

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

February 26, 2002
Vol. 176, No. 8

KENTUCKY NOTES



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FOR THE RECORD

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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, February 27

Reluctant spouse finds fulfillment as volunteer missionary

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Vicki Edwards had no interest in going to a meeting about volunteer missions.

When she finally agreed to accompany her husband, John, to Missions Service Corps orientation last March, it was with the understanding that she had to attend only the first hour of a weekend full of training and information.

Afterwards, they both agreed, she could go off and enjoy a weekend of shopping or relaxing while her husband attended training.

But now she says God had other plans, and His plan for the Edwardses brought them together in ministry in

a way neither expected.

For years John, 52, and Vicki, 51, seemed to be pulled in different directions.

In 1982, John began working with Buckeye Baptist Builders, a volunteer construction missions team based in southern Ohio not far from their home in Wurtland, Ky.

Baptist Builders organizes volunteers to help rebuild churches and homes. The ministry especially touches smaller, less affluent churches that need help remodeling, repairing or constructing new facilities.

John, a carpenter by trade, had found his ministry. Soon he was involved in several mission trips each year, not just in Kentucky but around the world, and he had organized a

Baptist Builders group in his own association in Kentucky.

John said he soon felt called to full-time service organizing construction mission trips and volunteers. "Since 1982, this is all I ever wanted to do," he said. But full-time service would require a significant commitment not only from John, but also from Vicki.

At the same time, Vicki found her own ministry as secretary at their church, First Baptist Church of Russell. She developed close working relationships with other staff members and found herself part of a vital, energetic ministry team.

She and their two sons joined John on several of his Baptist Builders trips, but Vicki never truly felt part of the ministry.

Part of the reason was that she was struggling through bouts of depression. She describes periods so dark that she considered taking her own life. Vicki was sure that her struggle made her unfit to serve.

"How could God use someone who had been through that?" Vicki said she thought. "They are not going to want me."

Throughout his wife's difficult illness, John was careful to use his Baptist Builders ministry as an outlet and support but not a place to avoid facing Vicki. He participated in her recovery—going with her to doctors' appointments and helping her stick with the treatment plan. With the help of a Christian psychiatrist and proper

□ See *Reluctant spouse ...*, page 3

KBHC looks to sell campuses, add 2 regional care centers

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A ministry tradition dating back to 1869 might soon come to a close at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Spring Meadows and Glen Dale campuses.

Since the KBHC's founding, a key part of the children's homes ministry has included residential campuses for children and youth. Facing changing childcare trends and decreased referrals from the state, KBHC President Bill Smithwick said administrators are exploring the possibility of selling the two campuses and using the proceeds to build two regional treatment centers.

The new centers would focus on the growing need for short-term treatment of high-risk children and youth rather than the decreasing need for long-term residential programs, Smithwick said. The KBHC already operates regional treatment facilities in Elizabethtown, Dixon, Mayfield and Morehead.

"The large campus resources have kind of outlived their usefulness," he said. "Today, we have approximately 20 kids on each campus."

"Where we used to have kids grow up at Glen Dale or Spring Meadows, today if a child stays a year, that's a long time," he added. "The children we serve today are emotionally troubled kids who need a treatment facility."

From 1997 to 2001, the average number of children served at the two residential campuses dropped from 70 to 24 at Glen Dale and from 50 to 31 at Spring Meadows.

"We don't have any reason to

□ See *KBHC explores ...*, page 3

Sharing the message



Olympic volunteer Linda Satterfield shares a More Than Gold pin with visitors on Main Street in downtown Park City, Utah, during the Winter Olympics. The pins were an evangelistic tool handed out by the volunteers working at the hand warming stations. Satterfield attends Union Baptist Church in Laurens, S.C. Approximately 1,000 Baptists volunteered for creative outreach ministries during the games. Among them are about 30 volunteers and participants with ties to Kentucky. With just a fraction of the teams reporting, already there have been 16 professions of faith and 175 opportunities to pray with people on a variety of topics. Thousands of witnessing pins have been distributed, and volunteers have had more than 1,750 encounters in which they shared information about their Christian faith. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Franklin Graham urges evangelicals to battle AIDS

By Patrick Rogers
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Evangelist Franklin Graham said evangelical Christians have not done enough to help people with HIV/AIDS.

During a meeting on the topic last week, the son of Billy Graham said it is time for evangelical Christians to drop any social and religious stigmas they have attached to the disease and contribute more time and money to helping infected people.

"Many people have seen this as a homosexual problem, or it's an intra-

venous drug users' problem, or it's a prostitutes' problem. It affects all of us. Forty million people are infected," Graham said. "We need a new army of men and women who are prepared to go around the world to help fight this battle."

Graham convened a three-day "Prescription for Hope" summit in Washington that was part Christian theology lesson, part HIV/AIDS education program and part pep rally aimed at getting evangelicals more involved in caring for people with HIV/AIDS.

About 900 people from 87 coun-

tries attended the conference, with African AIDS workers mingling with Canadian clergy in a sprawling downtown hotel. Workshop topics ranged from African marital relations to the church's responsibility for helping patients with a disease some Christians see as punishment for immoral "lifestyle choices."

Graham, along with nearly every other speaker at the conference, consistently repeated the conference's overarching message: Christians should think less about how someone got infected and more about how they can help.

□ See *Franklin Graham ...*, page 8

BAPTISTS

Baptist leaders propose 'Kingdom growth' as SBC focus

"Our finest chance for rising above separation and dissatisfaction in our ranks is to seek the face of God for a spiritual movement."

Carlisle Driggers, executive director, South Carolina Baptist Convention

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

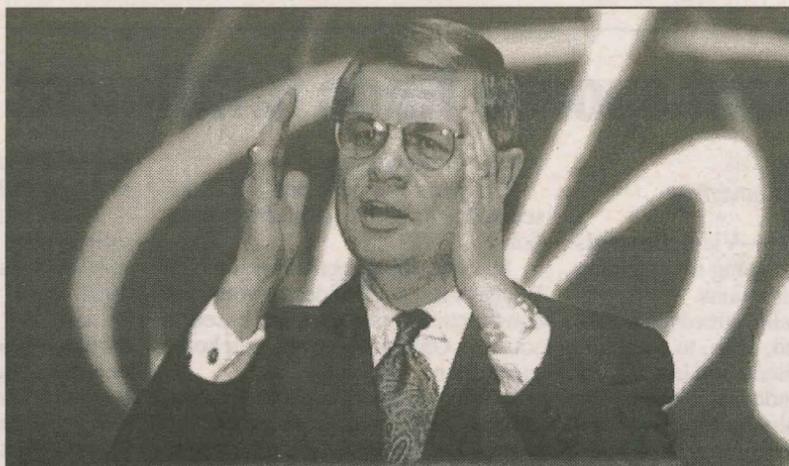
NASHVILLE—Leaders of Southern Baptist Convention entities and state Baptist conventions unveiled a joint proposal last week urging Southern Baptists to adopt a conventionwide ministry focus called Empowering Kingdom Growth. The SBC Executive Committee unanimously voted Feb. 19 to endorse the concept.

The proposal, detailed in an 18-page report, calls on all Southern Baptists, local congregations and convention entities to ask: "What are we really specifically doing and planning in order to expand the Kingdom of God on earth?"

Highlighting the acronym "EKG," Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said the plan offers "a stress test that will measure the health of Southern Baptist churches."

The proposal was presented by an eight-member Cooperation Task Force formed two years ago during a first-ever meeting between all state convention executives and SBC agency heads.

Organized "to work on the strengthening of cooperation between the SBC and state conventions," the task force includes state convention executives Carlisle Driggers of South Carolina, Wyndell Jones of Iowa, Anthony Jordan of Oklahoma and Bob White of Georgia as well as Chapman and three other SBC leaders, Bill Crews, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; and Bob Rec-



KINGDOM FOCUS Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said Empowering Kingdom Growth could become "the greatest spiritual movement for Christ on earth since He first voiced the Great Commission." (BP photo)

cord, president of the North American Mission Board.

Driggers, who implemented a similar plan several years ago in South Carolina, presented the proposal to convention leaders. He said task force members determined that "there is a yearning among a majority of Southern Baptists to move forward with new zeal and obedience to the call of Jesus to be about His business for mankind."

"The resources of Southern Baptists, with the Cooperative Program as a main stackpole, are too numerous and too excellent to take for granted or to abandon," he added. "Our finest chance for rising above separation and dissatisfaction in our ranks is to seek the face of God for a spiritual movement which is so compelling that it claims our attention and our alle-

giance."

Declaring that Southern Baptists "do not compromise on Jesus, and we do not compromise on the Bible," Driggers said any effective spiritual strategy "must not come from our own ingenuity but straight from the Lord Himself as outlined in Scripture, particularly in the New Testament."

The task force report was unanimously adopted Feb. 14 by a joint meeting of state convention executive directors and SBC entity heads. Changes approved by the state convention leaders included adding a phrase to "affirm the autonomy of all Baptist bodies."

The state executives also agreed to delete a sentence declaring that the initiative would lead Southern Baptists to be "most likely the first generation of believers in Christian history" to

"finally be in cooperation with the desire of Jesus for His followers." Concern was expressed that such a statement could be perceived as arrogant and overstated.

When the EKG proposal was presented Feb. 18 to the Executive Committee, members voted to table action until the next day to allow them time to read the entire report.

When discussion resumed Feb. 19, Executive Committee member Calvin Wittman of Colorado proposed deleting a paragraph from Driggers' report that cited doctrinal differences and gender issues as unnecessary distractions along with power concerns, worship styles and other issues. He said doctrine and gender issues are too important to be listed alongside secondary issues.

Members agreed to delete the paragraph, accept the written report as background information and endorse the EKG concept. They also asked the committee to prepare a two-page overview for presentation to the SBC annual meeting in June.

The eight-member Cooperation Task Force was expanded to a 12-member EKG Task Force to "devise specific directions for the months and years ahead." New task force members include SBC President James Merritt, former director of missions Don Beall of Washington and pastors John Avant of Georgia and John Hays of Ohio. Driggers and Merritt will chair the expanded task force.

Chapman will continue to chair the initial Cooperation Task Force which will "continue to work on issues of cooperation involving the states and the SBC."

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ Texas conservatives donate \$1.3 million.

The conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention presented a \$1.3 million check to Southern Baptist Convention leaders during last week's SBC Executive Committee meeting. SBTC Executive Director Jim Richards presented the check from donations and budget overages of the 3-year-old convention. The one-time gift, designed to replace budget cuts from the Baptist General Convention of Texas, included 15 percent for the Executive Committee, 15 percent for the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and 70 percent to be divided equally among the SBC's six seminaries.

■ 'Mainstream' leaders urge SBC reversal.

Leaders of the Mainstream Baptist Network have challenged Southern Baptist Convention leaders to rescind recent actions in an effort to "restore an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect" within the SBC. The mainstream group's leadership board cited concerns over International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin asking missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement, the North American Mission Board seeking direct oversight of NAMB-funded personnel at the District of Columbia Baptist Convention, NAMB's decision to no longer endorse ordained women as chaplains and SBC Executive Committee Executive Director Morris Chapman's decision to reject Cooperative Program funds channeled through a new moderate convention in Missouri.

■ Andersen gives SBC clean audit.

Arthur Andersen, the accounting firm accused of irregularities in bankruptcies, including Enron and the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, has noted "no significant matters which require a report" in a routine audit of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, said Andersen has audited the Executive Committee's books for several years and has exercised high standards to ensure the integrity of the SBC's handling of money from Southern Baptist churches.

■ Former SBC leaders honored.

The first-ever national gathering of "mainstream" Baptists featured the induction of 37 men and women into a new hall of fame to honor courage in standing for Baptist principles and heritage. National leaders honored by the Mainstream Baptist Network included former seminary presidents Russell Dilday, Randall Lolley and Duke McCall; Alma Hunt, former executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union; Jimmy Allen, former president of the former SBC Radio & Television Commission; James Dunn, retired executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Al Shackelford and Dan Martin, former editors of Baptist Press; Keith Parks, former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and retired global missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; and CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal.

SBC Executive Committee authorizes study of convention funding formula

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Citing "financial challenges" to seminaries, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has authorized a committee to study SBC funding issues.

On recommendation of a seminars workgroup, the Executive Committee voted without discussion Feb. 19 to authorize chairman Bruce Coe to appoint an SBC Funding Study Committee to report to the Executive Committee in September.

At its Feb. 18-19 meeting in Nashville, the Executive Committee also voted to recommend changes in the method for introducing resolutions at the SBC annual meeting. If adopted, all resolutions would have to be introduced at least 15 days prior to the convention and could be initiated by any Southern Baptist, whether or not he or she is an SBC messenger.

The proposed change would require the SBC president to appoint a resolutions committee 75 days in advance of the convention, rather than the 45 days now required. Baptists could submit proposed resolutions as early as April 15. Should the amendment be approved, however, messengers would no longer be able to introduce resolutions while the convention is in session.

The proposed bylaw change, which will be presented to the SBC June 11-12 in St. Louis, also would

limit the number of resolutions that any one person may submit to three.

The Executive Committee also recommended a 2002-2003 fiscal year Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$176.9 million for consideration and action in St. Louis.

In other business, the Executive Committee:

■ Heard a report from Tom Elliff, chairman of a standing Council on the Family, announcing a first-ever "convention-wide rally to save the family" in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix in 2003.

On June 19, 2003, the Thursday following the convention, "We want you to invest a day in the life of your family," Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., said via videotape. "It's a day that could change your family for a lifetime."

■ Received as information a report that giving through the Cooperative Program declined 0.75 percent, or about \$1.3 million, in 2000-2001. Designated giving, however, grew by \$6.8 million, netting an increase in total giving of about \$7.5 million.

■ Recommended future convention sites for 2005 and 2006. Messengers to this year's SBC will vote on meeting in Nashville on June 21-22, 2005, and Greensboro, N.C., June 13-14, 2006.

Reluctant spouse finds fulfillment as volunteer missionary

Continued from page 1
medication, Vicki improved.

"God has just opened His arms. He did not cause what happened to me, but He's going to allow good to come of it," Vicki said. "What I want to say to people is that there are good Christian doctors out there that God has provided. If you need help, seek it."

By 1999, things were looking better for Vicki and John. His employer negotiated a new contract, allowing John to take early retirement. He learned of Missions Service Corps, a program that matches part-time or full-time volunteers or self-supported missionaries with projects. Missions Service Corps would provide John with the training, prayer support and network he needed to pursue his passion for the Baptist Builders ministry.

John saw a need for someone in Kentucky to serve as a clearinghouse for Baptist Builders projects. He saw a need to network Baptist Builders groups, which usually are based out of a church or association. He saw a need for someone to recruit and direct volunteers to Baptist Builders teams.

"There's a lot of desire, talent and skill sitting idle in Sunday school classrooms," John said. "I felt we could harness that."

