



## WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Six months later, Kentucky churches still feeling Sept. 11

Lord, when you enter your glory, do not remember only people of good will. Remember also those of ill will. Do not remember their cruelty and their violence.

Instead, be mindful of the fruits we bore because of what they did to us.

Remember the patience of some and the courage of others.

Recall the camaraderie, humility, fidelity, and greatness of soul which they awoke in us.

And grant, O Lord, that the fruits we bore may one day be their redemption.

—Written by a Jew before entering a Nazi gas chamber

**By Ken Walker**  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—When Dave Stancil read the preceding poem during a Sept. 14 prayer service at St. Matthews Baptist Church, the nation still was reeling from that week's terrorist attacks.

Six months later, Stancil said he sees several positive byproducts from an unthinkable tragedy.

He's certainly not thankful for the heavy loss of life on Sept. 11, but he compares his attitude with words from famed author Aleksan-

dr Solzhenitsyn, who after his release from confinement in Russia, wrote, "Thank you, prison, for being in my life."

"For Solzhenitsyn to say something like that is the same thing," said Stancil, who left Kentucky recently to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Bristol, Va. "We know now that life is not to be taken for granted. There's a greater tenderness and care for each other. There is a desire to make each moment count."

While the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. were evil, he added, they forced many Christians

to confront their own sin, such as tolerating immorality, judging others or being hateful.

"This experience can cause us to say, 'What is the sin in me that causes me to approach (evil)?' " Stancil said. "I can be grateful for the change in my life, but never at minimizing the cost of evil. It's God's job to judge evil."

Kentucky Baptist pastors throughout the commonwealth agree that Sept. 11 has caused lasting changes in their churches, although most changes are subtle.

□ See Six months later ..., page 10

## Global outreach



**PARADE OF FLAGS** International students attending Mid-Continent College in Mayfield were among flag bearers during a commissioning service for international missionaries March 7 at Trace Creek Baptist Church. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board commissioning service was held in conjunction with Mid-Continent's Alumni Evangelism Conference. See stories on page 3.

## Legislator says voters not writing to protest track slot machines

FRANKFORT—If Kentuckians want to keep slot machines out the commonwealth, they need to start telling their legislators, according to state Representative Ron Crimm.

"I have to tell you I feel like a voice crying in the wilderness," said Crimm (R-Louisville).

"I've gotten one letter" opposing a bill to allow horse tracks to add casino gambling, he noted. "The pressure (to vote for expanded gambling) is unbelievable and I'm just amazed that the Christian folks in this community are not responding."

Howard Beauman, associate director for the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, said it's hard for him to go to legislators opposing expanded gambling when they aren't hearing anything from their home districts on the matter.

"We're saying our people are against this, but the legislators aren't hearing a thing," Beauman told the Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Public Affairs last week.

Asked whether Kentucky citizens might question the impact their letter has on a process filled with lobbyists, Beauman said state senators and representatives depend on input from their home districts.

"These people in Frankfort want to hear from their people so they can go into a committee and say, 'I have letters from 100 people who are against this.'"

Crimm agreed. "Absolutely important," he said. "When a legislator gets an e-mail or a letter and it's from their constituency, you pay attention."

Legislators who have greater political ambitions for statewide office also pay attention to voters who say, "This is not the kind of thing we want to see you endorsing," Crimm added.

Advocates for and against the bill spoke to the House Licensing and Occupations Committee last week.

Churchhill Downs racetrack President Alex Waldrop told committee members that the state could

□ See Gambling opponents ..., page 3

## Marriage helps prevent social ills, study says

**By Mark Wingfield**  
Texas Baptist Standard

NEW YORK (ABP)—Marriage is good for health, wealth and happiness, according to a panel of social scientists.

The team of family scholars collaborated to survey a vast body of research on marriage and family issues. It is summarized in a document titled "Why Marriage Matters."

The project was sponsored by the Center of the American Experiment, the Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education, and the Institute for American Values.

"Marriage is more than a private emotional good. It is also a social good," the researchers note. "Not every person can or should marry. And not every child raised outside of marriage is damaged as a result. But communities where

good-enough marriages are common have better outcomes for children, women and men than do communities suffering from high rates of divorce, unmarried childbearing and high-conflict or violent marriages."

From two decades of research, the authors culled 21 key points. Among them:

■ *Marriage increases the likelihood that fathers have good relationships with their children.*

"Mothers as well as fathers are affected by the absence of marriage," the study states. "Single mothers on average report more conflict with and less monitoring of their children than do married mothers. ... But children's relationships with their fathers are at even greater risk. Sixty-five percent of young adults whose parents divorced had poor relationships with their fathers (compared to 29 percent from non-divorced families)."

■ *Cohabitation is not the functional equivalent of marriage.*

"As a group, cohabitators in the United States more closely resemble singles than married people," the report explains. "Children with cohabiting parents have outcomes more similar to the children living with single (or remarried) parents than children from intact marriages. ... Couples who live together also, on average, report relationships of lower quality than do married couples—with cohabitators reporting more conflict, more violence and lower levels of satisfaction and commitment."

■ *Growing up outside an intact marriage increases the likelihood that children will themselves divorce or become unwed parents.*

"Children whose parents divorce or fail to marry are more likely to become young unwed parents, to

□ See Researchers: Marriage ..., page 12

# BAPTISTS

## Andersen settles with Arizona investors

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

PHOENIX (ABP)—Investors in the bankrupt Baptist Foundation of Arizona will receive \$217 million from accounting firm Arthur Andersen under an out-of-court settlement announced March 1.

The settlement, the second largest ever paid by a "Big Five" accounting

firm, headed off a trial scheduled to begin March 4. A lawsuit filed by a BFA liquidating trust had alleged negligence and breach of fiduciary duty by Andersen in audits of BFA.

Similar allegations are being leveled against Andersen in the Enron investigation.

Andersen denied any wrongdoing in the settlement, which resolves a class-action lawsuit by investors, along with a civil suit and disciplinary proceedings by state regulators. Andersen officials said they settled the lawsuit in an effort to avoid a long, costly legal battle.

"This settlement is an important step in building confidence in our firm," the company said in a statement.

Sean Coffey, the lead lawyer representing the BFA trust, said the settlement is larger than normal in such cases and would put money in the hands of investors sooner instead of later.

The settlement requires Andersen to deposit the \$217 million by April 15 in an account controlled by the trust. After legal costs are deducted, the settlement will provide about \$185 million to investors, more than 32 percent of their losses. Another settlement being finalized with the BFA's former outside law firm would net another \$18.3 million.

Along with a court-ordered liquidation of foundation assets, investors eventually could regain about two-

thirds of their original investment. So far, investors have been paid about 8.5 cents on the dollar from investments frozen in a 1999 bankruptcy.

The collapse cost 13,000 investors about \$590 million. It is believed to be the largest non-profit bankruptcy in history.

Investors, many of whom are elderly and had retirement funds with the foundation, say they were led to believe their money would be used primarily to start new churches and support other Baptist ministries.

Only after it was too late to recover their money did many learn of speculative land deals that lost money when Arizona's real estate market crashed in the early 1990s.

Court documents alleged that foundation officers hid losses through a maze of subsidiary corporations, while continuing to solicit funds from new investors to pay off old accounts.

Meanwhile, the foundation's auditor, while continuing to issue clean audits, allegedly ignoring red flags, according to investigators. Andersen consistently has denied wrongdoing, saying its auditors also were victims of fraud.

Three former BFA executives have pleaded guilty to felony charges related to the alleged Ponzi scheme. Five others, including former foundation president William Crofts, have been indicted and are awaiting trial on charges of fraud, theft and racketeering.

## Chapman letter takes issue with Texas actions

NASHVILLE (BP)—Churches "are not possessions" of the Baptist General Convention of Texas or the Southern Baptist Convention, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman stated in response to recent actions by Texas Baptist leaders.

Chapman, in a March 1 letter to BGCT Executive Director Charles Wade, challenged views about a letter Chapman sent to Texas churches in January. His letter "was not written in a vacuum—it was a direct response to actions of the BGCT we strongly believe to be adverse to the interests of the SBC," he wrote.

"The churches in Texas apparently do not want the separation from the SBC that some BGCT leaders do," Chapman added. "They demonstrated by their giving choices last year that they intended to be supportive of world missions and ministries through the SBC. Judging by the options they chose, most apparently objected to the BGCT budget formula, which they, and we, judge to have anti-SBC features.

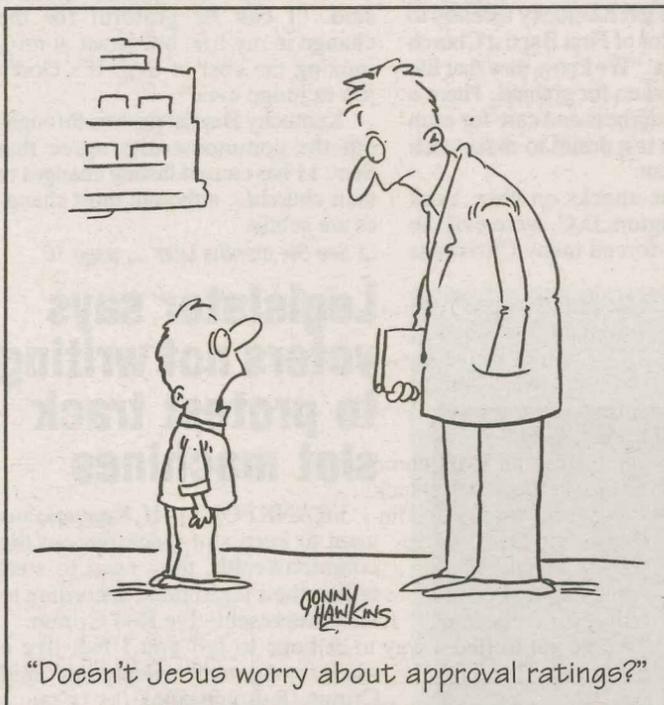
"No one can tell individual Southern Baptist churches how to give their money," Chapman acknowledged. He told Wade, however, that "we can encourage the churches in a particular direction, precisely as you do in the remittance form with the parenthetical statement: 'We encourage a contribution of at least 67 percent to the BGCT.'"

The BGCT Executive Board adopted a resolution Feb. 26 urging SBC leaders to "cease and desist from seeking to undermine the mission endeavors of state conventions in general and the Baptist General Convention of Texas in particular."

The board voiced "dismay and offense" at Chapman's January letter to "persuade Baptist churches in Texas to redirect Cooperative Program giving away from the BGCT budget."

The resolution noted that the BGCT forwarded \$36.5 million to SBC causes last year, which Wade said equals 46 percent of the BGCT's total receipts—"in spite of the distractions, in spite of a rebel convention siphoning off support from our cause." Wade admonished Chapman for not mentioning such BGCT giving levels in his January letter.

"Such an attack on the integrity of our Texas Baptist adopted budget was improper, mean-spirited and ungrateful," Wade told the board. "To add to the wrong, a four-color promotional piece was included in the letter touting the competing convention in Texas. And all this was paid for out of Cooperative Program funds which our own Texas Baptist churches had helped to give."



## BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Kentuckian on study committee.** Kentuckian James Hales, a member of Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, has been named to a nine-member Southern Baptist Convention funding study committee. Hales, a member of the SBC Executive Committee, was appointed by Executive Committee Chairman Bruce Coe. The committee is responsible for analyzing and evaluating SBC funding issues and presenting an initial report in September to Executive Committee members. The recommendation grew out of discussions about funding challenges facing the six SBC seminaries and other SBC entities. Bill Anderson of Clearwater, Fla., will chair the committee.

■ **Retired editor dies.** Guy Henderson, editor emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist, died March 7 of complications from heart surgery. Henderson and his wife, Lois, who survives, were missionaries 25 years in the Philippines and South Korea. He later worked as the Mississippi Baptist Convention's stewardship director and evangelism director before becoming editor of the state paper. He retired in 1996.

■ **Reccord to host Baptist Hour.** Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, has been named host of "The Baptist Hour" radio program. The program is produced by FamilyNet, NAMB's communications subsidiary. Reccord will succeed Mississippi pastor Frank Pollard, who is

retiring. The program, first aired in 1941, has featured Baptist preachers including M.E. Dodd, George Truett, W.A. Criswell and J.D. Grey. Reccord's first broadcast is scheduled Palm Sunday, March 24.

■ **CBF administrator resigns.** David Wilkinson, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's top communications officer, has stepped down to "pursue other ministry opportunities," officials said March 4. Wilkinson, coordinator for communications and marketing, has worked at the CBF's Atlanta headquarters since 1993. CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal said Wilkinson's resignation was voluntary but declined to discuss the reasons for the resignation. Others said conflict stemmed from philosophical differences with superiors over the CBF's communications strategy. "It is accurate to say I was not asked to resign nor was I dismissed," Wilkinson said. "I felt it was necessary to offer my resignation out of my own sense of personal and professional integrity." A veteran Baptist communicator, he previously was vice president for seminary relations at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **Truett dedicates facility.** George W. Truett Theological Seminary dedicated its new \$17 million facility Feb. 22. Nearly 1,000 people participated in the celebration on Baylor University's Waco, Texas, campus, where the seminary is located. Baylor Uni-

versity President Robert Sloan said the Truett name "was not chosen casually." Truett was the legendary pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas in the first half of the 20th century. "It is a name that stands for integrity, the preaching of the gospel, the authority of Scripture and freedom," Sloan said. Truett Seminary was founded in 1991 and began classes in 1994. The original student body of 51 has grown to 300. For its first seven years, the seminary held classes at First Baptist Church of Waco.

