

April 9, 2002  
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## Gallup: U.S. split between church attenders and church avoiders

LINCOLN, Neb. (RNS)—Roughly equal proportions of the U.S. population fall into the categories of "churched" and "unchurched," according to a report by the Gallup Organization.

In a survey in December, Gallup researchers found that 53 percent of the population was "churched" while 47 percent was "unchurched."

The number of "unchurched," has risen in recent decades, with 41 percent fitting that definition in 1978, followed by 44 percent in both 1988 and 1998.

The polling organization defined those as "unchurched" who answered "no" to either or both of these questions: "Do you happen to be a member of a church or synagogue?" or "Apart from weddings, funerals or special holidays, such as Christmas, Easter or Yom Kippur, have you attended the church or synagogue of your choice in the past six months, or not?"

Gallup has found that those in the unchurched category are most likely to be male, between 18 and 29, a resident of the western section of the United States, single or married to someone with a different religious background.

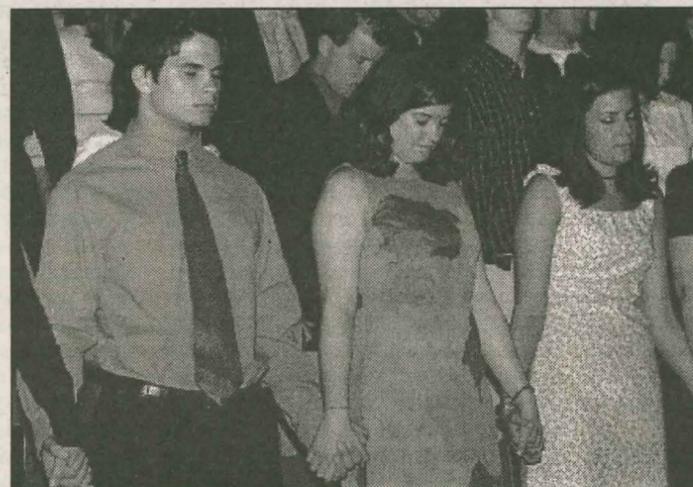
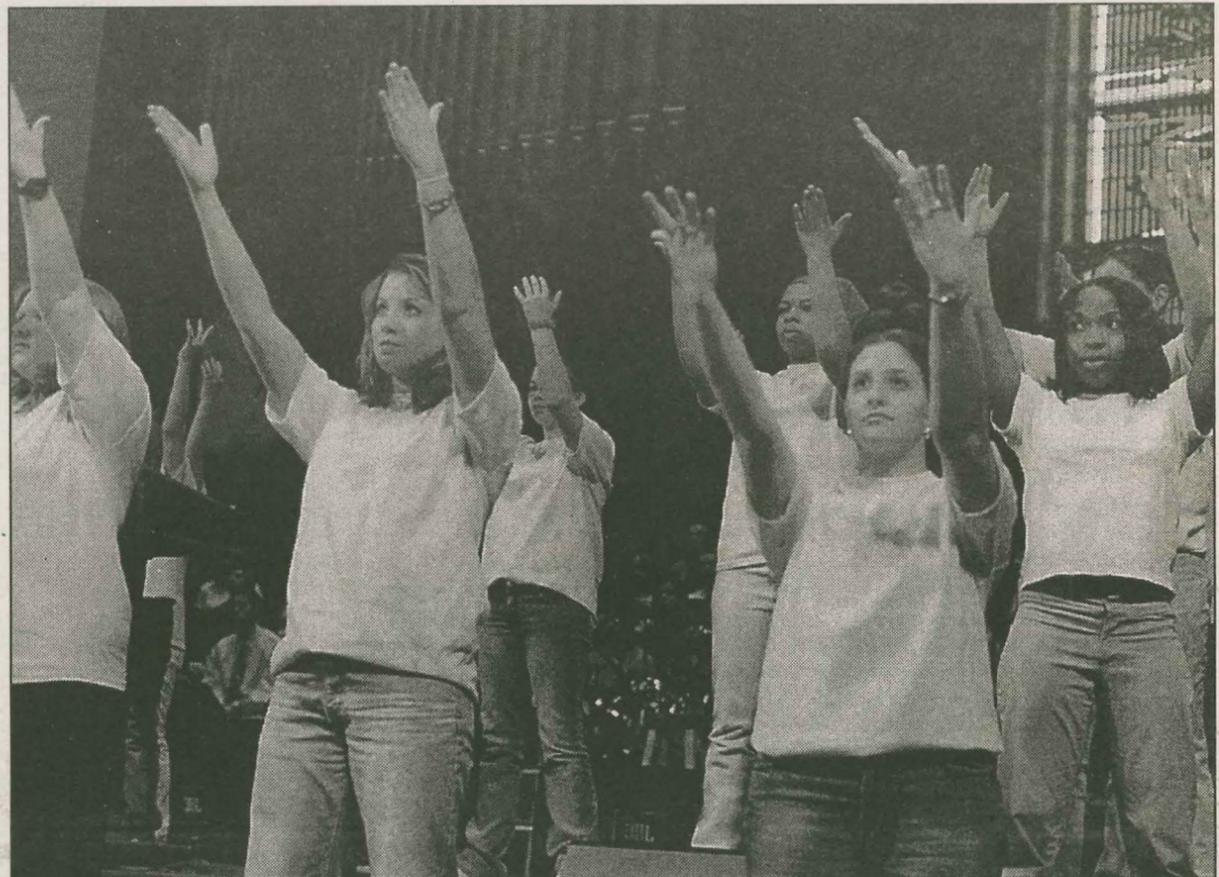
"Many of those who leave, and return, to church do so not for theological reasons, but practical ones," wrote George Gallup Jr., chairman of the George H. Gallup International Institute, in a statement about the findings. "They move to a new community; change work schedules; experience health problems; get involved in other activities, and so on."

