How could we allow these same children to be killed by abortionists?"

*Compiled from reports by Religion News Service and Baptist Press*

### NATIONAL NOTES

#### ■ Appeal supports 'partial birth' abortion ban.

The Bush administration has spoken up for the first time in the legal debate over abortion, asking a federal appeals court to reverse a lower court ruling that struck down an Ohio law prohibiting the controversial "partial birth" abortion procedure. The Justice Department filed a brief last week with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, arguing that the Ohio law should be upheld because "it is virtually a carbon copy of provisions that the Supreme Court already has held are constitutional." The case was the first to reach a federal appeals court since a 2000 Supreme Court decision, *Stenberg v. Carhart*, overturned a "partial birth" abortion ban in Nebraska because it did not include an exception to protect the health of the mother.

#### ■ Souper Bowl raises \$2.6 million.

The annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" fund-raiser on Super Bowl Sunday raised \$2.6 million in 6,350 congregations across the United States, and that could top \$3 million when all the reports are in, organizers said. That money will be given by the churches to local soup kitchens, food banks and other charities, said Brad Smith, the campaign's director. Since the program went national in 1993—raising \$144,000 the first year—youth groups have collected \$13.6 million. The programs involve church youth groups who stand at their churches' doors seeking donations in soup pots.

#### ■ Presbyterians look for more money.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) likely will ask congregations to contribute more money to the national church to make up for other congregations that plan to withhold funds in protest of church policies. The 2.5 million-member church, badly divided on human sexuality and theology issues, is facing a projected \$2.5 million budget shortfall for 2002. A larger deficit of \$5.57 million is projected for 2003. Officials at the church's Louisville headquarters proposed a series of internal cuts and also plan to increase the per-member donation that churches give to local presbyteries, which is then sent to the national church.

#### ■ Maybe they could get a loan from Methodists.

Members of the United Methodist Church gave more money than expected to the church's budget in spite of national tragedies and a sluggish economy. Total giving in 2001 for the nation's second-largest Protestant denomination reached an estimated \$171.3 million, a 2.1 percent increase compared to the budget approved in 2000 by the church's General Conference meeting. The surplus is one of the brighter spots for the church, which like many religious groups has faced budget woes in recent months. Last October, the church's missions agency cut staff by 20 percent and spending by \$6 million when its stock portfolio plummeted in the weakening economy.

## Krishnas file bankruptcy over abuse suit

DALLAS (RNS)—In a bid to thwart a lawsuit that "threatens to shut down an entire religion," the Hare Krishna movement said Feb. 6 it will file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection this month.

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness announcement comes in response to the filing of a \$400 million child abuse lawsuit in a Texas state court. Plaintiffs aim to hold a range of Krishna institutions liable for sexual, emotional and physical abuse allegedly suffered in Krishna boarding schools during the 1970s

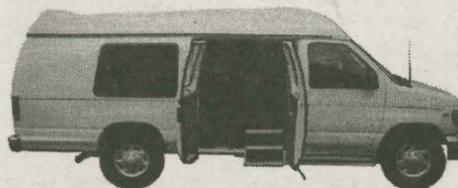
and 1980s.

A federal court dismissed a similar suit in September on the grounds that the invoked Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act did not apply. Plaintiff attorney Wendell Turley recently filed the new suit seeking equal compensation, but this time under state law.

In a plan that must be approved by bankruptcy court, Krishna leaders proposed establishing a fund for compensating victims. Those who can prove that they were abused would be compensated in out-of-court settlements.

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## Is this all there is?

### Ministers: 9/11 forcing people to think about life after death

By Jeffrey MacDonald  
Religion News Service

ROCKVILLE, Md. (RNS)—Five months after Americans awoke to hijacked airplanes and crumbling skyscrapers, signs suggest many have awakened also to the possibility of death at any time and are exploring what it means to be ready.

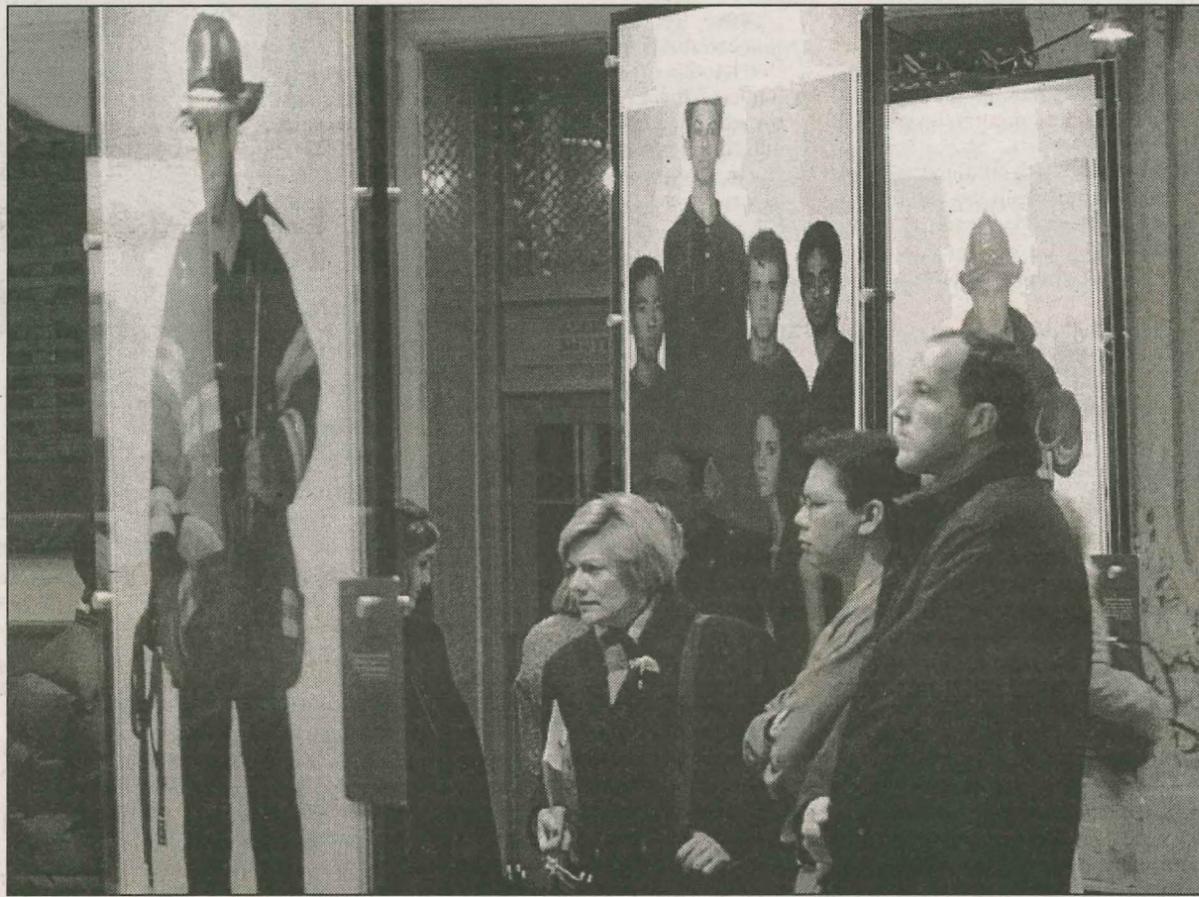
"People are still feeling anxious and unsettled," said Jerilyn Ross, president and CEO of the Anxiety Disorders Association of America.