■ **Event targets youth leaders.** Re:Generation, a national conference for Southern Baptist youth leaders, will be held April 8-10 at The People's Church in Nashville. Featured speakers include Doug Fields, youth pastor at Saddleback Community Church and author of "The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry"; Ed Young Jr., senior pastor of Fellowship Church in Dallas; evangelist David Nasser; and Stuart Rothberg, teaching pastor of Sagemont Church in Houston. Worship leaders will include Christian recording artists Michael W. Smith, Delirious and Matt Redmon. The conference will feature workshops hosted by youth leaders from across the country, including evangelist Dawson McAllister. More information is available at [www.regeneration.org](http://www.regeneration.org) or by calling The People's Church at (615) 794-2812.

## IMB commissions 18 workers at Mid-Continent event

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

MAYFIELD—Eighteen international mission workers, including five career missionaries, were commissioned last week during the first-ever Southern Baptist International Mission Board commissioning service in Western Kentucky.

The March 7 event, held in conjunction with Mid-Continent College's annual Alumni Evangelism Conference, was hosted by Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield. More than 40 Mid-Continent students, including several international students, served as flag bearers during a flag processional representing mission fields around the world.

In addition to the career missionaries, the appointees included six Masters Program participants, five Journeymen and two International Service Corps workers. Masters Program workers are older adults who serve two to three years overseas, Journeymen are single college graduates who serve two years and ISC volunteers serve four to 24 months.

Justin Wood, a 2001 graduate of

Georgetown College, was among the Journeymen commissioned. Wood, a member of Siloam Baptist Church in Glasgow, will be involved in cultural research for unreached people groups in the Horn of Africa.

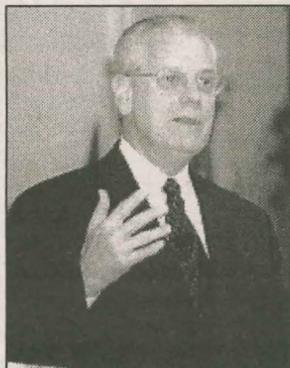
Other appointees will serve in Africa, Eastern Europe, South America, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. Ministry assignments range from church planting and education to state partnership coordination and administrative support.

"As I go, I pray that God will give you a heart also for the people of the world," Wood told the crowd. "Join us in sharing Christ with people who have no hope."

IMB President Jerry Rankin charged the missionaries to share the power of the gospel through an incarnational witness.

"If you're going to be that incarnational witness and people are going to see Jesus in you, you've got to spend time with people," he said. "What it's all about is relating to people, letting them see Jesus in you."

"You can't be that incarnational witness unless you spend time with the Lord," he added.



IMB President Jerry Rankin



**WORDS OF GRACE** Extravagant Grace, a women's ensemble from First Baptist Church of Clinton, sang during last week's Mid-Continent Alumni Evangelism Conference. The conference was held March 7 at Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield.

Even when suffering or conflict come, Rankin said, "I think our Father knows that may be your most effective testimony and witness. When you suffer, are they going to see the power of the Holy Spirit despite anything? That's when it becomes real."

Emphasizing that "there's a lost world that's waiting to hear about Jesus," Rankin invited participants to respond to a call to missions.

"God's mission and desire is that every nation would worship Him," he said. "I would defy any born-again child of God to say, 'I'm exempt from God's Great Commission task.'"

Following God's will "begins with that initial step of commitment and surrender," he added. "You can never know you're in the center of God's will until you come to that point of surrender and say, 'Wherever He leads, I'll go.'"

Hosting an IMB commissioning service in Western Kentucky has been a long-time dream of Mid-Continent Chancellor David Jester.

"It seemed in the heartland of America, we needed to have a reawakening of missions," Jester said. "We've got to find a way to call out the called. This might help do it."

## Mid-Continent's alumni conference touts practical ministry

MAYFIELD—Mid-Continent College, founded in 1949, launched its annual Alumni Evangelism Conference the following year. Fifty-two years later, the conference remains a major event on the school's annual calendar.

"Mid-Continent has been in business since 1949 and there's a lot to be done," President Robert Imhoff told this year's conference crowd. "The Lord has blessed us tremendously but we need to do more."

The school, based in Mayfield, is supported by 15 Baptist associations in Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee. Last week's conference, held March 7 at Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield, featured messages by a Mid-Continent administrator, a former trustee and a 1957 alumnus.

Larry Orange, director of Mid-Continent's center for bivocational ministries, described Christ's Great Commission as "the prescription that will cure the ills of our world."

He added, however, that "a prescription is no good if you don't take it and apply it."

Jesus gave His followers the power to fulfill His commission, Orange noted. He said that power is available through the presence, promise and person of Jesus Christ.

"He gave this power to His personnel," Orange said. "We're the ones who are to be going and sharing His love and telling others."

Don Mathis, an evangelist based in Whitehouse, Tenn., said the biblical perspective of Christians as sheep is reinforced by the description of Jesus

as the good shepherd.

"Since Jesus is the good, great shepherd, I don't mind being called a sheep," Mathis said. "He will take care of my battles for me."

Mathis, a former trustee and adjunct professor at Mid-Continent, said major needs in the world include overcoming guilt, facing the fear of death and finding a purpose in life.

"Jesus is the answer to our guilt complex," he said. "We're set free to live what the Bible calls the abundant life."

"Jesus is the answer to the death problem," he added. "In the Muslim world, the Hindu world, the communist world, the secular world, there is no answer out there. We have the answer; His name is Jesus."

Jesus also gives purpose to life, he

noted. "Whether you're the butcher, the baker or the undertaker, God has a plan for your life," Mathis affirmed. "You and I have the answer and His name is Jesus."

Mid-Continent alumnus A.W. Landis, an evangelist from Dongola, Ill., preached on "Jesus Christ: The Word of God."

"Jesus Christ is identified with the spoken Word, the written Word and the incarnate Word," he said. "I believe when you love Jesus, you love His Word; when you trust Jesus, you trust His Word; when you preach Jesus, you preach His Word."

"We're to preach the Word of God," he declared. "The greatest authority, preacher, you will ever have when you step in your pulpit is, 'Thus saith the Lord.'"

## Gambling opponents urged to write letters protesting slot machines

Continued from page 1

expect to see \$40 million from casino proceeds in the next fiscal year, according to Associated Press. He predicted the state would receive as much as \$142 million annually by 2004.

Opponents, however, said the slot machines and other casino-style gambling would cause considerable social harm to Kentucky's citizens and ultimately have a negative impact on Kentucky horse racing. Advocates have said casino gambling is needed to help preserve the commonwealth's horse industry.

Tim Kelly said he originally had no opinion about casino gambling until he worked on the 1999 nation-

al study of gambling commissioned by Congress, according to Associated Press.

Now, he said, he believes expanded gambling corrupts the political process, is a regressive tax and drains a region's social system. "Gambling destroys too many lives."

Beauman and Claude Witt, executive director for the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, said the expanded gambling proposal likely will be voted out of the committee because seven of the committee's members are sponsors.

They added that some observers doubt the proposal will pass the full

legislature during this session, but Beauman added that Kentuckians who oppose expanded gambling cannot afford to be quiet on the matter. "If our people don't stand up, we're going to lose this fight."

Crimm agreed. "You just can't take that chance."

Crimm said e-mails can be sent to state representatives or senators by inserting their name into the address: firstname.lastname@lrc.state.ky.us. Crimm's address, for example, is ron.crimm@lrc.state.ky.us.

Even if the issue fails during this session, Beauman noted, opponents must remain vigilant because gambling proponents will continue to work.

"They're going to keep pushing it, and we're going to have to get ready well in advance," he said.

Floyd Paris, chairman of the KBC Public Affairs Committee and pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, has mailed a letter to papers throughout the commonwealth urging state senators and representatives to oppose expanded gambling.

"The increased social costs of dealing with gambling addictions and squandered paychecks more than offsets any benefits," his letter states. "Our government should be engaged in activities that strengthen society, not weaken it as gambling unquestionably does."

## Kentucky CP giving increases, still below budget

LOUISVILLE—

Midway through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's current fiscal year, Cooperative Program receipts are 3.6 percent below budget.

On the positive side, strong giving in January and February helped reduce a 12.6 percent budget shortfall caused by lower-than-expected giving last September and December.

Total CP gifts for the first half of the 2001-2002 fiscal year stand at \$10.8 million, approximately \$80,000 below last year's gifts at the same time. The 3.6 percent shortfall is about \$400,000 under budget.

After the slow financial start through December, KBC leaders instructed Executive Board staff members to reduce non-fixed program costs such as travel and event expenses by up to 10 percent. While recent giving has reduced the gap between income and budget needs, Lowell Ashby said spending limits will remain in place until gifts exceed budget.

"I feel very good where we are after six months," said Ashby, leader of the KBC's business services team. "After a rough September and December, I was glad to see we were closer to last year's gifts after February rather than falling further behind."

Even with the positive shift in giving, "we knew all along that we weren't going to catch up in one or two months," he said. "It's going to be a series of steppingstones throughout the rest of the budget year."

"If we can stay close to last year's CP receipts and have steady giving in the last half of the year, we should find ourselves meeting budget or getting close to meeting budget."

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Reaching 'Jerusalem'

The Feb. 26 issue of the Western Recorder included a Baptist Forum letter from James Clark. The basics of his complaint was that churches spend way too much on ancillary missions (youth, children, music) and not enough on teaching and preaching.

His letter referred to an ad by a church with 230 in Sunday school who had a full-time minister of children and youth ministries. His comments about this church could not be more wrong. I should know. I am the chairman of the deacon body there, as well as the Sunday school director.

I understand that you were on your soapbox about what you perceive as a "convention" wrong. I agree that you are entitled to your opinion, but please leave my church out of your opinion—unless you are going to come visit us, which we would love.

Now, to the specifics, we are a small church. But we are not squandering our money on a minister for our children and youth. Quite the contrary, our youth and children's programs have grown since her arrival. Our pastor was actively involved with both groups; he was not relieved of that responsibility by the other minister.

You said we should "just teach, preach" and not worry about entertaining the youth. I can tell you firsthand that these programs bring kids and youth into the church where many are hearing the Word of God for the first time.

You might consider this babysitting, and at times it is. But it is babysitting with a mission: Reach the kids and then reach the parents. It works. We are not spending "millions on ourselves." We are reaching out to our nearest mission field.

Our church is reaching our Jerusalem as best we can, and it is not for

you or anyone else to say what staff we should have or how we define their duties—unless you plan to come join our church, in which case we would be happy to hear from you at our business meetings.

Charles Goodlet  
Rineyville

## Recreation ministry

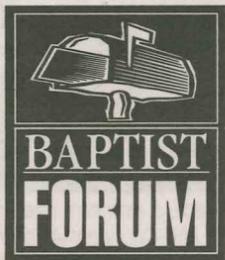
After receiving an undergraduate degree in church recreation from Baylor University and a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, am I to assume my calling as a minister of recreation with 11 years of experience should be re-evaluated according to James Clark?

The apostle Paul said, "I have become all things to all men that I might win some." Though the message of Jesus Christ never changes, we have been given wonderful new opportunities to share His message and that most certainly includes a recreation ministry.

Our church opened our "glitzy recreation building" as Clark would describe it, five years ago. However, contrary to his statement, we did not spend the money on ourselves. Our facility, open to the community at no charge, mainly is used by people who are not members of our church. From hospital cardiac rehab patients, juvenile homes, home school programs, Christian schools and even our local police department, we minister to our community.

As a minister who preaches, teaches Sunday school, officiates at weddings and funerals, visits hospitals and baptizes new Christians, I am far from being an "overseer." I am a minister of the gospel who has a God-given passion for recreation and through that am able to share the good news.

Many people in our community would not enter our church if it did



not include our Christian life center. Is it not better to invite them in regardless of which door they enter, be it the sanctuary or the gymnasium? Are we now supposed to put parameters on the avenues used to reach the lost?

I invite Clark to dust off the old ball glove or pump up that basketball and join the many across our convention who are preaching, teaching and baptizing through the ministry of recreation.

Andy Mays  
Erlanger

## Religious freedom

I deeply appreciate your Feb. 5 editorial, "Let faithful missionaries fulfill their call." Your article breeds freedom.

I have an independent Baptist background and came back to Southern Baptist Convention churches because of the inability of independents to educate, fellowship or love other believers.

I think that the witch hunt should be called off. The SBC is narrower now than a lot of the independents.

I love and respect the freedom to write a letter to the editor and feel good that I and others can do so. This is freedom.

I think that the SBC has been pressured from elements which do not reflect the highest and best, which I call religious freedom and an honest conscience before God.

