



# WESTERN RECORDER

March 5, 2002  
Vol. 176, No. 9

## FOR THE RECORD

**Baptists**  
Texas Baptists respond to SBC actions *Page 2.*



**Missions diary**  
Follow a Kentucky mission team as they work at the Olympics. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Effective ministry: "It's all about Jesus." *Page 5.*

**Evangelism**  
Find resources for your church from the KBC Evangelism Conference. *Pages 8-10, 12.*

**Smile**  
Can you crack the Bible crossword? *Page 11.*

**Billy Graham**  
Newspaper says evangelist complained to Nixon about Jews. *Page 13.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, March 6

## Gambling foes seek to defeat bill proposing slot machines

FRANKFORT—The battle over expanded gambling in Kentucky officially got under way last week.

Rep. Jim Callahan (D-Wilder), filed a bill Feb. 26 seeking to legalize slot machines at Kentucky racetracks. The proposal, HB 768, would allow the state's eight racetracks to install electronic slot machines, including video poker and blackjack.

Backed by the state's racetracks, supporters are seeking to promote the legislation as a boost to the state government's current budget woes.

Gambling opponents paint a different picture, however. They point out that economic impact studies in other states show social costs typically outstrip economic gains.

Traditional opponents of expanded gambling, including the interdenominational Citizens Against Gambling Expansion and the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems (formerly the Temperance League of Kentucky), have been gearing up to battle the expected push for electronic gambling.

CAGE held a press conference in the Capitol Rotunda Jan. 8 on the opening day of the current legislative session. CAGE moderator Nancy Jo Kemper released a study that found that 64 percent of Kentuckians surveyed opposed allowing casinos to be built at racetracks and 67 percent said the state should not promote gambling.

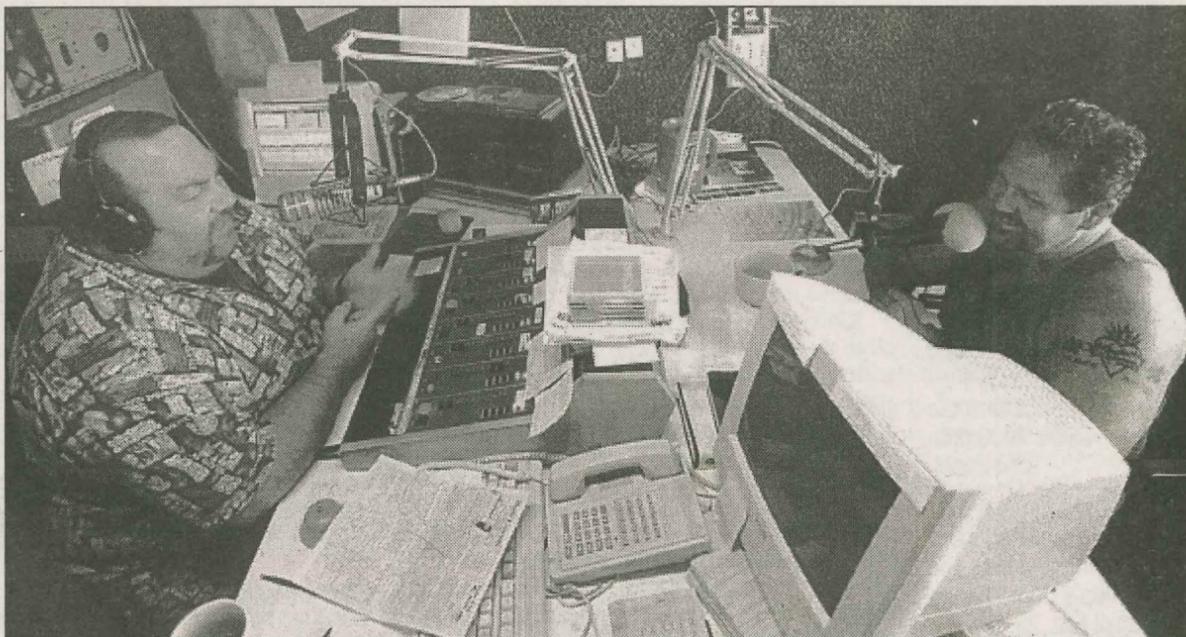
Leaders of the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems circulated petitions across the state calling for legislators to "reject any attempt to expand gambling in any form." The petitions also noted that signers "will look with disfavor upon any legislator who supports or votes for any expansion of gambling in any form."

League officials, who collected 3,382 signatures, presented the petitions Feb. 28 to Callahan's staff in Frankfort.

Howard Beaman, the league's associate director, said he hopes the response will send legislators the message that gambling opponents represent "a grassroots effort across the state."

"From a Christian perspective, we feel it is a moral issue," Beaman said. "We also feel it is a social issue. There are many problems that go along with expanded gambling, such as the situation in Indiana where they had 30 cases of child abandonment" at casinos.

## A mission hit



THE BIG SHOW Southern Baptist missionary Bill Breunle (right) and Randy Zachary talk during their morning show on Christian radio station Y105-FM in northern California. The program is called "The Big Show." (NAMB Photo By Gibbs Frazeur)

## Former wrestler starting churches, mentoring

By Karen Willoughby

CHICO, Calif.—Church planting missionary Bill Breunle followed a nontraditional path to ministry, having been radically transformed by God from a life of bodybuilding and professional wrestling to one of church building and spiritual warfare.

But he has brought with him a personal drive to excel that continues to bear fruit in northern California.

He has helped birth 38 congregations, and he's currently transforming a dying traditional church into a vibrant postmodern one.

He considers his most important non-family responsibility to be mentoring young ministry leaders. Meanwhile, he's renovating his family's home and studying for his second doctorate.

"Doing my best is important to me. It's like worship to the Lord," said Breunle, who along with his wife, Annette, is one of the featured missionaries for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's

2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, scheduled this week.

The former television wrestler with WWF juggles his responsibilities as a northern California church planter strategist and pastor of Church on the Esplanade, which he hopes will become a Southern Baptist model for transforming a traditional church to a postmodern one.

"The question we ask at this church," Breunle said, "is, 'What does love look like?' Love looks like giving them a safe authentic community to let the life of Christ emerge in them. As long as we're being biblical in keeping the core of the gospel, we're right on."

Word of mouth, rather than a major media campaign, has grown Church on the Esplanade from about 35 people to 350 in less than two months.

Breunle "has an incredible magnetic personality and the gift of faith," worship pastor Brian Tremain said. "People are drawn to him. He has the ability to break down heavy truths and teach them in a way people can apply

to their lives."

Mrs. Breunle said she prefers working behind the scenes to help her husband.

"My job is to support Bill in whatever he does," she said. "I don't play the piano. I don't sing. I don't lead any groups. ... And people respect that. We're best friends. His strengths are my weaknesses, and vice versa. Together we're a team."

"He's the front man. He's the guy who can make things happen in the community," said pastoral intern Stephen Price. "I'm here to do pastoral care and counseling. That's my calling and background."

Breunle mentors Tremain and Price as he does others on the staff at Church on the Esplanade, and across northern California.

"My life really is about investing in Timothy's," Breunle said. "Programs aren't going to connect people with God and change the world. The next generation of authentic, servant leaders are."

See pages 6-7 for more information about the Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

## Speaker: Sharing faith harder in 'pagan' U.S.

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—The changes after Sept. 11, which initially appeared friendly to Christianity, actually pose greater challenges to churches seeking to share the gospel, according to the president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

"Things have radically changed, and we must change to address the culture of the day," Joe Stowell said during the Kentucky Baptist Evange-

lism Conference last week.

Stowell said Sept. 11 marked a significant shift away from the secular culture that had permeated America for the previous 40 years.

Up to Sept. 11, he noted, Americans thought they could be self-reliant.

"It was working until on that day," he said. "In that day, something happened to the whole fabric of American society. It was this, we realized we couldn't really handle it all on our own. ... We needed something that transcends us."

In the subsequent National Day of

cultural



Prayer and other events, Americans again were comfortable talking about God and prayer, Stowell said. "We were allowed to talk about sin again because something was finally evil."

But "something subtle" began to be apparent about this new spirituality, he added. "In a post 9-11, religion was back and God was back, but in America now everybody's god would be back."

The significance of that was apparent later last year, he said, when a New York pastor addressed a Chicago interfaith service.

"He said, 'What we must do is give  
□ See Stowell: Sharing faith ..., page 10

# BAPTISTS

## Texas Baptists set up fund for missionaries who resign

### CBF leaders seek increased mission budget

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will propose a \$19.6 million budget for 2002-03, including \$500,000 more for missions.

But Daniel Vestal, the organization's chief executive, said CBF will not automatically hire Southern Baptist missionaries who resign or are fired because they refuse to affirm the SBC's 2000 faith statement.

The CBF's largest-ever budget, adopted unanimously by the group's Coordinating Council Feb. 23, is a 6.9 percent increase over the current year's budget. If approved by the CBF General Assembly in June, the spending plan will take effect July 1.

Through seven months of this fiscal year, CBF revenue is about \$350,000 behind the pace required to meet its \$18.3 million budget but 4.4 percent ahead of year-to-date revenue for the previous year.

The CBF, which has a missionary force of 115 people, has an equal number of active missionary candidates that the organization can't afford to appoint, leaders say.

Vestal said many people are asking if CBF will hire any Southern Baptist missionaries who leave the International Mission Board because of pressure to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

"The reason why CBF does not do that is because that would transplant a conflict in North America ... all over the world," he said.

However, CBF officials later said resigning missionaries could be candidates for appointment to mission positions that fit the CBF's global strategy.

DALLAS (ABP)—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has set up a special "transition fund" encouraging the state's churches to support any Southern Baptist Convention missionaries who resign or are fired for refusing to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

The safety net is the centerpiece of a five-part recommendation by a Texas Baptist Missions Review and Initiatives Committee. It responds to a recent letter by SBC International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin asking all 5,100 overseas missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message or to explain why not.

Rankin's request has been criticized not only by those who disagree with recent revisions to the SBC faith statement, but also by those who say appealing to any written authority except the Bible violates Baptists' historic aversion to creeds.

The BGCT transition fund would help missionaries with such immediate needs as housing, food, schooling and grief counseling. Intended to "meet the needs of these missionaries at this difficult time in their lives," the proposal won approval of the state Executive Board Feb. 26 with one dissenting vote.

The response is the strongest to date in a growing rift between the SBC and the BGCT. Two years ago, the Texas convention voted to reduce funding to SBC seminaries and other agencies, charging they no longer represent the views of traditional Baptists.

Other parts of the recommendation approved last week by the Texas leadership board instruct:

■ A state administrative committee to establish a way for Texas Baptists to contribute to the transition fund.

■ The Executive Board staff to "actively seek churches and institutions that will assist in caring for these missionaries."

■ **Texas to endorse chaplains.** The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board voted Feb. 26 to create a chaplaincy endorsement board. The final step will be to gain official recognition by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board that certifies religious bodies as endorsers of military chaplains. The BGCT action responds to recent policy changes by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board requiring chaplains to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. In February, NAMB trustees also declared they no longer would endorse female chaplains who have been ordained. The Texas proposal calls for endorsing male and female chaplains for all roles to which they are called, whether ordained or not.

■ **Texas WMU opposes SBC actions.** Leaders of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas formally have requested three Southern Baptist Convention executives to reverse recent actions they believe hinder Baptists' witness. The state WMU's board of

### Texas charges 'manufactured,' IMB leader claims

RICHMOND, Va.—Critics of a recent request that Southern Baptist missionaries affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message are "manufacturing a crisis where none exists," an International Mission Board leader has charged.

"We regret that activists in the Baptist General Convention of Texas have chosen to misrepresent what is happening between Southern Baptist missionaries and their leadership," said Larry Cox, IMB vice president for mobilization.

"These activists are falsely saying that missionaries are being forced to change their beliefs to conform to a document they do not agree with. They claim missionaries are 'under attack' by their own leadership. They claim Jerry Rankin has broken a promise to missionaries and that they are 'for the first time'

being required to affirm a 'made' doctrinal statement rather than the Bible.

"None of those accusations is true," Cox said. "It is compelling rhetoric used by people who already are willing to believe the worst about Southern Baptists today."

Asking missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message is not a reversal of IMB policy, Cox said.

"Requiring missionaries to affirm the Baptist Faith and Message has been the board's practice for decades, even under the administration of Keith Parks," Cox said. Parks, an outspoken critic of Rankin's action, served as president of Southern Baptists' overseas missions board from 1980 to 1992.

"Keith Parks all of a sudden claims to see creedalism in Jerry

■ The state convention to "work with other Baptist groups who share this concern."

■ The Missions Review and Initiatives Committee to "explore positive and proactive ways in which the churches and institutions of the BGCT can encourage and assist these missionaries to express their God-given calling."

Eighteen individuals already have pledged a total of \$1 million to launch the effort. They include Houston multi-millionaire John Baugh, a long-time critic of current SBC leadership; retired Baylor University President Herbert Reynolds; and Paul Powell, retired president of the SBC Annuity Board and current dean of Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

While about 1,500 IMB missionaries appointed during the past two years already have affirmed the new

Baptist Faith and Message, Rankin had earlier said veteran missionaries already on the field wouldn't be asked to do so.

In his recent letter to missionaries, however, Rankin said all missionaries should be accountable to Southern Baptists, who provide their support. Affirming the 2000 faith statement, he said, would protect them against unfounded charges of heresy.

Rankin has said he believes most, if not all, SBC missionaries will be willing to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

"Southern Baptists rightly expect the missionaries they send out and support to represent the confession of faith our churches have adopted," Rankin noted. "The administration of our mission entities should provide that assurance."

As a first step in its response to

Rankin's request, but he himself also required missionaries to affirm support for the Baptist Faith and Message when he led the board."

Parks, however, said Rankin's request of missionaries is "a drastic and unacceptable change" from what was required in the past.

"Never before has suspicion of heresy been leveled at the corps of veteran missionaries serving faithfully around the world," he said. "Never before have missionaries been required to sign a creed."

"The demand for a creed is heresy in itself, from the standpoint of the Bible as well as Baptist heritage," Parks added. He called the request "demeaning to missionaries who have already stated and demonstrated their doctrinal acceptability."

*Based on reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press*

Rankin's request to missionaries, the Texas missions review committee set up an e-mail address inviting missionaries to confidentially indicate whether they would comply with Rankin's request. During its first two weeks, the address logged responses from 60 missionary couples who said signing the statement would violate their conscience.

Keith Parks, a former IMB president who initiated the e-mail solicitation, said it's unknown how many missionaries might eventually request help from the BGCT, but he predicted, "It won't be in the hundreds."

Charles Wade, executive director of the BGCT, said the number is irrelevant.

"If there is only one missionary family who for conscience's sake has to return, I will be honored to stand beside them and embarrassed if I fail to do so," Wade said.

### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Texas to endorse chaplains.** The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board voted Feb. 26 to create a chaplaincy endorsement board. The final step will be to gain official recognition by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board that certifies religious bodies as endorsers of military chaplains. The BGCT action responds to recent policy changes by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board requiring chaplains to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. In February, NAMB trustees also declared they no longer would endorse female chaplains who have been ordained. The Texas proposal calls for endorsing male and female chaplains for all roles to which they are called, whether ordained or not.