"A lot of young ones in their 20s and 30s are facing their own mortality for the first time," he added. "They come in saying, 'That could have been me on that plane. I could have been in that building.'"

Unease since Sept. 11 has meant brisk business for estate attorneys, life insurance agents and others who help clients prepare materially for the inevitable. Yet for many Americans, preparations aren't finished even though the will is signed.

As it turns out, professionals who attend to the spiritual side of death—from clergy to psychologists—also have been in demand to help wipe souls clean in the aftermath of Sept. 11. As a result, the dying increasingly are not the only ones practicing the prescribed discipline of making peace with God and neighbor.

Priests in the New York City area, for instance, used to hear 10 to 15 confessions on an average day before Sept. 11, according to Priest Personnel Director George Thompson. Now the 1,100 priests he oversees generally hear 30 to 40. Some have had such steady requests, they've needed to



**STOP AND THINK** People view life-size photos of firefighters and others associated with the World Trade Center tragedy at a new exhibit in Grand Central Station in New York. Church leaders and others say the terrorist events have forced people around the country to think about their lives and future. (RNS/Reuters photo by Peter Morgan)

schedule extra hours for confession.

New Yorkers and Washingtonians, who experienced the attacks firsthand, aren't the only ones exhibiting fresh passion for getting the soul in order. A range of corporations have seen so much new demand among employees for those with "a spiritual dimension to their counseling" that the 3,000-member American Association of Pastoral Counselors has had to scramble to meet the need.

"The feedback we're getting is that there has definitely been a heightened interest among employers to include pastoral counselors" in employee as-

sistance programs, said Roy Woodruff, executive director of the AAPC. "The myth of security (in money and health) just got shattered, so people are going to look for a deeper sense of spiritual security than they ever even knew they needed."

Gaining spiritual security when facing death includes overcoming anxiety and guilt, according to those interviewed for this story. How someone might succeed in that, however, is a matter of philosophical difference among counselors.

Pastor Bob Connors asks those preparing for death, "Is there anyone you

need to speak to, or write to, to resolve and settle things?" Making amends with family members or others in strained relationships is essential to removal of guilty feelings at any age, he said.

"Parents sometimes die with an unresolved disagreement, and children live with that for years," said Connors, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Newburyport, Mass.

Many people know such things can happen yet fail to make amends because doing so is difficult, Connors said. But since Sept. 11 "they have definitely been confronted by the question of whether everything is too messy to put it back on the shelf."

In her practice as a clinical social worker, Ross reports a recent increase in clients beset with anxiety, guilt and fear of death. Yet much of what they need, she says, is assurance that their guilt is often unfounded.

"They come in saying, 'I know this is trivial, but ...' because they feel guilty having their own problems right now," Ross said. "I sometimes tell them to go get a massage, go to the gym, get an extra hour of sleep. They may need permission to do it."

As time passes, general interest in the harder work of being spiritually prepared for death is apt to wane, according to Connors and Thompson. Connors notes church attendance returned to normal levels this fall and Christmas. Yet both agree a new awareness of mortality has come to pass, even though its long-term significance will take years to manifest.

"We may have learned," Thompson said, "that there's more to this life than the next 40 years of earthly existence."

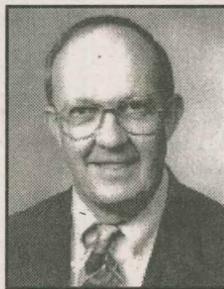
**"There has definitely been a heightened interest among employers to include pastoral counselors."**

Roy Woodruff, executive director of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors

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# MISSIONS

## Strategy seeks to saturate Central America with gospel

By Brittany Conner  
SBC International Mission Board

EL JICARO, Guatemala (BP)—Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians are launching an ambitious plan to take the gospel to all 28 million homes in Central America during the next four years.

Volunteers, missionaries and national Baptists will saturate the region with Christian material as part of Operation Gospel Outreach, or Operation GO.

Bob Roberts, director of the Great Commission Network Center at Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., has led a volunteer team to El Jicaro, Guatemala, as part of a test case for Operation GO.

The team prayerwalked the area before distributing tracts and translations of the Gospel of John.

"By bathing it with prayer, God

opened up a lot of doors," Roberts said.

Many residents opened their homes to the team out of curiosity.

"They respect gringos and would invite us into their homes," he said. "When they found out we were men of God, they would ask us to pray for their sick children. They were so excited to find someone to pray with them."

But the team also encountered painful reminders of the city's non-Christian population. Many churches in the area were locked shut.

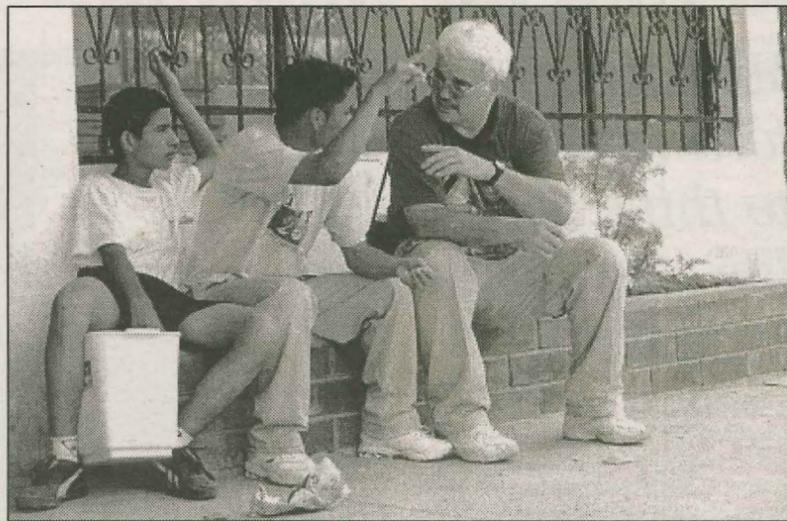
"We met a 103-year-old man crying like a baby ... because the church was padlocked," Roberts said. "When he saw us, he praised God because he thought we were there to open the church."

Organizers recognize that Operation GO faces formidable barriers.

Some villages are located in hard-to-reach areas, requiring days of travel. Linguistically, millions of Central Americans do not speak Spanish. There are at least 260 distinct ethnic languages. The low rate of literacy makes printed material useless among many residents.

"We have made the mistake for too many years in thinking that somehow a person who can recognize their name on paper and can count to 10 can read the Bible and understand the truth," said Ken Sorrell, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's field strategy associate for that region.

For that reason, the Gospel of John and other Christian materials also are



**SHARING THE FAITH** At least 28 million homes in Central America soon will have their own copies of the gospel thanks to thousands of volunteers who will be working with Operation Gospel Outreach. Southern Baptists and other Great Commission Christians are partnering to share the gospel with every household in Central America during the next four years.

available in audio formats.