John asked Vicki to consider attending Missions Service Corps training in March 2000, but she did not feel ready. Rather than press the issue, John waited and prayed.

He asked again in 2001. This time, Vicki agreed, but only reluctantly.

"I knew ... that if I went, I would end up being a part of it. Later I realized that I didn't feel a part of it," Vicki explained. She supported John's involvement, but she did not want to be dragged into a ministry where she did not feel called.

But at that first training session during the March 2001 orientation,



BAPTIST BUILDERS Volunteer builders help build the sanctuary last year for New Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Gilstrap. Vicki and John Edwards recently retired to help coordinate the work of several Baptist Builder groups throughout the commonwealth. (KBC file photo)

Eric Allen, MSC director for Kentucky, began talking about the administrative aspects of being an MSC missionary. He described the importance of keeping good financial records, and communicating with supporters and volunteers. Vicki realized that the 15 years of experience she had as a church secretary—preparing newsletters, keeping financial records—made her an excellent MSC missionary prospect.

Also, she already had many opportunities to share the story of how God has worked in her life through her bout with depression, and becoming an MSC missionary might place her in contact with many others who might need encouragement.

"It was like God was saying, 'This is your part in this ministry,'" Vicki recalled. "Every session, it became clear that God was calling more and more."

Vicki stayed throughout the week-

end training. "I got so excited I couldn't stand it."

On the way home, John and Vicki ticked off a list of changes they would have to make in order to pursue their calling as MSC missionaries. They would have to retire, get out of debt, downsize and sell the 2,000-plus-square-foot dream home they had built over the years and planned to retire in.

They also owned a small 900-square-foot rental property. After they returned from the MSC orientation, they prayed about selling their house and moving into the rental house. After continuing in prayer for several weeks, they say they felt led to become MSC missionaries, coordinating the work of Baptist Builders across the state.

"The peace that came after we were both in agreement that this was what we were supposed to do was just the confirmation," Vicki said.

They held a yard sale and began selling many of the possessions they spent a lifetime collecting. A young couple at the yard sale fell in love with the Edwardses' house and offered to buy it. The Edwardses accepted the offer.

John and Vicki had just six weeks to gut and remodel their little rental house and make it into their new home. Word of the Edwardses' decision quickly spread among the network of Baptist Builders friends.

"They were calling and saying, 'We heard what you are doing and we want to help,'" John said. Friends joined the Edwardses on nights and weekends to get the house in shape.

"Since we've been in the little house, it has had so much love; the joy that we've had since we've been on the way," Vicki said.

Vicki and John both officially retired from their jobs in January and plunged into ministry.

They hope to establish relationships with all of the Baptist Builders teams across the state, and develop at least one strong team in each of eight regions throughout Kentucky.

The once-reluctant Vicki has some advice for those considering attending Missions Service Corps orientation this year, scheduled for March 8-10 in Middletown.

"My advice is to go and try," she said. "Give God the opportunity to work."

Registration for the orientation is \$20 per person and includes orientation materials, lunch, two evening meals and breaks.

For more information, contact Eric Allen, KBC Missions Service Corps director, at (800) 266-6477, ext. 397, or eric.allen@kybaptist.org. Information about Mission Services Corps also is available on the KBC Web site, www.kybaptist.org.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **David Sandifer** recently was named director of Campbellsville University's Bivocational Ministry Center. He replaces Mike O'Neal, who recently accepted a pastorate in Knoxville, Tenn. The center will host a summit on bivocational ministry May 18 at Campbellsville. For more information, call (270) 789-5081

■ **Corrections:** Last week's Western Recorder misspelled Wyndee Holbrook's name in a story about her missions work at the Olympics and the name of Daniel Lubowa, the Ugandan found guilty in Lexington of five counts of mail fraud.

KBHC explores selling campuses, building treatment centers

Continued from page 1

believe the placements will reach the levels they were at five years ago," Smithwick said. "We don't think it will return to a large enough number to make it cost effective."

KBHC workers served approximately 3,000 children last year, including more than 2,000 who received assistance through 22 Cornerstone Counseling centers across the state.

"The trend is to serve children in the least restrictive setting available," he explained. "A lot of it is driven by money because residential care is the most expensive."

In addition to the changing trends in childcare service, Smithwick said the impact on the KBHC "has been exacerbated because of our stand on traditional family values." A pending lawsuit pitting the ACLU against the KBHC over the ministry's 1998 dismissal of a lesbian employee has resulted in fewer referrals from the state.

Smithwick, who recently announced plans to launch a multi-million-dollar national fundraising campaign, noted that the state of Kentucky currently provides about three-fourths of the KBHC's \$20 million annual budget through contracts to help pay for client services.

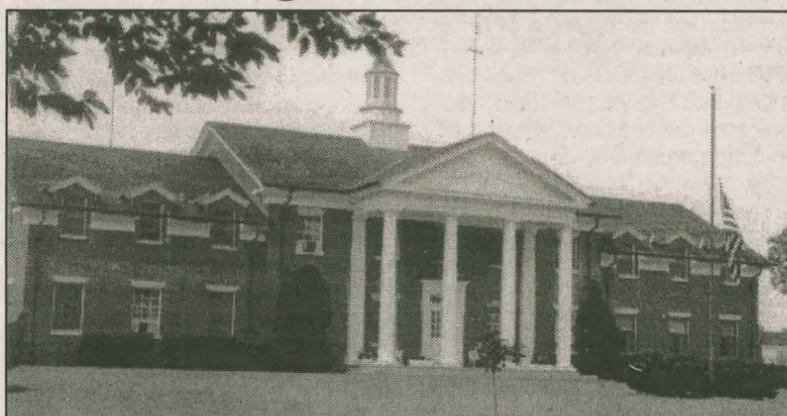
"We want to take the assets we have that are not really working for us and convert them to state-of-the-art treatment facilities for our Glen Dale and Spring Meadows programs," he said, noting the centers would each be 12- to 16-bed facilities.

Smithwick said several unknowns remain, including the market value of the existing campuses, a timetable for marketing the properties and constructing new treatment centers and the specific location of the proposed facilities. He said he also anticipates a slight reduction in the number of KBHC staff members.

In letters to staff members and donors, Smithwick wrote, "Any change in the use of either facility would include a flexible deadline, probably 12 to 18 months, to accommodate the relocation of the Glen Dale and Spring Meadows programs and the children served by those programs."

Buckley Carlin, director of Glen Dale from 1980 to 1998, said it was "inevitable" that KBHC officials needed to make such a change to meet the ministry needs of today's high-risk youth.

Carlin, who now serves as a special representative for Smithwick, spent his teen years as a resident at



FOR SALE The Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Glen Dale campus is one of two properties KBHC officials are considering selling as part of a ministry shift to regional treatment centers.

Glen Dale. "Transition is difficult," he noted. "There's some nostalgia in it for me."

Still, he said, "I see it as a plus. This is the trend. I believe at the present time it is the only way to go."

Vickie Grassman, KBHC director of communications, acknowledged the need to help preserve the ministry's heritage by including a memorial garden or other tribute in future building plans.

The Glen Dale campus, which

opened in 1915, includes 570 acres in Hardin County. The Spring Meadows campus was built in Middletown in 1950.

"We want to be sensitive to the memories and nostalgia there and continue that as we go forward," she said.

"It's always sad when something comes to an end of an era," Smithwick agreed. However, he added, "We see this as a positive move forward to better care for the children we serve today."

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

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

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What's the difference?

Ordain. Commission. In Baptist life, these two words mean essentially the same thing—they recognize God's calling and some human group sets individuals apart for specialized ministry.

There are two major differences between the two words: The words are spelled differently and ordination takes place in the local church while commissioning takes place at the denominational level. Apparently, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board does not want to recognize any ordination of women, and thus will no longer approve women chaplains who have been ordained. But our mission boards continue to commission women to serve as missionaries.

One day, the Southern Baptist Convention hierarchy will realize that when they "commission" women to serve as missionaries, it is the same process that happens when someone is "ordained." When a woman is commissioned as a missionary, she is ordained for a task God has called her to do.

When the SBC leaders realize they are participating in the ordination of women by commissioning them to serve, I think three options will emerge: 1. Hope that no one realizes women are ordained (or commissioned) by the denomination. 2. Refuse to commission (ordain) any woman to serve. 3. Wake up to the realization that Scripture has been twisted, Baptist polity has been trampled and women are being abused.

There's no recent history to indicate these men will do anything that seems to acknowledge that God calls women to serve Him. However,

knowing that the hierarchy needs the money that women generate, I think they will try to find a way for gracious women to be approved as mission "leaders" (preferably in a support role at home).

The evidence is twofold: God is calling women to serve Him while some Southern Baptists continue to treat women as suspect members of the family of God.

Robert DeFoor
Harrodsburg

Just teach, preach

The Feb. 5 issue of the Western Recorder's classified ads included 25 entries: church administrator (one), recreation director (one), music minister (two), organist (one), pastor (six) and youth/children worker (14). Since a recreation director primarily is tied up in youth work, 60 percent of the entries concerned children/youth, mostly youth.

Many, if not most, of these churches probably have salaried pastors and ministers of education and music (most probably ordained); the proof being that they can afford yet another worker. One of the ads concerning a pastor search for a church of only 230 in Sunday school mentioned that the church has a full-time director of children and youth ministries. In other words, the pastor won't have to worry with the kid stuff.

In the various Great Commissions in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus said to teach, preach and baptize. He didn't mention the Judeo equivalent of aerobics, trips to the Holy Land (or Alaska), basketball teams, basketweaving, ski trips, line dancing, trips to Kings Island or Cinergy Field, or many other activities churches pay



STEWARDSHIP

Rebalancing funds can help smooth financial 'bumps'

By Don Spencer

Have you ever been riding down the road and your car suddenly starts shaking and vibrating? Chances are the cause is tires out of balance. We sometimes experience problems in

other areas of life when things are out of balance. Even in our spiritual life there needs to be a healthy balance among such things as worship, fellowship, Bible study, witnessing and prayer. The same is true in our financial lives. For example, there needs to be a balance between spending and saving.

When people develop too much debt, it often can be traced to a lack of balance in their financial lives. The lack of an emergency fund might indicate a lack of balance in one's financial life. A spending plan (budget) helps us make sure there is proper balance in our various financial needs.

Balance also is an important issue in your investments, whether it is in your retirement plan or other investments. Just as the balance on your tires needs to be checked regularly, your investment balance needs to be rechecked periodically.

How can your investments get out of balance? Suppose you have decided 50 percent of your retirement money should be in stocks and 50 percent in bonds. Over a certain period of high growth years for stock, your stocks grow to a point that you now have 60 percent of your money in stocks and only 40 percent in bonds. Your asset mix has changed. If you have determined that the 50/50 mix is appropriate for your age and investment time horizon, then your investments are now out of balance.

You might move some of your stock investments to bonds to achieve a 50/50 proportion. Or you might change future contributions so they gradually will rebalance your asset mix. You might decide the 60/40 mix is OK now. That's acceptable only if your financial risk tolerance level has changed and the 60/40 mix matches.

The critical thing is to recheck the balance every year or two and make sure it still is appropriate for you. If not, you may be increasing the chances of having a bumpier financial ride than planned.

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



FINANCIAL FORUM

ordained ministers to oversee—sort of like a public school teacher with a master's degree teaching driver training.

Jesus made it plainer in Matthew 25: Minister to the hungry, thirsty, stranger, needy, sick, prisoner. Top-heavy staffs and glitzy recreation buildings permeate churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. Babysitting and entertaining teenagers is a form of what is called ministry, thus freeing their parents from that bother—the very people who ought to be most responsible for the care and feeding of their own.

Considering the needs of people throughout the world—incomprehensible to those in this land flowing with milk and honey—one wonders why church members spend millions on themselves. Jesus said to preach, teach, baptize.

James L. Clark
Lexington

Conference kudos

I am writing about this year's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. I spend a good bit of time throughout any given year attending various conferences. Recently, I was at FAITH training in Daytona Beach, Fla., as well as the Beyond All Limits conference in Orlando earlier this year. I am writing to commend Dan Garland for the make-up of this year's Evangelism Conference. I do not think I have ever seen a better line-up or program for a relatively local conference.

I am purposefully writing before the conference (Feb. 25-26 in Louisville). Before I attend, before I am blessed, inspired, convicted, etc., I am writing to say how anxious I am to attend this year. Kudos to Dan Garland, and keep up the good work.

Larry Davis
Cold Spring

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

'Empowering Kingdom Growth'

I'm excited to share with you a new vision that has the potential to bring Southern Baptists together in an unprecedented way. Called "Empowering Kingdom Growth" or "EKG," this vision grew out of a task force of state convention executive directors and Southern Baptist national agency leaders and was adopted last week by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

It's historic because EKG is not another "program" but a way of directing focus throughout our convention. Growing out of the Great Commission, Empowering Kingdom Growth places emphasis on the local church as the primary entity for implementing Kingdom growth. All other Baptist entities support local churches in fulfilling their God-given vision.

Here's how the key words of this emphasis break down:

■ **Empowering** recognizes God as the source of all power for ministry and leadership. It places emphasis on encouraging, equipping and affirming Kingdom ministries that result in growth.

■ **Kingdom** addresses the scope of ministries. The Kingdom of God is bigger than individuals, churches and denominational entities. It encourages cooperation in Kingdom growth and encourages believers to think as big as the heart of God.

■ **Growth** is the desired result. Growth becomes the primary objective of ministries. Jesus placed emphasis on Kingdom growth, especially in the parables. Kingdom growth is holistic and not just numerical.

This new vision grew out of a task force composed of four state convention executive directors and three SBC entity presidents, along with Morris Chapman, executive director of the SBC Executive Committee. The task force had been appointed during a first-time, historic meeting of all state executive directors and presidents of SBC entities that had been called to address mutual concerns.

During the meetings, the need for a new, compelling vision for Southern Baptists surfaced. The task force came together around the vision of Empowering Kingdom Growth,



Bill Mackey

Scripture reflects benefits of single adult friendships

Q: Does the Bible say anything about single adult friendships? We often hear about marriage, probably because most of our leaders are married. Surely we're not supposed to be spiritual "lone rangers." Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto!

Single people often are tempted to "go it alone." This is not the biblical model. When God said, "It is not good for man to be alone," He wasn't just talking about marriage. It is a principle of scripture for life to be in community. The New Testament church modeled it (Acts 2:44), as did Jesus, both in His band of mostly single disciples, and in His close friendships with Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

Paul's teaching was that spiritual friendship was for encouraging, comfort and urging one another to live worthy of God (1 Thessalonians 1:2). You read about Paul and Barnabas, Paul and John Mark, and Paul and Silas, but not about Paul "going it alone."

The Bible speaks of the wisdom of having close friends. Ecclesiastes 4 declares: You have better productivity (v. 9); you pick one another up when you fall (v. 10); you have the comfort of knowing someone's there (v. 11); you have a defense in case one of you is overpowered (v. 12); and you have a strong and dependable bond (v. 12).