■ **Texas WMU opposes SBC actions.** Leaders of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas formally have requested three Southern Baptist Convention executives to reverse recent actions they believe hinder Baptists' witness. The state WMU's board of

directors called for Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, to reconsider his request that all IMB missionaries affirm agreement with the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. The WMU leaders also asked North American Mission Board President Robert Record to lead trustees to reverse a new policy denying chaplaincy endorsement to ordained women and objected to a recent letter by SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman urging Texas churches to designate gifts through the Baptist General Convention of Texas or to bypass the state convention entirely.

■ **Andersen seeks to settle suit.** Arthur Andersen is quietly trying to settle a legal case involving the bankrupt Baptist Foundation of Arizona, USA Today reported last week. Andersen has come under public scrutiny for its alleged role in the collapse of Enron. An earlier lawsuit filed on behalf of BFA investors, meanwhile, claims Anders-

en ignored red flags and issued clean audits, in effect aiding and abetting foundation officers who are charged with defrauding 13,000 investors out of \$590 million. The newspaper reported that Andersen lawyers are hoping to reach a settlement prior to a trial scheduled to begin this week. Andersen reportedly offered \$150 million to the foundation's bankruptcy trust, and that amount likely will go higher.

■ **Annuity Board expands aid.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board approved improved benefits last week for retired Southern Baptist ministers. They voted to combine the board's supplemental assistance and Adopt An Annuitant programs into one ministry and modified eligibility guidelines to allow more retirees to qualify for benefits. The Annuity Board's relief programs provided more than \$5.2 million to needy retired ministers and widowed spouses last year. The programs benefit more than 3,200 participants.

■ **NAMB chairman resigns.** Ken Alford, trustee chairman of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, resigned Feb. 24 as pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Fla., citing a "one-time moral indiscretion." Alford cited "the need to work on the restoring of his marriage as his reason for leaving the church," according to a church news release. NAMB President Robert Record said first vice chairman Terry Fox will serve as chairman for the remainder of Alford's term.

■ **SBTS hosts sexuality seminar.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host a collegiate conference March 22-23 on biblical sexuality. Speakers at the conference, "Naked and Not Ashamed! A Biblical Perspective on Sex, Marriage and Gender," will include seminary President Al Mohler, seminary faculty and members of the Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. Registration is \$15 per person. For information, call (800) 626-5525, ext. 4617.

## Missions diary

### WMU volunteers share faith, see results during Olympic Games mission trip to Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY—Sixteen volunteers with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union recently traveled to Salt Lake City to serve with Global Outreach, the Southern Baptist ministry to the Winter Olympics.

LaRaine Dail, youth specialist for Kentucky WMU, kept a missions diary and took photos of the group as they went about their work for the last week of the Winter Games.

#### Feb. 19: Stranded at the airport

The first day of our mission trip to Salt Lake City started dark and early. We arrived bleary eyed and excited at the Louisville airport before 6 a.m.

We were slightly more alert than the security screener who fell asleep on the job. This resulted in an evacuation of the terminals as passengers were re-screened.

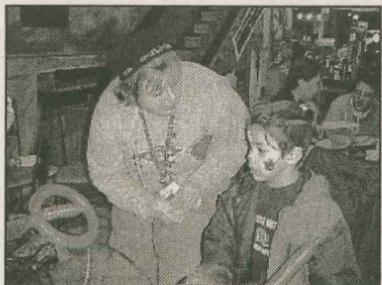
Donna Dye of Louisville, our team member flying on Northwest, was on a plane with the door closed before she was forced to get off the plane. The rest of the day was smooth flying. We made it safely to our home for the week, Southeast Baptist Church.

We share the church with a group of 25 volunteers from Georgia and a woman from Missouri. After missions volunteers George and Cathy Chinn of Hartford oriented us to the church and to our work, we settled in for the night.

#### Feb. 20: Parking and pins

We began our regular work routine today. Our group of 16 volunteers is divided into two teams of eight. Some work at the Main Street Coffee House from 4-11 p.m., while others work at the "More Than Gold" ministry center from 3:30 p.m. to midnight.

The ministry center shares a building with the command center of "More Than Gold" and the Salvation Army. It is near Olympic Square and Pioneer Park. The ministry center provides coffee, hot chocolate, water, Internet access, large screen TVs and restrooms for the thousands of spectators who come by each day. It also provides free parking and one of our roles is parking attendants. When people park their cars, we give them hospitality bags and "More than Gold" pins when we can share its meaning.



**KIDS MINISTRY** Johnna Brown of Madisonville talks to a boy at a ministry coffeehouse.

Two of our women met an interesting man in the parking lot today. He was an avid collector of religious pins. He shared that he wasn't a believer but liked the message behind the pins. One day, perhaps he will be a believer. It makes one think about the many seeds that are planted along the way. We will never know the full results of our ministry.

#### Feb. 21: Freeze frame

Team member Mike Watts, resort ministry specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, shared with us this morning. We all were moved and inspired by the stories he shared about resort ministry in Kentucky. He also reminded us that just as Jesus had compassion on the multitudes, we should see the people in the crowds as individuals and have compassion on them.

The night before, Johnna Brown of Madisonville had come upon a great idea to do just that! Just like a British Beefeater, she stood perfectly still in the window of the coffeehouse and dared people to make her laugh. Many people tried to, but few succeeded. Naturally, a crowd gathered and enjoyed the show. Circulating in the crowd were "More Than Gold" volunteers who sought out individuals and shared Christ with them. We heartily recommend this approach.



**THE MOOSE IS LOOSE** LaRaine Dail of Louisville gets ready for an appearance.

#### Feb. 22: Moose & Roots

Thousands of people get on and off buses each day at Pioneer Park. Olympic officials estimate that 7,000 pass through the park daily during the Olympics. Directly across the street is the "More Than Gold" ministry center, and we just can't pass up an opportunity like this. So, we send out the Moose. We take turns donning the moose suit, going to the park and meeting people. "Goldie," our nickname for the moose, is a people magnet. The moose helpers give kids balloons, distribute hospitality bags, pins and pocket guides. Anna Brown of Owenton sees the moose ministry as an excellent way to attract attention and meet people.

We also have found another way to meet people: standing in line at the Roots store, which has gotten incredibly popular because Roots made and sell Team USA's fleece berets. You really can get to know people when you stand in line with them for hours.

When they ask us why we are here from Kentucky, they open a door that we gladly go through. Since we have established a relationship with them, they really listen. Maybe we should try this type of ministry at malls on the day after Thanksgiving.



**WITNESS REACTION** Liz Sadler (left) shared her faith with John (right).

#### Feb. 23: Coffee and conversations

People of all ages love to get their faces painted. At Main Street Coffee House, we paint hundreds of faces each night. As people wait in line, volunteers talk with them about a relationship worth more than gold.

People pour into the coffeehouse for other reasons, too. John came in for a cup of coffee and to get warm after a long day. He met Liz Sadler of Louisville, who struck up a conversation with him. She shared her faith and her God. After their conversation, John seemed like a different person. He did not make a profession of faith in Jesus, but he later said, "She brought it all together for me." He had been to church that day, but it wasn't until he talked with Liz that things clicked. He couldn't wait to call his mother and share about his conversation with Liz.

Meanwhile, a man named Johnny came into the ministry center. Mary Pat Price of Paducah greeted him, gave him a pocket guide and explained it to him. He made his way to the beverage counter and met Marie Jackson, also from Paducah. She knew right away that he needed to talk with someone, and she listened. By the end of their conversation, she introduced Johnny to her God. He walked out of the center a new man. Mary Pat planted, Marie watered and the Lord gave the increase.

#### Feb. 24: Light rail tale

The last day of the Olympics has arrived. It's hard to believe it is over. The coffeehouse was full of people as we watched the closing ceremonies.

Later, a jovial group of people boarded the light rail train for the journey home. Among them were two young men from Canada who had seen their hockey team win a gold medal. We began to joke and laugh with them. Soon, the whole car was involved in the merriment. The guys eventually asked us what all these women in matching coats from Kentucky were doing in Salt Lake. We had a "captive," interested audience, and we were prepared. We gave them pins, pocket guides and Bibles. Linda



Moore jumped up and explained what the pin represented. You could have heard a pin drop! The people riding with us were touched, and you could tell they really thought about it.

**FACE PAINTING** Vickie Nelson from Madisonville paints the face of a fan during the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.



**TELLING ON THE TRAIN** Linda Moore of Hopkinsville tells people about the Christian materials she and other volunteers had just handed out on a train.

#### Feb. 25: Cleanup crew

We said good-bye to Global Outreach 2002 Director Beth Ann Williams, George and Cathy Chinn, and David and Mandi Buckner this morning. We have felt a special Kentucky connection to them all week.

We spent the afternoon cleaning the Main Street Coffee House, and we were glad to do it. The coffeehouse was a hub of ministry during the Olympics. Now, it is returning to normal; normal meaning a church plant. The main floor of the building is a full-fledged coffeehouse. Upstairs, Summit Church meets on Sundays. A church planter lives in an apartment there. The church has signed a four-year lease on the building. The church is seeking to reach the younger generation. The church plant is funded by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, churches in Salt Lake Baptist Association, profits of the coffeehouse and any other churches willing to help.

After giving the church a good "once-over," we bought souvenirs and enjoyed a good meal together. The pie was excellent!

#### Feb. 26: Happy trails

Our flight from Salt Lake to Cincinnati was full of international spectators. Among them was Stephania from Torino, Italy. She is the marketing specialist for the 2006 Winter Olympic Committee in Torino. She thinks the next four years will go by quickly and already is preparing to host the world.

We'll be ready, too!

## 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.

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## EKG concerns

In your editorial of Feb. 26 you make some very poignant observations about the Southern Baptist Convention's proposed "Empowering Kingdom Growth" emphasis.

Kingdom growth has been the aim of the SBC since day one. It is the driving force in my life as a pastor since I began serving my first church in 1957. It will continue to be the driving force until I am either not able or am laid to rest.

Bold Missions Thrust was a noble objective. It was supported by the SBC and encouraged by state and local associations. Then we got derailed from the important task of fulfilling the Great Commission. We are still a divided convention.

How can we expand Kingdom growth unless we are willing to work together? By working together I mean cooperating together. This includes being willing to share places of leadership on boards and committees with all churches, large or small, rich or poor.

When many of our churches, pastors and leaders are cut out of the circle of shared leadership we cannot have a united front for Kingdom growth. And without a united, shared leadership front in all phases of the SBC, this plane of EKG will have a hard time leaving the runway.

*Donald R. Cole  
Brandenburg*

## Avoid hierarchy

We appreciate the complexity of Jerry Rankin's position and ministry. There is no question that he faces many and diverse pressures. We do not mean to add to these, but we must voice our protest to his recent decision to urge all missionaries under appointment to sign an affirmation of the 2000

Baptist Faith and Message.

We strongly believe in the "priesthood of every believer" and we strongly believe in all believers cooperating together in the spread of the gospel. We also believe that our relationship with God and with each other is a covenant relationship based on love and trust. We covenant together in local churches, and churches covenant and cooperate together in world evangelism. As Baptists, we do not tolerate hierarchy.

It is our opinion that the push toward absolute adherence to the 2000 BF&M is an effort to establish denominational hierarchy and conformance to a creed. Baptists are people of the Bible and accept no creed. It is not a matter of "where, how and why" one might disagree with the 2000 BF&M. It is a stand that we will not try to condense the truth of God's Word to man's interpretation and insist that all conform.

We are a "mission-minded family." Jean and I ministered in Germany, Turkey and Bosnia for 37 years, 34 under appointment of the Foreign Mission Board/International Mission Board. Our three daughters served under the board in the Philippines, Ethiopia and South Korea. Our son and his family were active in "home missions" during their eight and a half years in Alaska, and he now leads Royal Ambassadors in his local church.

In short, we believe in God; in His Son, our Savior; and the call to world evangelism under the leadership of His Spirit. We believe the Bible but protest the insistence to sign a creed or creedal statement.

*Jim and Jean Leeper  
Louisville*

## Coping with aging

Having been retired for 16 of my 76 years, I would like to comment

about the aging process discussed in ministering to aging Baby Boomers.

First, speaking about one's aging is somewhat taboo, sort of like about sex or politics when I was young, because no one really wants to say that these things are happening to them and to admit true feelings about getting "old," which is a socially incorrect word. Actually, confessing our mortality is an essential part of our faith in an eternal God and provides necessary comfort in the passing of our retired friends.

Facing up to the aging process takes courage. Many new developments take place like reduction in muscle mass, voice changes, lower taste ability, decreased energy and a limited view of our earthly future. This contrasts sharply with a culture that idolizes hard bodies, sexual emphasis, instant decisions and continual success, leaving little room for aging gracefully.

Learning to live with illnesses of one sort or another also becomes necessary for most of us as we age. Going to doctors becomes routine, being admitted to a hospital happens and knowing the pharmacist's first name is normal.

Retirement often inhibits older adults from contribution to the social fabric in accordance with their abilities due to today's hectic living that requires either 110 percent effort or drops one off the activity list. Isolation can therefore be a big problem for the elderly. Segregation by age is a lot more common than some other forms of segregation receiving so much attention. The dissolution of family life, the lowering of marital status and the anonymity of modern existence make for many single, lonely people at a time when they are most vulnerable as senior citizens.

Bringing the message and actions of Jesus Christ to these conditions is the challenge.

*Bob Moser  
Cadiz*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Easter offering is 'Showing the Way'

As we emphasize the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions this week, I think it is important to note some of the many ways in which the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board cooperate in missions and evangelism. It's a vital and important partnership that highlights the Baptist hallmark of cooperation in kingdom work!

The Southern Baptist disaster relief network probably is one of the most visible examples of this cooperation. NAMB, working in conjunction with the state conventions, coordinates about 20,000 trained volunteers. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C., Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers were the major suppliers of hot meals to the American Red Cross for distribution to search and rescue workers and others. More than a million meals are served annually to victims of disaster.

Another major area of cooperation is in the many missions personnel who are funded jointly by NAMB and the state conventions as outlined in cooperative agreements that have been in

place for decades. Of the 5,154 missions personnel serving through NAMB, more than 98 percent are jointly funded with state conventions and/or associations. Of that number, 1,943 are Mission Service Corps volunteers who have served at least two years. Although jointly funded by NAMB, local entities such as state conventions and associations write the checks to the missionaries.

The Nehemiah Project for church planting is another cooperative success story. Based at all six Southern Baptist seminaries, the church planters of the Nehemiah Project are funded by NAMB through the state conventions where they serve.

NAMB and the state conventions and associations also cooperate in starting English-speaking and lan-

guage churches. The goal is to start 2,200 new churches in 2002. In North America, Southern Baptists worship in 212 languages among 112 language groups in 7,000 ethnic congregations.

The Strategic Focus Cities emphasis is another area of major cooperation. There were 10,000 professions of faith reported in Chicago and Phoenix, the first two cities to receive Strategic Focus Cities attention. The 2001 emphasis in Boston and Las Vegas resulted in 5,500 professions of faith and 40 church plants.