"It is important to note that this is not an evangelistic thrust; it's pre-evangelistic seed-sowing," Sorrell said. "We would like everyone to have access to the gospel at least once in their lifetime."

Gospel saturation is a fast and easy method to share the gospel with as many people as possible. It does not require fluency in the language and volunteers do not need prior missions experience.

Roberts and Second Baptist Church are organizing volunteers

from the United States to participate in Operation GO. At least 200 teams are needed this year to conduct the gospel saturation. That number should double next year.

"I really think Operation GO is a vital part of making sure that everybody everywhere gets to know the gospel," Roberts said. "The only way to do that is to mobilize individuals who are willing to go."

For information about Operation GO, call Bob Roberts at (417) 887-3111, ext. 137, or e-mail him at bob@secondbaptist.org.

**THANKING GOD**  
Guatemalan Christians pray over members of Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., as the volunteers prepare to return to the United States. Members of Second Baptist partnered with local Christians to share the gospel with every home in El Jicaro as part of Operation GO, a plan to take the gospel to all 28 million homes in the region during the next four years. (BP photo)



### Charting uncharted waters

Christian Camping International is an organization that brings together Christian camps and conference centers from across the country and around the world. Once a year, 1,000 or more of us attend the CCI convention. The annual meeting takes place the week after Thanksgiving, so this year's convention is a long way away.

However, the theme for this year's conference is "The Unexplored Passage." In a recent publication, one of the CCI staff wrote a paragraph that is particularly appropriate to our ministries at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, and to churches and other ministries as well: "The Unexplored Passage theme ... draws attention to the fact that in fast-paced ministry like Christian camping, it's easier to travel familiar channels than to take the time to investigate new opportunities and new ways to do things. In a progressive culture ... impacted by current events, technological advances, partnerships, shrinking borders and increased expectations, finding new formats and taking new actions may bring new excitement to ministries that are all too common to campers, guests and staff."

There is no question that "familiar channels" often provide safe

passage for our ministries. There is no question that "unexplored passages" can be risky. There is no question that "unexplored passages" require us to expend a great deal of energy, passion and effort as we seek to steer the ship through waters that may prove to be challenging. "Unexplored passage" implies that we have never been that way before.

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES**

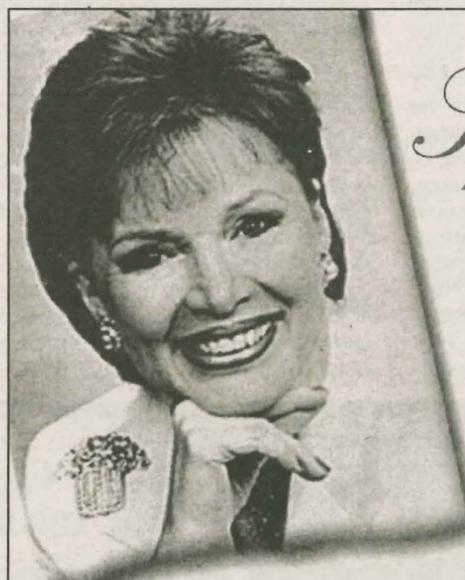


Rusty Ellison

In the first four and a half years of our KBA ministry, we have moved into unexplored passages several times as we moved outside the "traditional" model and expectation for youth camping ministry in Kentucky. But the risk is worth it. While we serve all ages all year in our conference and retreat ministry, our heartbeat is to reach the younger generation for Christ. As the paragraph above states, we sincerely believe that we must find new formats and take new actions to bring new excitement to ministries that can become all too common to campers, guests and staff.

To God be the glory. We pray He will guide us through the unexplored passages we seek to navigate for His Kingdom.

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



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# SMILE

## Three 'new' kids

There are many things that compete for our attention in this life. The situation here at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is no different, especially for those of us who don't have the privilege of spending daily time with the children, teenagers and families in our care. That is why we ask our program directors to share with us periodically about a child or teenager who has really touched their lives. It keeps us focused on what is most important.

Take Betty for example. She's a special-education student who came to us four years ago with a long history of truancy and fighting at school. Naturally, she didn't have a lot of friends. Part of Betty's problem is that her father was killed when she was only 10, so she had a lot of unresolved grief to work through before she could reach a place of emotional health.

After being in foster care, Betty is making great progress. Her foster family lives on a farm, and Betty loves working with animals. She is involved in Future Farmers of America and showed lambs at last year's Kentucky State Fair. She's also on the high school soccer team. Betty's making friends, and, best of all, her heart is healing.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Brandon is living at one of our campuses and had a chance to visit his family during Christmas. The KBHC staffer who drove Brandon back to the campus after the holiday had a shock when he arrived to pick up Brandon. The boy's stepfather had tears in his eyes. "He explained to me that I'd delivered to him a different young man than the

one who had left his house months earlier," the staffer said. A once rebellious boy was now "a joy to be around," exhibiting kindness, consideration and a genuine concern for his family, especially his siblings.

Then there's Kathy. She came to us a quiet, timid girl who didn't like herself very much. Kathy's foster family and foster care staff knew she was a wonderful girl and had a lot to offer, so they worked hard to convince Kathy of this. It seems to have worked. The shy girl who had such serious self-esteem problems was voted homecoming queen at her middle school last fall.

This is why we care. This is why you care, too. We all need reminding from time to time.

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

## Sullivan awards

By Robert Dunston

Each year at our Founder's Day convocation, Cumberland College presents the Mary Mildred Sullivan and Algernon Sydney Sullivan awards.

The awards honor a graduating senior female student and male student who have demonstrated outstanding spiritual qualities, good academic performance, excellent leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities.

Jennifer Leigh Cox, daughter of Michael Cox of Macomb Township, Mich., received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. Cox is an elementary education major with an emphasis in science who has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average at Cumberland College.

Cox has been inducted into the freshman honor society, the education honor society and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

For the last several years she has been active on campus in a variety of ministries and off campus at the Williamsburg City School. After graduation, she plans to continue her education and eventually teach on the college level.

Charles Christian Key, son of James and Dottie Key of Williamsburg, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. Key is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry and also has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average at Cumberland.

Key is a five-time All-American in track and field. He ran as a member of Cumberland's two-time NAIA championship relay team that was ranked 12th in the world in 1999. After his graduation, Key plans to attend the University of Kentucky Medical School.

Cox and Key represent the fine students we at Cumberland College are privileged to teach and nurture in faith. Their commitment to Christ, academics and service provide inspiration to all of us. We pray God's blessing on them as they continue their education and mature in Christian faith to become leaders in His work.