In our culture of individualism, we are tempted to say, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). The biblical answer is a resounding "yes." This is especially so when the greatest benefit of all is knowing the presence of Christ Himself in the midst of that friendship (Matthew 18:20).—*James Stillwell*

Q: My teenage son is spending time with several boys whom my husband and I don't like. Is it reasonable for us to ask him to find other friends?

As long as your son is living under your roof, it is reasonable for you to have some influence regarding his friends. It also is true, however, that there typically is a direct correlation between parental control and teenagers' age. While older teens might accept parental influence concerning friends, it is easier to influence and shape peer groups in the pre-teen and early teenage years.

Helping teens find positive peer groups related to activities they enjoy, skills they are developing and interests they are pursuing is a wise way of wielding influence. Focusing exclusively on eliminating negative influences might leave teens feeling isolated and resentful. They actually might rebel and protest that you are cutting them off from their friends and being unreasonable.

Talk with your teenager about your concerns with his friends. Especially with an older teen, be careful about impulsively forcing him to change friends without patiently thinking about whether changes can be made. Encourage your son to find common ground with you regarding your concerns and tie this to behavior. For example, if he and his friends have made the mistake of stealing, and he agrees that this cannot continue, then he likely could agree that if either he or his friends are caught in this behavior again, it will be time to end the friendship.

Remember always that you are the parent. If you are convinced that your son is continuing to spend time with friends who are a negative and even dangerous influence, it is your responsibility to take action. Just as the scripture reminds us to not provoke our children to wrath, we also are enjoined to correct and protect.—*Scott Wigginton*

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



SBC ministry goals: What would Jesus do?

Eight months ago, Southern Baptist Convention messengers heard the final report on the denomination's 25-year global ministry strategy called Bold Mission Thrust.

At the time, I posed the question editorially: "What will Southern Baptists next bold initiative be—and when will it be launched?" Baptist leaders already were working behind the scenes on that issue, and last week they unveiled the answer: Empowering Kingdom Growth.

EKG grew out of a joint meeting between state Baptist convention executive directors and SBC entity heads. An eight-member Cooperation Task Force compiled an 18-page report describing the strategy's goal of becoming "the greatest spiritual movement for Christ on earth since He first voiced the Great Commission." That is, without question, quite a lofty goal indeed.

How will it be accomplished? The basic plan calls for every local Baptist congregation, association, state convention and institution to ask: "What are we really specifically doing and planning in order to expand the Kingdom of God on earth?" In short, it's a denominational "What Would Jesus Do?" campaign for the 21st century.

Task force member Carlisle Driggers, executive director of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, has spearheaded a similar emphasis in his state in recent years. His report, adopted by state convention executives and SBC agency heads and affirmed last week by the SBC Executive Committee, features numerous nuggets of wisdom, including:

■ "Our finest chance for rising above separation and dissatisfaction in our ranks is to seek the face of God for a spiritual movement which is so compelling that it claims our attention and our allegiance."

■ "Any focus Southern Baptists cast must be completely spiritual or it misses the mark of glorifying and

obeying Christ and confuses our constituencies as well as the general public."

■ "One can only wonder how dynamic Southern Baptists could become and how far our influence might reach... if we should ever get ourselves in step with Jesus and side by side with each other on His concept of the Kingdom of God on earth even as it is in heaven."

■ "Neither the Southern Baptist Convention, state conventions, associations or churches are kingdoms unto themselves. There is but one Kingdom and it belongs to God... When the people of God are engaged in the growth of His Kingdom, unity of purpose has an opportunity to emerge."

Every one of those statements deserves a rousing "Amen!" However, those same statements were true when the SBC was founded more than 150 years ago and they remained true throughout the past two decades of convention controversy and division.

The question is not whether God will bless Southern Baptists if we implement a unified vision focusing on Kingdom growth. The question is whether those truths will be lived

out among individuals and institutions across our denomination's theological and political spectrum. Otherwise, the report's stirring words will soon ring hollow.

The task force acknowledged such "serious problems" in SBC life as "evolving funding streams in competition with the Cooperative Program, relating to parachurch mission organizations, and the need for improved communications between SBC entities and state convention leaders."

EKG doesn't offer specific solutions to those problems but it does offer words of hope from a spiritual perspective. Will Southern Baptists allow EKG to become a healing balm in a hurting convention? What would Jesus do?

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

What is a reasonable Christian response to war?

By Walter Jackson

Ever since the apostle Peter lifted his sword to defend Jesus and was rebuked by his Lord, Christians have been ambivalent about war.

Today, believers still search the Bible for guidance about a proper attitude toward war. In the Old Testament, God can be seen as a "Divine Warrior" urging the Hebrews into battle or using other nations as instruments against the Hebrews when they disobeyed. The New Testament portrays Jesus as the "Prince of Peace"

who called His disciples to be "peacemakers" and to avoid activities based on anger, rage and revenge. Actually, Jesus instructed them to love their enemies, but to be aggressive in the causes of righteousness and justice. The Bible also teaches that loyalty to country is important, but God alone—not the nation—is the only worthy focus of supreme loyalty and worship.

Our history also speaks. Christian citizens have been active soldiers in America's wars. The Revolutionary War found many believers eagerly fighting for independence. Slavery was settled with Christians fighting on both sides of the Civil War. Wars throughout the 20th century found Christian combatants and conscien-

tious objectors engaged in radically different ways.

Some Christians support what have been called "just wars" (to establish justice and protect or defend the innocent). They willingly choose to fight for their loved ones or for deeply held values. Others reject "unjust wars" (to enslave, dominate or annihilate), refusing to give their lives for the proceeds of greed and lust. Still others see all wars as the embodiment of evil.

War, in focus, is ugly; a collective reenactment of the rage of Cain who slew his brother. In war, people are murdered, property is destroyed, nations and cultures are damaged or obliterated. Misery, poverty and blight are the nearly universal results.

War scars on human bodies, minds and souls defy a quick fix. And the root causes of war never seem to be eliminated.

War happens when people are isolated and develop suspicions about others and when religious faith is promoted as a divisive issue instead of the good news from God. War fever grows with neglect or abuse of the "have nots" by those who "have." War also happens after those knowledgeable observers fail at diplomacy or peacemaking. Our current war on terrorism fol-

lows a horrible act of terror, destruction and loss of innocent life.

So what is a reasonable Christian response to war?

First, a strong commitment to the national "just war" effort is a choice supported by biblical and historical data. Love of biblical, giving one's life for loved ones and defending our free nation are high priorities for Christians. In giving that commitment in support of war, however, citizens should beware not to worship the nation as an idol or surrender hard-won personal freedoms at home.

Second, begin an immediate assault against the conditions fostering war. Waiting until after hostilities cease might be too late.

Third, the most important response to war is prayer. Pray for the war to end quickly. Pray for justice and peace. Pray for the safety of combatants and innocents and for their loved ones. Pray for wisdom to act in ways to eliminate war and all future possibilities of war.

And pray each day with humility: "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

Walter Jackson is dean of the school of theology at Campbellsville University

Got questions?

Fax your "Question of the Day" to (502) 244-6474; E-mail: wesrec@kybaptist.org.

BAPTISTS

NAMB asks national missionaries to affirm 2000 BF&M

True Love Waits: More than 77,000 teens make pledge

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—More than 77,000 teens around the nation made online commitments to remain sexually abstinent until marriage as part of "True Love Waits: Seize the Net Goes Live," a nationally televised True Love Waits event.

More than 1,000 youth gathered at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 13 and thousands more joined the event via satellite and a live broadcast on FamilyNet. Many responded to the invitation to sign commitments to purity by visiting the Web site, www.truelovewaits.com.

The rally, hosted by brother-sister singing duo Phillip and Natalie LaRue, also featured music from Phat Chance and Joy Williams, all artists who have taken a stand for sexual purity.

Richard Ross, one of the founders of True Love Waits and a professor of youth ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, compared each youth to a rosebud, demonstrating that when a rosebud is forced to open before the proper time, it is torn.

"If you already have had sex before marriage, which are you?" he asked. "Are you my hands doing the tearing or are you the petals that have been torn? Actually, you're both. In sex before marriage you are being torn but you're also tearing another."

Even so, there is forgiveness for those who already have made mistakes, Ross said. "God Himself welcomes you with open arms. ... "If you've experienced God's forgiveness, you can make a promise of purity from this night until your wedding night," he said. "By God's grace, this can blossom into something absolutely beautiful on your wedding day."

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board is asking national missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

The request doesn't affect the vast majority of NAMB missionaries, however, who are funded jointly with Baptist state conventions, associations or churches.

Marty King, the agency's director of convention relations, said 59 national missionaries are fully funded by NAMB. That is out of a total missionary force of 5,081, according to the Southern Baptist Convention's 2001 Book of Reports.

King said only national missionaries are NAMB employees. The rest legally work for the respective part-

nering entities. Administrative and professional staff at NAMB headquarters in Alpharetta, Ga., were asked to affirm the Baptist Faith and Message last year.

NAMB President Robert Reccord explained that the agency's funding of missionaries is "conceptually and significantly different" from that of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. All IMB missionaries are fully funded by the mission board with money collected from churches through the Cooperative Program.

"Because NAMB shares its mission field with state conventions and associations, the vast majority of our missionaries are jointly funded unless their responsibilities transcend state lines or involve a national ministry

like the United Nations," Reccord said. Jointly funded programs are worked out in cooperative agreements between NAMB and the various state conventions.

IMB President Jerry Rankin recently asked all of nearly 5,200 international missionaries to reaffirm the Baptist Faith and Message in light of changes made to the confession of faith in 1998 and 2000.

Critics of that action complained that it violates Southern Baptists' historic aversion to creeds. Rankin denied the faith statement is being enforced as a creed but said Southern Baptists have a right to expect their missionaries to be doctrinally accountable.

Similar to IMB missionaries,

NAMB national missionaries will be asked to respond yes or no to the statement: "I have read and am in agreement with the current edition of the Baptist Faith and Message."

Whether or not a missionary cites an area of disagreement, he or she is then asked to sign a pledge "to carry out my responsibilities in accordance with and not contrary to" the faith statement.

"We see this as an opportunity for our national missionaries to join our staff in affirming the doctrinal guide approved by those who provide our support," Reccord said.

He said NAMB and its predecessor have used the Baptist Faith and Message as a doctrinal guide since 1963.

Texas committee asks missionaries to share concerns about IMB policy

DALLAS (ABP)—A Texas Baptist committee has set up an e-mail address to collect confidential information from Southern Baptist Convention missionaries who are concerned about signing an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

The Missions Review and Initiative Committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas is coordinating the survey. It was announced in a widely circulated e-mail written by Keith Parks, a member of that committee and former president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board as well as former coordinator of global missions for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The committee's request was sparked by news that Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC International Mission Board, has asked all IMB missionaries to sign an affirmation of the current Baptist Faith and Message.

What will happen to IMB missionaries who do not sign the required affirmation remains unclear. Rankin told Baptist newspaper editors Feb. 13 that missionaries were invited to note areas of disagreement and, if they do so, will be counseled by regional IMB leaders. While denying that missionaries would be fired for disagreeing with points of the faith statement, he said IMB administrators had not yet determined how to handle such situations.

Rankin told the editors he hopes 100 percent of IMB missionaries will sign the affirmation.

However, initial reports from missionaries outside the United States indicate that is unlikely. Parks reported that in the first few days after his e-mail began circulating, "a pretty steady stream of folks" wrote to the committee via the special address.

The BGCT committee, which met Feb. 18 and 19, is expected to bring a report to the BGCT Executive Board this week.

A Feb. 19 Baptist Press story quoted Rankin as downplaying the efforts of the Texas missions committee. Rankin said Texas and moderate Baptist leaders "are going to be surprised when so few, if any, IMB missionaries take them up on their offer of an alternate support base."

Rankin also said he believes some are presenting a "distortion of facts ... to advance their anti-SBC agenda."

The main thing, Parks said, is "we wanted to say to missionaries who share our convictions, 'Don't feel forced to compromise your own understanding of what it means to be a Baptist.'"

Parks said information gathered through the e-mail address (newmissions@bgct.org) will help the BGCT committee explore ways to create a "genuine Baptist option" for concerned missionaries.

BGCT explores missionary funding

DALLAS—Leaders of the Baptist General Convention of Texas announced Feb. 22 that they will call this week for a new Texas-based fund to support missionary work worldwide.

The proposal comes in the wake of Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin asking missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Forcing Baptists to affirm anything but the Bible is a violation of trust and principle, BGCT President Bob Campbell told the Dallas Morning News.

"This is like the Old Testament conquerors did to the Jews," Campbell said. "They made them fall down before idols, and a Jew couldn't do that. As a Christian, we cannot fall down before a man-made instrument. It makes this a loyalty oath."

SBC President James Merritt described Texas Baptists' response as "tragic and very unnecessary."

"As more and more churches turn away from the BGCT for

love of the Southern Baptist Convention, it will exacerbate that dispirit even more," said Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga. "You see more of a movement in churches in Texas sticking with Baptists supportive of the SBC."

The BGCT Executive Board was scheduled to address the issue of missionary funding during its Feb. 26 meeting. Another key issue expected to surface involves setting up a fund to help missionaries who choose to resign from the IMB rather than sign the 2000 faith statement.

Board members also might authorize certification of ordained women chaplains in response to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's decision earlier this month to quit endorsing ordained women as chaplains.

Emphasizing that such issues as missionary support and chaplaincy ministry matter to grassroots church members, Campbell added, "Anybody who thinks this is just a preacher fight should see it is not. It is affecting everybody."

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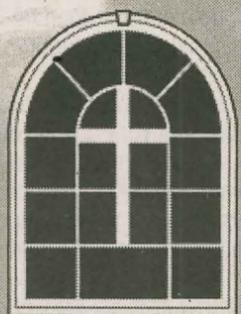
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 PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
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Mohler, Barnette and others debate U.S. war on terrorism

By Michael Foust
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A diverse group of theologians, pastors and professors met earlier this month at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to tackle whether the United States should be involved in military action overseas against terrorism.

The 80-minute panel discussion found former Southern Seminary ethics professor Henlee Barnette and current seminary President Al Mohler among those in support of the U.S. military operation. Joe Phelps, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, stood alone in opposition to military action.

The two other panelists were Frank Coppenger, pastor of Evanston (Ill.) Baptist Church and former president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Kenneth Magnuson, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Southern.

Barnette noted that while he wrote and lectured against the Vietnam War—and even had sons on opposite sides of that issue—he supports the war on terrorism.

“We were not fighting a defensive war in Vietnam,” he said. “Now we are. It is an entirely new kind of war.”

But Phelps said the United States did not exhaust its non-military options before it began military action. He drew a line, however, between a nation fighting a war and an individual taking physical action, saying that there are some instances where force is needed. Phelps affirmed the actions of the passengers on the hijacked plane on Sept. 11 that crashed in Pennsylvania.