I fear an article like you have written could cost you your job. It is very well thought out and has criticism of present leadership. I think your claims are justified. I respect your opinion and hope you can continue to examine issues.

In my opinion, this doctrinal situation has gone overboard. I believe in education and soundness of doctrine, but balance of power is not in the few but in the many.

David Fletcher  
Mayfield

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### The priority of evangelism

In January my son-in-law launched his ministry as singles minister at First Baptist Church of Indian Trail, N.C., a church in the Charlotte metropolitan area. The church has grown from an average attendance of about 150 people in the early 1980s to an average attendance of 1,600 in Sunday school and 1,800 in worship today. Obviously, this is significant growth even in a rapidly growing area with many other growing churches.

This growth did not occur without a focus on outreach and evangelism, however. One of the first items my son-in-law shared with me was his weekly progress report on his annual goals in faith development, witness, baptisms, attendance and discipleship. Every ministry in the church accepts responsibility for Kingdom growth.

A small evangelical denomination conducted a study of the schedule and traffic patterns of pastors in churches that had grown by 50 to 75 in average attendance. The discoveries included:

■ Pastors of growing churches spent 30 minutes more in prayer daily.

■ Pastors of growing churches spent more time with church leaders.

■ For pastors of growing churches, 20 percent of all personal interactions were with prospects.

The surprise of the study was that when pastors in similar churches followed this schedule, similar growth was experienced.

The outstanding Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference reminded us of the priority of sharing Jesus Christ with others. There

are so many wonderful tools to assist God's people. I am so grateful for Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, First Baptist Church of Paducah and Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green who have offered FAITH Sunday school evangelism clinics for pastors and leaders. Where FAITH has been implemented, previously unreached people have come to Christ and Sunday school



Bill Mackey

attendance has grown.

There are many other readily available tools for aiding churches in evangelism as well. There is "NET Evangelism" for churches not in FAITH and "FISH" for youth. LifeWay Christian Resources provides a resource called "Witnessing Without Fear." "Contagious Christianity" is an innovative approach from Willow Creek Church. Richard Jackson demonstrated at the Evangelism Conference how to use a marked New Testament he designed.

One novel approach involves using a dollar bill to share Christ with a person. You point out the eye above the pyramid and the inscription that states in Latin that the all-seeing eye of God is over this nation. Write on the bill, "The all-seeing eye of God is with (write the person's name)" and ask the individual to keep the bill as a reminder of your witness.

My goal is to share a witness every day. I pray that God will empower your church and lead you to set personal goals as a witness in order that every person might know Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

### Resist financial temptations that look like 'deals'

By Jeremy White

We instruct young people to

say no to certain temptations. Adults also should use wisdom when facing financial temptations disguised as "deals."



So-called "deals" to resist include:

■ **Leasing a car.** High implicit interest rates, usage restrictions, hidden charges and nothing to show for your payments at the end make leasing a poor choice for most people.

■ **Credit card cash advances.** Getting money quickly brings financial pain later. The interest rates are higher and start accruing faster than regular loans.

■ **Mortgage life insurance.** Offered typically at a loan closing, this insurance usually is far more expensive than term life insurance obtained elsewhere.

■ **Extended consumer warranties.** For a premium, you can buy extended coverage beyond the warranty for TVs and appliances. These coverages are very expensive as a percentage of the item's cost and rarely are needed.

■ **New purchases of time-share condominiums.** Purchasing a week or "points" for time-share weeks is an expensive way to vacation. Resale values typically are very low and annual maintenance fees are high. Consider a used time-share for pennies on the dollar.

■ **Home equity loans to purchase depreciating items.** Don't borrow against a valuable asset—your home—to buy boats, cars or computers that quickly decrease in value.

■ **Loaning your children money or advancing their allowance.** Do not train young children to begin borrowing early. Encourage them to save, not start a bad habit of credit.

■ **Business opportunities promising easy money.** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

■ **Consolidated loans.** Don't treat a symptom, but treat the problem of overspending. Consolidating all your loans in one place might provide temporary help but rarely provides long-term solutions.

■ **Investing while owing credit card debt.** Don't pay interest rates from 15 to 22 percent while taking risks to earn 10 to 12 percent in the stock market.

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

## Why is premarital counseling such a big deal for couples?

**Q: I recently asked my uncle, who is a pastor, if he would perform my upcoming wedding. He said he will not do so unless my fiancé and I have premarital counseling. What's the big deal?**

Good premarital preparation certainly is a big deal in a society where 40 to 50 percent of couples in first marriages divorce and where the divorce rate is even higher for second marriages. It's a big deal when the highest divorce rates in the world are in the Bible Belt. It's a big deal when resources are available that can give you and your fiancé a positive chance in a culture that works against long-term commitments.

Find a pastor, counselor or mentor in your community who is trained in such instruments as PREPARE-ENRICH or FOCUS/REFOCUS, both of which are highly reliable and provide the counselor an excellent "snapshot" of your relationship.

Such tools can help you affirm your strengths as a couple. The process also can help you discover the areas of needed growth in your relationship and gain tools to do so.

You also can gain practice in developing a budget and financial goals and begin to work toward long-term goals in personal, couple and family areas. These tools also will help you examine family of origin similarities and differences and help strengthen skills in communication and conflict resolution. All these issues are helpful to process before entering into the most important human covenant of your life.

Research also suggests that one of the benefits of building a relationship with a mentor or counselor in the premarital stage is the opportunity for a follow-up visit after six to 12 months of marriage. Some of the challenges of marriage will not be seen until you have been married for several months.

For information about counselors in your area who are trained in the instruments cited above, visit the Web sites [www.lifeinnovations.com](http://www.lifeinnovations.com) or [www.focussinc.com](http://www.focussinc.com).—James Stillwell

## Q: How can I communicate with a teenager who never wants to talk?

While strategies to encourage teenagers to talk might meet with varying degrees of success, it is safe to say that trying to force them into talking almost always leads to more silence. Let's be creative.

Moms, interrogation is not the answer. Dads, getting your feelings hurt and distancing doesn't help either. Remember that it is normal for communication to be somewhat different during this period where youth are morphing from the cocoon of childhood to the challenging world of adulthood. Trying to learn to fly is intimidating.

Don't expect them to talk on demand. Instead, be available at odd moments and realize that these might not correspond with your need for schedules and sleep. Remember that they often respond best without eye contact. Use the time when you are in the car to strategically dialogue with them about the things in which they are currently interested.

If you want them to have specific information, do what their friends do—write a note. It often works better than talking, especially if you don't ask about it. Be assured that a note that is sealed and left on a pillow will be read more than once.

A final tip: Who listens the most intently during a children's sermon in church? Hint: It's not the children! Allow teens to overhear conversations and utilize their natural curiosity to amplify things when they engage you in conversation.—Scott Wigginton

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



## Finding help & hope for hurting ministers

Where do hurting ministers turn for help? What about before a crisis erupts? What resources are available to help ministers avoid burnout, church conflict, moral failure or other ministry-mangling miseries?

Help is as close as the Kentucky Baptist Convention's minister/church relations department or LifeWay Christian Resource's LeaderCare ministry. The key is for pastors and other ministers to take advantage of preventive measures on a regular basis as well as crises intervention when needed.

During the recent annual meeting of the Association of State Baptist Papers, LeaderCare staff members led a series of workshops for state paper editors on the topic, "Caring for the Editor."

The three-day conference focused on such issues as "Biblical Foundations for God's Care of Persons," "Physical Dimensions of Wellness" and "Compassion Fatigue." It was refreshing and affirming to have pastoral care experts share insights about the significance of one's physical, emotional and spiritual health.

■ **Personal assessment.** LeaderCare retreat counselor Dallas Speight and his wife, Sheila, presented a "Personal Assessment for Peace and Fulfillment" that highlighted a series of eternal, internal and external factors for effective ministry.

Eternal principles included such disciplines as a consistent personal devotional life, prayer, corporate worship and witnessing. Internal principles addressed such issues as pure and wholesome thoughts, moral and responsible use of the Internet and effective financial stewardship. External principles included a stable marriage, spending quality time with family members and being an encourager as well as maintaining a regular exercise program, eating well-balanced meals and taking time off from work.

The Speights emphasized the ideal goal for a healthy Christian life is to have an appropriate balance among the eternal, internal and external factors in one's life.

■ **Compassion fatigue.** LeaderCare counselor Barney Self, a marital and family therapist, described compassion fatigue as "the fatigue we experience physically, psychologically, emotionally, sexually, intellectually and spiritually as a result of being a caregiver." He said compassion fatigue, related to burnout, was identified among many emergency rescue workers and other caregivers in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Warning that ministers are particularly susceptible to compassion fatigue, he said it is "fueled by the natural demand of the profession to care deeply and to hear the horror, pain and trauma in the lives of others."

Self said symptoms can range from exhaustion, sleep difficulties and headaches to irritability, anxiety and depression as well as poor work performance and inability to concentrate on relationships.

Noting that self-awareness is the key element in effectively addressing compassion fatigue, Self said "replenishers" include such disciplines as a healthy diet, exercise, positive hobbies, spiritual growth and accountability.

■ **Wounded ministers.** Despite the availability of positive preventive measures, hundreds of ministers each year find themselves in the midst of church conflict for a variety of reasons. Many are fired from their ministry positions while others resign under pressure.

That's where LeaderCare's Wounded Ministers retreats come in. The Speights, who experienced a forced

termination several years ago in their ministry, lead a series of retreats each year for ministers and spouses. One of the key purposes of each retreat is to "provide a safe and confidential environment for ministers and spouses to experience hope and healing."

LifeWay offers the five-day retreat free of charge to Southern Baptist ministers and spouses who qualify. It is designed for "individuals experiencing emotional and spiritual pain" caused by such issues as "church conflict, conflict with staff, marital problems, depression, stress, burnout, immorality, infidelity, pornography or other sources of addiction."

In addition to LeaderCare resources, similar ministries are available on the state convention level. Guy Futral, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team, coordinates two Ministers in Transition retreats each year. His office also works with the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's 22 Cornerstone Counseling Centers throughout the state to provide counseling for ministers and their families.

On the crisis prevention front, the KBC's leadership development team provides the annual Shepherd conference, described as a "renewal experience for pastors and spouses," as well as the Joshua Project, a five-day leadership development program.

■ **Ministers in transition.** The weekend Ministers in Transition retreats in Kentucky are designed for ministers who have been terminated, resigned or are in the midst of severe church conflict.

Futral said the retreats, also provided at no cost to participants, are a valuable time for ministers and spouses "to sort out the issues they are dealing with and find support and a renewed sense of their calling." He said ministry couples typically "gain valuable insight into their ministry style, their personal relationships and often discover ways they will do things differently in the future."

Individuals who attend such conferences as Wounded Ministers or Ministers in Transition "are far less likely to have a repeat situation," Futral said.

Without intervention and support, however, "the pattern in terminations is that they do repeat on the part of the minister as well as on the part of the church," he added. "To the extent that we interrupt the pattern, it becomes both a redemptive process and a preventive process."

For those who have been terminated or who face major conflict in their current ministry settings, this year's Ministers in Transition retreats will be April 19-21 and Oct. 4-6. Individuals interested in more information can contact Futral at (502) 254-4733, toll-free at (888) 254-5702 or by e-mail, [Guy.Futral@kybaptist.org](mailto:Guy.Futral@kybaptist.org).

Information about Wounded Ministers retreats is available from the Speights at (615) 251-2843. LifeWay also provides a confidential, toll-free LeaderCare hotline for ministers and families at (888) 789-1911.

Whether it's a matter of preventive measures to help strengthen a minister's current ministry efforts or intervention to help pick up the pieces of a shattered ministry dream, help is available. The starting point is for ministers to recognize their personal and professional needs and be willing to use the valuable resources that are readily available.

The tragedy, Futral pointed out, is that "so often the people who need it most fail to come." Kentucky Baptist ministers, don't let that be true in your life and ministry.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Churches honored for baptisms

LOUISVILLE—The following churches recently were honored for leading Kentucky Baptists in baptisms during 2000:

- Calvary Baptist Church of Manchester; 29 baptisms, top per capita for churches averaging fewer than 100 people in worship.
- Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Louisville; 43 people baptized, most among churches averaging fewer than 100 people in worship.
- Cloverport Baptist Church in Cloverport; 54 baptisms, top per capita for churches averaging 101-200 people in worship.
- Crescent Springs Baptist Church in Crescent Springs; 90 baptisms, most for churches averaging 101-200 people in worship.
- South Jefferson Street Baptist Church in Louisville; 62 baptisms, top per capita for churches averaging 201-300 people in worship.
- Crossroads—The Church at Logan—Russellville; 65 baptisms, most among churches averaging 201-300 people in worship.
- Ninth and O Baptist Church of Louisville; 64 baptisms, top per capita for churches averaging 301-500 people in worship.
- First Baptist Church of Henderson; 77 baptisms, most among churches averaging 301-500 people in worship.
- Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield; 102 baptisms, top per capita for churches averaging more than 500 people in worship.
- Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green; 334 baptisms, most among churches averaging more than 500 people in worship.
- Highview Baptist Church of Louisville; 174 baptisms, second highest among churches averaging more than 500 people in worship.