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

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

## Bible Crossword

By Elizabeth Smith

### Across

1. "Abraham built an \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:9)
5. "After these \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:1)
10. Public transportation
12. Needed for a shower
13. "Where is the lamb for a \_\_\_\_ offering?" (Genesis 22:7)
14. Irish freedom fighters, abbr.
16. Peter said, "\_\_\_\_, we have left all" (Mark 10:28)
17. Male pronoun
18. "\_\_\_\_ took all the silver" (1 Kings 15:18)
19. Study for an exam
21. Exclamation
22. Asian beast of burden
24. Concern
26. Isaac's replacement (Genesis 22:13)
28. First person pronoun
29. Place where Mary and Joseph found no room
30. Preposition that indicates belonging
32. Where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2)
34. He "laid the wood \_\_\_\_ order" (Genesis 22:9)
37. "God will \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:8)
39. "I and the lad will \_\_\_\_ yonder" (Genesis 22:5)
40. Company, abbr.
41. The opposite of followed
42. Irish county, abbr.
43. Lemon thirst quencher
44. Elongated fish
46. "Abraham and the \_\_\_\_ went together" (Genesis 22:5)
48. Adjective suffix indicating nationality or "somewhat"
49. Simile preposition
50. "Abraham rose up \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:3)
51. Abraham took three \_\_\_\_ to reach the mountain (Genesis 22:4)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		10	11			12		
	13				14	15		16
17		18			19		20	
		21		22	23		24	25
		26		27	28		29	
30	31		32			33		
	34	35						36
37				38	39		40	
41							42	
43				44	45		46	
			47	48			49	
50						51		

### Down

2. The kind of job your car needs
3. "God tested \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:1)
4. What a baseball player wants
5. Where the ram was caught (Genesis 22:13)
6. Abraham's son
7. Negative
8. Guy's date
9. Voiced
11. "None can \_\_\_\_ his hand" (Daniel 4:35)
15. Transportation on tracks, abbr.
17. The story's main character
20. Northeastern state
21. Either
23. Sky fellow, abbr.
25. Nurses, abbr.
27. Where Abraham was told to go (Genesis 22:2)
31. \_\_\_\_ up, excited
33. "The \_\_\_\_ of the Lord called unto him" (Genesis 22:11)
35. A swollen mass of tissue

36. The \_\_\_\_ was laid on the altar (Genesis 22:9)
37. "Abraham... saw the \_\_\_\_ afar off" (Genesis 22:4)
38. "Abraham lifted up his \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:4)
40. School group
42. "Pharaoh... sought to \_\_\_\_ Moses" (Exodus 2:15)
45. Inquiring noise
47. Overhead train

**Look for solution in next week's Western Recorder**

## One in group accused of India missionary's murder confesses

BHUBANESWAR, India (RNS)—One of the 17 people on trial for brutally murdering Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons has claimed sole responsibility for the 1999 deaths in eastern India.

Mahendra Hembram, one of those accused, unexpectedly interrupted the trial on Feb. 1 with the revelation and maintained his position when questioned by the judge.

"I set fire to the vehicle as I did not want them to come to my village again," Hembram told the packed courtroom in Bhubaneswar, India, Agence France Presse reported.

Hembram, 22, said none of the others who have been accused was present at the crime, including Dara Singh, the man police believed had led a mob to burn the car.

Staines and his sons, Timothy, 10, and Philip, 8, were killed after their Jeep was set on fire. They had been sleeping in the car due to cold weather, making an overnight stop in the village of Manohapur as they traveled from their hometown of Baripada to Keonjhar in the eastern state of Orissa.

When asked if he had anything else to tell the court, Hembram gave a lengthy speech about coercive conversions by overseas missionaries.

The murders highlighted tensions between Hindus and Christians. Other missionaries accused right-wing Hindus of being responsible for the murders. Of the 17 who pleaded not guilty in the trial, at least one of them is alleged to have connections with a right-wing Hindu group.

Hembram's testimony contradicts earlier reports. Originally, 53 people were arrested in connection with the incident, and witnesses said a group surrounded the burning automobile and attacked anyone who tried to rescue the victims.

Christians comprise 2 percent of the overwhelmingly Hindu population of India.

## Israeli, Palestinian faith leaders meet face-to-face

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher  
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—A recent meeting of Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders in Alexandria, Egypt, may have set a new precedent in bringing together officially sponsored religious leaders from Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

But given the new escalation of Islamic suicide attacks and Israeli retaliatory raids over the past several days, many observers are doubtful the spirit of the lofty resolutions reached by the religious figures will filter down to the public.

Among the key achievements of the Jan. 21-22 conference was a multi-faith declaration denouncing violence against civilians.

The gathering, convened by Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey of the Church of England, also created the first mechanism for more meetings between officially sponsored Jewish religious leaders from Israel and Muslim religious leaders representing the Palestinian Authority.

"In this region, personal connections are the key to establishing political connections," said Moni Mordechai, an aide to deputy Israeli foreign minister Rabbi Michael Melchior and leader of the Israeli delegation.

"The good social atmosphere and the connections that were built in this summit are probably going to be a good basis for establishing a long-term relationship among the participants, to at least achieve a basis for



**GRIM PROSPECTS** Area religious leaders are pessimistic that a recent meeting between religious leaders from the Holy Land can halt violence in that region. ■ **Left:** Speakers at a press conference during the meeting include (from left) Sheikh Mohammed Sayyed Tantawi, grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar mosque; Anglican Archbishop George Carey; Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's deputy foreign minister; and Bakshi Doron, Israel's chief rabbi of Sephardic Jews. ■ **Right:** Israeli rescue workers treat a wounded man after a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in Tel Aviv Jan. 25. (RNS/Reuters photos by Aladin Abdel Naby and Havakuk Levison)

discourse among religious leaders who conduct millions of believers," he added.

Some of the key Muslim delegates had never met a Jewish colleague before in such a forum, said Rabbi David Rosen, Israeli liaison to the American Jewish Committee.

"It was very interesting to hear their stereotypes of rabbis being extreme and hostile, which were mirror images of the stereotypes many rabbis hold vis-a-vis Muslim religious figures," he said. Mordechai added: "We can continue arguing and disagreeing on numerous issues, but one thing that is important is not to dehumanize each other."

Still, many religious observers in the region remain pessimistic about the ability of religious figures to address the roots of the political conflict

or contribute concrete solutions.

"These meetings do not have any impact. This is the feeling on the street as well," said Mustapha Abu Sway, director of the Islamic Research Center at Al Kuds University, and a past participant in such meetings.

Abu Sway said the Palestinian Muslim leaders who participated in the meeting are largely "detached" from the public, and don't wield sufficient power within the Palestinian Authority to make a difference either. Notably, Sheikh Ekrima al Sabri, the mufti of Al Aksa mosque and a political hardliner, was not at the meeting.

Similarly, Abu Sway noted, Israel's Melchior, although he is deputy foreign minister, represents a small religious peace movement which is a minority voice in the hardline government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

## 'Give, and it will be given to you'

From my office windows I have a great view in two directions. From one window I can see Campbell Hall, which opened in 1994. Campbell Hall was built as a result of the bountiful flow of donated goods given to us for years. Before 1994 we did not have any inside, dry, clean storage for the donated items we were blessed to receive.

As I write this article, I can see one of our four 24-foot-long trucks loading and unloading donated goods. Normally, several times a day I observe tons of items being unloaded or loaded. We take in far more donated food than anything else. During the mid and late '80s, the amount of food we received equaled a pickup truck load once or twice a week, often cookies and crackers. In the early '90s, the amount and variety of food increased. Storage always had been a problem, so we began to consider the construction of a storage building.