“I would like to think that our country is doing what it’s doing with the very best of intentions—just as those people on the plane were,” he said. “But the people on the plane had no other alternative—at least that I can think of. ... We, on the other hand, do have alternatives to bombing and doing the things that we have done, which in my opinion have increased the danger that our country faces.”

“Perhaps we’ve done what we’ve done with the best of intentions. I don’t think it has yielded the results that we hoped it would,” he added.

Referring to Romans 13, Mohler said the United States has been justified in its military response.

“In both the Old and New Testaments, the demands of justice require that those who do evil be punished for those acts of evil,” he said. “War is

one of the means by which peace is re-established.”

Barnette agreed, saying that the Greek word for “love”—agape—demands justice.

“You can’t have agape (love) without justice,” he said. “Otherwise it is purely sentimentality. I go along with Augustine on this. You may hit me on the right cheek, (and) I’ll turn the left. But you hit one of my family, and you’re going to get justice.”

The panel discussed a wide range of issues, including Augustine’s “just war” theory.

Magnuson summarized the theory, saying that it involves such goals as limiting civilian casualties and restoring justice.

“It’s important to remember that the just war criteria have developed as a way of limiting how we might go to war—not as a way of coming up with reasons for going to war,” Magnuson said.

Phelps said he would prefer a peacemaking initiative to a just war theory.

“Rather than justifying war—using the just war theory to legitimate a war—the biblical initiative is to talk about a just peacemaking theory,” he said. Christians should “begin to take seriously the principles of Jesus

Christ—to enact transforming initiatives on behalf of our country in the global arena.”

Mohler said the bombing of Dresden in World War II violated the just war theory.

“World War II was entered as a just war, but it was not always prosecuted as a just war,” he said.

Coppenger agreed, saying that the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima rather than on an unpopulated area also was wrong.

Coppenger also said he believes a Christian could conscientiously refuse to serve in a war.

“I would opt out of certain wars,” said Coppenger, a recently retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. “I think a Christian soldier could conceivably say, ‘I’m just not going to do that.’”

Although the panelists were not unified in their beliefs on war ethics, they all agreed the Christian church must spread the gospel in the Islamic world.

“We have a mandate, folks, and we haven’t made much out of it,” Barnette said. “We spend more money on Cokes and coffee and stuff like that than we give to missions. ... We’ve got to see this thing in terms of a worldview.”

Franklin Graham urges action on AIDS epidemic

Continued from page 1

Graham admitted that involving evangelicals will be an uphill battle. A recent survey poll by the Barna Research Group found that only 3 percent of evangelical Christians in the United States said they plan to help with HIV/AIDS.

Graham, the son of evangelist Billy Graham, pointed to Roy and Avis Rideout as examples of operates Agape Home for Babies and Children with HIV/AIDS in Thailand. They attended the conference with their HIV-positive adopted Thai daughter, Nikki.

The Rideouts have taken in 146 infected children since opening Agape Home. Infected children who later become immune to the disease are put up for adoption, and those who remain HIV positive and develop AIDS cannot be adopted and stay at Agape Home until they die. So far 40 children have been adopted and 40 have died.

“We want to give a child who is dying with AIDS identity, quality of life, let them die as well as anyone else,” Avis Rideout said. “Why can’t they have the same right to die in the same way with love and dignity?”

Graham called the conference a success because it was the first time evangelical Christians had held such a meeting in the United States. But a more concrete measure of success could be whether Graham’s charitable organization, Samaritan’s Purse, follows through on a promise Graham made to help build a “City of Hope” in Kenya.

The project, envisioned by Catholic priest and AIDS worker Angelo D’Agostino, plans to build villages in Africa to house orphans and the elderly affected by AIDS.

D’Agostino said AIDS is eliminating Kenya’s “middle generation” of parents and many helpless elderly who watch as their children, and their

adult caretakers, die off.

As soon as D’Agostino finished explaining his vision that the 900-person villages one day will dot the continent, Graham stepped to the podium and unexpectedly endorsed the plan, also promising that Samaritan’s Purse would help build the first “City Of Hope.”

“That is a tremendous idea and why not do it?” Graham said. “This could be done as a model village which could be replicated in other African countries,” he said.

Ken Isaacs, director of international projects for Samaritan’s Purse, could not commit to an exact financial contribution, but said the organization likely will help D’Agostino with administrative support and project management. “Just looking at some quick numbers, I would say it is going to be \$700,000 to \$1 million,” Isaacs said.

Many of the conference’s workshops centered on Africa. The disease has devastated that continent; according to statistics from the World Health Organization, 28.1 million African adults and children are either HIV-positive or have full blown AIDS, compared to about 940,000 in North America.

In a speech Feb. 20, Ugandan First Lady Janet Kataaha Musveni compared the AIDS epidemic to Old Testament disasters, but said her country is faring better than other African countries because of government education programs and Christian faith-based organizations such as the Uganda Youth Forum.

“We hold up role models for them, we discuss perplexing issues about their newly discovered sexuality and about the dangers of the adult world,” she said.

Uganda has been singled out as a model African nation when it comes to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Between 1995 and 2000, the HIV infection rate dropped from 18.5 percent to 6.1 percent.

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A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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The Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is free and open to anyone interested in missions.

Free childcare and deaf interpretation available by reservation only.
See page 4 of this insert.

Reservations and prepayment required for meals.
See page 4 of this insert.

A Personal Word

The graphic for our 2002 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting visually portrays our theme "Down the Street...Around the World" through the blending of two photographs. The local missions photo depicts ministry to children. The international photo was taken at a women's retreat in Rwanda during my first overseas missions trip.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-
Treasurer

Our meeting contains a new feature this year—"Lunch with a Missionary." You can pre-register for a box lunch (or bring your own!) and have lunch with one of our program guests. This will give you an extra opportunity to hear one of our missions speakers.

We are continuing a feature everyone enjoyed last year, the Missions Fair, but with one addition. Churches AND associations may bring displays showing missions work that you are doing. We can accommodate up to 50 displays. A registration form has been mailed to every church and association WMU director. Register early!

The Friday evening session will include the Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale as well as the Men's Chorale and Wind Orchestra (of which I am a member). We are privileged to have these fine Kentucky Baptist musicians who will be rehearsing in Madisonville for their upcoming mission trip to Europe.

On Saturday we will elect officers and Executive Board members. Then we will launch our 125th year as Kentucky WMU.

Please refer to information included in this issue of *Kentucky Notes* and to material that was mailed to each church in February for registration information for meals, childcare and deaf interpretation.

Let me express thanks to our president, Sara Billups, for her service these past two years. Sara is a wonderful speaker and has touched many of you as she has spoken in your church or association. Due to health concerns, Sara has declined to be reelected and we will be electing a new president at our meeting.

There are some other great things sponsored by Kentucky WMU that you won't want to miss. Exalt, the State Acteens Conference, will be held April 5-6 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Three World Missions Unlimited conferences are planned for July, giving you three opportunities to attend a training event and prepare for the 2002-03 church year. A missions trip to Germany sponsored by Kentucky WMU will take place in September, and a group from Kentucky will attend the North American Baptist Women's Union meeting in October. Watch *Kentucky Notes* and mailings from the WMU office for additional information about these opportunities.

**Down
the street
Around
the world**

Directions to KY WMU Annual Meeting:

From the Pennyrile Parkway:

Take Exit 42 and follow Rt. 70 into town.

Turn right on Main Street.

First Baptist Church will be about two blocks on the right.

246 North Main Street, Madisonville

Church phone: (270) 821-3611



Information for WMU Directors

Spring will arrive in less than a month! Crocus and daffodils will appear. Signs of new life bring a sense of optimism and expectancy. April 12-13 will be the time to be in Madisonville for the **Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting**. The meeting is for YOU, the person in the local church. Take note of Joy Bolton's column, directions and other information regarding the meeting on page 1 of this *Kentucky Notes*.



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
SEVERAL YEARS—

The **national WMU Annual Meeting** will be held in St. Louis, just a few hours by car or bus from us. There will be **NO REGISTRATION FEE** for this meeting and we will have the opportunity to choose from several conferences that will be offered. Go early and combine this Sunday afternoon and Monday meeting with a trip to Branson, then stay for the Southern Baptist Convention. We hope many Kentucky women will make plans to be a part of the 2002 national WMU Annual Meeting.

YOUR WMU LEADERSHIP TEAM -FOR 2002-2003

The church leader who begins early to pray, talk with existing leaders and enlist new leaders is the one who will get the best quality in leadership. If leaders are enlisted during this quarter, they can make plans to attend **World Missions Unlimited** in July.

START OR STRENGTHEN YOUR ACTEENS—

July 29, 2003, marks the beginning of the next **National Acteens Convention** which will be called *SyncroNations* and held in Nashville. Your current *Sixth Graders* will be eligible to go. Promotion of this event can be a great spirit-builder with your girls. Help your girls begin making plans and discover ways to finance their trip.

ASSOCIATIONAL EMPHASIS—

May brings the opportunity for us to learn more about our association, the work, the needs, resources and how we can make a difference. Many associations take a special offering to be used in the association. Churches in every association should pray for their associational staff and the elected officers.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Adults

Along with a new year has come a calendar that already is filled with places for me to be and things to do. I'm sometimes amazed at how quickly my schedule fills up with deadlines, meetings and tasks that constitute my daily life. With the everyday busyness of life, it is easy for me to forget about the wonderful glory of God and the gift He has given us in each day.

Stephen Curtis Chapman writes in the chorus of his song, "See the Glory":

*"I'm playin' Gameboy standing in the middle of the Grand Canyon
I'm eatin' candy sittin' at a gourmet feast
I'm wading in a puddle when I could be*



*swimming in the ocean
Tell me what's the deal with me ... wake up and see the glory!"*

As you begin to feel bogged down by the ins and outs of a crazy schedule, I hope that you will take a few moments to bask in the glory of the Lord and rejoice in all His goodness and mercy.

With this in mind, why don't you plan now to attend the **Lifestyle Women's Evangelism Conference** in May? The conference will give you an opportunity to get away from the daily grind and focus on your walk with the Lord. Carol Kent and Martha Keitt will be the keynote speakers. This year the conference will be held in Bowling Green and

Louisville on Monday, May 21, and Somerset on Tuesday, May 22. Request a brochure from the state office for further details.

Tonya's Tip: I constantly am amazed at the number of internationals who have come to Kentucky. Why not invite one of them to your home for dinner? Many internationals would love the opportunity to visit an "American" home. Your Women on Mission group could host a luncheon and invite prospective international women to join you! What a wonderful way to reach out to the world! You don't even have to leave your house.

—Tonya Williams



Youth

Come ONE, come all! If you can only attend ONE event this year, **Exalt** is the ONE. Formerly known as the State Acteens Conference, Exalt is for all young ladies in grades 7-12. This year's theme is "One Generation."

Exalt will challenge participants to be a generation with a mission. Brochures have been mailed to all youth leaders. If you haven't received yours, please call. The ad on page 4 of this *Kentucky Notes* has more information.

The **Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel** met Jan. 25-26. What a great

group! We worked on Exalt, prepared several presentations and picked the theme for Exalt 2003. You will not want to miss what the panel has planned for Friday night at Exalt. These three young ladies are



PLEASE COME Members of the 2001-02 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel cordially invite you to Exalt. From left: Jessica Pace, Ashley McElevan and Mandy Warden.

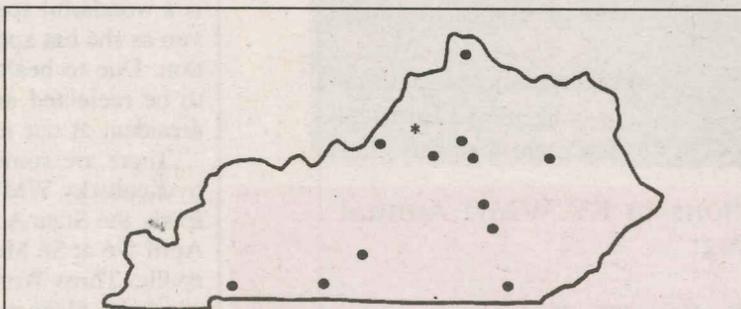
Preschool

Spring is here and an exciting adventure in Mission Friends continues for preschoolers. Begin now to plan some special experiences for your Mission Friends class. Here are some ideas:

- Have a "Preschool Story Night: Read Around the World!" Use suggestions on page 6 of the spring issue of *Start*. Be sure to involve parents and grandparents.
- Daytime and early evening meetings can be held outdoors.
- A family cookout is an excellent opportunity to involve all Mission Friends and their parents.

Keep the menu simple: hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, drinks and dessert. Plan a brief time with parents to discuss the value of Mission Friends while Acteens host the preschoolers in a game time. Include a time for family games, too!

• Send a Mother's Day card to each mother in your church who has a prospective Mission Friend. Identify yourself as the Mission Friends teacher and invite each mother to bring



Adopt one of 150 Summer Missionaries from Kentucky!
Sign up now for your summer missionary.

What's involved?

1. Contact LaRaine to reserve your summer missionary today.
2. You'll be matched with a summer missionary in March.
3. Send KY WMU \$10 for a commissioning gift.
4. Pray for and write your summer missionary throughout the summer.

their children to Mission Friends.

Spring and summer months don't have to interfere or prevent Mission Friends meetings. Do your best to make these months a special time for missions education for preschoolers.

Children

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF GIRLS IN ACTION AND CHILDREN IN ACTION! The **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at First Baptist Church, Madisonville. Because both Girls in Action (girls, grades 1-6) and Children in Action (boys and girls, grades 1-6) are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the **WMU Annual Meeting**.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around 12:00 noon (CST). As the general meeting is in session for everyone else, the children and leaders will be having their own event with opportunities for meeting missionaries, singing and having all kinds of fun! The event will be held in the gymnasium of the church. Watch for signs to direct you to the gym entrance. See directions to the church on page 1 of this *Kentucky Notes*.

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$2 per person attending to be paid on arrival.

Children and leaders attending the event can be involved in a ministry project by bringing canned food (one per person) to the missions event. The food will be distributed to programs for needy families in the Madisonville area.

Don't forget camp! Two state camps, Cedar Crest (at Cedarmore) and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all girls. Girls in Action members, as well as girls who are not members of GA, can attend. Inform your girls and their parents about the dates and cost of camp. Separate poster/registration forms for each camp location were mailed to church GA, Children in Action and WMU directors in February.

—Brenda Price



President's Perspective

Even though it is winter, the wind is blowing and the snow has been falling, it is not too early to begin planning to attend the KY WMU Annual Meeting. We will be meeting at First Baptist Church in Madisonville on April 12 and 13. We are planning an exciting and inspiring program just for you. The theme is "Down the Street and Around the World" and we will show you that you are never anywhere that God isn't working and seeking you to join Him! Plan now to be with us as we celebrate missions "Down the Street and Around the World!"