## Speaker: Golf balls & blank signs can help share Jesus

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Signs, golf balls and creative conversations are among the ways Emerson Wiles shares his Christian faith with other people.

Wiles, pastor of Mililani Baptist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, said he has realized he doesn't need to ask God for opportunities to share his faith with other people. He said God already does that for all Christians.

"I know I've got to be intentional in evangelism," he said during the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference in Louisville.

During a conference workshop, Wiles shared a multitude of creative ways he's shared the Christian message with people he comes into contact with.

Wiles, who worked for Oscar Meyer before he became a pastor, seeks to intrigue a person with the gospel rather than condemn. "We've got to get as smart as the world," he said. "We've got a better message than they do."

Considering himself a "fisher of men," Wiles said churches take the wrong attitude when they sit in their sanctuaries waiting on non-Christians to come to them. "Fishing is smelly



**INNOVATIVE WITNESS** Emerson Wiles, a Georgia native who now is a pastor in Hawaii, shares creative ways to share the message of Jesus. Wiles was among the speakers at the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference.

business, and we want the fish filleted and fried and put on a plate in front of us."

For 17 years, Wiles has gone to Mardi Gras in New Orleans to witness about his relationship with God through Jesus. But he doesn't wield a bullhorn, shouting "Turn or burn!"

"I wouldn't even listen to that stuff," he said.

Years ago, he and his friends used a 10-foot-tall cross to attract attention, but he realized people either love or hate what it stands for. "We spent more time arguing than we did witnessing."

These days, Wiles prefers to spark people's curiosity. His approach is as

low-key as holding a blank sign in the middle of Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Ask him why he's holding a blank sign and his first reply might be a joke to keep the conversation relaxed: "All I had was white paint."

Pressed for the meaning of a blank sign, and he'll say, "I just wanted people to know this is what my life was like before Jesus."

"They'll listen to me because I make them come to me," Wiles noted.

Wiles said he attracts conversations using a variety of signs with intriguing statements ("Body Piercing Saved My Life") or acronyms ("GOLF," which stands for "God Offers Love and Forgiveness").

"They initiate it," he said. "People are curious."

Other outreach ideas he offered at the conference include:

■ **Marked golf balls.** Wiles writes sayings and Scripture references on the balls he uses every Friday on his day off to play golf. Markings have included: "I found it, Ephesians 1:7," "Lifetime guarantee, John 6:47," "Get focus, 1 Peter 3:15" and "Hell is truth realized too late."

■ **Talking to telemarketers.** Rather than getting angry when salespeople call, Wiles said he offers to listen to

their pitch if they'll listen to him when they're done. "I have led people to the Lord over the telephone."

Wiles said such an approach is a win-win proposition for Christians. "You're either going to lead someone to the Lord, or they're going to say, 'This person's a nut' and mark your name off the list and never call you again."

■ **Creative conversations.** Talking with other golfers on the course, Wiles said, people often change their attitude toward him when they learn he's a minister. "When I tell them I'm a preacher, a wall goes up, and anything I say they know I'm paid to say."

He said that sometimes, when people ask what he does, he'll reply that he researches old manuscripts and lectures on them about five times each week. Other times he'll say he works for a philanthropist and "I give stuff away." Such answers give him time to have better conversations and witnessing opportunities before they learn he's a pastor.

Wiles admitted that many of his techniques are best suited for extroverts, but he added it's not hard to start a conversation about spiritual matters. "Especially in Hawaii, people are just open. They're hungry, they're looking for something."

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## Vacation witness

*Missionary offers out-of-this-world experience to Orlando visitors*

By Joe Westbury  
SBC North American Mission Board

ORLANDO—Forty million tourists annually flock to Orlando to be entertained to their hearts' content. If Marc and Sandra Johnston have their way, a growing number will return home with changed hearts.

Johnston serves as resort ministries director for Greater Orlando Baptist Association. He and Sandra are among the missionaries whose work is being promoted for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Each year the Johnstons recruit up to 20 college-age youth to serve on creative arts and other ministry teams throughout Central Florida, sharing their faith as they provide entertainment and ministry.

If there's an empty section of sidewalk, chances are the students will stake it out and transform it into their stage.

"You name it, our creative arts team does it," Johnston says with an upbeat optimism for the upcoming tourist season. When it comes to variety, he works to be sure his audiences are never bored and enjoy every performance.

Musicians. Vocalists. Puppeteers. Jugglers. Choreographers. There's even a fire-eater on staff to mesmerize the audiences with flames he quenches before their eyes.

"We've learned that we can reach a lot of people through non-traditional methods," Johnston says. And the more non-traditional, the better, in the land of Shamu, the Killer Whale, Mickey and Minnie, and (King) Kongfrontation.



"Last year we reported 200 professions of faith through all of our ministries, and we've had an increase for each of the last five years. Nearly 130 of those occurred during the busy summer tourist season.

"We use a variety of ways to tell the gospel story and to present it in a different light so people will understand it easier than through a traditional sermon approach."

The scene at Church Street Station in downtown Orlando says it all.

This major tourist destination attracts thousands each night, with larger crowds on weekends. Unofficially known as Party Central, it's where you go to see and be seen. Johnston has gained permission to allow the team to perform outside the massive complex as people wait to enter.

On this balmy summer evening, the crowd is attracted to David Hicks, a two-year volunteer missionary from Alabama, as he performs a juggling act. Then the program takes a slightly more serious direction as local volunteer Peter O'Driscoll presents the gospel using fluorescent paint.

The glowing colors fascinate the crowd as they listen to a fresh presentation of a story as old as the ages. Before they know it, many people who would not sit through a sermon have heard how to become a Christian.

The schedule for the creative arts team, popular with tourists, is not for the faint-hearted. The team regularly performs in seven different locations Tuesday through Friday with a larger program featuring the knife-apple-torch juggler on Saturday evenings.

On Sundays they split up into praise teams and help lead in worship services at a local resort hotel and in small churches.

But resort ministries is more than just creative arts. Johnston also uses up to 30 student volunteers in a variety of ways away from the performance mode.

■ He supervises a program of nearly 30 Kids Clubs at area hotel swimming pools, reaching up to 400 children a week in a setting similar to the backyard Bible club many churches host. By reaching the children, opportunities arise to minister to their parents.

■ For the last three years he has piloted a program where students are employed at hotels, giving them an opportunity to provide complimentary chaplaincy services to other employees with whom they work. Many times that relationship also opens doors to beginning a Kids Club on the property.

■ He helps students secure jobs as swimming pool monitors at manufactured housing communities.

■ He coordinates eight weeks of day camps. With 50 percent of the Central Florida population, residing in multihousing settings, many of the camps are held in apartments and manufactured housing communities which proliferate in the area.

"A lot of what we do through these ministries is relationship building," Mrs. Johnston explains, "whether that be with adults or children."

"We can get a lot more accomplished through getting to personally know someone and meeting their spiritual and other needs than standing around at venues and passing out tracts. Once we have genuinely befriended someone, we feel we have earned the right to share our faith; that opens many doors to give a solid gospel presentation."

Johnston says the approach is a win-win for the student missionaries as well as the community.

The community feels it is getting a quality product and employers frequently ask for more workers the next summer; the students are "stretched out of their comfort zone and learn to minister in a variety of settings to people from a variety of cultures. It really helps them to grow in their faith, gives them a chance to hone their faith-sharing skills, and return home as a better witness."

But the couple's biggest problem is finding enough volunteers to meet the demands.

"I had an apartment manager who called me recently and was begging me for some students to provide ministries at her complex, but I had to say 'No.' I'm beginning to have to say that a lot these days."

He said he's praying that more students—Sojourners, summer missionaries, Innovators or church mission youth groups, as well as adults who will help in other ministries—will be willing to walk through those doors. "The doors are wide open for year-round ministry down here."

**WORSHIP** Marc Johnston talks with a tourist after a worship service at an Orlando-area resort, just one of the outreach efforts he participates in as resort ministries director for Greater Orlando Baptist Association.

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# WORSHIP

## Creative ministries

LOUISVILLE—More than 1,600 people from 135 churches attended the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention creative ministries festival, March 1-2 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

In addition to performances by many groups, the conference featured more than 70 workshops on clowning, dance, mime, missions trip planning, drama and puppets.

Those pictured (clockwise from right):

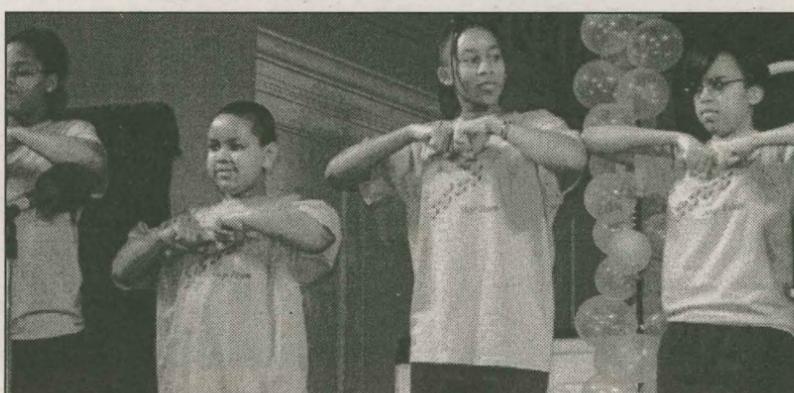
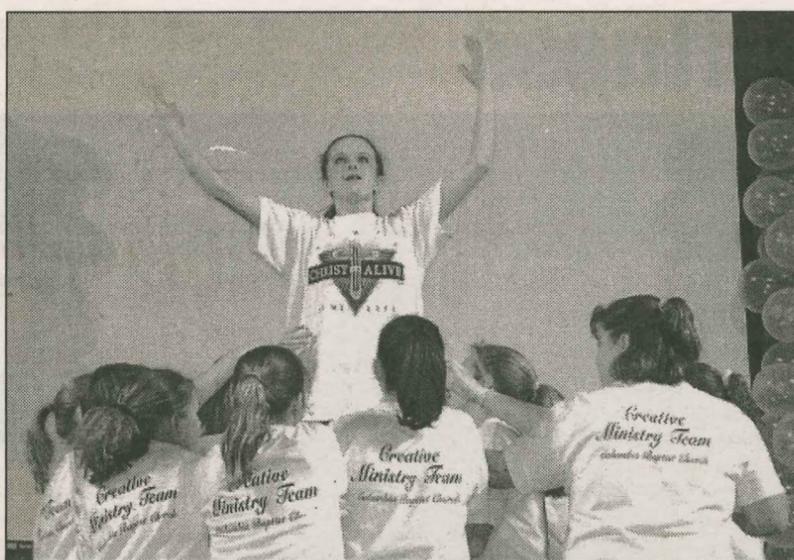
■ The creative ministries team of Columbia Baptist Church performs an interpretive movement.

■ The Beautiful Feet dance ministry of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green took the stage one night and also taught several workshops. Beautiful Feet includes Leslie Jennings, Lisa Archer, Tammy Jennings, Dana Caudill, Sally Tooley and Lori Brooks.

■ Action Ministries, a Franklin, Tenn.-based mime troupe, performs. Group leaders Jory and Tess Rolf also led three mime workshops.

■ The Step Team of Forest Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville introduces the crowd to step dancing. The steppers created their own music though a complicated routine of coordinated stepping, stomping and clapping.

■ Paula Haynes from Clarkson Baptist Church shares her message. (Photos by Brian Combs)



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## Graham: Remarks don't represent feelings toward Jewish Americans

DALLAS (RNS)—Evangelist Billy Graham issued a written apology March 1 for statements about a Jewish "stranglehold" on the American media that he reportedly made to President Richard Nixon in a taped White House discussion in 1972.

"Although I have no memory of the occasion, I deeply regret comments I apparently made in an Oval Office conversation with President Nixon and Mr. (H.R.) Haldeman some 30 years ago," Graham said in the statement. "They do not reflect my views, and I sincerely apologize for any offense caused by the remarks."

The Chicago Tribune, reporting on recordings released recently by the National Archives, quoted Graham's comments.

"This stranglehold has got to be broken or the country's going down the drain," the evangelist told Nixon.

Graham, 83, also said he had Jewish friends in the media who "swarm around me and are friendly to me" but "they don't know how I really feel about what they're doing to this country."

Nixon said on the tape that he agreed with Graham and the evangelist added, "If you get elected a second time, then we might be able to do something."

In the statement issued by his Texas-based public relations firm, Graham said he supports interfaith relations.

"Throughout my ministry I have sought to build bridges between Jews and Christians," the evangelist said. "I will continue to strongly support all future efforts to advance understanding and mutual respect between our communities."

The national director of the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organization that has fought anti-Semitism since 1913, expressed shock at the revelations about Graham.

"Rev. Graham's assertion that Jews had a 'stranglehold' on the country and that a second Nixon administration 'might be able to do something' is chilling and frightening, even today, 30 years after the statements were made," Abraham H. Foxman said.

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said Graham's comments were "jarringly dissimilar from the man we know as Billy Graham, even from remarks made 30 years ago."