When Campbell Hall was completed in the fall of 1994, we began to use our new storage facility immediately. I am not sure if any of us thought we ever would have enough to fill this building, with more than 11,000 square feet of storage. Within a very few weeks it became apparent that the Lord was blessing us with unbelievable quantities of food, school and office supplies, clothing, cleaning supplies, furniture and much more.

It was as if God had been waiting for us to build the structure so He could fill it. The intended solution to a storage problem quickly became a new dilemma: What would we do with the tons of extra donated goods? It became apparent that we would have to hire someone to be in charge of these items.

Another problem also became obvious: We

needed more freezer space. We had one walk-in freezer at the rear of the kitchen and a very large walk-in freezer used to store the pork and beef we raise on our farm. We were receiving tons of perishable food that could be used over weeks or months if we had additional freezer storage. Another walk-in freezer was built next to Campbell Hall. The new 4,000-cubic-foot freezer was filled in just a few weeks. After only six months, we decided that we needed another 4,000-cubic-foot

freezer. Just one year after the first freezer was added, the second was put into use. One of the first items put in the new freezers was \$18,000 worth of 100 percent orange juice at our cost. We would be able to serve it during the next several months.

The school already had two small walk-in coolers, but the fresh fruits and vegetables we were receiving weekly made the need for a much larger one obvious. Looking at our options, it appeared that converting the old, partially underground potato house into a cooler was our best choice. Half of the potato house was partitioned off and a new cooling system was installed, which gave us 5,000 cubic feet of additional cooler space.

It would be hard to estimate the amount of donated items given to us, but I feel safe in saying that we receive about 40 tons per month. We have been so blessed that we are now a major donor to about 75 other charities. Most of these charities are small churches that help distribute food and other items to some of the neediest families here in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Former pastor now in evangelistic work

1990 alumnus C.W. Turner said his call to full-time evangelism "started as a layman in an evangelistic church. Later as a pastor I had an intense burden to reach the lost and lead the church to reach out to people where they were."

Turner is a former pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Bell County.

After 15 years as a pastor, his burden grew into a full-time ministry. In February 2001, Turner launched The Ninety and Nine Ministry, based in Chickamauga, Ga.

"I thank the Lord for the way He has opened doors of opportunity," Turner said. In the past year he has conducted revivals in five states, the farthest in Chicago. "I enjoyed being a pastor, but I sensed for some years that God's ministry gifts for me were in evangelism."

According to Turner, "Individual church members need to take seriously their role in the body of Christ. Some are willing to accept a position of leadership, but they are not bold with the gospel. There are so many lost people, and it takes all of the church to do the job of evangelism."

"My commitment is to do whatever I can to help the church," Turn-

er stated.

Turner and his wife, Terry, also lead marriage and family retreats. Married 26 years, they have one son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

The Turners married right out of high school. He received a call to preach that summer, and they visited Clear Creek when he was age 18.

The school had a policy that prohibited admission for anyone under 21.

"I had talked with school officials, but they didn't know my age. On the day we visited the campus LeRoy Peterson told me I had to wait. It broke my heart. I should not have waited so long to come back, but God did some other preparation on me in that time," Turner said.

The Knoxville, Tenn., native had a good job with a printing company and seemed to be headed in a successful direction with his life. "God changed it all; I could not get away from the call," Turner said. "We moved to Clear Creek when I was age 28. The teachers really helped me. Dr. Pomeroy was especially good to me."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Author of 'Beyond Belief' tells stories of missionaries seeing God at work

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—“I believe in miracles. Always have; always will,” writes Barbara Joiner in the introduction to her book, “Beyond Belief! Volume 2.”

As the Woman’s Missionary Union emphasis book for 2001-2002, Joiner’s book recounts moving tales of how God has worked through missionaries seeking to share God’s love throughout the world.

Interposed with biblical stories, the modern-day miracles remind readers that God still works wonders. Bible characters are not the only people who have escaped down the Nile River or been untouched by a blazing fire meant to devour them.

“Beyond Belief!” features missionaries who have faced such trying circumstances, only to become stronger in their faith.

Joiner denies being a great Bible scholar, but she asserts that God is a great teacher. “The Bible stories were obvious. As I wrote missionary stories, Bible stories came to mind,” she said.

Asked what stories were most meaningful, Joiner said, “Well, I could just start at the first chapter.”

Dispersed throughout the book also are anecdotal stories of common people who felt called to minister to those around them. Who can declare that one is more meaningful than another, when all of the stories point to works of the Lord? Joiner asked.

The missions-related stories are especially significant to Joiner, who has had a lifelong love for missions. When Tom Thurman, a former missionary to Bangladesh, asked about her enthusiasm for missions, Joiner replied, “When I was a little girl, I learned to sing ‘Jesus Loves the Little Children’ before I learned to sing ‘Jesus Loves Me.’ It shouldn’t be about me, me, me.”

## Talking with Talk

### Members insist breakup rumors are unfounded

By Doug Pullen  
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—DC Talk is not breaking up. Rumors of the Christian pop trio’s imminent demise spread like wildfire last year when DC Talk’s members started releasing solo albums.

But Toby “tobyMac” McKeehan, Kevin “Max” Smith and Michael Tait say they have no intention of splitting up. They just want to do their own things after their recently launched group tour ends this month.

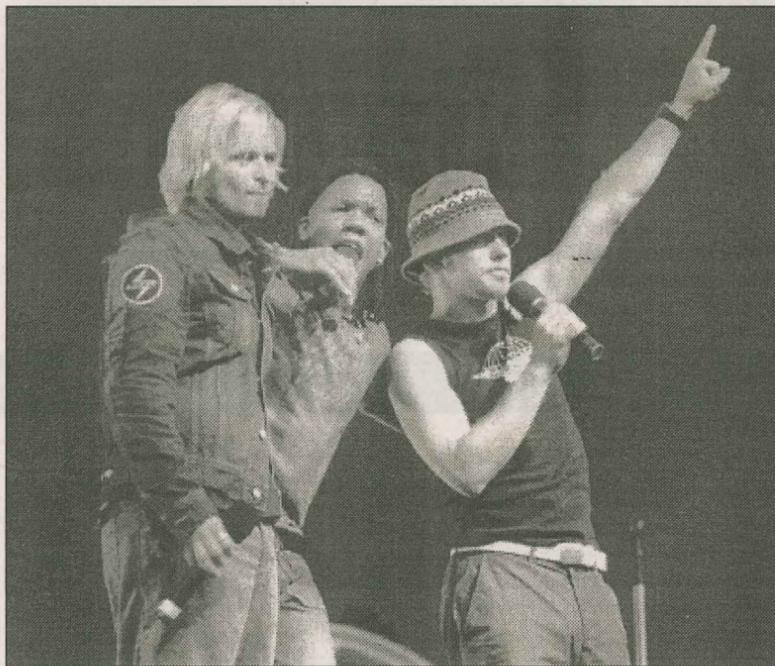
The group postponed a fall tour originally designed to focus mostly on the songs from each member’s solo albums, which were released last year. They’d planned to perform separate solo sets, then do a set of DC Talk songs at the end. But fans were confused by the idea, some certain that a breakup was in the works. Their reaction, and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, forced them to rethink the idea.