Sara Billups
Kentucky
WMU
president

It also is not too late to give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. If the work is to get done we must be faithful to give.

Recently, at a KBC Executive Board meeting, I had the opportunity to share about my Muslim friend. I love her like a sister and have spent many hours witnessing to her and learning what being a Muslim means. The sacrifice she would make to become a believer seems too great to her. I told her God has a plan.

Eventually, she moved to Louisville. After six months, she reported to me that she had not met a single Baptist and longed to have a friend she could talk to about God.

What are we doing? We must truly "walk our talk". Saying we want to be bold witnesses is not enough, we must BE bold witnesses. My Syrian friend is just "down the street," and no one in Louisville has shared Jesus with her. I pray you will look around you and see whom God has put on your street or in your world. Opportunities abound if we will look and listen; statistics show God has sent the world to Kentucky. We must do all we can to reach the people coming our way. We must be bold in our witness, bold in our giving and bold in our going. Sept. 11 has shown us we must not put off for tomorrow what we can do today because for some tomorrow will not come.

It has been a joy and privilege to serve these past two years as your president. I have enjoyed meeting with many of you in your churches and associations. All of you have become my friends. It is with sadness I leave this position, but truly I am not leaving KY WMU and will look forward to continue serving with you in other capacities. I still expect to see you at Annual Meeting...on the front row.

*In His great love,
Sara Billups*



WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2002

• Training • Motivation • Inspiration • Fellowship

July 12-13 Georgetown College, Georgetown

July 19-20 Mid-Continent College, Mayfield

July 26-27 Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville

Friday, 6:30-9 p.m. (Associational Leaders Only)

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Associational & Church Leaders)

Want to become a better missions leader? Attend conferences for basic training or advanced leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Conferences for church and associational leaders of all WMU organizations and Brotherhood organizations will be provided. Special interest conferences also will be offered.

Cost: \$15 if registered by June 15; \$20 after June 15 (includes Saturday lunch and resources*)

Registration materials will be mailed to all church/associational WMU leaders in early April. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU.

*Those attending WMU conferences will receive a WMU Year Book. Participants in Brotherhood conferences will receive Brotherhood-related resources.



opportunities at two locations. Plan now to attend one of these events.

On the Cedar Crest campus at Cedarmore, we are excited to announce a new name for camp, **Mission Adventure Camp for Girls** (the Brotherhood department of the KBC offers Mission Adventure Camp for Boys the same dates at Camp Rabro). This summer we will offer an exciting week of learning about missions, Bible study, adventure recreation and horseback riding!

Girls: grades 4-6 June 17-21
June 24-28
July 8-12
July 1-3 (Express Camp)
July 15-19

Camp News

It's not too early to think about camp for your young ladies for the summer of 2002! This year, Kentucky WMU will host camping

Grades 7-10 June 24-28
July 8-12

Girls: grades 1-3 Mother/Daughter Overnights
June 21-22
June 28-29
July 12-13

There also are three opportunities for girls and young ladies at **Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center**. A Mother/Daughter Overnight, GA Overnight and Acteens Splash will be held June 21-22.

Call the Kentucky WMU office to request brochures explaining costs and details for both camping options!



Calendar

March

1-2 Creative Ministries Festival, Louisville, SBTS
3-10 North American Missions Emphasis
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
31 Easter

April

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

May

20 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference—
Day: First BC, Bowling Green;
Night: St. Matthews BC, Louisville
21 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference—
Day: Beacon Hill BC, Somerset
21 Senior Adult Celebration, Winchester

June

9-10 WMU Annual Meeting, SBC, St. Louis
11-12 Southern Baptist Convention, St. Louis
17-21 Mission Adventure Camp: grades 4-6, Cedar Crest
21-22 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest
21-22 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek
21-22 GA Overnight, Jonathan Creek
21-22 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek
24-28 Mission Adventure Camp: grades 4-10, Cedar Crest
28-29 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest

Heritage Fund

By Joy Bolton

I remember my Junior GA leader. She lived up the street from me and encouraged me to do my Forward Steps. My next leader was not much older than I, a YWA who praised my first efforts to do a program from *Tell* magazine. When we made the switch to Acteens, another leader encouraged us girls to complete StudiAct.

Because of these faithful women, and many others, I have a heritage of missions involvement which has shaped my life. As a child, I experienced missions through WMU because women were faithful in providing literature and leading missions organizations. The state WMU office provided resources and training to help these faithful leaders do their job.

There probably was a faithful leader in your life, too. One who passed on to you a heritage of missions. For these faithful leaders, the Heritage Fund is named.

The Heritage Fund is a permanent endowed fund of Kentucky WMU. The stated purpose of the fund is for developing, strengthening and sustaining the work of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Would you give a gift in honor of someone who gave you a missions heritage? Would you name Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund in your will? Would you give generously to sustain missions education in our state?

We have a heritage worth passing on. Your gift to the Heritage Fund will help sustain the work of Kentucky WMU for years to come.

For more information about the Heritage Fund and how to become a member of the Heritage Society, contact Frankie Johnson, Kentucky WMU Development Specialist at (502) 863-0509.



Registration: Kentucky 2001 WMU Annual Meeting

Clip and mail with applicable payments to:
Kentucky WMU
Attention: Doris Riddle
PO Box 436569
Louisville, KY 40253-6569
Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please check item/event/service for which you wish to make reservations; then complete all related information. Tickets will be held for pickup at the event.

Box Lunch - Friday, April 12 - noon
Number of box lunches @ \$6 each: _____

Total enclosed for box lunch tickets: \$ _____

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner - Friday, April 12; 5 pm

Number of dinner tickets at \$8 each: _____

Total enclosed for BNF dinner tickets: \$ _____

Acteens/Youth on Mission Members & Leaders Dinner

Friday, April 12; 5 pm

Number of dinner tickets at \$8 each: _____

Total enclosed for dinner tickets: \$ _____

Childcare (provided free, but reservations required)

Number of children for which childcare is needed: _____

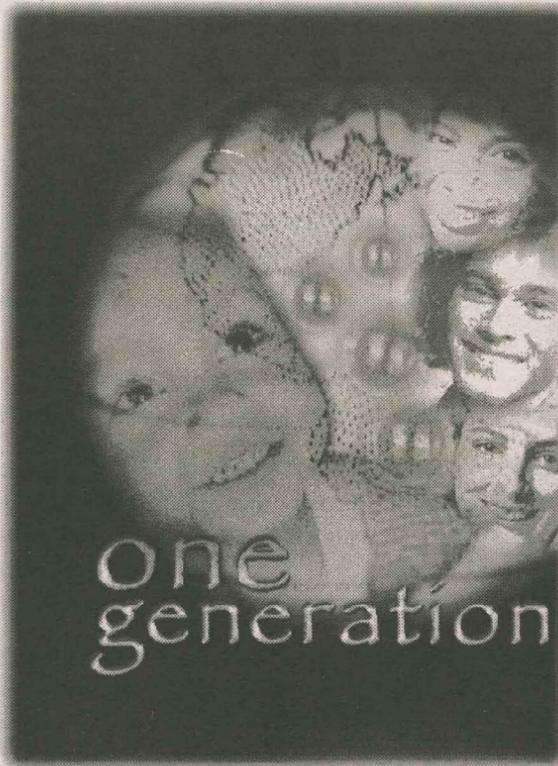
Dates needed: April 12 April 13

Deaf Interpretation (provided free, but reservations required)

Dates needed: April 12 April 13

All reservations (including those made by e-mail) are due by April 1.

Reservations for services that do not require advance payment may be made via e-mail at kywmu@kybaptist.org. Please include name, address, phone and all applicable reservation information.



Exalt 2002

The Event for All Young Ladies in Grades 7-12

✓ April 5-6
St. Matthews Baptist Church
Louisville

Speakers:

✓ Wanda Lee, Executive Director-Treasurer
WMU, SBC
✓ Bobby Rankin, Former Missionary to
Indonesia

Worship Leaders:

✓ Michael and Terri Higdon

Commissioning Service:

✓ Acteens Activators, Youth Mission Teams
& more than 150 college students will be
commissioned

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

KY WMU to sponsor a missions trip to Germany

Kentucky WMU will lead a Partnership Missions trip to Germany on Sept. 18-30, 2002. A team of 10-14 people has been requested by Trinity Baptist Church of Metterich, Germany. Trinity is located in a small German village between two military bases.

We have been asked to lead two women's retreats and provide activities for the children of the retreat participants. Some team members will staff the retreats while others lead the children's activities. In addition, we will participate in prayerwalking and home Bible studies. All teaching will be

done in English. Many American military wives are expected to attend.

An exact cost for this trip has



not been determined due to fluctuating airfare. Probable maximum cost is \$1,100 per person, and may be less. This price in-

cludes airfare, lodging and in-country meals. Meals while traveling and souvenirs are extra. A passport is required.

Contact Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU, for more information about the team. You will be mailed an application and any additional information. The application and a \$200 deposit must be received by May 1, 2002. The balance of the trip expense will be due by the end of June.

After the team has been enlisted, a date will be set for training in Louisville. Assignments for retreat conferences and children's activities will be worked out during team training.

Acteens & Youth on Mission
Groups:

Let's EAT!

with Etta Butcher,
Hearts 4 Boston

Friday, April 13; 5 p.m.

Liberty Baptist Church

Cost: \$8

Use registration form on
this page.

North American Baptist Women's Union Golden Anniversary Celebration Montego Bay, Jamaica Oct. 2-6, 2002



Kentucky WMU will form a group if a minimum of 10 people are interested in attending. The approximate cost is \$1,400. If you are interested in attending, please call us toll-free at (888) 254-5726.

Project HELP

We have six more months of the two-year emphasis in *Project HELP: Literacy*. Many of you have become involved in literacy ministry that will now be ongoing. Thank you for your investment in the lives of people.

Beginning in September our emphasis will be *Project HELP: Restorative Justice*. A new guide for this emphasis will be available in early summer.

Supreme Court debates school vouchers

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The nation's highest court joined the debate on school vouchers, considering last week whether the state aid that pays for tuition in religious schools is constitutional.

The discussion during oral arguments at the Supreme Court focused on such issues as the high percentage of Cleveland students who choose religious schools among private school choices and whether parents truly have an array of educational options.

The case centers on a pilot program adopted by the Ohio Legislature to aid mostly low-income children who attend troubled public schools.

"It offers true choice to parents," argued Judith French, chief counsel for Ohio's attorney general.

She asked the justices to overturn the 2000 ruling of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the program was unconstitutional because it advances religion.

Parents who choose to send their children to a private school receive a maximum of \$2,250 per student per year. They sign over a check to the school they select.

Justices considered the percentages of students who have enrolled in the program and chosen religious schools. That number has risen from 96 percent in 1999 to 99 percent in the current school year.

Justice Stephen Breyer imagined the impression of a newcomer to this

country viewing the program with "a large amount of money" spent by the government and used by students at parochial schools.

"Wouldn't you say the government endorses a religious education?" he asked.

David Young, a Columbus, Ohio, lawyer for parents and schools who benefit from the program, added to French's arguments, saying that rather than endorsing religion, the government "was trying to resolve a problem of these disadvantaged, low-income children."

Solicitor General Theodore Olson argued for the Bush administration, which filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the voucher program.

Olson urged the court to consider the history and context of the program, which was designed to fix a "manifestly failing system."

He cited an increase in the number of nonreligious schools participating in Milwaukee's voucher program.

But Souter pondered the fact that 99 percent of the students who currently use the vouchers in private schools have opted for religious schools.

The high percentage of religious schools among private school choices is a key to the argument of program opponents.

"It is a mathematical certainty that almost all of the students will end up going to religious schools," said Robert Chanin, a Washington lawyer who represented the National Education Association before the justices.

More than one justice questioned whether the array of choices beyond private schools should be considered in determining the constitutionality of the voucher program.

"Why should we not look at all of the options open to parents?" asked Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who cited community and magnet schools as examples.

She said the numbers may be "skewed" in favor of religion only because voucher opponents are not including all choices in their argument against the program.

But Chanin maintained that the support of religious schools is unconstitutional. "It's a back-door approach to precisely what the Establishment Clause prohibits," he said. "The only rational line to draw is between public and private."

O'Connor noted that there is "no attempt" in the program to ensure that money going to a religious school is not used for religious training.

Scalia wondered how best to evaluate a program in which the percentage of students using state money at religious schools changes annually.

"The only schools that happen to be there are religious schools," he said. "This doesn't mean the program will always be that way."

He wondered if Chanin was suggesting that the solution would be to "abolish all religious schools." Chanin replied that innovative programs within public schools are preferable to providing state money that will be transferred to religious institutions.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Downed missionary seeks \$35 million.** A missionary whose wife and infant daughter were killed last year when their plane was mistakenly shot down by a Peruvian fighter jet is seeking \$35 million in compensation from the U.S. government. Jim Bowers' plane was targeted in a joint U.S.-Peruvian operation last April when Peruvian officials mistook the plane for drug smugglers. Subsequent investigations found that the CIA-run program had become sloppily managed and that the Bowers' plane was not given warnings before it was shot down. Neither the U.S. nor the Peruvian government has apologized or admitted fault in the plane's downing.

■ **Pat Robertson: Islam seeks to destroy.** Televangelist Pat Robertson drew fire from Muslim groups after he said Feb. 22 that Islam is a violent religion full of radicals who want to "control, dominate and then, if need be, destroy." Speaking on his "700 Club" TV program, Robertson said Muslims are entering America and seeking to take control. Islam "is not a peaceful religion that wants to coexist. They want to coexist until they can control, dominate and then, if need be, destroy." A spokesman for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee said Robertson was reflecting a form of anti-Semitism toward Muslims.

■ **NRB president resigns under pressure.** National Religious Broadcasters President Wayne Pederson resigned Feb. 16 after coming under pressure for telling a newspaper he was concerned "that evangelicals are identified politically more than theologically." NRB Chairman Glenn Plummer said Pederson got caught in one of the thorny areas of disagreement in the disparate association of more than 1,400 broadcasters. "It's a tightrope to walk to keep these folks who have passionate disagreements on certain issues together under the same umbrella," Plummer said. "Wayne kind of tripped the wire on a land mine."

Bush touts religious freedom at speech to students in China

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Calling America "a nation guided by faith," President Bush said Feb. 22 China should embrace rather than fear religious freedom.

"Freedom of religion is not something to be feared, it's to be welcomed," Bush said in a speech to university students in Beijing that was broadcast across China.

Bush described sharing with Chinese president Jiang Zemin a few months ago in Shanghai how "faith changed my life and how faith contributes to the life of my country."

"Faith points to a moral law beyond man's law and calls us to duties higher than material gain," he said.

Bush told students at Tsinghua University that he welcomes changes that are moving China toward democratic elections and spawning a renewed interest in religion.