Nationwide there are 2,500 campus clubs using FISH!, a campus evangelism strategy coordinated by NAMB and the state conventions. Reports indicate 40,000 students led to Christ thus far. More than 150 campuses in Kentucky use this strategy.

"On Mission Together: Showing the Way" is the theme for the Week of Prayer for North American Missions. By participating in the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering you are "showing the way" to Christ in both traditional and non-traditional ways for millions of people across North America. Thank you!

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

## CHURCH

### How can your family strengthen its stewardship?

By Doug Strader

The 2000 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual shows that



Kentucky Baptist churches contributed a total of \$232,639,908 in undesignated receipts. The same annual

shows that there were 548,843 resident members in our Kentucky Baptist churches.

If you divide the number of resident members into total dollars given, it shows that the average gift that year for each resident member was \$423.87! We all know that probably none of the churches had all their resident members make contributions during the year, but if you cut the resident membership in half, and assume that half of a church's resident members made contributions, they still would give an average of only \$847.74 per year.

If you count that higher amount, that means that the average member gave \$16.30 per week to the church. I am sure there are some Kentucky Baptist church members who make as little as \$160 per week, but the average Kentucky Baptist church member makes more. How can Christians become more faithful in their financial stewardship? Consider the following suggestions:

■ As a family, get together and set a reasonable standard of living and begin to live by your decisions.

■ Find ways that you as a family can cut out excessive spending. Look at such things as eating out or eating at expensive restaurants.

■ Make a commitment as a family that you will get out of credit card debt as soon as possible. At the same time, make a commitment to stop using credit cards to charge items that cannot be paid for at the end of the month.

■ Sit down as a family and prayerfully make a decision that you immediately will begin to be faithful to God by giving a tithe (10 percent of your income) to Him weekly.

■ In Malachi 3:10, God gives us the opportunity to test Him with our tithes and see if He will not open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us. (This is not prosperity theology; it is more than that. It is His blessings!)

This is not a cure-all, but it is a place to begin.

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

## How can parents, grandparents resolve parenting differences?

**Q: What should be done when there are differences of opinion between parents and grandparents about parenting decisions?**

The generation gap between grandparents, their own children and their grandchildren is bound to cause occasional differences of opinion, particularly about cultural phenomena such as music, hair styles, dress, body piercing, tattoos, etc. Lifestyle differences also will play a factor. Busy parents often are passive and permissive when it comes to bed time, discipline, diet and other issues many grandparents have strong feelings about.

Grandparents will do well to distinguish between differences that are cultural and generational as opposed to questions of right and wrong, or concerns about behaviors they see as harmful or destructive. They can share concerns, but these conversations should be compassionate, not critical. Even so, grandparents will have to remember that parents have the final say. Grandparents should try to respect the parents' authority, even if they don't always agree. They should be careful not to do or say anything that would undermine a grandchild's respect for his or her parents.

Grandparents should try to be aware of and support family rules, especially rules parents feel strongly about. Doing so can reinforce attitudes and actions parents are seeking to teach. Grandparents should look for opportunities to offer support, encouragement and praise while being careful not to tell their children how to do their job.

Conflict can be expected when two sets of adults care passionately for the same children. When conflict arises, grandparents should remember that they are not ultimately responsible. Parents should try to remember that grandparents love them and their children, and simply want the best for them.—David Garrard

**Q: My mother's health is declining due to the need for her to take care of my father who has had a stroke. How can I help her and my dad?**

Individuals who face stress and chronic illness brought on by outside factors should seek ways to successfully cope with those issues. Keys include:

- Seek a realistic understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses.
  - Retain an ability to define personal goals and to find gratification in daily accomplishments.
  - Retain some sense of control over their own destiny—a belief that they still can influence their world, including the course or symptoms of their illness.
  - Maintain faith and hope. With chronic illness, hope shifts from cure to coping and spiritual strength.
- Individuals who cope successfully typically have strong support from family members. They also tend to have open communication with those who care and confidence in their healthcare personnel. Caregivers also should:
- Recognize that you cannot control or be responsible for the behavior of anyone but yourself.
  - Understand and accept your own limitations.
  - Support realistic efforts by the patient to be more independent.
  - Try to avoid inflicting guilt, rejection or frustration onto the patient.

Remember it is important to view chronic illness holistically with the understanding that emotional, psychological and spiritual support can be just as important as medical treatment.—Jon Rainbow

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



## Effective ministry: 'It's all about Jesus'

Once in a great while, individuals have the privilege of spending time with someone they have admired and appreciated from a distance. That was the case for me during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Among the featured speakers at this year's conference was Richard Jackson, head of the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement and longtime pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church. During his 25-year pastorate in Phoenix, his congregation was a perennial Southern Baptist leader in baptisms and Cooperative Program support.

Despite his strong denominational credentials, he was narrowly defeated in the race for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency in 1988 at the height of the SBC controversy. "God was sovereign this morning when I got up," he told supporters after the vote. "He'll be sovereign when I go to bed tonight."

Fourteen years later, at age 63, Jackson remains clearly focused on God's sovereignty.

During a wide-ranging dialogue luncheon at last week's conference, Jackson addressed such issues as evangelism, cooperation and servant leadership. Among his insights:

■ **Evangelism.** "If it's all about your ego and building your kingdom, you've got to be cautious. It's all about Jesus. Let that be the bottom line of everything."

■ **Cooperation.** "I'm a Christian first. I'm a Baptist by doctrinal conviction. I'm a Southern Baptist because of our cooperative missions enterprises. Southern Baptists built our world missions enterprise on Jesus Christ and sharing the gospel to the ends of the earth."

■ **Witnessing.** "I encouraged my people to share

their faith in the normal traffic patterns of their lives. Pray for people to be saved. Every one of us can invite people to church. ... If nobody cares who gets the credit, we'll see God glorified and people saved. Make sure it's about Jesus and not about you."

■ **Leadership.** "Anybody who tries to tell you the pastor is the lord of the church misses it. Jesus is the Lord of the church. ... You become a parent by parenting; you become a pastor by pastoring."

■ **Worship styles.** "There's no way to do church except the New Testament way. ... God is Spirit. They that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

■ **Discipleship.** "If you operate a Southern Baptist Sunday school properly, it will create more consistent discipleship than anything else. If you get too many organizations, you'll get tired of taking care of them."

■ **Scripture.** "The Word of God is the most important witnessing tool there is. I have all the confidence in the world in the Scriptures."

■ **Sept. 11.** "I never let myself be guided by the waves of happenstance. I just want to be consistent. I don't think we have to have a 9-11 to share Christ. We ought to seize every opportunity, whatever it might be."

It's unfortunate that convention politics kept someone with Jackson's Christian passion and commitment from serving as SBC president. Thankfully, he still has a relevant message that Kentucky Baptists had the opportunity to hear last week.

Even more important than Jackson's example of faithful ministry over the years—or the words and witness of other conference speakers—is the One who calls each of us to serve His Kingdom.

As Jackson reminded us, our ministry efforts always should be "all about Jesus."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## 'Passion faith' vs. thoughtful faith

By David Gushee

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—The Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer story is irresistible. Two young American women go to Afghanistan to meet human needs and share their Christian faith clandestinely. They are imprisoned by the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime, which becomes our nation's No. 1 enemy after Sept. 11. After a harrowing two months locked up in a war zone, they are suddenly rescued by U.S. Special Forces. Of such stories are blockbuster movies made.

But who are these women? What have they learned from their experiences?

Curry and Mercer are women who abandoned routine participation in American culture because of radical Christian conversion experiences. Curry talked about growing up in a nominally Christian home, dabbling in worldly pleasures, but then finding Christ in college and gradually becoming committed to foreign mission work. Mercer grew up in the northern Virginia suburbs, converting at age 15 and becoming quite radically committed to the Christian life. Both ultimately found fulfillment only in leaving behind the comforts of American life and following

Christ to the ends of the earth.

Mercer and Curry seem representative of what I call the "passion faith" of the current generation of evangelical students. Such faith is deeply emotional, heartfelt and intuitive. It marks a break with the stodgy religiosity that often characterizes church life in our

### FIRST PERSON

country. It is a faith full of zeal and commitment, ready to sacrifice, willing to pay any price in pursuit of obedience to Christ. It seems to be a reaction to the emptiness and absurdity of lukewarm Christianity.

This zealous commitment also is related, I think, to the suffering that so many in this age have experienced at the hands of their self-seeking parents.

Having made this kind of break with culture and conventional Christianity, young people like Mercer and Curry are led on a journey of radical discipleship that teaches its own extraordinary lessons. Mercer was particularly adept at describing the paradoxical joy found in abandoning everything for Jesus and suffering for His cause.

It has been the nearly universal witness of the Christian church that the richest experience of God is found not in safety but in peril, not in comfort but in suffering. Both Mercer and

Curry described their imprisonment as the occasion for an indescribable sense of God's presence, love and sovereignty. Mercer said, "I came to the end of myself" during that imprisonment, and at the end of herself she found God in His fullness.

The "passion faith" of young people like Mercer and Curry such a gaping hole in American Christianity that it is hard not to describe it as a renewal movement initiated by the Spirit of God.

However, there is another gaping hole in church life that passion faith does not address so well. This other problem is that we are not a thinking people. We are cut off from the rich theological and ethical resources of our own tradition.

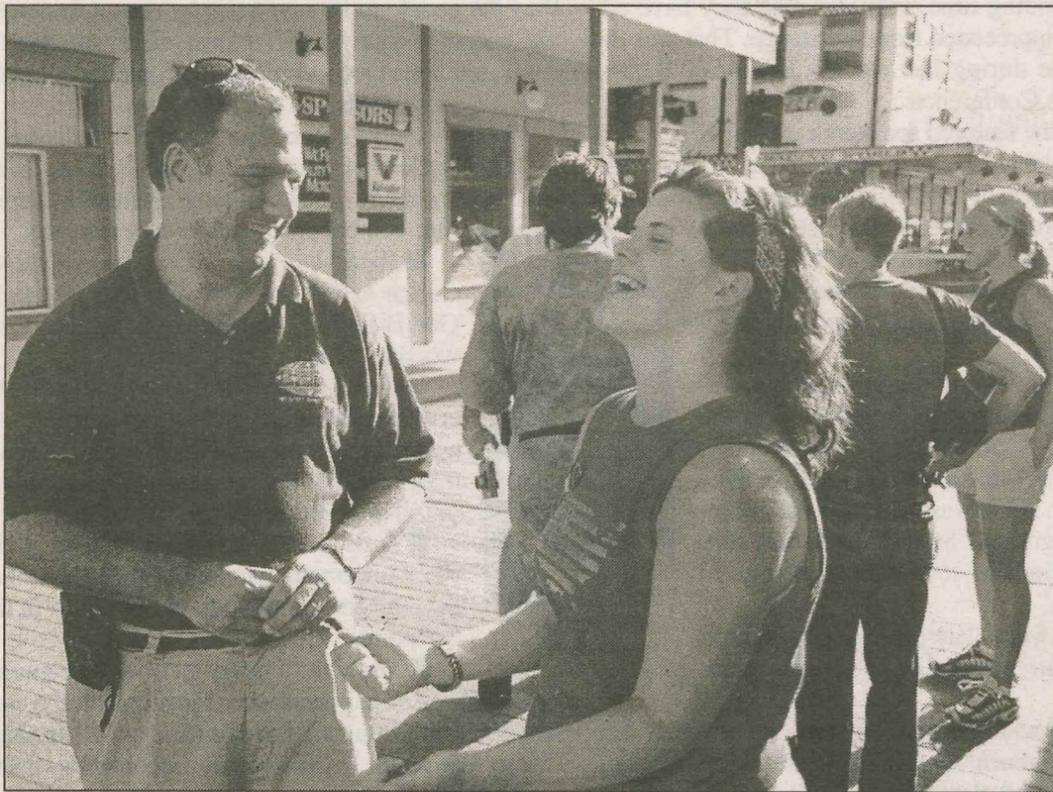
Passion faith helps us little at this point. I waited in vain, for example, during Curry and Mercer's Feb. 20 speaking engagement at Union University for substantive reflection on the issues raised by clandestine law-breaking and the systematic deceit required to spread the Christian message in a country that forbids it. These are concerns that can be addressed, but only if they are thought about.

Our goal should be both the deeply passionate and richly thoughtful Christian faith characteristic of the best of Christian history.

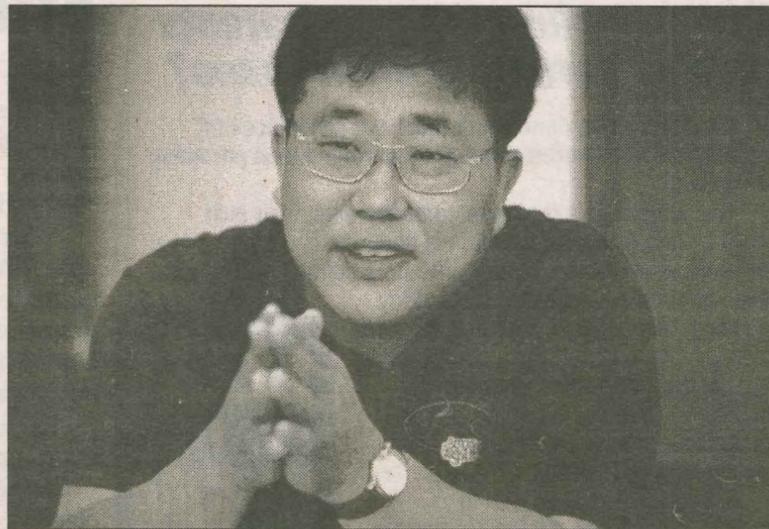
David Gushee is associate professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