Instead, the group is bookending 15-minute solo segments between DC Talk sets on this tour, which launched last month. Each member is bringing along backing musicians to supplement DC Talk’s six-member group.

“We look at it as a positive move,” singer Tait said of the group/solo tour concept, “but it was a little freaky on the front end. People thought we were breaking up. But, like I like to say, it was just another step in the evolution of DC Talk.”

That’s an evolution that began in the late 1980s, when DC Talk emerged on the Christian pop scene with an infectious mix of pop melodies and hip-hop beats. The group has taken on a more experimental rock and pop sound, culminating in its biggest record, 1995’s grungy “Jesus Freak,” and its most ambitious one, 1998’s “Supernatural.”

The idea to pursue solo projects goes back several years, Tait said, as he and Smith began to contribute more ideas to the songs McKeehan wrote



DC TALK Band members, shown here during the Billy Graham evangelistic event in Louisville last year, say they plan to focus on personal projects for the rest of the year before regrouping.

with other collaborators. “Supernatural” is the first DC Talk album in which nearly all of the material was co-written by all three of them. After touring the record for nearly a year, the group felt it was time for a break.

“We felt a bit thin on material for DC Talk,” Tait said. “We felt like after five records, ‘Supernatural’ being the fifth, we’d given quite a bit, and we felt kind of burnt out after 11 years of touring. ... Before we get to the point of, ‘Let’s kill each other,’ we thought it was a good time to take a break, re-evaluate and chart out Chapter 2.”

He was the first to author a solo record, releasing “Empty” last summer with his four-piece rock band, Tait. Smith followed in August with “Stereotype Be,” an ambitious hybrid of pop, art rock and ethnic music. McKeehan, the group’s founder, main writer and co-producer, followed with November’s “Momentum,” which revisits and updates the hip-hop and rock elements that were at the forefront of the band’s early sound.

Tait’s and McKeehan’s records have done the best commercially, while Smith’s record is the most critically acclaimed, if more daring for the

Christian pop and rock audience. Each of them will tour with their own bands after the DC Talk tour ends this month. They plan to promote the solo records for the rest of this year, then regroup next year.

“I’ve opened up Chapter 2 of my life,” Tait said. “This isn’t a side project. It’s something that will go on probably down the road. If it’s not part of DC’s evolution, then it will go on beyond it, like Phil Collins and Genesis.”

Ultimately, they say, DC Talk will benefit from the creative elbow room these solo efforts have created. “This was not only a creative adventure artistically, but also, I think, the time and space is going to be good for us,” McKeehan said.

Smith said they’re just emulating their own heroes, artists who have staked their reputations on moving forward, not rehashing successful formulas.

“It’s the group that can stand the test of time and constantly change that everybody looks to, like R.E.M., U2 and the Beatles,” he said. “That’s the kind of band DC Talk always strived to be like.”

“Before we get to the point of, ‘Let’s kill each other,’ we thought it was a good time to take a break, re-evaluate and chart out Chapter 2.”

DC Talk member  
Michael Tait

## ‘Jabez’ threatens lawsuit against Lexington gay-friendly company

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

LEXINGTON (RNS)—The publisher of the best-selling book “The Prayer of Jabez” threatened a gay-friendly Web site with a lawsuit until the site manager pulled a picture of the book’s cover from the site.

Dotti Berry, the owner of Phoenix Communications, a diversity-training business in Lexington, Ky., said she started “The Jabez Foundation” Web site in 2000 before she heard of the book.

The site and foundation, dedicated to affirming gays as being among “all God’s children,” opens with the Bible verse (1 Chronicles 4:10) made famous by the book by Bruce Wilkinson. A picture of the book

and ordering information have been deleted.

In February 2001, a lawyer for Multnomah Publishers sent Berry a letter saying her promotion of the book was “not appropriate,” setting off months of discussions between the Web site manager and the publisher. In the end, Berry pulled the picture of the book from the site and stopped distributing it after selling “a couple of hundred” copies.

“I never dreamed that somebody would not be excited about saying that we are all God’s children,” Berry said in an interview. “I was a little bit stunned.”

The book, first published in April 2000, has sold more than 9 million copies and has been particularly popular in evangelical Christian circles.

Berry, a lesbian, recently made the dispute public to demonstrate what she calls anti-gay discrimination.

But in a statement responding to a news release by Berry, Multnomah and Wilkinson said her explanation of the issue included “inaccuracies.”

“Multnomah and Dr. Wilkinson’s interactions with Ms. Berry were not directed at her personal beliefs and preferences, but at the protection of ... intellectual property rights,” reads the statement furnished by a lawyer for Multnomah.

The statement adds that the display on her page “inappropriately used Multnomah’s intellectual property to create an implied affiliation and endorsement that if not addressed could lead to the diminished value of the intellectual property rights and impair

Multnomah’s ability to protect such rights in the future.”

Berry, an adviser to Soulforce, an interfaith group that affirms gays, said she tried to solve the dispute through dialogue. But her attempts at meeting with Wilkinson were unsuccessful and she eventually removed the book from the site in the fall.

“Dr. Wilkinson respectfully considered Ms. Berry’s request for a face-to-face meeting, but because of his many commitments and the excessive demands on his time, he declined such a meeting,” the statement from Multnomah and Wilkinson said.

Berry’s foundation, and the site, are continuing without mention of Wilkinson’s book—other than information about her interpretation of why it is no longer on the site.

# 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:

■ **Global Outreach**, the Southern Baptist ministry to the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Executive Director Beth Ann Williams is a native of Williamsburg.

■ The desire of missionaries to begin strong churches in Mokotow, the heart of Warsaw, Poland. About 250,000 people live in the area which includes several embassies and a prestigious university.

■ The 300 people who watched the "Jesus" film recently in Moscow and the 225 people who watched it in Voc, Russia.

■ Nellie, who was the language teacher for several missionaries in Russia. Recently, she has been very ill and missionaries ask for prayer for her healing and for her to come to know Jesus as Savior.

■ Money for the Baptist Convention of New England to equip a disaster relief feeding unit. Currently, the convention shares a unit with the Baptist conventions in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania/South Jersey.

■ International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, as members minister to refugees in the midst of a very cold winter. Many of the refugees are Moslem. This ministry, write missionaries James and Audrey Duke, "opens so many doors to lead people to Christ."

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **CADIZ**—Liberty Point Church called **Larry Wilson** as interim pastor.

White Oak Church called **Paul Fredricks** as interim pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—**David Wallace** has resigned as minister of education and administration at Erlanger Church to become associate pastor of family life at Montgomery Community Church in Cincinnati.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Greasy Creek Church called **Landon Hadley** as interim pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—Harlan Church ordained **Russell Alred** and **Claude Wilson** as deacons Feb. 3. **John Ditty** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church called **Dave Levee** as youth minister.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host a golden anniversary celebration Feb. 17, 4 p.m.

Thirty-five couples who have been married 50 years or longer will renew their wedding vows. **Bill Carter** is minister to senior adults.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Buechel Park Church ordained **Beulah Garner** and **Tim Horsley** as deacons. **Don Rogers** is pastor.

Clifton Heights Church called **Jeff Smith** as pastor.