Land suggested that Graham might have "succumbed to the aura of the Oval Office and the presidency. He wouldn't have been the first to have done that."

With additional reporting by Dwayne Hastings for Baptist Press

## Seminar looks at pastors' pay: Wow or woe?

By Shannon Baker  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Most ministers' salary "packages" create a false impression of how much money ministers really take home, said Richard Skidmore.

Thus it is imperative that ministers and churches plan correctly on compensation matters, Skidmore, a Tennessee Baptist Convention church ministers' financial support specialist, told future ministers at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Skidmore, a Kentucky native, was one of the featured speakers for this year's Life Beyond Seminary emphasis Feb. 19-21 at the seminary.

Describing the church layman's understanding of a minister's salary, Skidmore said that when John Q. Church Member sees an annual line item of \$35,000 for the minister's salary, for example, the inclination is to compare that salary to someone who works in the secular arena, such as Wal-Mart or Saturn.

But closer examination finds that the comparison isn't fair for ministers, Skidmore said.

"Do you pay for your benefits out of your salary?" the secular employee is asked, to which the typical answer is no. In fact, the benefits—medical insurance, retirement and other fringe benefits—are added to the baseline salary, thereby increasing the amount, he explained.

In comparison, typically deduct-

ed from the minister's published salary of \$35,000 is medical insurance, housing, job-related expenses, and if the church agrees, disability and life insurance and retirement.

Because the minister is considered self-employed for Social Security tax purposes, the minister also must pay the employer's portion and his portion of the Social Security tax, which amounts to around 15 percent of his compensation, Skidmore said.

"So, the salary of the minister, when you count out everything else, is actually closer to \$20,000 or less," Skidmore said. "When John Q. Church Member sees \$35,000 published, he's seeing the entire package, not just the take home salary."

"The salary package may look like a 'Wow!' but it can really be a 'Woe!'" Skidmore said.

Additionally, the minister's published salary also might include line items for such expenses as books, conference fees and use of the minister's personal car. "That expense belongs to the church, not to the individual," Skidmore said.

Consider how the church secretary would feel if the cost of leasing or owning the desktop computer was deducted from her paycheck, Skidmore suggested.

"That's exactly what we do when we expect our ministers to use their own automobiles for visitation and other church-related travel," he said. "Often, ministers are given a published salary, which includes expense money that is subtracted from

their total earnings rather than added to it."

Skidmore added that some ministers pay taxes they do not owe because of the way their churches set up the payment of medical insurance benefits.

"If the church pays the premium directly to the insurance company, the benefit is not reportable for tax purposes," Skidmore explained. But if ministers are given the money in their salary package to pay the premiums on their own, then it becomes taxable income and the ministers have to pay taxes on that amount, he said.

"It's important to always check with your state convention representative who handles compensation and tax issues to be sure that you are not paying more than you need to pay," Skidmore advised.

Other advice Skidmore gave to students included:

■ *Buy medical insurance from a national company, which would be easily transferable in cases of moving.* "Rates may vary from local companies to national ones," he said, "but over time, the cost will level off."

■ *When buying insurance, be sure to compare the same benefits with each company.* With smaller premiums, for example, a minister might be paying for a \$2,000 deductible, rather than a \$200 one, Skidmore said.

■ *Base life insurance needs on salary—at least twice one's salary—instead of buying flat amounts.* "Your life insurance grows with you as your salary grows, and your premium is adjusted accordingly."

## Judge OKs Commandments if with other monuments

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (RNS)—A district judge has ruled that an Indiana city can keep its Ten Commandments monument at city hall if it adds four other historical monuments nearby.

The city of Elkhart had recommended adding the four markers next to the monument to resolve a dispute of more than three years, Associated Press reported.

The Indiana Civil Liberties Union had sued to get the monument removed and an appeals court ruled that its current display violated the Constitution's Establishment Clause.

U.S. District Judge Allen Sharp,

whose original decision in the case was overturned by the appeals court, ruled March 11 in favor of the city.

The Ten Commandments monument was given to the city in 1958 by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. City officials suggested adding memorials for four other documents that were considered influential in the country's legal system—the Bill of Rights, the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Magna Carta.

Mayor Dave Miller said he hopes to pay for the additional monuments with private contributions.

Ken Falk, an attorney with the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, said his

group opposed the remedy.

Francis J. Manion, a lawyer who represented the city of Elkhart, cheered the judge's decision.

"We are pleased that the court has concluded that Elkhart's proposed display passes constitutional muster," said Manion, senior counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, in a statement. "The Ten Commandments are clearly an important foundation of our legal system, and nothing in our Constitution prohibits government from acknowledging that fact."

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the Elkhart case in May 2001, leaving Sharp to resolve the matter.

## Survey: U.S. & Islamic nations share mutually negative feelings

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Two polls released in early March have revealed stark differences and mutually negative feelings between Americans and people living in predominantly Islamic countries.

Ten thousand people in nine Islamic countries, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan and Jordan, participated in the Gallup Poll of the Islamic world. In all nine countries, a majority reported feeling that Western nations do not care about poor countries, treat minorities unfairly and have weak morality and meager family values.

The poll also found a widespread perception that Western nations do not respect Arab/Islamic values and are generally unfair to the Arab/Is-

lamic world.

More than 60 percent of participants in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Pakistan and Iran reported unfavorable views of the United States specifically, and a majority in five of the nine countries also said that the United States is "provoked easily."

A second poll, also conducted by Gallup in conjunction with CNN and USA Today, found that Americans have more unfavorable than favorable opinions of Muslim countries. Twenty-four percent of the 863 participants in the U.S. poll report a favorable opinion of Muslim countries in general, while 41 percent report an unfavorable view.

Seventy-one percent of American respondents said that they be-

lieve the Muslim world considers itself to be at war with the United States, and 63 percent believe the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan is justified. At the same time, more than 80 percent of Pakistani and Kuwaiti respondents and a majority of Iranian and Lebanese respondents said they believe that groups of Arabs did not carry out the Sept. 11 attacks.

There are some positive findings in the poll data. Residents of Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Kuwait expressed admiration for the West's democratic freedoms, respect for human values and system of rights. And American respondents expressed generally favorable opinions of Turkey, Morocco and Jordan.

### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod** will embark on an ambitious \$100 million program designed to bring the Christian message to 100 million people in 15 years. The 2.6 million-member denomination will work to create partnerships with groups like Lutheran World Relief, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the International Lutheran Laymen's League. Organizers also plan to start at least 5,000 congregations and mission stations around the world and double its number of full- and part-time missionaries.

■ **Conservatives in the Presbyterian Church (USA)**, dismayed by a perceived liberal drift in the church's national leadership, say they will not leave the church but instead fight to reform it from within. The fledgling Confessing Church Movement held its first national gathering Feb. 24-27 in Atlanta. Nearly 800 pastors and lay leaders attended. Speakers at the conference lambasted the church's Louisville leadership, saying it has abandoned the historic Christian faith and embraced such practices as homosexuality.

■ **Hundreds of Army chaplains** jointly crafted a stained glass window March 5 in memory of victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. About 400 chaplains and chaplain assistants, meeting for a training seminar in Hilton Head, S.C., helped create the pentagon-shaped window that features an American bald eagle, the U.S. flag, a picture of the Pentagon building and the date of the attack. The words "United in Memory" appear in the amber glass and 184 crimson pieces circling the design symbolize the military and civilian personnel who died at the site.

## Six months later, Kentucky churches still feeling Sept. 11

**"This has opened people up to talk about their hunger for God and ways they take their relationship with God into daily life, to apply it on more than Sunday."**

*Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown*

*Continued from page 1*

Many churches saw attendance fluctuations, with sanctuaries that filled to capacity in September now settled back to pre-attack levels. But changes linger, including:

■ **Conversions and more awareness of the seriousness of faith.** Burlington Baptist Church baptized 15 converts in five months after the attacks. Unlike many Kentucky Baptist churches, it has sustained a 10 percent increase in attendance, largely because of young adults joining the church.

"I think Sept. 11 heightened awareness for the need to lean on God," said Pastor Terry Wilder.

John Walsh has seen the same phenomenon at Olivet Baptist Church in Herndon. Located near Fort Campbell, the church's Sunday attendance is about 20 percent higher since Sept. 11.

"Perhaps some of the military has been more receptive to looking for a church," Pastor Walsh said. "We've taken advantage of opportunities presented us. I think God put us in a place to be home and family for people who are away from home and on a dangerous mission."

■ **Increased prayer activity.** Members of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown have started a special prayer board for military personnel, encouraging participants also to write them notes. Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, said he saw several churches start prayer meetings last fall that continue today.

Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville already had begun a prayer emphasis, but Pastor Bob Long said Sept. 11 showed that life is fragile: "It reinforced that we need to be more of a people committed to prayer."

■ **More spiritual seeking.** One example is an "Experiencing God" weekend Feb. 8-10 at Severns Valley Church. With 375 people attending, it became the largest spiritual retreat ever held there.

"This has opened people up to talk about their hunger for God and ways they take their relationship with God into daily life, to apply it on more than Sunday," Pastor Billy Compton said.

As evidence, he points to a special November recognition service the church hosted for law enforcement, fire department and emergency services personnel.

■ **Increased appreciation for God and country.** Kevin McCallon said he's seen more such fervor among young people in Paducah and in the community, which recently held a patriotic-flavored "seniors night" at a high school basketball game.

"That is something our younger generation hadn't seen until recently," said McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah. "I think our society needed a correction."

■ **More awareness of other Christians' suffering.** "For decades, American Christians have been untouched by the kind of treachery and tragedy others have



**GOD AND COUNTRY** A color guard displays the U.S. and Kentucky flags during a city-wide prayer service in Bowling Green sponsored by Hillvue Heights Church shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Kentucky pastors say the tragedies six months ago made many people more spiritually sensitive.

faced around the world," said Loscalzo. "I taught in Russia in the 1990s and because of what they had faced, there wasn't a Sunday they took being able to worship for granted. Every Sunday brought the possibility of being arrested, caught or harassed."

Despite some positive results, debate remains over whether churches missed their opportunity to affect the culture in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

Late last year, two major polling organizations, Barna Research Group and Gallup Organization, found little evidence of a significant change in church attendance or religious attachments.

George Barna was the most critical, stating that while millions sought stability and meaning from the church, they found nothing sufficiently beneficial to warrant deeper spiritual involvement.

"Our assessment is that churches succeeded at putting on a friendly face but failed at motivating the vast majority of spiritual explorers to connect with Christ in a more intimate or intense manner," Barna said.

But the editor in chief of the Gallup Poll offered an opposite view.

"It looks like people were treating this like a bereavement," said Frank Newport. "A shorter-term funeral kind of thing, where they went to church or synagogue to grieve."

Many Kentucky Baptist pastors agree with Newport.

"I don't think the church is responsible for the culture's actions," said Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. "I agree that this was treated like a funeral. For our nation, the stock market leveling off was more of a comfort than prayer."

Though others expressed similar views, Stancil said Barna's critique shouldn't be discounted.

While there was some "foxhole religion" response to Sept. 11, the

church still needs to treat the attacks as a wake-up call, Stancil said.

Much of what goes on in churches week to week doesn't have a strong aspect of reaching people in our culture, he added.

"If we had a community of faith ready to receive people in large

numbers, we would have kept more than we did," Stancil said. "(Our church) is trying to build a small-group culture where people of a secular world view will feel more accepted. I think if we create an atmosphere where pre-Christian people feel welcome, they will come."

### God's beautiful creation

The dawn of March 6 was the kind of magnificent morning that an artist might design.

The air was calm, the sky was pink from the early sun and perfectly cloudless. As I walked the grounds at Jonathan Creek, the lake was still. Not even a ripple. It was a gorgeous beginning to a new day, a gift from God that I was enjoying by myself as I got my early morning exercise.

The birds were everywhere. Early in my walk I saw a few bluebirds, males with deep blue colorings and females not far behind. A cardinal came close and landed on a limb, not far from eye level. It was as if he was checking me out. I was walking steadily, but I paused to watch the cardinal. There were four killdeer, two of which circled loudly above me as I continued my walk.

Then I looked ahead and not far from me stood a beautiful bald eagle enjoying a morning breakfast of a fish of some kind. The huge bird watched me, and when I stopped walking the bird gracefully took to the air and flew out to a sandbar in the lake about 30 yards from shore. What a sight. I get all excited about sightings

such as this, and this bald eagle was only the second I had seen on our property during the last four and a half years.

I was reminded of the wonders of God's creation and beauty of Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, both of which have been given to us by God for the purpose of our enjoyment and fellowship with Him.

I know we frequently get compared to hotels and motels. And I know that properties like Hampton Inns and Courtyards have amenities that we don't have. But I also know that you're not going to experience a bald eagle or a wild turkey or deer grazing at any hotel or motel that I know of in this part of the country.

And that to me is part of experiencing God!

So come see us, retreat with us. Spend the night, then get up early and take a stroll around either place. God will likely show you the wonders of His creation in new ways as He reveals His work in a wondrous manner. It was a great start to a great day.