# MISSIONS

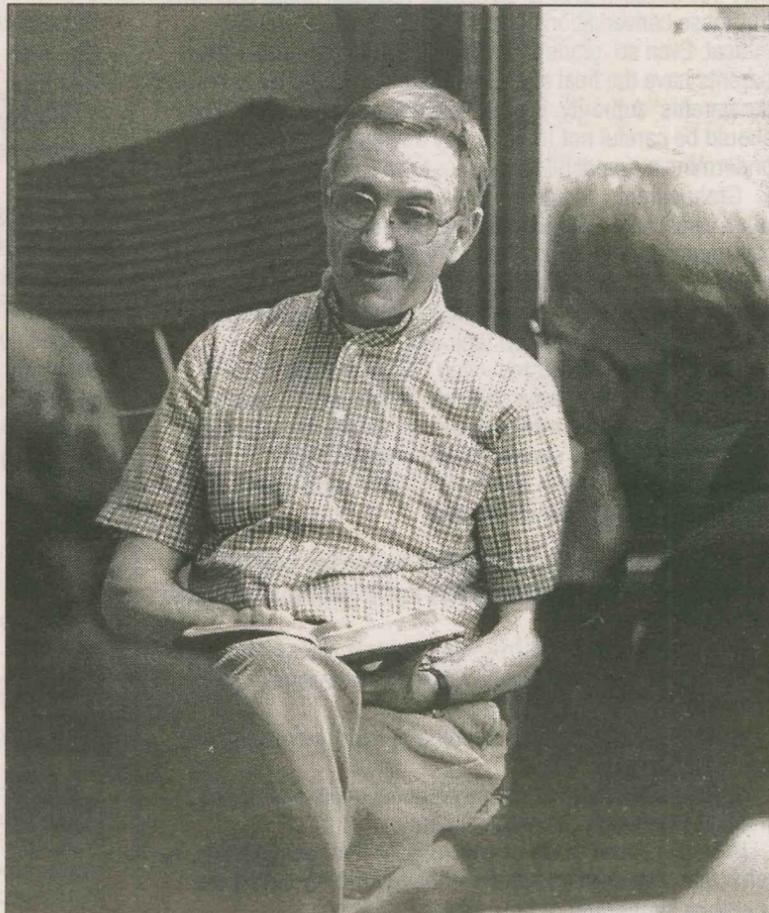
## Pray and give



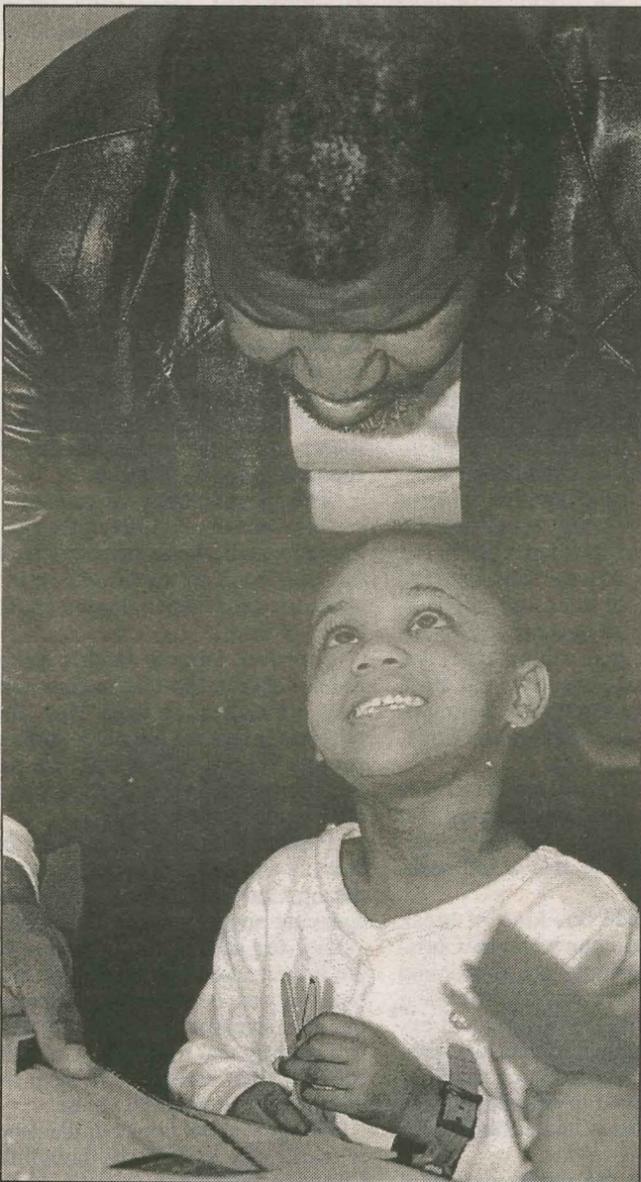
**RESORT MISSIONS** Marc Johnson talks with a student summer missionary at an antique car show in Orlando, Fla. The show is one of many venues where student teams provide entertainment and a Christian witness. Johnson and his wife, Sandra, serve in resort ministries.



**LANGUAGE MISSIONS** Gihwang Sun Shin makes a point during a planning meeting in Seattle. He and his wife, Hye Sun, are language missionaries in Puget Sound Baptist Association.



**VOLUNTEERS** Joe Ledford leads a Bible study at King's Way, a mission of Community Baptist Church on Prince Edwards Island, Canada. Ledford and his wife, Linda, are Mission Service Corps volunteers.



**INNER CITY MINISTRY** Wes Garrett, director of Johanning Baptist Center in Washington, D.C., plays with a girl who attends a day care center affiliated with the center.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
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Praying and giving. That's what the Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions are all about.

This year, March 3-10 has been designated as the week to pray for the more than 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries who serve across the United States and Canada under appointment by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The missionaries on this page are representative of these 5,000 men and women. They serve as church planters and mission pastors of English-speaking and language churches in rural and urban settings. They minister in resort and recreational settings and through literacy work. They serve as associational missionaries. In it all, they seek to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.



**LITERACY MISSIONS** Jan Cundiff teaches English to Lin Bao Zhen as a part of her ministry as literacy consultant for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and language missions director for South Central Baptist Association. Cundiff serves with her husband, Stu, in Columbus, Ind. He is associational missionary for South Central association.



**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY** Tom Anderson (left), a church planter among Native Americans in Oklahoma, embraces Melvin Palmer, pastor of First Indian Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla. Anderson and his wife, Rhoda, are Southern Baptist missionaries. They are among the missionaries featured during the 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10. More than 5,000 NAMB-appointed missionaries serve throughout North America. (Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

## Native American serves among his people

By Lee Weeks

McALESTER, Okla.—Tom Anderson's step isn't as swift as it used to be, but he's no less determined in his mission to reach Native Americans with the gospel by starting churches in southeastern Oklahoma.

"I can go up there, but it sure kills my knees," Anderson said as he slowly scaled a set of stairs to a second-story apartment.

With church flyer and gospel tract in hand and an engaging smile on his face, Anderson walked past a small snarling dog and invited the resident to attend a new church meeting in the local chamber of commerce building.

"I'm 68 years old and I could have retired some years back, but I enjoy doing this work. And in fact if my health continues I am going to continue doing this work as long as I can," Anderson said.

As Southern Baptist church planting missionaries, Anderson and his wife, Rhoda, put in a lot of legwork—literally. Whether it's going door-to-door in an apartment complex, prayer walking a neighborhood or driving 150 miles one way to preach and play the piano at a newly started church, church planting requires some long hours and a lot of patience. But they wouldn't have it any other way.

Starting churches in southeastern Oklahoma, an area steeped in Native American culture, has its challenges. And it's those challenges, Anderson said, that compel him to stay.

Southeastern Oklahoma is home to more than 250,000 Native Americans, 98 percent of whom are unchurched. The Andersons minister among five Native American nations: descendants of the Cherokees, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole who re-settled there in the early 1800s.

Forced from their homelands after Congress' passage of the Indian Removal Act to make room for American expansion, these tribes lost almost a quarter of their people to epidemics including cholera, small pox and measles.

Anderson understands mission work among Native Americans be-

cause he is one.

"I'm a product of Southern Baptist mission work," said Anderson, a Choctaw Indian.

Anderson became a Christian when he was 14 at a revival service in his Choctaw Indian village in southeastern Oklahoma where a Native American Southern Baptist missionary was preaching. His mother, then 60, also professed Christ in the service.

"The American Indian is a religious person," Anderson said. "By that I mean he has his own religion already. When you come to him with the idea that Christianity is the better way of life, and that you want to start a church in the area to reach those individuals, they have a fear of their culture being lost.

"We see the results of their religion, that it doesn't bring joy or peace or any kind of security to them. And that is evidenced by the fact that alcoholism is a plague that bothers our tribes. Drug abuse is also very prevalent," Anderson said.

And, he added, with the suicide rate among Native Americans four times the national average, the eternal hope that comes through knowing Jesus Christ as Savior is a desperately needed message.

Although Indians have increasingly assimilated over the years into American culture, there is a widely held misperception among Native Americans that Christianity is still the 'white man's religion,' Anderson said.

"When you first confront a Native American with the claims of Christ on his life, there's a sense of distrust."

That's why Anderson has a personal responsibility to take the gospel to his people.

"I look at my own life and I see where the change has come, from where my people were religious," said Anderson. "They did have a religion, but we didn't have Christ. So, I just use my own life as a testimony as I tell them about Jesus."

"I simply share with them the way that they can be changed," he said. "And that's not through rituals. It's not through anything that man does. But it's all through what God will do for

you if you by faith turn to Him."

The Andersons have served as church planting missionaries in southeastern Oklahoma since 1995. Previously they served in California, Texas and Montana. Over the years, they have helped start eight churches.

Anderson also works with about 90 churches across four associations assisting them in church planting and mentoring young pastors, an assignment that puts about 65,000 miles each year on his vehicle.

Anderson's strategy is simple yet requires a keen awareness of where God is leading.

"Keep your eyes open, and when you see God at work that's your invitation to join Him," he said. "Basically all through my ministry that's been my philosophy. God is going to reveal where He's at work."

For Anderson, that means being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For example, when he got a call late one Saturday night from a man contemplating suicide, he visited him right away.

"Later on he became a Christian, and we baptized him," Anderson said. "Today he is a deacon in a church and praying about surrendering to the ministry full time."

Anderson readily admits his ministry would not be possible without his wife.

"One of the stabilizing things in the ministry for me is my wife," he said. "She's a definite part of the ministry, and so we're a team."

Mrs. Anderson often serves as pianist for churches they help start. She also teaches the Choctaw language in the public schools and tutors adults in how to read and write English.

"Tutoring in literacy does give me the opportunity to witness for Jesus Christ because I can use the Scripture," she said.

Despite the long days and weekends on the road, the couple show no signs of tiring of the work to which God has called them. "I couldn't be happy doing anything else," he said.

## Lay volunteers' children's ministry helps plant churches on Prince Edward Island

By James Dotson

CHARLOTTETOWN, Prince Edward Island, Canada—Joe and Linda Ledford had spent their entire lives in Elizabethton, Tenn. Ledford was the local bureau chief for the Johnson City Press, and Mrs. Ledford had her own hair salon. It was home.

But then God began to work in their lives, and He hasn't stopped yet.

They're now volunteer missionaries in the eastern Canadian province of Prince Edward Island, working to strengthen the ministries of Community Baptist Church in Charlottetown and helping plant new mission congregations through their gift of children's ministry.

"I never understood what people meant when they said 'I was called to do this' until I experienced it firsthand," Ledford said. "At the same time God gave us the call He gave us the peace to do what He asked us to do. I have experienced in that an intense joy, and I think Linda would say the same thing."

Their path to full-time missions service followed a familiar pattern, growing from active church membership to increasing responsibility within and outside church walls. After leading inner-city children's ministries in their hometown, they eventually gained status as volunteer Mission Service Corps missionaries with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board—earning a living through their professions while serving bivocationally through their local association.

Then in early 1999 they were asked to spend eight months on Prince Edward Island—a request from the pastor of the church where they had served on a mission trip more than two years earlier.

"We really hadn't had any contact with the church," Ledford said. "It came as a total surprise to us."

They went through a period of questioning, but through a series of confirming circumstances they became absolutely convinced that the call was from God.

"It was scary to think about leaving your family, home, business and your whole culture and go somewhere else, but it was more frightening not to go," he said.

On Prince Edward Island—the idyllic setting for the fictional "Anne of Green Gables"—their ministry has been multifaceted. Their original assignment of children's ministry quickly grew to include youth ministry and Sunday school leadership. Mrs. Ledford also began a women's Bible study that has become one of their best tools for outreach and discipleship.

But it is through their expertise in children's ministry that the Ledfords have found themselves leading what has become a major venture into church planting.

In the east-coast fishing town of Montague, they began in the spring of 2000 with one girl and now they have about 30-35 children and adults meeting each Sunday afternoon. A new building also was donated recently for the new congregation's use.

Within a few months of beginning King's Way, doors began opening for another church-planting venture on a former Air Force base in Summerside, a town on the opposite side of the island. Last year a small group began meeting in a centrally located storefront.

"There is no way we could have conceived and put these things together," Mrs. Ledford said. "It's clear God was at work, not just in the lives of the people of Slemon Park, but in our lives."

The Ledfords' original eight months ended long ago, of course, but they now say they plan to stay until God leads otherwise.

"God gives us the things day by day to do the things He needs us to do," Ledford said. "And He gives us the equipment to do it."



FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

# EVANGELISM

## Conference offers ideas to renew vision for evangelism

**"Only two things got mad: the older brother and the fatted calf."**

*Ike Reighard, pastor of Northstar Church in Kennesaw, Ga., preaching on the parable of the prodigal son*

By David Winfrey & Trennis Henderson  
News Director & Editor

LOUISVILLE—Pastors, laypeople and evangelists speaking at the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference urged participants to use all means possible to share the gospel with people who don't know Jesus.

Biblically based pastorates, missions volunteerism, personal testimonies, a persistent spirit and an accepting heart were among the tools that speakers endorsed during the event, at Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Renew the Vision" was the theme for the conference, Feb. 25-26. "We were wanting pastors to catch a new vision for what God wants to do through them," said Dan Garland, leader of the KBC evangelism growth team.

Southern Baptist Convention President **James Merritt** challenged pastors to "preach the word and reach the world."

Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., said biblical exposition and personal evangelism are the keys to having "a God-blessed ministry in the 21st century."

Preaching from 2 Timothy 4, Merritt said the apostle Paul urged Timothy to "receive the charge to be faithful, realize the choice to be doubtful and remember the challenge to be watchful."

Pastors should preach God's Word confidently, compellingly, continuously, convictingly, courageously, constructively and compassionately, he said.

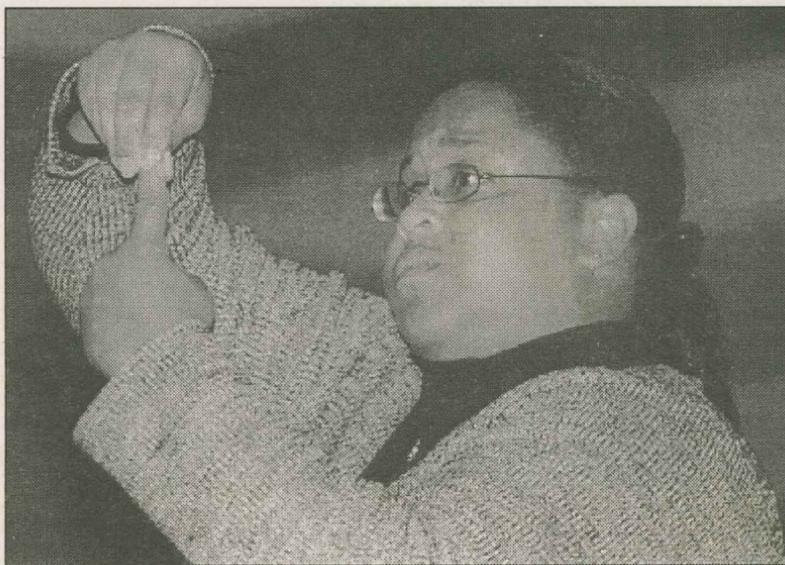
"This Book is the Word of God without us," he noted, "but we are nothing without the Word of God."

Warning that many church members "are more concerned about the length of your sermon than the depth of your sermon," Merritt urged pastors to "keep the ship of our ministry anchored to the rock of this Book."