■ **MONTICELLO**—**John McPheron** resigned as pastor of Mount Zion Church to become pastor of Persia Church in Rogersville, Tenn.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church called **Will Browning** as interim minister of youth. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Lee James** recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor of Bellview Church.

■ **PARKSVILLE**—Parksville Church called **Dennis Hisle** as pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—First Church will host **Dave Clark** in concert March 3, 6 p.m.

■ **SONORA**—First Church ordained **George Cardin** as a deacon Jan. 27. **James Hill** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**CRUISE:** Adults from your church are invited to join a group of Kentucky Baptists on an Alaskan cruise. The cruise is on the brand new ship *Star Princess* and is scheduled for June 8-15 with an optional land tour. For more information or a brochure, call toll-free, (877) 557-0073. If necessary, leave message.

**FOR SALE:** Nineteen oak veneer pews, length: 11' 6", padded in gold cloth. Call (502) 543-8477 or 957-4480.

**FOR SALE:** New and used buses and vans. New 2001 Ford/Glaval 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.

**SEEKING:** Interim children's ministry director for Erlanger Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky. This is a part-time, paid position requiring 15 to 20 hours a week. The ministry encompasses birth through 5th grade. The director would be in charge of planning, promoting and staffing Sunday school, extended session childcare, Wednesday evening discipleship, fellowship opportunities, and working alongside existing leadership for vacation Bible school. If interested, please mail your resumé to Erlanger Baptist Church, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018, Attn: children's ministry. For questions, please call (859) 727-2588.

**SEEKING:** Secretary for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, family ministry department. Position requires secretarial experience and computer application skills. This full-time position offers competitive salary and benefits package. Contact administrative services department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Minister of students and Christian activities. Full-time career position. Requires strong leadership skills and organizational skills. Experience preferred. Excellent compensation package. Respond to: Search Committee, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

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

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky., a church of approximately 1,400 resident members, is seeking a full-time church administrator. Applicant should be a current member of a Southern Baptist church and possess a bachelor's degree or higher, with appropriate training to manage business and fiscal affairs, supervise personnel and provide facilities management. Resumés and requests for a complete job description should be sent to Barbara Sowders, 710 Barnes Mill Road, Richmond, KY 40475-3516.

**SEEKING:** Finchville Baptist Church, located in Shelby County, Ky., is now accepting resumés from people interested in serving as youth minister. Candidates should display a dynamic Christian witness and a calling to minister to and with youth in grades 6-12. Tasks involved in the scope of the position include planning, coordinating, promoting and evaluating all facets of the church's youth ministry. Resumés or recommendations should be sent to the Youth Minister Search Committee, Finchville Baptist Church, PO Box 1, Finchville, KY 40022.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Tompkinsville, Ky., is now receiving resumés for full-time youth minister. Full-time duties include planning and organizing ministries to junior and senior high students. Position also would include organizing and implementing social activities for the youth in cooperation with Sunday school department and other organizations of the church. Please forward resumés to: First Baptist Church, 302 N Magnolia St., Tompkinsville, KY 42167. All resumés will receive equal consideration.

**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 pastor for growing church in south central Kentucky. Please send recommendations or resumés to: Pastor Search Committee, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728.

**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:** 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](http://www.homestead.com/RineyvilleBaptist). Please send resumé or questions to: Pastor Search Committee, Box 197, Rineyville, KY 40162.

**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](http://www.firstbaptistbg.org).

**SEEKING:** The people of Valley Station Baptist Church presently are 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 resumés to: Valley Station Baptist Church, 5415 Valley Station Road, Louisville, KY 40272, Attn: Dennis Sebastian.

**SEEKING:** Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky., is accepting resumés 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 resumés to: Personnel Committee, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 274 Old Monticello Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of recreation to schedule activities for new facility of a fast growing church. Must be self-motivated and have flexible schedule. Position possibly may become full-time. Degree in field preferred. Send resumé to: West Broadway Baptist Church, c/o Minister of Recreation Search Committee. Fax: (502) 499-9882.

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

**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:** 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 resumés 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 resumés to: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, 2120 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216.

## 'Black Hawk Down'

*Chaplain who was there uses incident to tell others of Christ*

By Michael Foust  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (BP)—Jeff Struecker never asked to be famous.

But two days in Mogadishu, Somalia, forever changed his life. Those two days—Oct. 3-4, 1993—will never be forgotten in United States military history. What began as a peacekeeping mission ended in a firefight.

Eighteen American soldiers died. Many others were injured. Somalis dragged the bodies of dead soldiers through the streets, and Americans witnessed it all on the evening news.

Struecker was there, recovering the bodies of his fallen brethren and rescuing his fellow soldiers.

And he came back to tell about it.

"I have never really been shaken up about Mogadishu—even after it was over," said Struecker, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"God just took care of all of those things for me."

Nine years after that firefight, more and more people are learning about the heroism of Struecker and his fellow U.S. Army Rangers. The movie "Black Hawk Down"—rated R for excessive language and graphic violence—was released in January. Brian Van Holt plays Struecker's character.

The History Channel also recently broadcast a two-hour documentary, "The True Story of Black Hawk Down," which includes several clips of an interview with Struecker.

In light of the movie and documentary, Struecker has conducted more than 20 interviews with various media outlets, including ABC's "Good Morning America."

During each interview, Struecker shares his faith in Jesus Christ, telling what brought him through the battle.

"I tell people that I had a strong faith when I went there, but God really strengthened it while I was there and now I have a belief that transcends death," he said. "Really, it's a peace that God gave me that most soldiers didn't have."

Following the battle in Mogadishu, Struecker discovered that many of his fellow soldiers were searching for answers. The on-site chaplain, though, had none, and did little to assist the soldiers' spiritual needs.

Struecker's heart broke as he watched his friends agonize over their fallen comrades.

Today, Struecker is serving in Fort Bragg, N.C., as chaplain for a field artillery battalion in the 82nd Airborne. He is the pastor to roughly 500 soldiers and their families.

"I thank God for what He has al-



WAR MOVIE Southern Baptist chaplain Jeff Struecker is among the U.S. Army Rangers portrayed in "Black Hawk Down," the story of a brutal firefight in 1993 between U.S. peacekeeping soldiers and combatants in Mogadishu, Somalia. (Sony Pictures Entertainment photo)



FACE TO FACE The real Jeff Struecker (left) is played by Brian Van Holt in the movie.

lowed me to do as a result of the movie and the documentary," he said. "I've had a chance to do a number of television interviews. ... Inevitably, people will ask me, 'Well, how did you end up as a chaplain?' That presents an opportunity for me to share my faith."

And if a question about his faith doesn't come up, Struecker makes sure he broaches the subject.

"They'll say, 'Is there anything else you want to add?' I'll say, 'Yes, absolutely. I want to tell you how I had the strength and the courage to do what I did that day.'"

Struecker has been pleasantly surprised with the coverage he has received. He initially believed that reporters would edit out references to his faith. But that has not been the case. The History Channel documentary even includes a comment from Struecker about him praying.

"What has really blown me away has been the amount of press that has decided to cover my faith," he said.