The remarks were stronger than others by Bush given a day earlier in a joint press conference with the Chinese president.

News reports said Bush appeared uncomfortable as President Jiang defended a recent crackdown on illegal religious activities in China. "Whatever religion people believe in, they have to abide by the law," Jiang said. "So some of these law-breakers have been detained because of their violation of the law, not because of their religious belief."

Presbyterians defeat move to allow noncelibate gay clergy

LOUISVILLE (RNS)—The nation's largest Presbyterian denomination last week soundly defeated a move to allow noncelibate gay clergy in church pulpits.

The 5-year-old ban in the Presbyterian Church (USA) was upheld by a majority of the church's 173 regional bodies, called presbyteries.

The amendment to the church's constitution, easily passed by delegates to last summer's General Assembly meeting, would have removed language that requires clergy to live "in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness."

It also would have deleted a 1978 provision that prohibits the ordination of "self-affirming practicing homosexuals," and would have moved ordination standards away from the national church and to local congregations and presbyteries.

Balloting in the presbyteries began after the General Assembly and is continuing, although a majority had rejected the change as of last week.

This is the second time that the church has voted to retain the ban since its ratification in 1997. Current church policy allows celibate gay pastors, as well as same-sex unions, as long as they are not considered marriages.

Conservatives who rallied to retain the ban said the victory was bittersweet, because it reflects the continuing division in the church over homosexuality.

The vote to keep the ban could shift the issue into church courts, as both sides test the limits of the law. In California, one pastor is facing charges because she is a lesbian in a committed relationship.

Both sides seem to be willing—at least for now—to call a cease-fire while a blue-ribbon task force examines the deep theological divides in the 2.5 million-member church. A final report from that committee is expected in 2005.



Spring Women's Conference 2002

Register Today!

"Secret Longings of the Heart"

Please Register ASAP so we know how much food to order!!!

featuring Carol Kent

March 1-2

Immanuel Baptist Church
3100 Tates Creek Road

\$15 in advance ☺ \$20 at the door

www.ibc-lex.org
859-269-5715 ext. 101
859-266-3174

MISSIONS



COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Southern Baptist missionaries James Smith (left) and Amy and Joel Rainey (right) pray with Tim Lovett, pastor of Huffman Baptist Church in Birmingham, during a commissioning service for missionaries. Nearly 1,000 people attended the Feb. 17 service, involving 108 missionaries being commissioned to minister in affiliation with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. (BP photo by Kevin Criswell)

WMU helping restock Liberian seminary

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Soap, cake pans, U.S. postage stamps, paper clips, work gloves, sheets, pot holders, tape and T-shirts are just a few of the items Woman's Missionary Union leaders from across the nation collected in January to send to the Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary in Paynesville, Liberia.

The collection was in partnership with Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Atlanta, which is coordinating a project with the seminary. The items will help students and be used to refurbish the seminary, which was closed and badly damaged during the civil war that erupted there in 1990.

In addition to 18 boxes of items,

the WMU executive board awarded the seminary a \$2,000 Second Century Fund grant Jan. 14 during its January meeting. The grant will be used to fund scholarships for female students. WMU also gave the seminary a similar grant last year.

Lincoln Brownell, president of the Liberian seminary, said the seminary will honor one of the WMU leaders who influenced him and others in the country later this year when a renovated building on the campus will be named for her. The leader is Dorothy Pryor, retired WMU executive director in Georgia.

Brownell recounted the atrocities committed against him and other

Christians in his country during the civil war. He told about several close brushes with death but testified that God had spared his life to carry on Christian work in Liberia today.

Elected in August 1998, Brownell is the fourth president of the seminary and the first Liberian to hold the office. Southern Baptist personnel opened the seminary in 1976. Today, the seminary is the only accredited school in Liberia that offers theological education. Students from several denominations study there.

For more information contact Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, 1500 Norman Dr., College Park, GA 30349, (770) 997-4087.

Romanian Baptists healing wounds of communism

WASHINGTON (BP)—Seeking to heal divisive political history within its ranks, the Baptist Union of Romania has decided reconciliation with its communist past is better than seeking political or legal judgments against its own people.

The initiative is specifically directed at pastors who might have cooperated with the secret police during the years of communism in which many Baptist pastors and people were persecuted. One of those persecuted was Paul Negrut, now president of the Baptist Union.

Negrut, in a visit to the Baptist World Alliance Feb. 5, reported that Romanian Baptists have agreed to deal with their communist past in a biblical, pastoral way. Each pastor

who might have cooperated with the secret police has been asked to declare the facts, Negrut said.

"Once that is done, there will be no judicial decision, but we will deal with this pastorally and forgive the person and move on," he said. "Because of this, there is no tension from the past and we can focus on evangelism and church growth as our priority."

Today in Romania more than 100,000 baptized believers worship in 1,800 Baptist churches. When communism ended in 1990, there were 600 churches in the union. In 2001, Negrut reported, more than 10,000 people were baptized.

Negrut said that Baptists feel a sense of unity, not only because of

their decision to deal with what happened under communism, but also in their commitment to the principle of separation of church and state.

During this time of economic hardship in his country, Negrut reported the government issued laws for pastors to register and receive government subsidies. "This was a great temptation," Negrut said, "because a Baptist pastor makes between U.S. \$80-100 per month." The pastors met and prayed and decided to decline the government's offer, he said.

To strengthen the work of the Baptist Union, Negrut said pastors "who may have entered the ministry for many different reasons" were asked to take a year for prayer and reflection to see what God is calling them to do.

The Women's Ministry
Of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Ky.

Invites All Women to a Spring Banquet
Whiter Than Snow
Featuring Ruth Graham McIntyre



Tuesday, April 16, 2002
6:30-9:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church Shelbyville
Fellowship Hall
Cost: \$12 (Reservations are required)

Sometimes life deals us a hand that makes us feel
downright defeated. God is still there. Helping. Caring.
Purifying.

Sit and be treated to a delicious meal. Listen to uplifting music performed by Christian artists SoulReal. Listen to a life-changing message by Ruth Graham McIntyre, Billy and Ruth's daughter, who honestly shares her journey of living out her faith through trials common to us: divorce, her teenage daughter's pregnancies. You may purchase tickets by mailing \$12 per person and your name, address, and phone number to: Women's Ministry Spring Banquet, FBC, 1516 Midland Tr., Shelbyville, Ky. 40065. We will send tickets and a map to the banquet site. Ticket sales end April 7.



A God of Promise
A Woman of Purpose
The Women's Ministry of FBCS

Come grow with us

Late last summer the Board of Directors of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies approved an expansion of our facilities at Jonathan Creek.

This expansion was needed because of the huge success of our Crossings at the Creek youth camp the last two summers. Last summer we operated many weeks beyond capacity, with crowded conditions.

This expansion includes two housing units and a new worship/multi-purpose facility. The two new lodge buildings each have eight sleeping rooms, a large central meeting area, a kitchenette and laundry area. These two lodges are perfect for small groups and retreats throughout the year. Both are nearing construction completion.

The new worship center is scheduled for completion in mid-April. This has been a remarkable process. When construction began just a couple of months ago, we prayed for a mild, dry winter that would facilitate the contractor's work. We knew we had to have good weather for this building to be finished on time and in time for use in the coming summer camp months. God has answered our prayers. The weather has been unseasonably mild and dry all winter, and the construction process is

ahead of schedule. As I walked around in this exciting building last week, I could begin to see hundreds of youth and adults worshipping in this new facility, which will have a beautiful and challenging focal point that we have not yet announced. I can't wait to see it done!

Who would have thought four short years ago that this would be happening so soon?

And yet the majority of Kentucky Baptists never have set foot on the Jonathan Creek property. I would suspect that 80-90 percent of Kentucky Baptists have never seen the beauty of this gift that God has given us.

You need to come see this place. The same could be said of Cedar-moore, but the heritage and tradition is much stronger there, and a far greater percentage of you have been there. But if you have not, take an hour or two out of your schedule. Take a spring drive and check out these two treasures. You will be amazed at what you see with the improvements taking place. You can most help by visiting us, then scheduling a retreat or conference at either place.

KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 43364, Louisville, KY 40253-0364. Call (502) 499-8655

SMILE

On mission in Panama City

By Robert Dunston

Shortly after Christmas a team of Cumberland College students headed to Panama City, Fla., to engage in missions. Cumberland College junior Traci Clark, daughter of Kenneth and Pat Clark of Villa Hills, led the team that included Debbie Burnett, David King, Kelly Noel, Daniel Plemons, Trisha Price, Nicole Stacey and Mandy Wells.

The team left the Saturday after Christmas and drove all day to Panama City. On Sunday morning team members led children's church. Sunday evening they presented a drama in the worship service.

The team's original assignment was to work with the youth group and participate in a FAITH survey in the community. When the survey could not be done the group concentrated on working with the youth and children.

Throughout the week the team prepared for the vacation Bible school the church would have during the summer. This year's theme centers on the Amazon, so team members made grass huts to cover the doors of each of the children's classrooms and other large items to use in transforming the church into a tropical environment. During the

week they also prepared crafts for the children to make each day.

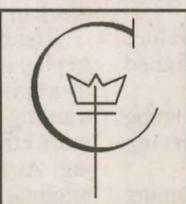
Wednesday evening the team led a youth program. They employed a PowerPoint presentation, music, testimonies and skits in an effort to minister to the youth who attended. Burnett concluded the service playing the piano and singing a song she had written. A girl's profession of faith made the worship time especially joyous.

Thursday evening, team members dined at a local restaurant. When the waitress saw them praying together she joined them. She told them she and her husband were looking for a church. Throughout the meal the team members talked with the waitress about her spiritual life and commitment. They left the restaurant that night overjoyed that God had given them such a wonderful opportunity to share their faith.

These Cumberland College students returned to campus with a powerful testimony and a renewed enthusiasm. We thank them for their willingness to serve and share their faith in all circumstances.

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

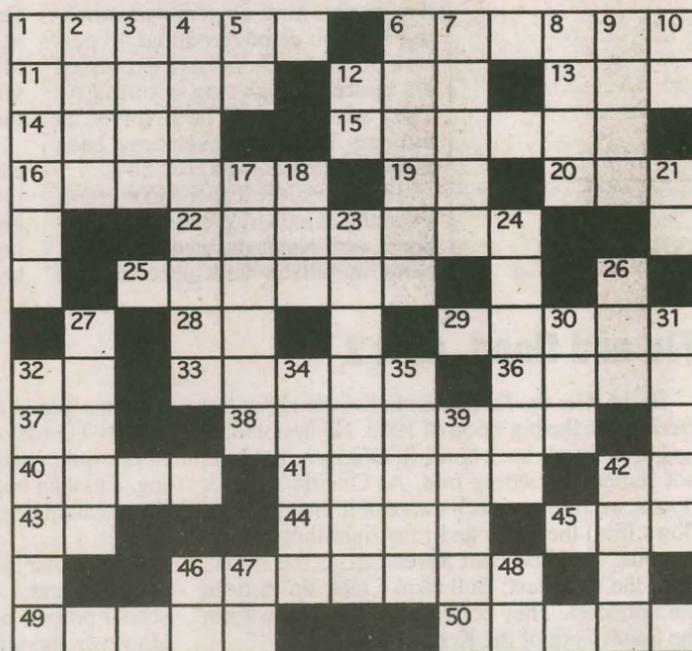


Thom Tapp

Bible Crossword

Across

- Biblical river
- Longest book in the Bible
- Female friends, Fr.
- "There is death in the ____" (2 Kings 4:40)
- Where those who are alive will meet the Lord when He comes again (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- "He esteemeth ____ as straw" (Job 41:27)
- "She ... hid them with the ____ of flax" (Joshua 2:6)
- Ceremonial form of prayer
- Asian tree
- When you'll get there, more or less, abbr.
- John the Baptist's was made of camel hair (Matthew 3:4)
- What a baby needs changed
- Hesitant syllable
- Jonathan shot this to warn David not to return to Saul's house
- Route, abbr.
- Joseph's brothers had these searched to find his silver cup
- The eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- Exclamation of surprise and triumph
- God sent Jonah to warn this city
- The wise men
- Put off till a later time
- Exist
- Article that precedes a vowel



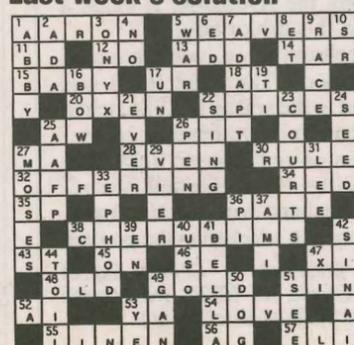
- Firstborn son of Isaac and Rebecca
- Chum
- Severely
- Bitter water was turned to this at Marah
- Abraham's father

- Told by Elisha to wash himself seven times in the River Jordan
- Yelp
- Albert's nickname
- One of the Spirit's fruit, a lowly spirit
- Modern-day country where Noah's Ark is rumored to be
- Spinning toy
- Son of Kishi (1 Chronicles 6:44)
- Cheer
- Ezekiel saw this in his visions
- Sixth book of the New Testament
- Apple drink
- Psalm word
- Burial chamber
- "Valley of ____" (Psalms 84:6)
- Masculine pronoun
- Preposition indicating location
- King James Version of you

Down

- Man charged to keep Paul and Silas safe in prison (Acts 16:23)
- Sixth king of Israel (1 Kings 16:16)
- Violent public disturbance
- Small silver coin of ancient Rome
- Preposition used in a simile
- "We are the clay, and thou our ____" (Isaiah 64:8)
- "The Lord ... purposed it to ____ the pride" (Isaiah 23:9)
- "Cast alive into a ____ of fire" (Revelation 19:20)
- How God first watered the earth
- Twelfth-grader, abbr.
- Addendum at the end of the letter, abbr.

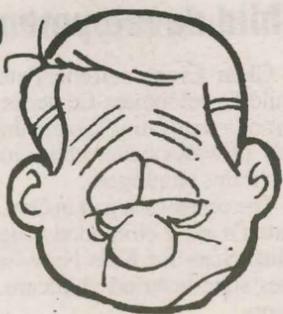
Last week's solution



Post-Holiday Blues?

Winter Blahs?

Or could it be more than that?



Wintertime depression, also known as Season Affective Disorder, is common. Doctors recommend getting out of doors as much as possible, even in cold weather, to increase exposure to sunlight which can positively affect mood. But, if your depression is hanging on, it could be more than the winter blahs. Call Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Cornerstone Counseling. Cornerstone offers affordable, professional Christian counseling across Kentucky. All counselors have a master's degree or higher and financial assistance is available.

Cornerstone Counseling offices are located in Ashland, Berea, Bowling Green, Campbellsville, Corbin, Covington, Frankfort, Harlan, Harold, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, LaGrange, London, Louisa, Madisonville, New Castle, Owensboro, Paducah, Pineville, Somerset and Stanford.

Call today!
1-800-981-7493



RESOURCES

How can your church get more people involved in ministry?