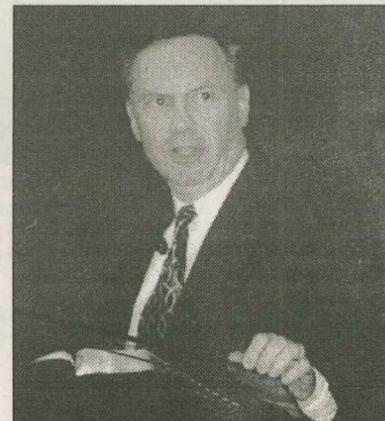
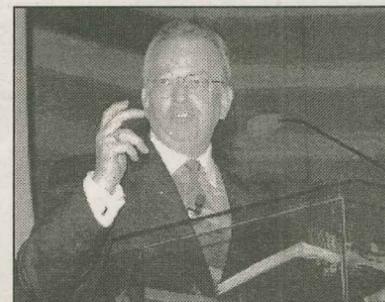
"If your ministry is going to count, it's going to cost," he said. "If it doesn't cost, it's not going to count."

Host pastor **Walter Malone** encouraged conference participants to do "whatever it takes to do the work of ministry, preach the gospel and evangelize the lost."

Noting that Paul's detractors urged him to "just slack off a little bit on this



**EVANGELISM CONFERENCE** An estimated 1,800 people attended the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference last week in Louisville. ■ Above: Sign art evangelist Tyra Lokey of Lawrenceburg performs. ■ Top right: Ron Shaver, pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, delivers his message. ■ Right: Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt speaks.



**Renew  
the  
Vision**  
KBC Evangelism  
Conference

preaching and evangelism business," Malone said, "Paul would respond by saying, 'I don't have enough room in my heart to compromise my faith.'"

Citing God's desire "for all of us to have the kind of spiritual disposition as Paul," he noted that some churches and ministers "have a spiritual laissez-faire attitude."

"Some preachers are so insecure when they hear about another church growing, they get jealous," Malone said. "Do you realize how many unsaved people there are in every city? Rather than getting jealous or upset, why don't you preach, why don't you do ministry and watch God add to the Kingdom of God?"

"There are no sinner shortages," he emphasized. "The only question is who wants 'em. If you want them then you have to do whatever it takes."

Paul was compelled by God's Spirit to risk his life for the sake of the gospel, Malone said. "If I'm going to have an attitude of whatever it takes, some things have to die within me. I am crucified with Christ. You've got to die to yourself."

"We are hiding behind stained glass windows. We've got to go where the world is," he said. "Get busy and do whatever it takes. What is your spiritual disposition?"

**Ron Shaver**, pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, said a church with a global focus on evangelism will see that praise is the ultimate privilege, discipleship is the ultimate desire and missions is a marvelous mandate.

"This world wants to tell us we ought to keep our Christianity quiet," Shaver said. "I'm here to tell you that if you're a disciple, it will be evident."

Last year, Little Flock saw 417 people go on short-term mission trips, including more than 300 volunteers who did work outside Kentucky, he said. Shaver quoted Rick Warren as saying the proper way to measure the

strength of a church is by its "sending capacity, not its seating capacity."

"I'm convinced that missions is a priority in God's life," Shaver said.

Evangelist **Junior Hill** urged pastors to be like the lilies of the field Jesus referred to in Matthew 6:28-29. Such lilies were sure of their identity, he noted. "You don't see that lily running around trying to be a petunia, do you?"

"You don't have to be anybody else. God made you beautiful in His sight," he said. "I'm learning that whatever God made you is the most beautiful thing He could come up with, so be happy with it."

The lilies also were content in their location, he added, noting that 90 percent of the pastors he works with wish they were somewhere else.

"Wrong motives rarely make right moves," he said, adding that many people pursue the better and miss the best that God intends for them.

"Don't be overly burdened about where you are," he said. "Be just like that flower, content where you are."

**William Sheals**, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga., urged the audience to never give up despite times when they get frustrated, falter or fail.

"Some say there is no need to try. But faith says try one more time," Sheals said, preaching from three events in Peter's life. "Some of your peers may even say, 'Throw in the towel.' The Word says, 'The battle is not yours.'"

**David Nasser**, a speaker with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, mixed humor with seriousness while giving his testimony during the youth emphasis evening.

A native of Iran whose family escaped during the revolution, Nasser described turning to alcohol to be accepted in American schools.

"All you have to do is conform to the patterns of this world, and the world will take you in," said Nasser,

author of "40 Days," a book that encourages youth to develop a deeper relationship with God.

After becoming a Christian, Nasser was kicked out of his Muslim home. Other family members eventually became Christians, but not his father.

He jokingly described a tense hospital visit to his mother, who was having open-heart surgery. "I remember thinking, 'My father's going to hit me, but at least I'm in a hospital, so this is convenient.'"

His father later accepted Jesus as Savior, Nasser said. "That same dad who kicked me out of the house is the same man who went back to Turkey to witness to his own family."

After giving an invitation, to which 17 people responded, Nasser encouraged Christians to learn to tell their own testimony to non-Christians.

"The only problem with seeing people come to Jesus is that's all you ever want to see."

Pastor **Ike Reighard** said Christians must imitate the father of the prodigal son, helping people see that they are acceptable, valuable, forgivable and lovable to God.

"Until we as pastors come to grips with how much God loves us, we're never going to be able to share it with the people who are out there," said Reighard, pastor of Northstar Church in Kennesaw, Ga.

But too many Christians imitate the disgruntled older brother in the story of the prodigal son, upset that the father accepted the wayward brother back so eagerly.

"Only two things got mad: the older brother and the fatted calf," Reighard said. "Our churches are filled with elder brothers."

But God intends for Christians to seek out the prodigals, he said. "Churches must be ready to see them, run to them, hug them and kiss them... and tell them we're glad that they're home."

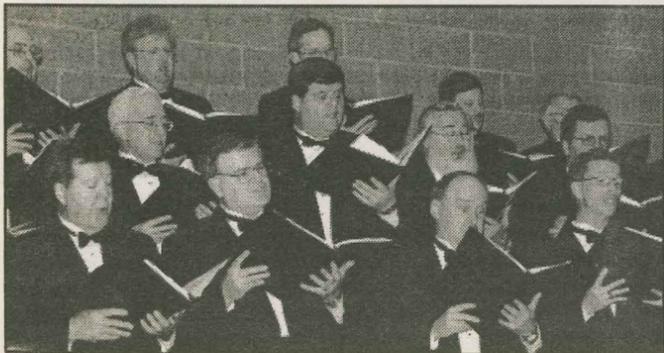


Walter Malone



David Nasser

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST CHORALE** The men's group sang at the beginning of an afternoon session.



# EVANGELISM

## Panel: Quality programs and meeting needs reach people

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—How can church leaders grow an evangelistic church? The answer, according to Texas pastor Ed Young, begins with quality worship and Bible study.

Young and five staff members from Second Baptist Church of Houston led a panel discussion on church growth during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. The metropolitan church, which holds seven worship services each weekend, started more than 20 Bible study classes last year.

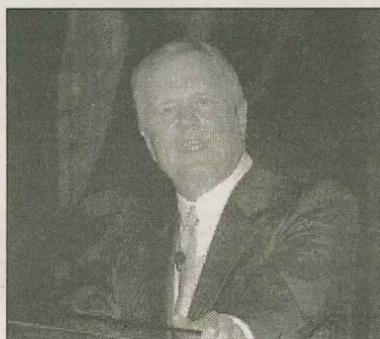
"A leader has to have a vision of what God would have you do as a church," said Young, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "The next thing is you have to sell that vision" and invite church members to help expand the vision.

Quality worship "is the first place you have to begin," Young added. "How we can take God's Word and make it boring is amazing to me. Build effective, efficient, dynamic worship."

"The next thing is Bible study," he emphasized. Noting that his church is "against small Bible study classes," Young said large classes with qualified teachers make the greatest impact.

"How much better to have big classes and divide the class into shepherd groups," he said. "If you've got quality teachers, you can build quality classes."

Lisa Milne, who coordinates the church's program ministries, noted, "The big picture is we have two teachers in every class—almost always a man and a woman; almost never a husband and wife."



Ed Young

Milne said the most important leader in each class is the class director. "That is the person who needs to believe in that class and has a passion to build that class and reach people."

Structuring Bible study classes as the church's primary ministry unit, Milne said missions, discipleship, recreation and other programs are organized on the class level.

Responding to questions from conference participants, staff members addressed such issues as worship styles, new member orientation and social ministry. In addition to the panel discussion, each of the staff members led breakout sessions about their specific areas of ministry.

Young's son, Ben, leads contemporary and Gen X worship services each week. He said the church also offers traditional and blended worship services.

Ben Young said one key in worship planning is to include worship leaders who are the same age as the people a church is seeking to reach.

"Make sure that what you're trying to communicate speaks to the lost person as well as the Christian," he added.

"Don't fall into the trap of going purely contemporary on your people," added Doug Page, Second Houston's evangelism and children's minister. "You have to know your crowd; you have to know who you're ministering to."

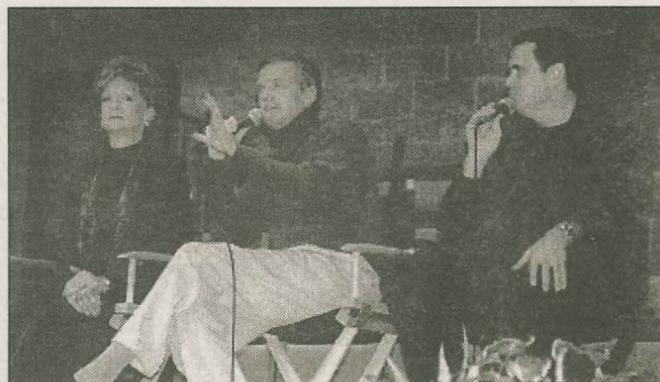
Youth minister Dave Riggle, who also helps coordinate discipleship efforts, discussed the church's new member focus. "When someone comes into the church, our No. 1 goal is to connect them through Bible study. That Bible study class becomes the person's home class (and) will begin to track that person." He said deacons and staff members also follow up with new members to "make sure they are connected."

The church also offers a 12-week newcomer series that addresses such issues as basic Christianity, doctrine, spiritual gifts and ministry opportunities, he noted.

Judy Craig, who coordinates in-reach and outreach activities, said the church's care ministries "connect people with others who understand their situation. We give them resources and encouragement."

"We address a broad spectrum of issues from addiction and drugs to grief groups and career development," she added.

"When there's a crisis in your town or city, that's an opportunity for your church to shine," Young agreed. As an example, he said his congregation includes more than 60 families affili-



ated with Enron. He said the church has responded by seeking to minister to their needs in a time of crisis.

"Immediately we move in when there's a crisis," he noted. "It's a fabulous ministry when you go there with a cup of cold water and roll up your sleeves."

"We do a lot of social things. All of these are non-threatening," Young said. "They realize we are not going to zap them with the gospel gun but they are going to get in the atmosphere" of spiritual support.

Young said the people typically facing the greatest pain in life are divorced or single women with one or two children. "That's where the greatest pain in America is, period. If you want to build your church, you be seeker sensitive to those who have the greatest pain in your city."

Regardless of a church's size or setting, Young said, quality is essential to making a ministry impact.

"Whatever you do, do it well," he urged. "We're responsible for the depth of our ministry. God will take care of the breadth of our ministry and the length of our ministry."

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
Ben Young (center), a staff member at Second Baptist Church of Houston, answers a question during a panel discussion at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference Feb. 26 in Louisville. Beside him are staff members Judy Craig and Doug Page.

Renew  
the  
Vision  
KBC Evangelism  
Conference

## Pastor: To build evangelistic church, start with spiritual movement

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—The secret to building an evangelistic church is creating a spiritual movement involving everyone in the congregation, according to the pastor of one of metro Atlanta's largest megachurches.

"That's what evangelistic outreach ought to be," William Sheals said during a workshop for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference. "A membership you can join and quit, but a movement means every person has a task. In this explosion we want to make a difference."

Sheals is senior pastor of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga., which was a rural church with 150 members when he became its pastor in 1982. Today the "City of Hope" numbers 17,000 members with 122 staff members, more than 50 ministries and 10 buildings on a 30-acre site.

He told the workshop audience that spiritual movements have three primary characteristics:

**Deliberate action that elicits involvement.** Having organized action and high motivation means involving people at all levels of commitment, he said. He joked that Hopewell has three

kinds of members: Those who walk by faith, those who go by sight and "moon walkers"—those who moon walk in the front door and out the back.

**Activities that generate opposition.** Great movements often are halted by opposition within the ranks, particularly those people who "don't necessarily want to lead but want to be seen."

Such movements also can expect spiritual conflict, he said. "The winning of souls will never go on without opposition."

**Continual leader development, making the movement self-perpetuating.** Many times a dynamic individual can incite other people to action, Sheals said. But a movement will grow and endure only if it develops a network of leaders, he said.

"A lot of you pastors know you can preach to 500 or 1,000 or 3,000 people, but you can't pastor that many," Sheals said. "Moses tried it. Jethro came to him and said, 'You're wearing yourself out. You're the CEO. Deal with things paramount to doctrine, and then build yourself a top and middle-management team.'"

Such a movement needs disciplined leaders, Sheals added. He said leaders must be teachable, self-con-

trolled, committed to completing tasks and acknowledging their need for discipline and growth.

"The largest room in the world is the room for self-improvement," he quipped.

Formerly deputy director of the Atlanta Housing Authority, this is Sheals' first and only pastorate. In addition to Christian elementary and high schools, the church's campus includes a restaurant, credit union, boutique and other shops.

Sheals calls the latter "Christianomics," an effort to train members in the principles of economics and business and circulate more money in the Christian community.

He also helps educate needy youngsters, donating book royalties and speaking fees to a college scholarship fund.

Despite these achievements, most occurring the past nine years, Sheals said God showed him in 1999 that he was trying to do too much.

"I was driving the church to be all things to all people," he said. "God knocked me off my (pedestal). He said, 'Why do you think I built First Baptist, Second Baptist and Third Baptist? You can't be all things to all people. You don't have all the gifts.'"

Besides repenting to his congregation, he directed the church to halt all advertising in favor of evangelism by knocking on doors and other personal

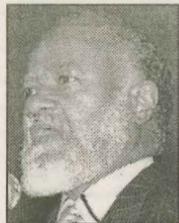
contacts.

Sheals said a primary element of building an evangelistic church is to remember that the church is not the physical building but the people, with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone.

He said some megachurches have nearly eliminated messages about the blood of Christ from sermons and never call on people to change the way they live.

"Crowds will come if there's no conviction or commitment to live righteously," he said. "Seats filled will people who are happy but not righteous, who feel good but aren't acting good, isn't good enough."

"We must bring Jesus back to the center of our churches. He is the One Who will bring joy. When we lift Him up, we will build an evangelistic church."



Sheals



**DUET** Vocalist Larnelle Harris of Louisville and Yvette Eastham of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson sing a duet during the KBC Evangelism Conference in Louisville.