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

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

# SMILE

## Boys and girls

Recently you have heard about the new season of change that has begun at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Responding to the changing needs of children and families, we are seeking to use the resources God has given us in the way that honors Him and provides best for those who come to us for help. That statement describes the goal and mission of KBHC for all those who have come before us. The only difference is the way in which we carry out that mission.

One way we have responded is by investigating the best use of our two largest properties which currently house Glen Dale and Spring Meadows. As we have said, any investigation that may result in changes to those programs is months, perhaps years away. In the meantime, we continue to look at our current programs and ask what changes we can make to provide the safest, healthiest environment for our children and teenagers. In response to that question, we made a recent transition at Spring Meadows and Glen Dale. Previously, these campuses served both boys and girls. Now Spring Meadows is a program exclusively for boys and Glen Dale

is a program exclusively for girls. Moving children who already have experienced more transitions than most of us deal with in a lifetime is a decision we do not take lightly. But, it was the right thing to do. We want to specialize our programs, and part of specialization is to make decisions such as the one we have made at Spring Meadows and Glen Dale.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

I know this affects those of you who provide in-kind donations to our programs, so here is a review of our residential programs and who they serve: Genesis Home in Mayfield, KBHC Dixon Center in Dixon, KBHC Morehead Center in Morehead and Glen Dale Children's Home in Glendale all serve girls. The Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown, the Wilderness Program in Bronston and Spring Meadows Children's Home in Louisville all serve boys.

If you have questions about our programs and their needs, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for changing with us.

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

## Serving in Haiti

By Robert Dunston

Two Cumberland College juniors spent part of their Christmas break ministering in a Haiti orphanage. Paige Kolok, daughter of William and Joan Kolok of Owensboro, and Jennifer Wendt, daughter of Ken and Carrie Wendt of Livoni, Mich., provided supplies and help and experienced the world's need firsthand.

Wendt has been involved with the orphanage through her home church for more than a year. Kolok and Wendt traveled with members of Wendt's church to deliver baby formula, over-the-counter medicines, diapers, bottles, clothes, shoes, child-sized chairs, toys and other items to the orphanage.

Just before they left, they learned the orphanage was in desperate straits. Rising costs and decreasing donations after the Sept. 11 tragedy had created a crisis at the orphanage. The only way to stay open seemed to be to return 30 of the children to their families; families who could not or would not care for them.

Rather than return the children, the orphanage staff took a voluntary pay cut from \$100 a month to \$50 a month. The church group brought

a gift of cash, which helped the orphanage care for all the children. When the group left, they emptied their pockets, leaving all their money with the orphanage.

In speaking of the experience, Wendt said, "It takes so little to make them happy. They have so little and are so satisfied, and we have so much and can't seem to be satisfied. It helps us to examine ourselves."

Kolok added, "Over there when you have to depend on God, not just to take care of your needs but the needs of 90 children, God is not put on the back burner. Back here other things take over. 'Blessed are the poor' comes into play there. They know what it means to rely completely on God."

Both students encouraged everyone to pray, not just for the orphanage in Haiti but for the nation itself. Kolok plans to return to the orphanage this summer as a summer missionary so she can continue to minister to the children there.

We thank Wendt and Kolok for their compassion and service.

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

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

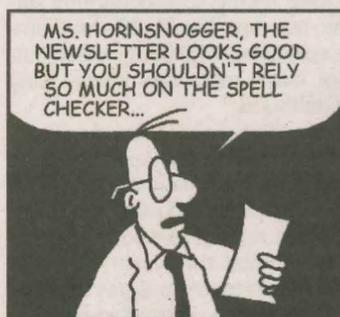


## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

## Bible Crossword

By Carole Stengel

### Across

- "Give me this \_\_\_\_" (John 4:15)
- "\_\_\_\_ of false prophets". (Matthew 7:15)
- Jacque's friend
- Noncommissioned officer, abbr.
- Angry
- "Behold the \_\_\_\_ of God" (John 1:29)
- Small child
- "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the \_\_\_\_" (Colossians 3:2)
- "Cleanse your \_\_\_\_" (James 4:8)
- Dessert
- "Ye have not because ye \_\_\_\_ not" (James 4:2)
- "Set thy \_\_\_\_ among the stars" (Obadiah 1:4)
- New England state, abbr.
- Abram's nephew
- The son of Peleth (Numbers 16:1)
- "God gave the \_\_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 3:6)
- Ruth's second husband (Ruth 4:13)
- Masculine pronoun
- "At thy word I will let down the \_\_\_\_" (Luke 5:5)
- "Every \_\_\_\_ shall see him" (Revelation 1:7)
- Summer beverage
- Alternating current, abbr.
- "The \_\_\_\_ of those things is death" (Romans 6:21)
- Spoken
- "\_\_\_\_ thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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14			15		16				
		17	18	19		20	21		22
	23		24			25			
26					27		28		29
30			31		32		33		
34				35		36			
			37	38		39			40
41	42	43		44	45		46	47	
	48						49		
50							51	52	
53				54			55		

- God gave Joshua the victory over \_\_\_\_ (Joshua 8:1)
- "Clothed in pure and white \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 15:6)
- Nicodemus was a \_\_\_\_ of the Jews (John 3:1)
- Alcoholic beverage
- The Creator
- "There is none good but \_\_\_\_" (Mark 10:18)

- Largest state, abbr.
- Dead letter office, abbr.
- Genus, comb. form
- Score an A
- "These were more \_\_\_\_ than those in Thessalonica" (Acts 17:11)
- "If thou \_\_\_\_ this man go" (John 19:12)
- "False \_\_\_\_ among you" (2 Peter 2:1)
- Regarding, abbr.
- The \_\_\_\_ is the word of God (Luke 8:11)
- "Teach the \_\_\_\_ women" (Titus 2:4)
- Louisiana's neighbor, abbr.
- Preposition
- "She put her hand to the \_\_\_\_" (Judges 5:26)
- "Jesus saith unto them, Come and \_\_\_\_" (John 21:12)
- "Paul the \_\_\_\_" (Philemon 9)
- "\_\_\_\_ to keep you from falling" (Jude 24)
- Male sibling, for short
- City in California, abbr.
- International peace-keeping organization, abbr.

## Last week's solution

A	B	R	A	H	A	M	A	A	H	I	J	A	H
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F	I	L	M	B	U	H	J	O	S	H	U	A	
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# RESOURCES

## Researchers: Marriage helps prevent social problems

**"Divorce typically causes children considerable emotional distress and increases the risk of serious mental illness."**

*Excerpt from the document "Why Marriage Matters"*

*Continued from page 1*

divorce themselves and to have unhappy marriages and/or relationships," the study states.

■ *Divorce and unmarried child-bearing increase poverty for both children and mothers.*

"Child poverty rates are very high primarily because of the growth of single-parent families," researchers state. "When parents fail to marry and stay married, children are more likely to experience deep and persistent poverty, even after controlling for race and family background."

■ *Married couples seem to build more wealth on average than singles or cohabiting couples.*

The advantages aren't just from having two incomes, the researchers explain. "Marriage partners appear to build more wealth for some of the same reasons that partnerships in general are economically efficient, including economies of scale and specialization and exchange."

■ *Married men earn more money than do single men with similar education and job histories.*

"The causes are not entirely understood, but married men appear to have greater work commitment, lower quit rates, and healthier and more stable personal routines (including sleep, diet and alcohol consumption)."

■ *Parental divorce (or failure to marry) appears to increase children's risk of school failure.*

"Children whose parents divorce end up with significantly lower levels of education than do children in sin-

gle-mother families created by the death of the father," the report states. "Children whose parents remarry do no better, on average, than do children who live with single mothers."

■ *Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than do children in other family forms.*

"Longitudinal research suggests that parental divorce increases the incidence of health problems in children," the study explains. "The health advantages of married homes remain, even after taking socioeconomic status into account. The health disadvantages associated with being raised outside of intact marriages persist long into adulthood."

■ *Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol and substance abuse for both adults and teens.*

"Young adults who marry tend to reduce their rates of alcohol consumption and illegal drug use. Children whose parents marry and stay married also have lower rates of substance abuse, even after controlling for family background."

■ *Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than do otherwise similar singles.*

"In most developed countries, middle-aged single, divorced or widowed men are about twice as likely to die as married men, and non-married women face risks about one and a half times as great as those faced by married women."

■ *Marriage is associated with better health and lower rates of injury,*

*illness and disability for both men and women.*

"Married people appear to manage illness better, monitor each other's health, have higher incomes and wealth and adopt healthier lifestyles than do otherwise similar singles," the researchers explain.

■ *Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress and mental illness.*

"Divorce typically causes children considerable emotional distress and increases the risk of serious mental illness," the study details. "These mental health risks do not dissipate soon after the divorce. Instead, children of divorce remain at higher risk for depression and other mental illness, in part because of reduced education attainment, increased risk of divorce, marital problems and economic hardship."

■ *Divorce appears significantly to increase the risk of suicide.*

"Divorced men and women are more than twice as likely as their married counterparts to attempt suicide. ... In the last half-century, suicide rates among teens and young adults have tripled. The single 'most important explanatory variable,' according to one new study, 'is the increased share of youths living in homes with a divorced parent.'"

■ *Boys raised in single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior.*

"Teens in one-parent families are on average less attached to their parents' opinions and more attached to

their peer groups. Combined with lower levels of parental supervision, these attitudes appear to set the stage for delinquent behavior," the researchers report, adding boys raised in single-parent homes are about twice as likely as other boys to be incarcerated by their early 30s.

■ *Married women appear to have a lower risk of experiencing domestic violence than do cohabiting or dating women.*

"While young women must recognize that marriage is not a good strategy for reforming violent men, a large body of research shows that being unmarried, and especially living with a man outside of marriage, is associated with an increased risk of domestic abuse," the study explains. "Overall, as one scholar sums up the relevant research, 'Regardless of methodology, the studies yielded similar results: Cohabitors engage in more violence than do spouses.'"

■ *A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse.*

"Children living with single mothers, stepfathers or mother's boyfriends are more likely to become victims of child abuse. Children living in single-mother homes have increased rates of death from intentional injuries. As Martin Daly and Margo Wilson report, 'Living with a stepparent has turned out to be the most powerful predictor of severe child abuse yet.'"

*The complete report, "Why Marriage Matters," is available at [www.americanvalues.org](http://www.americanvalues.org).*

### Looking back

This morning I picked up my copy of Oneida Baptist Institute's student newspaper, ONE. There were two well-written articles on the front page. The first was written by one of our junior girls who is the assistant editor of ONE, Noel Spencer. Noel wrote an interesting article titled, "Clay County Feuds," which was a follow up to the History Channel's recent airing of the feuds. The week-long series covered five of the most notorious American feuds, including the infamous Clay County feuds.

Tiffany, a senior from New Jersey, wrote the second article. I would like to share her thoughts with you as they appeared in ONE:

"Coming to Oneida was not something I really wanted to do. But ... it was probably one of the best decisions I've ever made. Before I came ... I was on the fast track to nowhere. I knew that if things didn't change I would end up just like most of my friends. ... I realized how important an education was, ... so I took the initiative to come to OBI. ... It was something I needed to do.

"My senior year here is more than half over and I am in a ... state of shock. Pretty soon I'm going to have to leave this sheltered place and enter the real world, which really scares me. Everyone says your senior year is supposed to be fun and exiting. Mine has been nothing but stressful. There are so many decisions I have to make that will affect me for the rest of my life. Not only do I have to decide which college to attend, but also what I'm going to major in, how I'm going to pay for it.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm just as excited as every other senior about graduation. ... I just wish I didn't have to grow up. When you're younger

you don't have as much to worry about. But after graduation ... there's no being a kid anymore. It's kind of ironic. When you're younger you try to act older, but once you get the age you've been dreaming of, you wish you could be young again. I am a little scared and apprehensive about officially becoming an adult, but thanks to Oneida, I actually have the chance to do just that. Because of Oneida ... I won't become a high school dropout, drug addict or end up in jail like most of my friends. I have a successful, happy future ahead of me due to the opportunities given to all of the students at OBI."

While many seniors share Tiffany's fears, few would admit it. Tiffany came to Oneida at the beginning of her junior year. She always had been a bright student, but her grades had dropped during her freshman and sophomore years. Her decision to come to OBI was largely based on her falling grades.

Tiffany was on the A average honor roll her entire junior year. This past quarter she reached a new level of academic achievement when she earned all A's. She has been involved in a variety of activities, including cheerleading for two years. Tiffany is a model student and has been a blessing to us. She freely expresses her gratitude for the help we have given her, and we are equally gratified with her endeavors and success.

We don't know if Tiffany would have been less successful if she had not come to OBI, but all the indications are that Oneida has helped her tremendously!

*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 reason to live

Beaver Dam native Jeff Hawkins experienced God's intervention on a day when he contemplated suicide.

"It was Sept. 12, 1987. I was age 25," Jeff said. "God changed my life, and I immediately began sharing my faith with others. My work as an automobile mechanic brought many witness opportunities."

Jeff also became involved in a local church teaching Bible, working with youth and participating in weekly visitation.

"On visitation, we were chased by dogs and met with guns," Jeff recalled. "It seemed God wanted more from me, and I realized it was a call to preach. People at church would also tell me that."