"The best-kept secret in the church is that people are dying to make a contribution with their lives."

*Pastor and author
Rick Warren*

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)—Napoleon once pointed to a map of China and said, "There lies a sleeping giant. If it ever wakes up, it will be unstoppable."

Today the American church is a sleeping giant. Each Sunday, church pews are filled with members who are doing nothing with their faith except "keeping" it.

The designation "active member" in most churches simply means those people who attend regularly and financially support the church. Not much more is expected.

But God has far greater expectations for every Christian. He expects all Christians to use their gifts and talents in ministry. If we ever can awaken and unleash the massive talent, resources, creativity and energy found in the typical local church, Christianity will explode with growth at an unprecedented rate.

I believe that the greatest need in evangelical churches is the release of members for ministry. George Gallup once took a survey and discovered that only 10 percent of American church members are active in any kind of personal ministry. He also discovered that 40 percent of all members have expressed an interest in having a ministry. They would like to be involved in ministry but they never have been asked or they don't know how.

I think healthy leadership nurtures a healthy church by creating an intentional, well-planned system for uncovering, mobilizing and supporting the

giftedness of its members. People must be given a simple process they can follow that will lead them to deeper commitment and greater service for Christ. They need a track on which they can move forward.

Get them into the ballgame. At Saddleback Valley Community Church, we call this our "Life Development Process." By using the baseball diamond as a visual illustration of where people are in their spiritual progress, everyone can know how far they've come and how far they have to go.

Do you remember Abbott and Costello's famous routine "Who's on First?" Many churches have no idea. At Saddleback we know exactly who's on first, on second, on third and who has made it home. We celebrate every time someone moves forward to the next base. This encourages commitment.

At first base, we teach the basics of membership; at second base, we teach the basics of spiritual discipline; at third base, we teach people how to identify their "shape" for ministry; and when they hit home plate, we get members involved in missions.

Your coaching must provide application. Many churches make the common mistake of emphasizing Bible knowledge to the exclusion of teaching the practical application of that knowledge.

Exhortation without explanation leads to frustration. Whenever we exhort people to do something, we are responsible to explain exactly how to do it.

Here are five questions you need to ask about your Christian education program:

■ Are people learning the content and meaning of the Bible?

■ Are people seeing themselves, life and other people more clearly from God's perspective?

■ Are people's values becoming more aligned with God's values?

■ Are people becoming more skilled in serving God?

■ Are people becoming more like Christ?

Don't put a pitcher in the outfield. One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. Many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from 500 to 700 skills.

The real problem is twofold. First, people need some process of skill identification. Most people are using abilities they are unaware they have. Second, they need a process to help them match their abilities with the right ministry.

There are people in your church with all kinds of abilities that are not

being put to use: recruiting, researching, writing, landscaping, interviewing, promoting, decorating, planning, entertaining, repairing, drawing and even feeding. These abilities should not be wasted. "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:5).

Your placement process should focus on empowering people, not filling positions. Focus on the shape of the individual, not the needs of the institution, and you'll have a much higher success rate with those you place in ministry.

The best way to learn the game is to play it. Once people begin serving in a ministry, they need on-the-job training. On-the-job training is far more effective than pre-service training. At Saddleback we require only minimal pre-service training.

In our church we want to involve people as quickly as possible in ministry. A long, drawn-out pre-service training course causes most people to lose their initial enthusiasm.

The best-kept secret in the church is that people are dying to make a contribution with their lives. We are made for ministry. The church that understands this, and makes it possible for every member to express his or her shape in ministry, will experience amazing vitality, health and growth. The sleeping giant will be awakened and it will be unstoppable.

Rick Warren is founding pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif., and author of "The Purpose Driven Church"

FIRST PERSON



Rick Warren

Flu and flood, part 2

Right after the flu epidemic I wrote about last week came the big flood of 1963. No doubt there had been floods back home in Ohio too, but I did not remember seeing one. At Oneida when it floods, we are very much aware of it. Goose Creek flows from the south and runs right through our campus. The Red Bird River carries the waters from the southeast; Bull Skin Creek flows from the northeast. They converge at Oneida to form the South Fork of the Kentucky River.

In a flood our whole community is surrounded by water. Our athletic field is covered with five to 10 feet of water. It makes a lasting impression on a teenager who never before has seen flood waters up close.

The waters were rising just as we were to leave on our senior trip to Washington. Our biggest concern was that the trip would be canceled, but we left before the waters blocked us in. Now I will pick up from the March-April, 1963, issue of the Oneida Mountaineer where I left off in last week's article:

"With the melting of snow came a balmy week or so. ... On Monday ... our seniors left on their annual trip to Washington, D.C.

"It had rained the night before, steadily all the morning, and rained torrents throughout the afternoon. By late evening it was apparent that Oneida was to suffer another flood.

"Throughout the night, families began to leave their homes moving what they could, and our local merchants to pile their goods as high as possible. Some families moved their ... furnishings to the "Hill" (our campus) ... and stored them in the basement of the Sparks Health Building. ... The students were away and thus not here to aid the

townspeople in moving and cleaning up.

"By Tuesday dawn the water was in the streets of our little village, still rising through the morning, and then beginning to drop in the afternoon. The cleanup began that night as the waters receded.

"The water lacked about four feet being as high as in 1957 and ... much less damage was done. The school proper, being on a hill, is never flooded. However, the school farm was and a large chunk of the road, perhaps 20 feet in length and 5 feet in depth, was washed into Goose Creek.

"Our people are courageous ... and take their losses with little or no complaint. ... Our citizenship never fails or falters. ... The help-one-another spirit is not excelled in any other community in the world."

We had a wonderful trip despite the flood. I'll never forget the sights out my bus window along the mountain roads. I never before had seen such debris in the trees and along the river. What appeared to be the roof of a small house was perched completely out of place in one of the trees along the riverbank. It made a lasting impression on this senior boy.

If you read this column often, you have read about several such floods. The 1963 flood was not as bad as the flood in the spring of 1984, when several of our staff had to move from rising waters and the bleachers on our athletic field were washed away. After the flood receded, we retrieved part of the bleachers from the riverbank. Today they are permanently attached to the ground.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Child development center recognized

Clear Creek's Irene Peterson Child Development Center is now part of a state rating system that not only provides better childcare but also trains employees.

The center took part in Gov. Paul Patton's early childhood program, called Stars for Kids Now, which rates state-licensed childcare programs.

"This is a great opportunity for not only our center but for all of Bell County," center director Jackie Lefevers said. "This shows how serious we are about childcare and it helps us to be the best childcare facility we can be."

According to a state education report, star ratings are based on factors associated with good outcomes for young children such as staff-to-child ratios, program curriculum and staff education and training. Children who are cared for in safe, stable and nurturing environments tend to develop effective social skills and are more likely to be well prepared to enter school.

Our child development center now is eligible for incentives and awards that help to maintain and increase quality standards. The center can access a college scholarship fund and can have technical assis-

tance from specially trained personnel to help the program meeting the quality standards that are a part of Stars.

"We are participating in Stars as a way of indicating to parents and to others in the community that our program staff are working to provide appropriate and safe care for children each and every day," Lefevers said.

The center is licensed to care for 50 children and has 19 employees. Fourteen students or student spouses hold part-time campus workshop positions. Lisa Sizemore, center secretary for two years with two children in attendance, expressed her appreciation, "My son wasn't speaking much when he started here, but his teacher has really worked with him and he talks all the time now."

Assistant teacher Sarah Hughes has learned the special needs of a 3-year-old girl with diabetes. "The classes we take and first-aid training help me as a person. I love interacting with the children, and I am learning so much that will help me when our child is born," Sarah said, and added with a big smile, "You know I'm expecting!"

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS/MUSIC

Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses. Bruce Feiler. William Morrow, 2001. 451 pages. \$26. ◆◆◆◆◆ (out of five)

Bruce Feiler's "Walking the Bible" leads the reader on an ancient and modern trek through the Torah—the books of Moses that describe not only the formation of Israel, but God's intention for the human community.

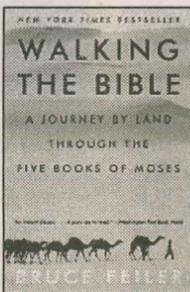
Feiler began his journey of discovering the heart of his religious community when he "woke up one morning and realized I had no connection to the Bible. ... There was a conversation going on in the world around me that I wasn't participating in." Resolved to engage this story, he secures the assistance of a bohemian-style archaeologist/Middle East expert, Avner Goren, and sets off on his own personal pilgrimage to discover why the Bible holds such a grip on the spirit and imagination of so many.

In "Walking the Bible," we see the biblical and contemporary world and geography, not only through Feiler's wide-eyed, puzzled, sometimes awe-struck gaze, but through the experience of Jewish, Islamic and Christian scholars, archaeologists and laypeople. Describing the nature of this book is difficult. It is much more than a travelogue of the biblical narrative and much less than a commentary on the Torah. Yet somewhere in between, it both vividly portrays the history (past and present) of the land of promise, as well as provides interesting, thought-provoking insight into the biblical narrative.

At one point, Avner summarizes the wanderings of the Hebrews from Abraham to Moses, and offers this observation: "But the will of God cannot be implemented unless His chosen people are strong enough to implement it, which they won't be until after Moses. That's the whole point of the Exodus, isn't it? The people

were not spiritually ready to conquer Canaan. So it's not just power, it's enlightened power."—an interesting insight into why, even though Abraham settled in the land, the Jews never possessed it until after Moses. This book is full of those insights. *Jim Holladay*

Famous Jerks of the Bible. Margaret Brouillette. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001. 150 pages. \$7.99. ◆◆◆◆◆



The name itself is reason enough to at least pick up this book. Once you pick it up you will find a surprisingly simple and good book.

The book's target audience is youth. The premise is that we all know jerks and that some of them were in the Bible. Second, some of these people are used by God, and others remained jerks to the bitter and painful end. In the midst of their stories, there are some things to learn about our own living.

Each of the 12 chapters begins with the character telling his/her story with humor and as a jerk who has learned his/her lesson. After the story, Brouillette leads the reader on an interactive study that focuses on the personality flaw that was the source of the character being a jerk.

This book is a fun way for youth to explore some of the biblical characters they might have heard about from early childhood. This study encourages youth to consider the deeper message of the stories and begin to see the Bible as relevant for their everyday lives.

The author encourages youth to read the chapter privately and then discuss it in a group. A prime setting for this would be in a youth group Bible study time. The cost of the book, however, might put it out of reach for many youth budgets for just a 12-week study. A repackaged and cheaper version probably would encourage wider use. *Wayne Hager*

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions About the Christian Life. Ray Pritchard. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001. 200 pages. \$7.99. ◆◆◆◆◆

As a pastor, Ray Pritchard has listened as people in various life situations have asked questions about the Christian life. At one point in his ministry, he surveyed his congregation, asking what questions about life they would like answered from the pulpit. This book comes from that list and his responses.

Though Pritchard admits that he got many questions dealing with specific life issues, e.g. "How can I raise teenagers who love the Lord?" he chose to deal with those that were more doctrinally related. This is both a strength and weakness. On the strength side, he has compiled a book that can serve as a type of primer or catechism for new Christians. On the weakness side, with a few exceptions, it does not seem to touch on the crucial questions that many pastors hear every day.

Generally the book reads like edited and expanded sermons, with take-home exercises to expand the experience. Pritchard is content not to delve too deeply into the subjects he addresses. On the whole his treatment is sound, though I thought several of his responses missed the mark. For example, the chapter, "How Can I Learn to Pray?" begins by referencing the disciples' request to Jesus to teach them to pray. Pritchard, rather than using Jesus' response as his pattern, turns to Matthew 7:7 to outline the three levels of prayer: ask, seek, knock.

His discussions of knowing the will of God and where God is in times of suffering were not as strong as they could have been. Also, I wondered where he got the notion that heaven was going to be the experience of us helping God run the universe, with bakers baking, quarterbacks quarterbacking, soldiers soldiering and so on.



In the end, I wish Pritchard had included more of those crucial life questions. *Jim Holladay*

Speak What We Feel (Not What We Ought to Say): Reflections on Literature and Faith. Frederick Buechner. HarperSanFrancisco, 2001. 161 pages. \$22. ◆◆◆◆◆

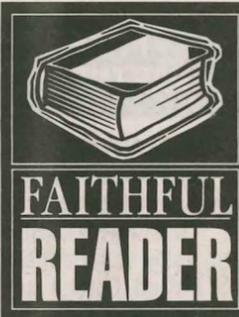
At age 75, minister and author Frederick Buechner has turned the spotlight away from himself and on to a few of his old friends: poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, writers G.K. Chesterton and Mark Twain, and playwright William Shakespeare, to be exact. "Speak What We Feel (Not What We Ought to Say)" is both a literary and spiritual criticism of four bodies of work Buechner considers the masterpieces

of the above-mentioned writers. For Jesuit poet Hopkins, it is the dark sonnets he wrote just before his death. For Chesterton, it is the comic and nightmarish "The Man Who Was Thursday." For Twain, it is the American classic "Huckleberry Finn," and for Shakespeare the tragedy of "King Lear."

The common thread that Buechner finds in these works is that each represents a time in the authors' lives when they "opened a vein" and spilled words on the page that reached divine proportions while pushing the boundaries of great literature.

Buechner is a marvelous guide through these works, and reading the book is like being led through the best of the best literature has to offer by a very learned guide who passionately loves the written word.

This book is a guide for Christian readers looking to develop their skills as literary critics and spiritual detectives, discerning great literary themes while discovering Christ Himself hiding out in the open in the pages of some of the English language's greatest writers. *Victoria Moon*



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

'Circle' book and music offers worship for Christians and those 'peering in'

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)—Once in a while, Christian music breaks new boundaries. What had seemed a set formula is tossed out while creative artists tunnel through the mountain of faith in a new way.

When the first "Enter the Worship Circle" CD was released, it quickly was clear that this was no pat "happy Jesus" music. Produced independently, that first CD was born in a makeshift studio in an old house in Colorado Springs, Colo., where lyricists, composers, musicians and vocalists gathered. Their goal was quite simple: record their worship time together. That recording went on to break records.

Now, Blue Renaissance Music pours raw, earthy sounds into "Enter the Worship Circle, Second Circle," an intimate documentary laced with symbol and allegory and designed to explore the nature of God. The new CD portrays the diverse

styles of seven musicians.

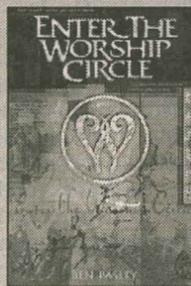
While some of the music is a little too rough because its recording was non-traditional, this second CD still is worth considering. It will be especially compelling to youth leaders because it is paired with a book, "Enter the Worship Circle."