# EVANGELISM

## Stowell: Sharing faith harder in 'pagan' America

Continued from page 1

only way to God is a scandal in a religious landscape that accepts all faiths as equal, Stowell said. "It suddenly struck me that what (the pastor) was asking me to give up was Jesus. ... He's asking me to give up my Friend, he's asking me to give up my Guide."

While secularism had dominated the previous four decades before Sept. 11, paganism now defines America, Stowell said. "That isn't a pejorative term," he added, giving the technical definition of paganism as a wide-open spirituality with a multiplicity of gods where there is no moral authority or accountability and no one god has the right to claim preeminence over the other gods.



Stowell

"If it was our morality that was threatened in secularism, it is our message that is threatened in paganism," he said. "One of the things we're going to have to do is learn how to stick up for Jesus."

Churches should look to the first-century church as a model of how to minister in such a time, he said. "The early church was born in a pagan culture, very much like ours. And they didn't just survive, they thrived."

Stowell noted five characteristics of the first-century church that allowed it to thrive:

■ **The centrality of Jesus.** "It was all about Him, and nothing else," Stowell said.

**Renew  
the  
Vision**  
KBC Evangelism  
Conference

Christians today must be more than "people sitting in the pew saying the sermon didn't do anything for me at all today," he said. "Our problem today is not music, it's not sermons, it's that everyone comes in to church thinking that church is about them."

■ **The clarity of the message.** Early Christians "never compromised that Jesus was the only way," Stowell said.

"They never flinched," he added. "They never cut a deal to stop the persecution."

The clarity of the Christian message must not only come from Christians' lips, "because the world doesn't want to hear what we have to say," but also from their lives, he added.

■ **The courage of members' convictions.** Early church members were willing to die for Jesus when necessary, Stowell said.

■ **The compassion in members' hearts.** The early church rescued abandoned babies and ministered to diseased people, he said.

"There are some true victims in this world," Stowell said, adding that the church today must be willing to stand up against economic and political systems of injustice in America and around the world.

■ **The community members had with each other.** People didn't look at the early church and say, "My, how they fight with one another," Stowell said, but "My, how they love one another."



## Experience Higher Education with a Higher Purpose at the Baptist College of Health Sciences.

The Baptist College of Health Sciences, located at 1003 Monroe in Memphis, Tenn., is hosting an open house for prospective students on Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-866-575-BCHS or visit [www.bchs.edu](http://www.bchs.edu).

 **BAPTIST.**  
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## Anonymous givers

In our role as a third-party fiduciary, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers anonymity to those who desire it. There are those who want to give for the benefit of their church and other Baptist causes, but do not want the beneficiaries to know their names and/or the amounts of their gifts. There are obvious practical reasons for giving anonymously, but in my experience the reasons run much deeper than just the practical.

In Philippians 2:3 the apostle Paul exhorted the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." The anonymous givers I have had the privilege of assisting have demonstrated a humility we all should emulate. They do not think less of themselves, but they think of themselves less and of others more.

Anonymous givers live with an attitude of gratitude. That attitude is reflected not only in their giving, but also in their living. They view their giving as enabling them to become partners in God's work much like the Philippian Christians viewed their support of Paul in Philippians 4:14-15. The anonymous givers I have known are very con-

scious of their heavenly bank accounts to which Jesus referred in Matthew 6:19-21 and to which Paul referred in Philippians 4:17. They view their giving as spiritual investments in eternity, paying excellent returns into their spiritual bank accounts. Anonymous givers consider their giving as solemn acts of worship much like how Paul described the gifts of the Philippians in Philippians 4:18: "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Finally, anonymous givers understand Paul's conviction as stated in Philippians 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

**KENTUCKY  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION**



Barry Allen

Although I have used to describe the anonymous givers I have known the same qualities Paul used to describe the Philippian Christians, let me hasten to say these qualities are not limited just to those anonymous givers. Most of the individuals and couples we have the privilege to assist demonstrate most, if not all, of these qualities.

Please give us the privilege of assisting you.

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

## Growing a heart for the world

The tasks of the Kentucky Baptist Convention include assisting churches to do together what they cannot do separately. One of the greatest things the convention can do is in the area of mission emphasis and mission projects.

The convention is not in competition with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board or North American Mission Board. Our efforts seek to complement theirs.

There is a worldwide need for the gospel. Amid all the physical needs, the greatest need still is spiritual. Kentucky Baptists can help as we get personally involved and gain a mission vision.

Why is the burden of the world on my heart? As a little boy living on a dirt-gob road, I had no burden for the world. Even when I answered the call to preach, I had no burden for the world. I had a burden for the lost in my community but not the world.

What happened? Growth! How do we grow spiritually? Our lives are shaped by vision. The Lord is growing a world in my heart. When we have a vision of lost humanity, we want to do something about it. I pray that the Father will imprint on your heart a world map.

Without a vision there will be no commitment to do anything about the need. Commitment always has been a pretty big word for me.

The key is growth. Sometimes we are afraid of growth because it brings change. But things will change whether we like it or not. In many cases, things need to change.

There is one more word that must be in the hopper. That word is giving. As our mission is sharpened, our commitment is deeper and our spiritual life is growing, our giving will increase individually and as a whole church.

Regrettably, there is a preoccupation with membership in many churches. Some people think that large churches are great churches. But a great church is one that has a mission vision. That church is a group of people living beyond a preoccupation with themselves. Precisely because they live beyond themselves, their strengths are developed, their vision is lifted and their energies are vitalized to new levels.

**PRESIDENT'S  
PERSPECTIVE**



Harold Greenfield

Harold Greenfield is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention which sponsors this column. Contact the KBC at Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433; (800) 266-6477; [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

# SMILE

## Look for the thread

I think there is a significant difference between a trend and real change. To me, a trend is something like pet rocks, bell-bottom jeans, mood rings and that glittery stuff you see girls wearing on their faces these days.

Change could be described as a trend with a destination. As we undertake changes in our lives, those alterations should have a goal, a destination in mind. Otherwise, it is change for the sake of change. Let's face it, transitions are tough enough without us creating unnecessary ones.

Seasons of change have come often in the 133-year journey of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. There was a time to build that first home when it became apparent to the women

ed a healthier, happier atmosphere.

There have been so many changes since 1869, it is impossible to share them all. It would fill this issue of the Western Recorder many times over. There is a thread that runs through these changes, though. It is a thread of mission, purpose and commitment. The children are the thread. The families are the

thread. What was done decades ago was done for them, to provide better immediate care and better opportunities once they left us. Family foster care, the Center for Independence, Cornerstone Counseling and other programs came about to help more children and families and to help them in ways that caused less disruption. Residential care, the service with the deepest

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

roots to the past, always will be with us, but it, too, will undergo change for the benefit of our children.

As KBHC embarks on another season of change, I ask each of you to look for the thread and support today's children and families and tomorrow's, too. They need KBHC, and they need you.

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

## Honoring special students

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's Founder's Day convocation, our alumni board of directors presents the Alumni Student Service Awards. The awards recognize students who are involved in the recruitment of new students for Cumberland College.

Wendy Michelle King received one of the awards this year. She is the daughter of Angie Himes and Randal Himes of Mt. Vernon and the wife of David King, a 2001 Cumberland graduate. King is majoring in special education.

For the past three years, she has worked year-round in Cumberland's admissions office, giving tours and talking with prospective students.

Mrs. King also has served in Cumberland's freshman orientation program for the past three years. Currently she serves as president of Cumberland's Kentucky Education Association chapter. She also has been named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Jamey Michael Short received the other Alumni Student Service Award. Short is the son of Donald

and Terri Short of Glasgow. He is majoring in computer information systems and business administration.

Short also has worked in the admissions office for the past three years. In addition to giving tours and talking with students when they visit Cumberland, he has contacted prospective students by phone, answering questions and encouraging them to visit Cumberland.

Short has been involved in the Baptist Student Union. He has participated in mission trips to El Salvador and Poland and directed Camp All-American, a Christian sports camp in Atlanta. Short also has been named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Cumberland College depends on enthusiastic students like Mrs. King and Short to help prospective students catch the school's vision and excitement. We thank them for their outstanding service.

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

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu



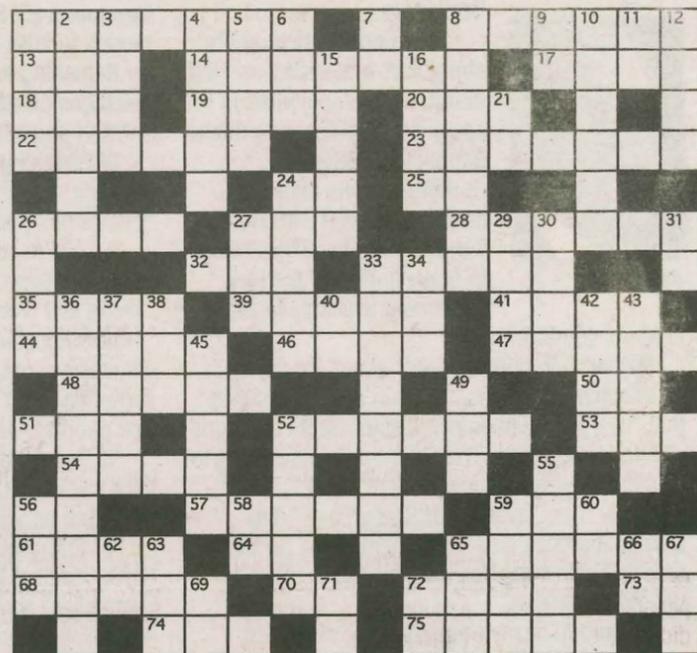
Doug Marlette

## Bible Crossword

Michael J. Landi

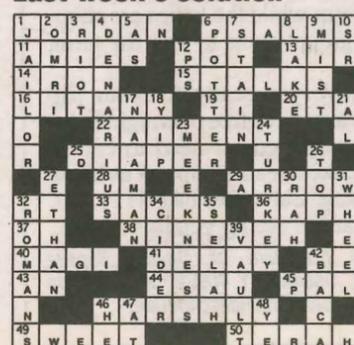
### Across

- Father of the Chosen People (Genesis 12:1-3)
- Prophet who tore his cloak into twelve pieces (1 Kings 11:30)
- Sheep's noise
- Old Testament prophet, between Amos and Jonah
- Brief letter
- Samuel's mentor
- The rock city of Idumaea (Isaiah 16:1)
- No-good fellow
- Lions failed to harm him
- Third longest book of prophecy in the Old Testament
- Northern central state, abbr.
- Drill instructor, abbr.
- King of Israel (1 Kings 16:16)
- Jacob's son (Genesis 30:10-11)
- Belonging to a son of Aaron (1 Chronicles 24:1)
- This animal alive is better than a dead lion (Ecclesiastes 9:4)
- Belonging to the man who shot Jehoram through the heart (2 Kings 9:24)
- Nehemiah's priest and scribe
- Eliasaph was the son of this man (Numbers 7:42)
- A servant in the house of Saul (2 Samuel 9:2)
- "All they that hate me love \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 8:36)
- Asian woman's garment
- Abraham's son
- "Cursed is the \_\_\_\_\_ who... sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord" (Malachi 1:14 NIV)
- This place in Moab was ruined in the night (Isaiah 15:1)
- "\_\_\_\_\_! The gate to the nations is broken" (Ezekiel 26:2 NIV)
- The judge and prophet who established the kingship in Israel (1 Samuel 8:21-22)
- His wife became a pillar of salt
- The Lord showed him a plumbline
- Chemical symbol for argon
- "Prophet of the Temple" and a colleague of Zechariah (Ezra 5:1)
- "The name of the wicked shall \_\_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 10:7)



- Needed for a photograph
- Unit of dry measurement, abbr.
- Moses successor (Numbers 27:18-23)
- One of the twelve spies, the only one left alive in the desert with Joshua (Numbers 26:65)
- Exist
- Cast a ballot
- Sleuth, abbr.
- "I will spread my \_\_\_\_\_ upon them" (Hosea 7:12)
- David's father
- Appeared to Abraham when he was 99 years old (Genesis 17:1)
- Ezekiel's father (Ezekiel 1:3)
- Egyptian goddess
- Juan's yes
- The weeping prophet
- Word said by Christ on the cross (Matthew 27:46)
- Second from the last book of the Old Testament
- The son of Shema and the father of Jorjoam (1 Chronicles 2:43)
- Consumed
- United Airlines, abbr.
- Ahab served this god (1 Kings 16:31)
- Supported Moses' hands in battle (Exodus 17:8-13)
- "A \_\_\_\_\_ word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1 NIV)
- King Darius threw Daniel here (Daniel 6:16)
- The youngest son of Hiel of Bethel, who lost his life when the gates of Jericho were set up (1 Kings 16:34)
- The man to whom God gave the Ten Commandments
- American Football Conference, abbr.
- Fifth month of the Jewish year
- Decays
- Chemical symbol for thorium
- Lending library, abbr.
- "I will make you fishers of \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 4:19)
- Joseph for short
- The opposite of down
- To trouble, afflict
- Chemical symbol for beryllium
- Estimated position, abbr.
- Video jockey, abbr.

### Last week's solution



### Down

- In bed
- The mercenary prophet (Numbers 22:5-7)
- "I will \_\_\_\_\_ bread from heaven" (Exodus 16:4)
- Prophet who married Gomer
- Killed by his brother
- Last book of the Old Testament, abbr.
- Joshua sent men there from Jericho (Joshua 7:2)
- King of Judah at 22 years old who reigned for only a year (2 Kings 8:26)
- Opposite of out
- He was 8 years old when he became king and he reigned for 31 years (2 Kings 22:1)
- Preposition
- State of everlasting separation from God
- Israel's poet king
- Did perfectly on a test
- Eastern seaboard state
- "The \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)
- Son of Boaz (Ruth 4:21)

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## Jackson: New Testament can lead people to Jesus

LOUISVILLE—Richard Jackson believes in evangelism—and practices it.

During 25 years as pastor of North Phoenix Baptist Church, he baptized more than 20,000 people. In recent years, he founded and directs the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement in Brownsville, Texas. He also has published "The Covenant of God's Love," a version of the New American Standard New Testament that includes marked passages highlighting how to know, show and grow in God's love.



Jackson

The opportunity to share about that witnessing tool led him to accept an invitation to speak at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. His ministry center partnered with the Kentucky Baptist Convention to make copies of the New Testament available to all conference participants.

Rather than criticizing Christians for failing to be effective witnesses, Jackson said he believes that "everyone who knows Jesus wants everyone else to know Jesus. They just don't know what to say and they don't know how to say it."

Thus "The Covenant of God's Love." The small paperback New Testament notes on the cover, "God Loves You As You Are. ... See Inside for Details!"

"A burden of my ministry is for people to

learn how to give away their faith," Jackson explained. He told pastors, "It's your job to encourage them, to pray for them, to help them know how to share their faith."



Urging Christians to not debate or argue about their faith, he added, "We need to understand it's not our task to win the whole world to Christ. We're to tell them about Jesus. It's only the Holy Spirit who can impart conviction and bring them to faith in Jesus Christ."