But Jeff's wife, Patty, declared, "I won't be a pastor's wife."

Patience, a characteristic of Christian faith, became Jeff's response to God's call.

"I knew God would also call her, and if I jumped the gun and went off on some mission I could have lost my wife," Jeff said. "In November 1997 I obeyed God and quit my job with Goodyear, but this time I had nothing absolute to replace it.

"God told me, 'I am absolute.'"

For three months I waited on God and prayed intently to know the right timing for His will. It came in a worship service and I walked to the altar to declare a call to preach. I didn't know Patty was right behind me.

"She has given 100 percent support since that day."

They moved to Clear Creek in the fall of 1998 with son Jeremiah Paul, now 8. Noah Lee was born last month.

"If I look tired, I am," Jeff told fellow students in a chapel testimony.

While at Clear Creek Jeff and Patty shared a mission trip to China and a tour of Israel. Jeff went to New York with a student evangelism team.

"Almost 15 years ago I was ready to give up my life, but Jesus gave me a reason to live," he stated.

"I'm not sure where He will lead us next. He gave us peace to come to Clear Creek and we will have His peace to serve wherever He sends us."

**CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE**



Bill Whittaker

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

# BOOKS

## 'Jabez' author Wilkinson leaving Walk Thru to pursue other opportunities

ALTANTA (RNS)—Best-selling author Bruce Wilkinson has resigned from his position as president of Walk Thru the Bible.

The board of directors of the Bible teaching seminar organization announced Wilkinson's resignation last month.

Wilkinson, author of "The Prayer of Jabez," will pursue "a broader mission through the medium of television and film," the board said in a statement. He and his family will be moving to California later this year.

"Walk Thru the Bible will continue its bountiful history of innovative Bible teaching, and I will remain close to the board and staff as we develop teaching resources in the future," Wilkinson said of the 25-year-old ministry in a statement.

Paul Johnson, chairman of the board, said the organization expects to continue its affiliation with Wilkinson.

"We wish Bruce the best in his new ventures, and we look forward to another 25 years of outstanding ministry at Walk Thru the Bible," Johnson said.

Walk Thru the Bible, which is based in Atlanta, hosted more than 2,500 seminars in 2001 across the country.

**Highland Hopes: Blue Ridge Legacy 1.** Gary Parker. Bethany House Publishers, 2001. 400 pages. \$11.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

This book sat on my shelf for months. As a general rule, I do not enjoy Christian fiction, especially historical Christian fiction. But I have had to rethink my position after reading "Highland Hopes."

Perhaps it is because the setting is in the same area in which I live, the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Most likely it is because Parker offers a well-structured and well-told story in a realistic setting.

This book is the first of three volumes which will tell the life's story of fictional Abigail "Abby" Faith Porter, the 100 year old matriarch. Abby's great-grandson takes her oral history and records it in written form. Hence, this book.

The story begins in the early 1900s and will end in the 21st century by volume three. Approximately a third of Abby's life will be covered in each volume. Abby's mother died giving her birth, and her strong, mountain man father, Solomon Porter, was left to raise Abby as the only girl in the family.

What unfolds is a life of struggles and triumphs. The strained relationship with her father leads Abby to consider the options available to her to know more independence.

This is an enjoyable read and I look forward to Parker's next two installments. *Wayne Hager*



**Can We Do That? 24 Innovative Practices That Will Change the Way You Do Church.** Andy Stanley and Ed Young. Howard Publishing, 2002. 194 pages. ♦

Andy Stanley, pastor of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Ga, and Ed Young, pastor of Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, were in the Cayman Islands together where a conversation eventually became "Can We Do That?" Their family vacation turned into a sharing and brainstorming session that left both of them eager to get back home and try out the ideas they had shared and generated, as well as to "share these ideas with the rest of the world."

While the gist of this book is that church leaders, primarily staff leaders, need to be willing to think way outside the box in devising creative ideas for sharing the gospel and building the church, one gets the idea from these two that any method is acceptable as long as the end is evangelism.

There is no disputing that both North Point Community and Fellowship Churches are drawing large crowds of people. In our pragmatic society whose motto is, "If it works, do it," it is tempting to believe that these two really must be on to something. Yet it seems to me that much of what they offer as creativity smacks of pandering to culture, or as a billboard from Fellowship proclaims, church is "Inner-tainment for the soul."

While occasionally an interesting

insight comes along, on the whole I found this book shallow and indifferent to the larger Christian tradition. *Jim Holladay*

**Saying I Do Was the Easy Part: Secrets to a Dynamic & Fulfilling Marriage.** Theda Hlavka. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002. 118 pages. \$9.99 ♦♦

Writing primarily for women, Theda Hlavka wants her readers to "learn to experience all God has in store for (their) marriage by understanding the role of a godly wife."

The first several chapters deal with the husband-wife relationship. Basically Hlavka counsels a wife to be, not only her husband's best friend, but his chief cheerleader as well. She encourages wives to remember that, in a marriage, the husband's life mission is primary, and that their role is to support that mission. She pictures submission as the wife seeing her sole mission in life as playing a support role in helping the husband fulfill his mission. Finally, she reminds wives that their relationship with God is their most important relationship.

Hlavka is at her best in describing the importance of tending one's relationship with God. She reminds us that when we are not looking to God as the primary source of life and meaning, we are more susceptible to the temptation to adultery. Prior to marriage, she advocates building a strong relationship with God to help insure making the right decision about who to marry.

"Saying I Do" plows little new ground as a marriage enrichment resource. Others offer more practical insight. *Jim Holladay*

## Former Southern president recalls more than 50 years of Baptist life

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (ABP)—As a scholar, Duke McCall specialized in Old Testament studies, not Baptist history. But he has seen enough of the latter firsthand to qualify as an expert in both.

He attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the 1930s, studying under professor and president John Sampey. At 25, he became Sampey's pastor at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

At 28, he became president of the Baptist Bible Institute, later New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In his early 30s, he was executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, a position he describes as the most powerful in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1951, at 37, he became president of Southern Seminary. Retiring in 1982, he served longer than any other president in the school's history. He capped off his career by serving as president of the Baptist World Alliance from 1980 to 1985.

"Few other people have had more influence over Baptists in the past century than McCall," said Walter Shurden, a historian at Mercer University who served under McCall as Southern Seminary's dean of theology.

The span of that influence is related in McCall's own words in a new book, "Duke McCall: An Oral

History," published by the Baptist History and Heritage Society in Brentwood, Tenn.

The book is co-authored by Ronald Tonks of Nashville, who retired from the SBC Historical Commission in 1990. It is based on a series of interviews conducted over three years in the early 1980s.

Some of the sessions were outdoors, and background noise made tape recordings hard to transcribe. McCall put the project on a back shelf until years later when he got a personal computer and edited the transcript himself. The book's preface is dated May 1, 2000.

In his preface, McCall makes it clear that his book is off-the-cuff memory. "Undoubtedly, I sometimes remember to advantage, and sometimes I misremember details," he writes. "The record, however, is an accurate report of my memory of the things we reviewed."

Among topics: ■ *On the 1958 controversy between Southern Seminary faculty and the president that led to dismissal of 13 professors, McCall acknowledges mistakes on both sides.*

"This was not a quarrel between demons and angels, with one side representing the angelic and the other the demonic," he writes. "It was a group of demon-possessed human beings who were doing utterly unbelievable things to one another, to the cause of Christ, to Southern Seminary, to students and to other faculty members."

Of his general views on controversy, McCall reflects, "Controversy is sinful, and I think anyone involved in controversy has cause for repentance, regardless of how it began."

■ *On the Baptist Faith and Message, revised amid denominational controversy in 1963.*

"We have moved farther toward accepting the 1963 document as a creed than we ever approached accepting the 1925 document as having creedal force."

McCall attributes that trend to "the evaporation of homogeneity" as Southern Baptists became more diverse, both theologically and geographically.

"Today, Southern Baptists have this kind of diversity, and the resulting mistrust of one another. Therefore, we have adopted the feeling that it is desirable to use the Baptist Faith and Message to enforce some conformity and homogeneity among all these different points of view."

■ *Of the SBC's conservative "revolution," McCall says it wasn't the first time people did things in denominational life for political reasons, but it was the first organized political effort to put people with a specific point of view in leadership.*

"This is not illegal," he says. "I think it's just not in accordance with the spirit of Christian brotherhood or the heritage of Southern Baptists."

McCall says for most of his career he was regarded as middle- or even right-of-center theologically. Virgin-

ia's Religious Herald newspaper once criticized him as "the leader of biblical fundamentalism in the Southern Baptist Convention."

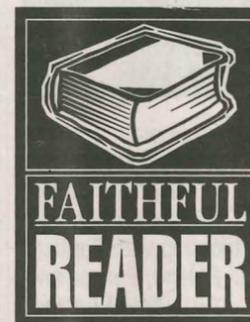
He more often found himself targeted from the right, however, going as far back as run-ins with fundamentalist leader J. Frank Norris in the 1940s. He says Norris was different from later SBC combatants in a significant way, however.

He relates a story about meeting Norris in a hotel. "He tried to embarrass me by announcing in his loud voice, which would penetrate the roar of the conversation in the hotel lobby, 'Hello, Duke, old friend. It's good to see you.' To which I responded, imitating his volume of voice as best I could, 'Hello, Dr. Norris, I've always wanted to meet you. I wanted to tell you that if you ever say anything nice about me in the "Fundamentalist," I'll sue you for libel.'"

The two shared a laugh, and McCall says he was never again mentioned in Norris' newspaper after the encounter.

"Combativeness and controversy was a game with him, in a sense," McCall says. If a target could respond without anger, he would turn his guns on someone else. "But there is no humor, no give and take in the present controversy. Stylistically, it's very different in its leadership."

"Duke McCall: An Oral History" is available from the Baptist Heritage and History Society, Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728; (800) 966-2278; www.baptisthistory.org.



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

"Few other people have had more influence over Baptists in the past century than (Duke) McCall."

Baptist historian  
Walter Shurden

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Kentuckians to lead vacation Bible school at First Baptist Church, Shrewsbury, Mass., June 24-28. Contact KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ Five volunteers needed to work in a camp for orphans in Warsaw, Poland, May 31-June 12. Contact KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ An accountant is needed for the Baptist mission office in Moscow. Contact KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ An English teacher is needed to work for at least a year in Sofia, Bulgaria, with missionaries James and Audrey Duke. Contact KBC partnership missions office for details.

■ The Open Door Medical Clinic in Bucharest, Romania, as personnel complete the final paperwork to open the clinic and as they begin interviewing Christian nurses to work in the clinic.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BARDWELL**—Kirbyton Church called **Brandon Wilson** as youth director.

■ **BOONEVILLE**—First Church will host revival services April 4-7, with **Wendell Carmack**, pastor of Island Creek Church in Manchester, as evangelist. **Jerry Lacefield** is pastor of First Church, Booneville.

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

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church ordained **Bonnie Arvin** and **Charlie Hagan** as deacons March 10. **Troy Dobbs** is pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Walnut Grove Church called **J.J. Sherill** as youth director.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Bruners Chapel Church licensed **Michael Monroe** to the gospel ministry Feb. 17. **Larry Redding** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bashford Manor Church called **Ty Raver** as pastor effective March 17.

Cloverleaf Church will host the **Melody Boys** in concert March 22, 7:30 p.m. for information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

**Chad Sweeney** resigned as minister of children and youth at Fern Creek Church, effective March 31.

Highland Church ordained **Heidi Stoll** to the gospel ministry March 3.

Retired pastor **Carl Townsend**, a member of Hurstbourne Church, died March 6 at age 82. He was the founding pastor of the former Bicknell Avenue Church. He also was active in the former Temperance League of Kentucky. Townsend is survived by his wife, Crystal, and five children.

Melbourne Heights Church called **Janet Hennessey** as interim youth director. **Bill Shoulta** is pastor.

Ormsby Heights Church will host **Ron Carlson**, president of Christian Ministries International, March 10. He is a lecturer on cults and Christian apologetics. For information, call (502) 447-6867. **Rick Bowden** is pastor.

■ **LUDLOW**—First Church called **Roger High** as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Temple Church called **Carl Butler** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Dexter Church.

■ **PRINCETON**—Donaldson Church called **Wallace York** as interim pastor.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church called **Jerry Hurley** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Jellico Creek will ordain **Lee Schroeder**, **Gavin Lawson** and **Ralph West** as deacons March 10. **John Justice** is pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church called **Gary Lovitt** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Parmleys Grove Church in Monticello.

■ **WORTHVILLE**—Worthville Church called **Donnie Kauffman** as pastor.

## Campbellsville to start job mentor site

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University was commissioned March 1 as a Christian Women's Job Corps site.

The mentoring program, affiliated with Woman's Mission Union, offers life skills and spiritual support to women in need.

"This program sets out to give women brighter futures as well as to bring them to a new or renewed faith in Jesus Christ," said Debbie Carter, site coordinator.

Primary goals of the program are to strengthen participants' self-respect, self-sufficiency and hope by helping them define life goals and develop life skills, she added.