Struecker is just as open about his faith around his soldiers. The movie—coupled with the events of Sept. 11—have presented him with opportunities he wouldn't otherwise have had. Soldiers who might be sent to Afghanistan come to Struecker simply because he has been in the heat of battle.

"I've had the privilege to stand

before my men while the U.S. is conducting offensive actions against the Taliban in Afghanistan," Struecker said, "and I could say, 'Listen, this could be you, and it could be soon. And if you are not sure of your eternal destiny, then we need to talk.' It gave me the opportunity to share my faith. Since then I've seen dozens of my soldiers come to Christ."

"The privilege to be able to stand among that many non-believers is something that no other pastor has," he added. "To be able to do it in a time like today is a great privilege. I consider it a great responsibility."

Struecker realizes that some Christians have concerns about evangelical chaplains—simply because they have to serve soldiers of all religions. He, though, does not view it as a problem.

"I have the responsibility to provide for the religious needs to all my soldiers," he said. "(But) all it means is that I need to make sure that they have what's necessary to worship. Quite frankly, I'd want people to do the same for me."

Among military personnel, the story of "Black Hawk Down" is well-known. Occasionally, soldiers will come up to Struecker, asking him if he's the same Jeff Struecker who served in Somalia.

"I get that from a lot of my soldiers and from other soldiers who are not in my unit," he said. "But that's a great opportunity to tell people that all of these things that I did, they really don't mean anything."

"God has given me this opportunity, and I need to make every effort I can to give Him credit."

Through it all, Struecker makes sure he's not the focus of the story.

"I just pray that God will be made the hero of Mogadishu," he said, "and not me."

"Really, it's a peace that God gave me that most soldiers didn't have."

U.S. Army chaplain Jeff Struecker

### Struecker: 'Black Hawk' no kid's movie

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (BP)—Jeff Struecker's character is on the big screen, but he wants everyone to know one thing before they see it:

It's not a children's movie.

"Black Hawk Down," released last month, depicts the peacekeeping mission to Mogadishu, Somalia, that turned bloody in October 1993.

Eighteen U.S. soldiers were killed, and Americans will forever remember the images of Somalis dragging bodies through the streets.

Struecker, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was there. Now a chaplain with the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, N.C., Struecker saw the movie before it was released. The movie's producer and director set up a special screening for all U.S. soldiers who fought in Somalia.

It is rated R for graphic scenes and excessive language. "It's a very real depiction of what happened," Struecker said. "Historically, the movie is extremely accurate."

While there is plenty of foul language, Struecker says his character—played by Brian Van Holt—does not curse.

"I am pleased with the movie," he said. "My character, especially, is one of the reasons I am pleased. Brian Van Holt was very cautious about making the movie as realistic as possible. He wanted to portray me as accurately as possible."

"He went to painstaking efforts to do that. He called me on the phone on location while they were shooting the movie and he said, 'Hey, I need some info on this scene.'"

Struecker said several people have asked him, "Is that how it happened?" Struecker simply replies, "No, it was worse."

Struecker, who was a U.S. Army Ranger in Somalia, said he had mixed emotions when he first saw the movie. The movie is based on a book by the same name by Mark Bowden.

"The first time we all saw the movie together, it was a very somber occasion. No one said a word during the entire movie. There were a lot of wet eyes by the time the movie was over. No one said a word—even after the credits rolled and the lights came back on. We just sat there for a few minutes before we actually said anything."—Michael Foust

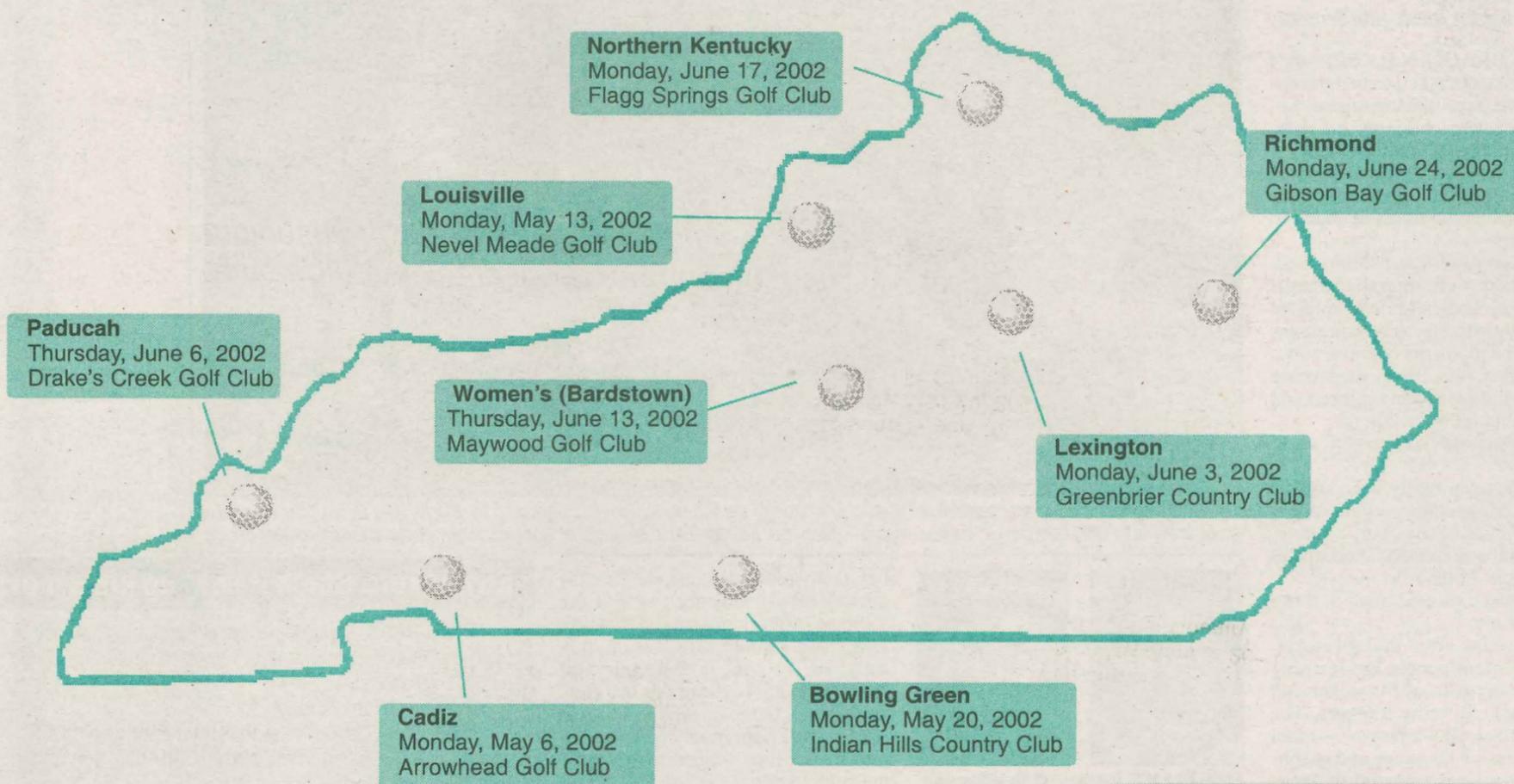


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