Jackson said the witnessing tool he has developed allows individuals to "read himself or herself to faith in Christ."

Beginning with John 3:16, the marked passages detail the plan of salvation, how to witness and how to mature in the Christian faith. "Witnessing for Christ is not rocket science," Jackson noted. "It's more important than rocket science; it's just not that difficult."

"I want people who don't know anything about the Bible to not be afraid of it," he added. "We're just trying to get the gospel out."

Jackson said he is excited about the witnessing resource because "I just wanted something that was simple and to the point so that people could find their way to Christ."

"If God never encourages you to use this in your ministry, that's fine," he said. "Use whatever God puts on your heart."

For information about "The Covenant of God's Love," contact the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement by e-mail at [center@web-access.net](mailto:center@web-access.net).

## Women's speaker Dean urges prayer to set 'captives free'

LOUISVILLE—Urging strategic prayer for people who are not Christians, Jennifer Kennedy Dean said prayer is the most effective evangelism tool available.

Dean and her husband, Wayne, founded and lead the Praying Ministry Foundation in Blue Springs, Mo. She was the featured speaker for a women's conference held in conjunction with last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Highlighting the urgency of "setting captives free," Dean said, "When we pray for lost people, we are working in cooperation with God to defeat the enemy in the life of that lost person. We are setting the lost person's captive will free so that lost person can make a freewill choice to make Jesus Christ his personal Savior."

Noting that Scripture describes unsaved people as blind, deaf, spiritually dead and slaves, Dean asked, "Is a blind person choosing not to see? No, a blind person is unable to see. The Scripture says the god of this world has blinded the unbeliever."

Christians should avoid considering themselves morally superior to non-Christians, she cautioned. "The reason you can see is not that you're better. It's because God said, 'Let there be light.' There's no reason for us to be in a battle or a debate with a

lost person. It's up to God to reveal that revelation."

The Christian's role, she said, is to faithfully pray for people with spiritual needs. "Since the decision to follow Jesus Christ is a decision made with your will, we have to set their will free so they can choose," she explained. "That's what prayer is accomplishing."

Describing "the gap between what God desires for the earth and what the earth is experiencing," Dean said prayer bridges that spiritual gap.

"Your enemy does not want you to pray," she said.

"The Scripture makes outrageous claims about what prayer can accomplish and God means every word. ... We have become so satisfied with a little surface understanding of prayer that the church is missing out on what the Lord wants to do through prayer."

Citing Ephesians 6:17-18, Dean said Spirit-generated prayer is the ultimate weapon in spiritual warfare.

"The enemy has only one weapon he can use against you and that's the weapon of lies," she warned. However, she added, "Your enemy cannot get anything past God."

"When light and darkness come into contact, light always wins," she said. "We are an army storming the occupying force and we are leading the captives out."



Dean

## It's time to make plans for spring

February 2002 is now in the history books, but the spring of 2002 is just on the horizon. Nearly everyone is happy to see winter melt away. When I was a child, my mother assured me that with the first sight of a robin, spring had arrived. The arrival of robins may mean spring is here, but I have noticed a few times through the years when robins might have arrived a week or two ahead of time.

I saw my first robins last weekend, and my immediate thoughts were those from my childhood: robins equal spring. I would love to be planning a large garden like many of you will be putting out. There are few things in my life which have brought more pleasure and satisfaction than a big garden.

When I first came to Oneida nearly 19 years ago, I put out really big gardens. I set out hundreds and hundreds of cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage plants each spring. When you are feeding 600-700 people three times a day, a dozen or so of each plant will not go very far. One year, the owner of some greenhouses in Louisville gave us 3,000 tomato plants. It had been a cooler-than-normal spring and he realized his earliest plants were getting too big with many thousands more still growing. A wonderful friend of the school encouraged the owner to consider making the extra plants a gift to Oneida Baptist Institute.

The next day I went to Louisville to pick up the plants. I was not sure if they all would fit in my van, but it was the largest vehicle I had. I returned later that day with a van completely loaded with the plants.

It never occurred to me that I would not set out all 3,000 plants, which were nearly two feet tall.

The next several days, dozens of students and I were busy after school setting out tomato plants. I would not have been totally devastated if a dozen or two had died in the process, but I don't think we lost more than four or five plants. I am not even going to try to describe to you how many tomatoes 3,000 plants can produce. I'll just say that 200 plants would have been plenty!

Spring is also a wonderful time to plan a trip to Oneida. The trees, shrubs and colorful flowers will just be awaking from their winter sleep. The scenic beauty of the trip alone is worth the time, but the icing on the cake will be a tour of our campus. We know many of our friends have never visited our campus. On the other hand, there are several Sunday school classes and church groups who visit us regularly.

If you can arrive by 10:45 a.m. EST, you can enjoy our chapel service where all the students and faculty gather each day for worship. After chapel, your tour will begin with a break for lunch on us in our school's dining room. After lunch the tour will continue and eventually end with a visit to our craft shop where the ladies can shop. Often the men would rather have a tour of the farm while the ladies are shopping. If the whole group wants to tour the farm, that's just fine.

We normally have you ready for your trip home by 2 p.m. We also have free overnight lodging available. Overnight guests need to call in advance. We appreciate it if all groups let us know when they are coming. Call (606) 847-4111, ext. 203. We look forward to seeing you this spring.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## A trip to Western Kentucky

I always enjoy returning to Western Kentucky. Snow canceled a January preaching assignment, and it was rescheduled for Feb. 24. The weekend was bathed in brilliant clear sky. Spring presented an early calling card with daffodils blooming on the front lawn.

The trip included Saturday lunch with Gracie and Calvin Hibbs in their Owensboro retirement home. I was their pastor at First Baptist Church of Sturgis from 1969-75. Country ham imported from Union County, with a bountiful table of vegetables, topped off with peach cobbler, brought back many memories of Sturgis. We laughed again about the winter of '71 when Rebecca and I prepared to go home after supper and Rook, and discovered we were snowbound.

Sam and Vanessa Huff, Zachary and Tiffany were my hosts on Saturday evening in Hancock County. Sam, a 1995 graduate, is pastor of Blackford Baptist Church, a growing congregation with a building situated like a light on a hill between Hawesville and Pellville. Sam and Vanessa grew up about eight miles down the road. Before supper, I accompanied Sam to an Upward

Basketball game where he shared a brief Bible message at halftime. The league, sponsored by Pellville Church, reaches more than 100 children and is a positive outreach for Christ.

Sunday morning attendance at Blackford was 30 more than the previous year. A spacious and beautiful fellowship hall provided evi-

dence of past commitments; a full auditorium challenges them for the future. Worship began with the baptism of an adult woman. As worshippers departed they gave a love offering of more than \$1,000 to help a family in need. Blackford Church is among the top 100 KBC churches in per-capita giving to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Sunday lunch at the parsonage included Vanessa's five-star cooking (She cooked at Kelly Hall during their student days.) and the best of Christian fellowship with two deacon couples. As I headed home, I realized many of the things I've missed since the days I was a pastor, but how blessed I am for the opportunity to help equip others.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Court hears arguments on door-to-door witnessing case

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In a case that could impact classic Baptist outreach techniques, the U.S. Supreme Court last week considered whether Jehovah's Witnesses can be required to have a permit before they knock on doors.

The justices heard oral arguments in a case stemming from a requirement by the village of Stratton, Ohio, that religious groups and other solicitors fill out a form before approaching the homes of residents.

The Jehovah's Witnesses, who say anonymous door-to-door activity is a part of their ministry, argued the 1998 ordinance is unconstitutional because it violates free speech. They asked the high court to overturn a 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision affirming a district court ruling saying the ordinance could be applied to the Witnesses.

"It is a criminal act to go from door to door in the village of Stratton" without a permit, said Paul

Polidoro, associate general counsel for the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, the headquarters for the faith group.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist questioned how the village's registration process limits Jehovah's Witnesses since the mayor is supposed to give the permit at no cost to those who apply for it.

"You can't be turned down," he said.

But Justice Anthony Kennedy seemed to take a different view.

"It seems ... troubling to me," he said. "You have to make the disclosure to the mayor" as well as to the homeowner.

"We don't believe that anyone needs to go to the government to ask permission to speak to their neighbor," Polidoro argued.

Justices questioned lawyers on either side about the specifics of who could be barred from door-to-door soliciting and whether it is wrong for a group that wishes to make such visits to have to state their cause ahead of time.

Several justices focused on

whether municipalities are justified in requiring permits for those who wish to knock on doors. "The concern may stem from a concern about preventing burglars and unfortunate incidents in the area," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said.

Abraham Cantor, the lawyer for the village of about 300 people, said the municipality is exerting its "police power" to deter crime by having the permitting process.

Justice Antonin Scalia questioned the wide range of people who might have to apply. "The breadth of this thing is novel to me," he said.

The justices wondered how trick-or-treaters and Christmas carolers would be affected by the ordinance. "Do I have to get a permit to borrow a cup of sugar from my neighbor?" O'Connor asked.

When Cantor recited whom the ordinance included, Scalia questioned the inclusion of Witnesses in the definition. "Are they canvassers, solicitors, hawkers ...?" he asked.

Cantor said the ordinance is designed "to prevent annoyance of the property owner."

## 10 Commandments case turned down

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court refused to enter the debate over whether the Ten Commandments should be displayed on government grounds when it declined to hear an appeal from Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

Without comment, the high court did not consider the appeal to erect a 7-foot stone monument on the statehouse grounds in Indianapolis, Associated Press reported.

O'Bannon argued that the commandments represent tenets of American law as much as religious teachings and he wanted the court to overturn rulings preventing the monument from being erected. The justices' decision not to hear the case marked the second time in less than a year that they have sidestepped the controversial issue.

Polidoro countered that while some might consider the Witnesses to be "obnoxious" or annoying, "our activity lies at the heart of the First Amendment."

Groups that filed friend-of-the-court briefs supporting the Witnesses include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Independent Baptist Churches of America and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

## Baptists minister to New York Port Authority families

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW YORK CITY (BP)—The gruesome task of recovering bodies from the site of the World Trade Center attack has largely disappeared from the evening news.

Bit it remains a stressful reality for about 200 Port Authority Police Department officers putting in 12-hour shifts six days a week.

Those men—and particularly their wives—were the focus of a ministry effort by nine Southern Baptist women Feb. 19. Gift bags of lotions, chocolates and other personal items were given to the men to deliver to their wives as an effort to thank them for the heroic role they have played in helping keep families functioning. The women also hosted a catered meal of Italian food at the Port Authority's ground zero headquarters—the first hot meal some of the men had eaten in many days.

Cheryl Reccord, wife of Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President Robert Reccord and one of the coordinators of the project, said her message to the officers was that they had helped America redefine its image of a hero—from celebrities to police officers and firefighters.

"But we know there is another group of heroes, and that is your wives and families who are picking up the pieces so you can do what you do," she told the men.

The project was part of "Enduring Hope," the ongoing Southern Baptist relief effort for those affected by the Sept. 11 tragedy. Participants included NAMB employees, employee wives and several volunteers and missionaries from the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

The idea grew out of a conversation in early January between Reccord and the officer in charge at the site for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owned the World



MEMORIAL A memorial at the Port Authority Police Department headquarters at ground zero lists the names of the 37 officers who died Sept. 11 and helps track those who have been found in the rubble. (BP photo)

Trade Center complex and remains responsible for overseeing the recovery effort. Reccord learned many families have been stressed by the grief and emotionally taxing work of sifting through the rubble, so he began asking how Southern Baptists could help.

The gifts included body lotion, bubble bath and candles, Godiva chocolates and a grief recovery journal. The Reccords also donated copies of "Freedom from Fear," a Bible study written by Cheryl Reccord and Linda Ebert, and Robert Reccord's recent book, "Beneath the Surface"—which deals with avoiding the pitfalls that can destroy marriages. LifeWay Christian Resources contributed a compact disc containing instrumental Christian music.

"We were just struck with their tremendous appreciation, and the way that they began to open up with some of their own stories of what they were going through and what they've seen," Mrs. Reccord said.

Joe Williams is a chaplaincy specialist working full-time with the Enduring Hope relief effort.

"They have been so open to what

Southern Baptists have done," said Williams, who has been asked to lead crisis intervention seminars for Port Authority chaplains.

"Their psychological services have admitted that they do not really know how to deal with the psychological trauma that these people will deal with when their job is done," he said.

Williams, a former chaplaincy specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, gained experience in crisis counseling as an FBI chaplain in the aftermath of the Murrah Federal Building bombing. For the past two years he has been director of the Crisis Intervention Institute through which he provides training for caregivers in "traumatology and compassion fatigue." He has been an FBI chaplain since 1991.

The dinner and gift bags for the officers' wives "opened the door of ministry to those people," Williams said. "Those guys just came in and mingled with them, and they really opened up. ... When Cheryl and these other ladies said, 'We have been praying for you and we will be praying for you,' these people really responded to that."

## Newspaper: Graham told Nixon Jews have media 'stranglehold'

CHICAGO (RNS)—Evangelist Billy Graham, in a tape-recorded conversation in President Richard Nixon's Oval Office, spoke of a "stranglehold" that Jews had on the American media, the Chicago Tribune has reported.

The discussion after a prayer breakfast in February 1972 was included in recordings released Feb. 28 by the National Archives.

"This stranglehold has got to be broken or the country's going down the drain," said Graham, agreeing with comments made by Nixon about Jews and how they were perceived to have influenced American life.

"You believe that?" Nixon asked after Graham used the word "stranglehold."

"Yes, sir," Graham replied.

"Oh boy," replied the then-president. "So do I. I can't ever say that but I believe it."

"No, but if you get elected a second time, then we might be able to do something," Graham responded.

The popular evangelist later spoke of his Jewish friends in the media who "swarm around me and are friendly to me." But he added, "They don't know how I really feel about what they're doing to this country."

Graham, concurring with a Nixon claim that the president is faced by a "powerful bloc" of Jews in the media, said: "And they're the ones putting out the pornographic stuff."

The 83-year-old evangelist, who has suffered various medical ailments, told the newspaper through spokesman Larry Ross that he did not recall the conversation and, thus, could not respond.

Scholars learning of the conversation expressed surprise at the comments, the Tribune reported.

"I find this rather stunning," said William Martin, a Rice University professor of religion and sociology who authored "A Prophet With Honor: The Billy Graham Story."

"This is out of character with anything else I have heard Billy Graham say or be quoted as saying. It's disappointing." Michael Kotzin, a vice president at the Jewish United Fund in Chicago, also criticized the comments.

"One really did not associate him with this," Kotzin said. "Rather than try to direct Nixon in a different direction, he reinforces him and eggs him on when it came to these stereotypes, and that's troubling."

# PEOPLE

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Joy Bolton

The 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10, is a time for all Southern Baptists to join together in prayer and giving for missions. Just as missionaries take the gospel to those who need to accept Christ as Savior, we must be witnesses too.

What about you? Have you accepted Christ as your personal Savior? Several scriptures from Romans sum up the message of salvation:

■ **Romans 3:23**—"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." "All" includes everyone.