For information about Campbellsville's CWJC program, contact Carter at (270) 789-5049 or [dcarter@campbellsvil.edu](mailto:dcarter@campbellsvil.edu).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**CRUISE:** Christian travel opportunity: There's still time for adults from your church to join a group of Kentucky Baptists on an Alaska cruise departing June 8. For more information or a brochure, call (877) 557-0073 (toll-free). If necessary, leave message.

**FOR SALE:** Yamaha organ. Excellent condition, perfect cherry cabinet. Equipped with backup instrument sounds, rhythms. \$700. (502) 266-5285.

**FOR SALE:** Two cemetery lots, Evergreen Cemetery, Preston Highway, Louisville. In memorial circle; standing monuments privileges. Market value: \$3,000 each; sell both \$2,500. (502) 231-9017.

**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:** Part-time pianist for Sunday services, Wednesday night and choir rehearsals. Send resumé to: Kings Baptist Church, PO Box 380, Mt. Washington, KY 40047, or call Chris Nester, (502) 538-3743.

**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:** Senior pastor for Ridgewood Baptist Church in Wadsworth, Ohio. The ideal candidate will be seminary trained with at least five years of pastoral experience. Average attendance for 2001 was 130; receipts for the period were \$177,000. Our church is founded on traditional Baptist principles and doctrines as outlined in the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. We are fully supportive of the Cooperative Program. Resumés may be sent to: Dr. Dick Marshall, Ridgewood Baptist Church, 7891 Ridge Road, Wadsworth, OH 44281.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music. Strong church in metro Atlanta seeks energetic leader to help continued growth. Minimum of five years experience, seminary degree, strong choral skills and goal orientation required. Should be versatile and able to lead blend of traditional and contemporary music and direct orchestra. Be part of ministry team that does FAITH SS. Lead youth choir. Send resumé to: Search Committee, McDonough Road Baptist Church, 352 McDonough Road, Fayetteville, GA 30214.

**SEEKING:** Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, is seeking a full-time minister of education and discipleship. Broadway is an ecumenically-minded, CBF-affiliated congregation with a commitment to inner-city ministry. We worship in the liturgical tradition. Send resumés or recommendations to Cindy Johnson, chair, Education Search Committee, 305 W Broadway, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

**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](mailto:ballwinb@swbell.net). Fax: (636) 227-3438.

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

**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:** 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 Herringer Road, Alexandria, KY 41001, or e-mail: [drgrwilson@juno.com](mailto:drgrwilson@juno.com).

**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:** 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.

## Alpha male

### Effort to share Christianity with 'seekers' used in 127 countries

By Jeffrey MacDonald  
Religion News Service

BOSTON (RNS)—Listening to Nicky Gumbel describe the highs and lows of his life as a London pastor, one might never guess he had a calling to lead an international revival.

"I love the pastoral work—baptisms, counseling, the small groups," Gumbel said. "I'm quite a shy person. I get very nervous when I have to speak in front of people."

This response came just moments after Gumbel addressed 2,500 evangelical Christians in Boston. Another 2,000 people had heard him earlier in the morning. Now he was speaking to the press quickly between gulps of bottled water. In five minutes he was due at a radio interview to reach thousands more.

Relentless schedules, international travel and major public appearances have become staples of this soft-spoken priest's life as a result of a "seekers" class he pioneered in the early 1990s.

"Alpha: An Opportunity to Explore the Meaning of Life" has grown from an experiment at Gumbel's Holy Trinity Brompton congregation to one of Christianity's hottest movements worldwide.

At its 10-year anniversary, Alpha now has 19,000 courses running in 127 countries. In January, Gumbel's Church of England parish in London spun off Alpha International as an independent entity to beef up funding for what is now a \$5 million enterprise.

Although Alpha's rapid growth has surprised its founder, success hasn't come by accident. That's because the easygoing, 46-year-old Gumbel, who wears jeans and no tie to his most important events, harbors an ambition that would fill a pinstriped suit. His mission: to bring his 10-week Alpha experience to every soul on Earth.

"The vision (of a corporation) is to give everybody an opportunity to drink Coke," Gumbel said. "Why not give everybody an opportunity to go on an Alpha course?"

Having a global plan and a passion for "Jesus, the universal Savior" account partially for Gumbel's growing

stature among the world's leading evangelists. London's Guardian newspaper calls him "probably the most charismatic figure in the Church of England today." Yet according to those who have watched him for years, two distinct qualities have enabled him to stir the hearts of millions without ever preaching in a stadium: his gentleness and his comfort on camera.

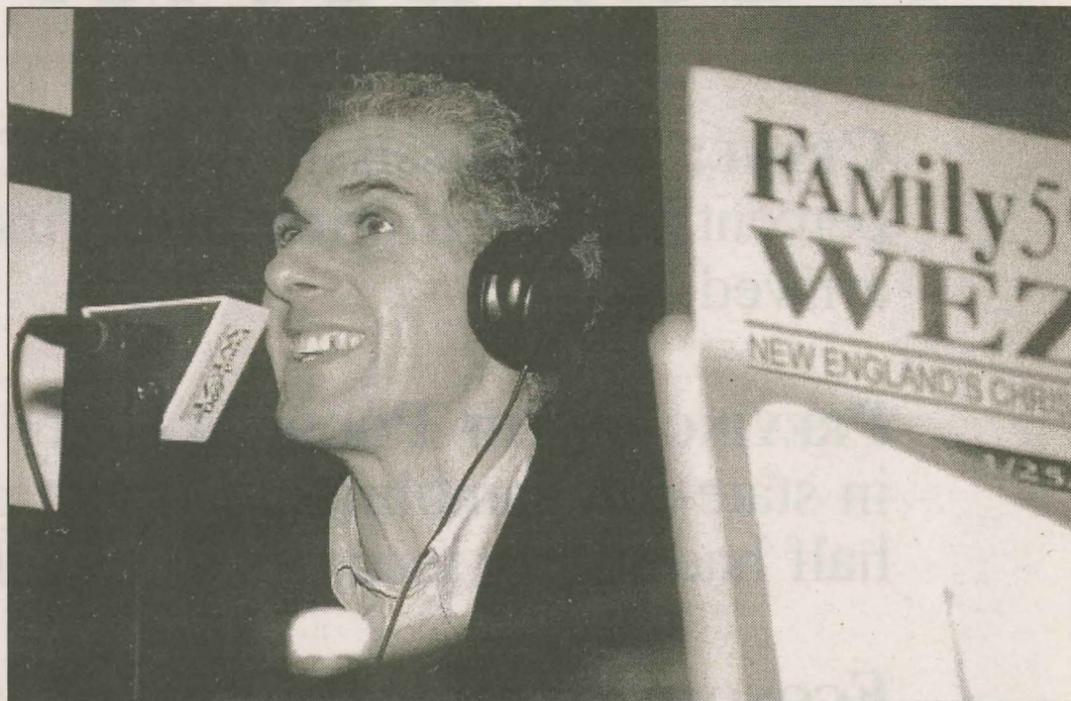
Unlike evangelists from George Whitefield in the 1740s to Billy Graham in the 1980s, who summoned big crowds to produce mass conversions, Gumbel appears to small groups of the curious and skeptical via videotape—dubbed into a foreign language if necessary. Each week, Alpha participants share a meal and watch him start off with his admittedly corny jokes. From there, they hear his case why Christianity isn't boring or irrelevant, and why Jesus must be either "mad, evil or Messiah." Affirming that he is indeed Messiah, Gumbel leads the uninitiated in a life-surrendering prayer—and pastors say many join in.

"He in his person is so nonthreatening, so nonconfrontational. His presentation of the material is so loving," said Gary Greene, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church in Merrimac, Mass. "It shows that the gospel doesn't turn people off. The gospel is good news. We (in the church) have to accept that maybe it's us who have been turning people off."

From a repertoire of humor to sports references, Gumbel banks on informality as a key to reaching those alienated by organized religion. The videotape provides a safe distance, Greene says, for skeptics to challenge frankly what's been said. Judging from the swarm when Gumbel finishes a speech, something seems to be connecting.

"I want you to know that I gave my life to the Lord that night when you prayed that prayer" on the videotape, said Susan Waitt after his January talk in Boston. Later she explained, "I grew up in the church, but I never knew I could have a personal relationship with the Lord."

Waitt and others in her Greenland, N.H., Alpha group "really felt that (Gumbel) was sincere in what he was



saying," group leader Lois Gile said. "His is really a ministry from God. You can just feel it in your heart."

Gumbel agrees the source of Alpha is divine: "It's spreading like wildfire because it's from the Spirit." And as he understands it, that movement of the Spirit is pleased to enlist his gifts and background for God's glory.

To evangelism, Gumbel brings the sort of pedigree that opens doors to all kinds of power. He holds diplomas from the elite Eton preparatory school, Cambridge University for college and Oxford University for theological training. He trained as a barrister in college and practiced law for seven years.

It was personal rather than professional experience, however, that brought Gumbel to his current role. He tells viewers of his atheist days and his astonishment when a college roommate became a Christian. "He was one of the nicest people I knew!" Gumbel soon read the New Testament for himself and "knew that it was true." Today, two of Gumbel's three children are in college studying theology.

Gumbel's own calling to ministry came after representing indigent criminals in courtrooms. He recalls meeting with them in their cells, discussing their lives and recognizing that an acquittal alone wouldn't straighten them out. "What then?" Gumbel

asked. "Most would end up back in prison." He felt called to see souls saved and lives changed—a call that continues to drive him.

"Ultimately, (evangelism) is about the transformation of society," Gumbel told one crowd. "To see the crime rates come down, the prisons empty, the divorce rate fall, the churches full, to see His kingdom coming and the name of Jesus glorified."

Having stretched church volunteers thin, Alpha now concentrates on fund-raising in the "business community" of wealthy Christian individuals. When asked how he'll reach every soul on every continent, Gumbel answers as if wary of tipping off the competition.

"Strategies," he says without elaborating, "are in place on every continent."

For all his mild demeanor, Gumbel is also quick to fight back when Alpha is attacked. Denver Seminary theologian Gordon Lewis, for instance, has charged Alpha with "unclear teaching" on salvation, arguing Alpha graduates might not truly become Christians as a result.

"What do they call it then when an alcoholic of 30 years stops drinking, gets back together with his wife, becomes part of the church, lives a whole new life?" Gumbel asked. "I think they're quite brave to say that about the work of the Spirit."

**IN DEMAND** Nicky Gumbel, founder of the Alpha movement, at his Holy Trinity Brompton Church in England, participates in a radio talk show in Boston after addressing a gathering of 2,500 evangelicals. The Alpha movement, marking its 10th anniversary, has 19,000 courses running in 127 countries introducing "seekers" to Christianity. (RNS photo by Jeffrey MacDonald)

## Church training counselors to help grieving residents after crematory scandal

CHICKAMAUGA, Ga. (RNS)—A Presbyterian church located just seven miles from the Georgia crematory where 339 corpses were discovered will receive \$10,000 to train counselors to assist families whose loved ones never were cremated.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a relief arm of the Presbyterian Church (USA), gave the grant to Chickamauga Presbyterian Church.

The church has sponsored a grief ministry program for five years and helped

train volunteers to work in New York after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The crematory scandal has rocked the tiny rural community, said the church's pastor, Edward Langham.

Investigators have found at least 339 corpses stacked around the crematory compound, and forensics teams say some might never be identified.

As of March 8, authorities have charged Brent Marsh, the crematory's operator, with 174 counts of theft by deception for discarding bodies he was paid to cremate.

"There's a lot of anger in our community now," Langham told Presbyterian News Service. "His (Marsh's) life on the street is not worth a plugged nickel. There have already been death threats."

The 85-member church has sponsored a grief program called Sunrise at Midnight for five years.

A member of the congregation, Nancy Martin, is a psychiatric nurse-practitioner and is the coordinator for the Grief Recovery Institute for the Southeastern

region.

Martin helped train volunteers and counselors in New York to deal with the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

Langham said he hopes to work with Martin to train 20 to 30 new counselors. The Sunrise at Midnight program will help deal with long-term counseling needs.

"This thing has affected our whole community," Langham said. "It's not something we asked for, or expected to happen—but I'll tell you, our whole community has awakened."

# Casino Gambling: A Bad Bet for Kentucky

**CRIME:** The Mississippi Gulf Coast experienced a 43 percent increase in crime in the first four years after casinos arrived.

**PREYING ON THE POOR:** A study of 1,800 Minnesotans in state-run gambling treatment programs found that half had yearly incomes of less than \$20,000.

**ECONOMY:** A recent University of Illinois study found that Americans lose \$165 million every day in legalized gambling.

**Now's the time to draw the line and say, "No more gambling in Kentucky." Here's how:**

**Contact your legislator:**

Sen. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legislative Offices,  
Capitol Annex  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legislative Offices,  
Capitol Annex  
Frankfort, KY 40601

or call (800) 372-7181

**Contact Gov. Paul Patton**

Gov. Paul E. Patton  
Capital Building  
Frankfort, KY 40601

or call (502) 564-2611

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems, 2722 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209  
www.kentuckyleague.org; (502) 635-0002; Executive Director Claude Witt; Associate Director Howard Beaman