Blue Renaissance Creative Group was founded in 1993 by Ben and Robin Pasley of the folk duo 100 Portraits. Its mandate is to deliver the gospel to modern culture through multiple artistic paths. Since its founding the group has expanded to more artists, now including the Calling Cedar, Volatile Blue, Let Dance Company and Barry and Michelle Patterson.

Ben Pasley maintained the artistic energy fueling the current CD-book project. The paperback is perhaps best described as a poetic vehicle for the twentysomething Christian seeker.

Headed "Table of Voices," its contents

page introduces readers to "an obsessive coffee lover" who narrates his journey into the "separate worlds of espresso and worship" and an aspiring mountain climber who journals his experience.



The creative people involved in both projects see themselves as fully artists and fully missionaries, according to Pasley.

"We believe that those two worlds are not exclusive and do not infringe on one another," Pasley said. "We're creating in full view of the fact that we are to love people, and we are loving people in full view of the fact that we are creators by nature."

Both the book and the CD spring from a desire to worship God, he said. But that is accompanied by a deep awareness that not everyone shares their knowledge. As the artists perform, "all the while we realize that people who don't know Christ are looking in the doors, peering in the

windows and sitting at the table with us."

In such a world, the second CD came together something like the first. Gathering at Blue Renaissance Studios in Colorado Springs, the group of seven came together around a ring of microphones, guitars and percussion gadgets.

What emerged is a "fusion record," according to Pasley. The work of several songwriters and several musical forms are combined. In a sense, the music—which includes pulsating rhythms, odd drumming and other unusual instrumentation—reflects what the artists believe to be the true circle of worship.

In an ethnic diversity of sound, the "Second Circle" artists seek to convey that while Christians come together in different buildings in countries thousands of miles apart, they all have access to the same God. This is a God Who dwelt among His people.

Or as it says on the CD cover: "The cross held neither jewelry, nor icon, nor charm; The cross held a Lover who died in my arms."

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:

■ **Needed:** Volunteers to help with a music camp at New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass., July 29-Aug. 2. Call KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ Praise God for the 16 people who have joined International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, from early December through early February. This is more than joined the church in the previous eight years, missionaries reported.

Also, on Jan. 25 the church baptized four Armenians, a Bulgarian, a Japanese, two Nigerians and 12 Iranians—the largest number of baptisms in the church's history.

■ A pastor is needed for International Baptist Church in Lisbon, Portugal. E-mail: memmons603@bigfoot.com.

■ The women who attend Bible studies at International Baptist Church in Berlin.

■ Russian Christians to open their homes for Bible studies for their Russian neighbors who want to know more about Jesus.

■ Missionaries who are preparing Bible studies in Russian to be used in newly formed Bible study groups in the country.

■ The Friday night coffeehouse ministry in Studnia, Russia, and the opportunities for Christians to share the gospel with those who attend.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church ordained youth minister **Jeff Fuson** and assistant worship leader **Mike Arvin** Feb. 10. **Troy Dobbs** is pastor.

■ **DEXTER**—Coldwater Church recently called **Larry Salmon** as pastor.

■ **FARMINGTON**—Bell City Church ordained **Bob Nance**, **Jim Warren** and **Kenneth Hawkins** as deacons Jan. 13.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Church ordained **Tim Crawley** and **Jimmy Horton** as deacons Feb. 10. **Joseph Tricquet Jr.** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Solid Rock Church called **Venice Rasnake** as pastor.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church will hold revival services March 3-6 with **Kevin Hamm**, pastor of Valley View Church in Louisville, as evangelist. **Chris Butler** is pastor of First Church, Leitchfield.

■ **MACKVILLE**—Mackville Church will host community revival services Feb. 24-27 at the Mackville Community Center. Evangelist **Scott McDowell** of Louisiana will speak. **David Gifford** is pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church called **Laura Bevins** as children's ministries director. **Jim Lyons** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church recently ordained **Ray Estes** and **Art Turner** as deacons. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—**Steve Kellough** resigned Jan. 27 as minister of music at Plum Creek Church to accept a position in Birmingham, Ala. **Richard Graham** is pastor.

■ **WILIAMSBURG**—**Jerry Lowrie** will retire as pastor of Main Street Church effective April 14. He will continue to serve as pastoral ministries director for South Union-Mount Zion Association.

Kentucky quartet shares spotlight at Gaither concert in Louisville

LOUISVILLE—When Bill Gaither brings his Gaither Homecoming Music Spectacular to Louisville's Freedom Hall March 1, the event will feature some of the biggest names in gospel music. It also will feature a local Kentucky Baptist quartet.

The Journeymen Quartet, whose members have been singing together nearly 20 years, started when they were youth at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

"Pleasant Grove is still our home church, but a lot has changed since those early days," said Stacey Murphy, the group's lead singer and manager. "God has continued to bless us throughout all of these years."

The Journeymen's latest recording, "Keep Walkin'," was voted one of the top 10 recordings of the year by SoGospelMusicNews.com. The group also is one of five finalists for the Southern Gospel Music Association's new artist of the year award.



MUSICAL JOURNEY The Journeymen Quartet will sing March 1 at the Gaither Homecoming concert in Louisville.

Other featured performers include the Gaither Vocal Band, Jake Hess, the Martins, the Hoppers, the Talley Trio, Janet Paschal, Ben Speer and Russ Taff.

For information about the Gaither Homecoming, call (502) 367-5144 or visit the Web site, www.premierproductions.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Twenty-four 12-foot padded pews: \$100 each. Also, one oak pulpit and matching communion table. Call (270) 765-4373 or see at Central Avenue Baptist Church, 401 Central Ave., Elizabethtown.

FOR SALE: GMC Motor Coach, model 4905. Great condition; capacity is 47 passengers with reclining seats; excellent AC; restroom and large luggage bays. The coach has been very well maintained, has new paint, is serviced and ready to drive anywhere. GMC coaches are very reliable, comfortable and inexpensive to operate. Price is only \$22,500. The coach can be seen at Gardenside Baptist in Lexington, Ky. Call (859) 277-7301 (ask for Dale Hanson), or (859) 278-7224 (ask for David Dale).

NEEDED: Used, very reasonable 15-passenger bus. Small church in Eastern Kentucky. Contact pastor at (606) 432-0114 or write: First Victory Baptist Church, PO Box 40, Mouth Card, KY 41548.

SEEKING: Beechmont Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister to children (birth to 5th grade). Send resumé to: Children's Committee, Beechmont Baptist Church, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Mid-sized Southern Baptist church seeks interim youth minister and full-time, purpose-driven youth minister. Send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Hawesville Baptist Church, PO Box 57, Hawesville, KY 42348.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students. Respond to: Search Committee, PO Box 670, Whitley City, KY 42653; by fax: (606) 376-9498.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth (10-12 hours/week); and part-time minister of music (12-15 hours/week). Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Midlane Park Baptist Church, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40218.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education for Lancaster Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Sandy Woods, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444.

SEEKING: Valley Creek Baptist Church is currently accepting resúmes for the position of minister of music. Please submit resúmes to: Valley Creek Baptist Church, 4685 Springfield Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Daycare director. Baptist church in East Louisville seeks full-time, experienced director for well established preschool/daycare program. Must hold minimum of associate degree in early childhood education and development and five years preschool management experience. Negotiable salary. Mail resumé to: Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220, or fax: (502) 454-4842.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/youth for Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. The church's Web site is <http://members.truepath.com/mtpisgah/>. Submit resumé by March 24 to: Personnel Committee, Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, 661 Mt. Pisgah Road, Bremen, KY 42325.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor. Please send resumé to: Fairlane Baptist Church, 5913 Herringer Road, Alexandria, KY 41001, or e-mail: drgrwilson@juno.com.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Tompkinsville, Ky., is now receiving resúmes 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 resúmes to: First Baptist Church, 302 N Magnolia St., Tompkinsville, KY 42167. All resúmes will receive equal consideration.

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: 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: Finchville Baptist Church, located in Shelby County, Ky., is now accepting resúmes 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. Resúmes or recommendations should be sent to the Youth Minister Search Committee, Finchville Baptist Church, PO Box 1, Finchville, KY 40022.

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

SEEKING: 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: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., is receiving resúmes 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 resúmes to: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, 2120 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216.

PEOPLE

Missionary/trainer seeks to fill void in hockey community

By James Dotson
Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)—When men's and women's Olympic hockey teams competed in Salt Lake City recently, they depended on a Southern Baptist missionary being ready to help care for any injuries that arose.

It was the culmination of a career for Stephanie Smith, who in addition to her private practice as a sports medicine trainer also serves as youth/young adult evangelism consultant for the Minnesota/Wisconsin Baptist Convention.



Smith

As the field of play athletic trainer for Salt Lake's E Center hockey venue, her official role is to focus on the physical health of the athletes—coordinating with team trainers in making sure medical needs are met.

But it's also confirmation of what she views as a personal call to ministry within the hockey community—a sport she says is unlike many other major sports for its lack of identifiable Christian presence.

"Some people would call it a series of coincidences, some would call it a fluke, but I call it the hand of God," Smith said of her rapid rise to prominence in the national hockey community, which began with her first encounter as a hockey trainer in 1993.

In her first game helping out as a trainer for a junior men's team—and only the third hockey game she had ever seen—she found herself in a hospital emergency room refereeing a fight that had broken out between the opposing teams after a serious injury.

Through that experience, she also realized the need for a Christian in-

fluence in the sport.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "Short of the clouds opening up and a voice of heaven, it was like, 'Stephanie, get out of basketball. There is so much of a need for you to be in hockey.'"

A variety of factors have conspired to make Christians scarce in the hockey community, she said.

"By the time they are at 10 or 11 years old, many are on traveling teams, which means they never go to church on Sunday," she said. "You either play hockey or they go to church. You can't do both."

While many Christian organizations devote themselves to ministering within many other sports, Smith said they are strangely absent from hockey—even in the upper Midwest where the sport is as dominant as football in the South.

"I always assumed these players had heard the gospel and chosen not to go that way. And what I learned in '93 is they are ignorant," she said. "They do not know the story of Jesus."

Since then Smith has become a chaplain and friend to players in addition to medical therapist—whether visiting with them long hours in the hospital, talking with parents when a player's career has ended or sharing the gospel.

In her practice—working with both a local private school and other traveling teams—Smith has opportunities to spend lots of time with athletes, getting to know them and sharing her faith in Christ when appropriate.

"There are just tons of opportunities to hang out at the hotel, play cards and swap cultures," she said. "It's just



really fun to get to know them to find out about their cultures, and to find out how they're different—but really the same."

She often gets to help players sort through spiritual issues.

"I do a lot of listening. But again, my athletic trainer training is what gets me in the door," she said, noting that it is during the downtime that ministry happens.

Ultimately, she said, she hopes to be the catalyst for a move of God in which both Christian players and outside groups develop hearts for impacting the hockey community with the gospel.

Part of that vision carries over to her role with the Minnesota/Wisconsin

convention, in which she works to engage churches in more effectively reaching out to hockey players and youth in skateboarding and other extreme sports.

But she also believes such a movement could spread far beyond Minnesota and Wisconsin.

"I come off as a safe person. So the secular world knows where I stand, but they don't feel threatened by it," she said.

"In the future I hope more people will come along and hopefully establish relationships with athletes in this community," she added. "Whether or not God chooses to work through me that way, I can see very easily how once the fire is lit it could go."

CANADA GOLD Members of the Canadian women's hockey team pile onto goalie Kim St-Pierre as they celebrate after winning the gold medal in Salt Lake City. Missionary Stephanie Smith served as coordinator for hockey team trainers at the games. As a medical trainer in Minnesota and Wisconsin, she says she's learned that hockey doesn't have the Christian outreach ministries that many other sports enjoy. (RNS/Reuters photo by Mike Blake)

Professional golfer takes time to serve God before hitting the links

By Joni Hannigan
Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)—Instead of packing golf clubs and tearing up the greens in mid-February, professional golfer Tracy Hanson packed her personal testimony and "Jesus pins" and headed to Salt Lake City for the Winter Olympics.

Trading green grass for icy breezes and hordes of people—a result of an unexpected tour rescheduling—Hanson joined other Action Ministries International volunteers to share the message of God's love through Jesus Christ with people from all over the world.

Hanson, a member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association since 1995, turned pro in 1993 after playing collegiate golf at San Jose State University where she won 10 titles and was a member of the 1992 NCAA national championship team.

In Salt Lake City, Hanson, who previously has shared her testimony through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and through a story in "Chicken Soup for the Golfer's Soul," was able to join with the Action Ministries team to share her testimony in a more direct way.

"Most of the time I speak to groups of people as a professional athlete and

share my testimony without a lot of one-on-one interaction," said Hanson, who said working with Action Ministries has given her the opportunity to go beyond routine. "I felt God saying, 'You're to go.'"

Hanson grew up playing golf, and she said her family withdrew from going to church as she entered high school.

"We just stopped going," said Hanson, who said sports, basketball and skiing became her priorities although she lived in a "morally based" household.

It wasn't until high school was over and she was a 17-year-old about to embark on a college career that God used the quiet of a long road trip to get Hanson's attention.

Scared and lonely, Hanson drove her four-door blue Mazda from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where she lived with her parents on a nine-hole public golf course, to San Jose State University where she would ultimately become a four-time All-American. On the way Hanson began to think of her future and reflected on an inspiration book written for athletes.

"I was on my way from Idaho to California to go to school when God prompted me to ask Christ into my life," Hanson said, recounting that she waited another year and then finally

got involved in Campus Crusade for Christ and Athletes in Action and developed a group of Christian friends.

Growing spiritually all along, Hanson said it wasn't until the last five years as she suffered through a relationship break-up and faced the loss of her mother to cancer that she became closer to God and His will.

"God has really been doing a lot in my life in the last five years," Hanson said as her eyes filled with tears. "I finally found Him in my heart and not just my head."

Hanson lives in Ormond Beach, Fla., when she is not on tour. On tour, she makes do with living between airplanes and hotel rooms, which can be a lonely existence and difficult at times. Communicating by e-mail and phone with her family members and friends helps her stay connected, and surrounding herself with "likeminded" people helps her stay focused.

Hanson said living on the tour, which runs from February through December, is not necessarily the "fun and exciting" lifestyle many people associate with professional sports. She relies on a fellowship of other Christian women who meet regularly for Bible study and prayer and a consistent organized worship time that becomes church time each week.

"My biggest challenge is staying



consistent in my spiritual life and in my physical skill as a golfer," she said. "It takes a lot of patience and understanding that there are going to be the little valleys. And some days are good, and some days a little difficult."

Hanson said she's grounded in the realization that God loves her regardless of how she finishes a tournament.

"Golf is something I do. It's not what drives me in my life," Hanson said. "At one time it was who I was and what I did, but I know that golf is something God has gifted me in and given me for a period of time, not only to make a living but to share my faith and love for Him."

GOD, THEN GOLF Professional golfer Tracy Hanson, right, shares her faith during the recent Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City as part of the outreach of Action Ministries International. (Photo courtesy of Action Ministries International)

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