■ **Romans 5:8**—"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God didn't wait for us to be repentant. He sent Jesus to die as a sacrifice for our sins.

■ **Romans 6:23**—"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." We all deserve death but God has provided a gift, eternal life.

■ **Romans 10:9**—"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Everyone receives salvation the same way: believing in the death and resurrection of Jesus for our sins and declaring Him as Lord.

Pray for missionaries as they tell the good news to all. Remember that all includes you. Accept Christ today, then tell someone else!

Joy Bolton is executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BREMEN**—Conrad Barnes resigned Jan. 27 as pastor of Pleasant Hill Church.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will host an interdenominational men's luncheon at the Oldham County Community Center March 7, 11:45 a.m. Henry Ford, pastor of Pewee Valley Church, will be the guest speaker. For information call (502) 243-9998.

■ **DANVILLE**—First Church called Kyle Connell as minister of youth and outreach. Tim Mathis is pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church honored Darla Faris Feb. 24 for 20 years of service as church secretary.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Donnie Wilkins recently resigned as pastor of Carter Creek Church.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Bruners Chapel Church honored Hazel Lester Feb. 10 for 45 years as church organist. Larry Redding is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Hills

Church was renamed Parkland Hills Mission Feb. 21.

Midlane Park Church called Bonnie Bozarth as interim minister of music.

Ormsby Heights Church will honor Joseph Sacksteder March 24, 10:45 a.m., for 25 years of perfect attendance in Sunday school. He teaches in the church's 5-year-old class. Rick Bowden is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church ordained youth minister Todd Meadows Feb. 17. Paul Chitwood is pastor.

### Easter pageants

Is your church planning special events for Easter? Please send information about pageants and other activities by March 13 to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax: (502) 244-6474; e-mail: mtm@kybaptist.org.

## Ray Cooper, Three Forks Association director of missions, dies at age 62

HAZARD—Ray Cooper, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association since 1991, died Feb. 25 at age 62.

Cooper, an ordained minister for more than 40 years, previously was director of missions for Tates Creek Association. He also had been pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Richmond as well as churches in Indiana and North Carolina. He also had served as dean of boys at Oneida Baptist Institute.

Randy Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention state missions department, described Cooper as "probably one of our best missiologists in Eastern Kentucky. He had a vision and understood the culture and the context."

Noting that ministers in the association remembered Cooper as "a pastor's pastor," Jones added, "He was a visionary who came up with a lot of great ideas for ministry and new work strategy. He had that spirit for the mountains."

Eldred Taylor, who officiated at Cooper's wedding more than 40 years ago, also helped officiate at his memorial service March 1 at First Baptist Church of Hazard.

"He was an encourager," Taylor said. "He was a kind, gentle guy who loved to sing and serve the Lord."

Cooper had served since 2000 on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Committees and was appointed last fall to chair the committee. He also served on an Eastern Kentucky Mountain Missions strategy team responsible for developing and implementing mission goals in the region.

He was a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond; Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.; and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He also attended Cumberland College and Lexington Theological Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two daughters.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Kimball organ, model EP 12. Two 49-note keyboards, preset selections, automatic accompaniment, more. Church/home organ; \$2,500 or best offer. (502) 231-9017.

**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.

**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.

**NEEDED:** Physicians, nurses, pharmacist for mission trip to Ecuador. Oakland Avenue Baptist Church sponsoring medical team to serve in the Andes, July 26-Aug. 4. Contact Dr. Tim Scott at (859) 223-7441.

**SEEKING:** Immanuel Baptist Church is seeking a full-time youth minister. Please send your resumé to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 800 Rhodes Drive, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Youth Minister Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Bethel Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Church is located in a growing rural and recreational area near Kentucky Dam. Send resumé to: Bethel Baptist Church, 2603 Tatumville Highway, Gilbertsville, KY 42044, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Rosedale Baptist Church in Covington is seeking a pastor. Please fax resumé to (859) 261-2967 or mail to: Pulpit Committee, Rosedale Baptist Church, 407 E 45th St., Latonia, KY 41015-1815. Telephone contact is (859) 261-0777.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky. Salary negotiable. The church currently has 85 to 100 in Sunday school and 100 to 125 in Sunday morning worship. Please send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 2360 Green River Road, Henderson, KY 42420.

**SEEKING:** Ballwin (Southern) Baptist Church in West St. Louis County (25 miles from downtown) seeks full-time associate pastor of music. Ministry will include additional responsibilities. Please send resumé: 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, MO 63011, Attn: Personnel. E-mail: ballwinb@swbell.net. Fax: (636) 227-3438.

**SEEKING:** Full-time church administrative assistant, 2-3 years experience, MS Office, typing and organization skills. Candidate also must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Send resumé to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3400 Summerfield Drive, Louisville, KY 40220. E-mail to: hunsinger.office@att.net, or call: (502) 491-4356.

**SEEKING:** Permanent, part-time worship leader to lead adult choir rehearsal, Sunday morning and evening services. Worship leader will be required to lead the praise team, coordinate with pastor in planning services and coordinate other choirs. Applicant should feel comfortable leading blended services. Additional duties will be paid on an as-needed basis. Please send resumé to: Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Music Search Committee.

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

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

**SEEKING:** East Louisville Baptist church seeks part-time minister to students. Active, growing church affiliated with SBC, CBF. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, 3728 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40220. (502) 454-4681.

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

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

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

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

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

# PEOPLE

## Teacher, former stripper, preacher share testimonies

LOUISVILLE—A former stripper, a pastor serving in Bulgaria and a Kentucky public school teacher were among individuals who shared testimonies during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Mixing humor and poignancy, Iris Blue described a life of drugs, crime and sin before she prayed outside a strip joint 27 years ago to accept Jesus as her personal Savior.

"We're not preachers," she said of herself and husband, Duane. "We're satisfied customers."

As a child at vacation Bible school, she said, she raised her hand to say she didn't want to go to hell. "I'm one of those who fell through the cracks. I knew about Jesus, but I didn't know Him.

"I've been a Baptist all my life," she added, including her time in a Texas prison for armed robbery. "Seventy-eight percent of the inmates there were Baptists."

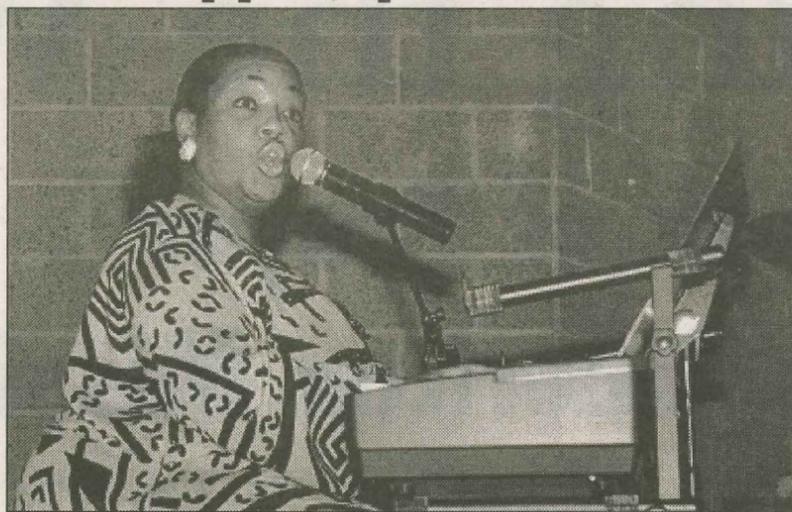
The Christian witness of a young man showed her a life and purpose she hadn't found in heroin, sex or alcohol, she said. "I knelt down a tramp, but stood up a lady."

Now a Mission Service Corps volunteer through the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, she and her husband minister in prisons.

"In all of the mission trips that we've made, we've never met a loser who meant to be a loser," she said.

Even in prison, inmates compare themselves to others so they don't appear so bad, she said. One murderer, she said, told her he only killed bad people, making him better than another murderer who had killed good people.

Her husband, who shared his testimony in a later session, said his only useful skill before he became a Christian was that he "could roll a joint with one hand."



**MUSIC MINISTRY** Sheila O'Bannon, a vocalist and member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, sings during the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference last week. (Photo by Robert Reeves)

**Renew  
the  
Vision**  
KBC Evangelism  
Conference

Describing the couple's current ministry opportunities, Duane Blue said, "I have no qualifications at all. I only have Jesus to

share."

Growing up in a broken home, Blue eventually hit the road on a three-wheeled motorcycle after his mother committed suicide.

After his future wife led him to faith in Christ, Blue knocked on the door of a church and volunteered to follow the pastor around for the next few days to find out what he was supposed to do as a Christian.

After joining the church and being baptized, he volunteered to work in vacation Bible school though he had no idea what it was. "If you're going to let me go on a vacation at this Bible school, what do you think I ought to take?" he asked the pastor.

While he endeared himself to a class of 4-year-olds who called him "Bro. Blue," he said the church's adults weren't as receptive.

Several weeks later, when he was

absent from church, "nobody at that church came after me," he recalled. Challenging conference participants to do a better job of reaching and discipling people for Christ, he urged, "Go get some people for Jesus."

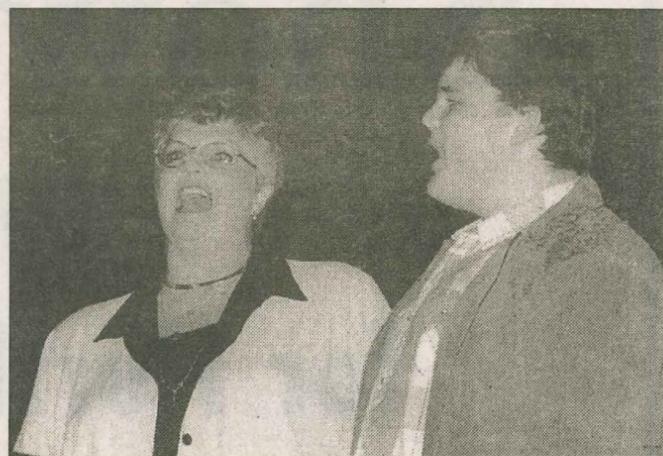
James Duke, pastor of International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, said it is "so exciting to be part of what God is doing in Bulgaria."

His congregation is part of the European Baptist Convention, a network of 67 English-language congregations currently involved in a missions partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Duke said his church has baptized 30 people from 10 nations in recent months, including 16 former Muslims who have become Christians since the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

"It is so exciting to be part of an international church," agreed Duke's wife, Audrey. "We are privileged to be there."

"Where we are, God brings the nations to us," she added. "We tell our people this is what heaven is going to



look like."

Duke said urgent ministry needs in Sofia include volunteers to teach English as a second language and to disciple new believers.

Sandy Armstrong, a teacher at Graves County High School, shared how she became a Christian club sponsor after her husband's death a few years ago.

"I said to the Lord, 'What would You have me do?' I just wanted to serve Him," she recalled.

Noting that the club started out "very lame," she said there was a group of students who decided that was not good enough. The students began to pray and saw "miraculous changes," she added.

"We now have 150 members in the club," she said. "I'm talking about 150 kids who love the Lord."

Urging pastors and youth ministers to see Christian clubs as an opportunity to impact high school campuses as mission fields, she added, "If you have public school teachers in your congregation, train them. Know the law and teach them the law."

"The ACLU wants you to be afraid," she said. "There is much we do and it's legal. ... Find people who need the Lord and bring them to Him."

### SONG WITH HER SON

Iris Blue, a Mission Service Corps volunteer from Woodstock, Ga., sings with her 14-year-old son, Denim, after sharing her testimony of being transformed from a life of crime and sin.

## Gospel artists close out Grammy Awards, take awards in six customary categories

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Christian artists closed out the Grammy Awards with an onstage performance Feb. 27 that added to their usual recognition in six categories.

"I can't think of a better way to end this night—with a gospel music segment, music that inspires, gives hope, encourages, points the way," said Michael W. Smith, who introduced fellow musicians at the end of the 3 1/2-hour ceremony in Los Angeles.

Rhythm-and-blues singer Brian McKnight opened the segment with "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," which segued into a performance by Al Green—named a Lifetime Achievement Award honoree during the ceremony—backed by two choirs.

The finale concluded with other artists joining in song, including CeCe Winans, Hezekiah Walker and the Love Fellowship Tabernacle Church Choir, Andrae Crouch, Tramaine Hawkins and Smith.

As the credits rolled, the musicians brought the hand-clapping crowd to its feet.

In addition to the traditional gos-

pel categories, the soundtrack from the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" came away with several awards, including ones for Album of the Year and Best Compilation Soundtrack Album.

The compilation featured a number of old-timey gospel classics.

Winners in the gospel categories were:

■ Best Rock Gospel Album: "Solo" by dc Talk.

■ Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album: "CeCe Winans" by CeCe Winans.

■ Best Southern, Country or Bluegrass Gospel Album: "Bill & Gloria Gaither Present a Billy Graham Music Homecoming."

■ Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album: "Spirit of the Century" by the Blind Boys of Alabama.

■ Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album: "The Experience" by Yolanda Adams.

■ Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album: "Love Is Live!" by the LFT Church Choir, directed by Hezekiah Walker.

## Christian workers fight famine, fuel faith in Siberia

SIBERIA, Russia (RNS)—Meteorologists in Siberia last week reported an uncharacteristically warm winter, with temperatures a "mild" minus 28 F. But the country's television news crews followed a different kind of warm front sweeping across the former Soviet Union—Operation Carelift, a mission outreach of Josh McDowell Ministries.

Undergirding the latest winter dusting of Carelift gifts, gospel and goodwill lies more than a decade of faith-based foreign relations by Josh McDowell Ministries, based in Richardson, Texas, and its namesake founder.

What began in 1989 as limited distribution of Bibles and Christian books has snowballed into an avalanche of aid and influence.

The 325 volunteers of the mid-February two-week Operation Carelift 2002 Winter Project distributed about 295 tons of goods valued at \$2.65 million to a rough count of almost 50,000 people, according to Duane Zook, vice president of international ministry and Carelift director.

Provisions included wheelchairs, cribs, vegetable seed packets, thermal underwear, teddy bears, medicine and 155 tons of food staples. Zook said the teams returned last week

after visiting prisons, public schools, churches, orphanages and sanitariums—222 sites—in Siberia, western Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Since 1992 McDowell has led more than 7,000 Operation Carelift volunteers to the former Soviet Union and distributed close to 3,300 tons of aid valued at almost \$39 million to more than 736,000 Russian children, according to Carelift records. The ministry has also distributed more than 19.9 million Christian books and Bibles.

Media and American Red Cross reports confirm life-threatening poverty—resultant political and economic aftershocks following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Some reports estimate more than 650,000 children are living in Russia's state-supported orphanages and receiving government stipends covering less than a third of their needs. Food, clothing, medicine and medical care are grossly inadequate, according to the reports.

Zook said Carelift's history of "opening new doors and widening open ones" in the former Soviet Union is possible by "coupling evangelism and humanitarian aid ... doing what we say we'll do and scratching them where they itch."

On Mission Together:

# Showing the Way

## Week of Prayer for North American Missions

Suggested Dates: March 3-10, 2002



**National Goal: \$52,000,000**

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