Sixty percent of those who say they had previously been active in their congregations say they could imagine returning. Among the situations that could prompt a return are finding a clergyman with whom they can openly converse about spiritual needs and religious doubts, finding a congregation with good youth programs and a change in family circumstances.

The survey results are based on telephone interviews with 1,019 adults nationwide from Dec. 14-16. The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In a separate but related finding, the Gallup Organization said that about 40 percent of Americans generally say they have attended religious services in any given week. But 64 percent said they intended to be at church services for Easter, while 31 percent of respondents did not.

## Summer sendoff



Youth and college summer missionaries from throughout the commonwealth gathered last weekend in Louisville for a joint commissioning service at St. Matthews Baptist Church. The service featured leaders from both the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and national Woman's Missionary Union. A total of 112 college students are involved in summer missions through their Baptist Student Union. Assignments range from Alaska to Boston in North America and such countries as France, Thailand, Cambodia and Poland. Five churches will send Acteen volunteers on trips to Lynch, Pikeville and Florida. ■ Above: Acteens perform an interpretive movement to a song during the commissioning service. ■ Left: Summer missionaries Bo Alexander, of Kentucky Wesleyan College; Kelly Arnold, of the University of Kentucky; and Katherine Atherton, of the University of Louisville, join hands for prayer during the service. See story on page 3.

## American pastors tell survey they're fat & happy

DURHAM, N.C. (RNS)—American pastors are mostly satisfied with their jobs and feel called by God to the ministry, but they could stand to shed a few pounds, according to a new study by Duke Divinity School.

Researchers say the findings, part of the ongoing Pulpit and Pew project funded by the Lilly Endowment, show encouraging signs about the future of the pastorate. They also highlight areas of concern to be addressed.

The findings "contradict reports of deep dissatisfaction and low morale among pastoral leaders that we have heard in recent months," researchers Jackson Carroll, Becky McMillan and John James Jr. write in a letter to participating pastors. "They run contrary to the 'gripe and moan' sessions that one gets together!"

Six of 10 clergy surveyed said they have never doubted their call to ministry, and seven in 10 said they have

never thought about leaving their profession. But they also reported frustration in relationships with other clergy, low pay, their own spiritual lives and a sense of overall effectiveness as a pastor.

Most pastors surveyed said they draw the most satisfaction from their families and relationships with lay leaders in the congregation.

Researchers are curious, however, about a growing "graying of the clergy" trend, in which more and more pastors are entering the ministry as a second career. Preliminary data show that the newest pastors—those with 10 years or less of experience—were ordained in their late 30s, while the longest-serving pastors were ordained while in their mid-20s.

"We wonder ... why this 'graying' of the ordained has happened in a profession whose members feel so strongly that it is a calling worth giving one's life to," the researchers

write. "Are young persons with desires for socially responsible careers not encouraged into ordained ministry?"

On the issue of personal wellbeing, the study raises some red flags for researchers. While three-quarters of clergy rated their general health as "excellent" or "very good," most of them seem to be overweight. Using the standardized Body-Mass Index that considers a person's weight and height, the study shows that 46 percent of pastors are overweight, and 30 percent are obese. Both figures are higher than the general population.

Male clergy, 79 percent of whom are overweight or obese, are worse off than their female counterparts, of whom 52 percent are overweight or obese. "The relatively optimistic report that clergy gave of their general health needs to be tempered with these latter findings, especially about weight," the report states.

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, April 10

# BAPTISTS

## Missionaries explain why they won't endorse BF&M

**"I do not allow anyone ... to think and decide for me what I will do and believe."**

*Stan Lee, Southern Baptist missionary to Rwanda*

By Mark Wingfield  
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS—Southern Baptist missionary Stan Lee compares himself to British Olympic athlete Eric Liddell in the movie "Chariots of Fire."

The movie tells the story of Liddell's refusal to run in a qualifying heat for the 100-yard dash scheduled for the Sunday. The British Athletic Committee invites Liddell to visit with them about the problem so they can help him find a compromise with his beliefs on honoring the Sabbath.

One of the British officials accuses the athlete of being "impertinent," to which Liddell responds: "The impertinence, sir, lies with those who seek to influence a man to deny his beliefs."

Lee finds himself in a similar position in responding to officials with the Southern Baptist Convention International Mission Board, under whose appointment he serves as a missionary, he said.

Liddell's response to the British Athletic Committee "would be my response to those who seek to 'encourage' me to sign a pledge of allegiance to the Baptist Faith & Message," Lee wrote in a letter to his IMB regional director.

Lee and his wife, Marlene, have served as missionaries in Rwanda since 1977, working in agricultural missions and evangelism. He is a veterinarian; she is a musician.

The Lees are among a small number of IMB missionaries beginning to speak publicly about their refusal to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message as required by IMB President Jerry Rankin. Rankin has predicted nearly all the IMB's missionaries will sign the affirmation as requested.

His mandate has sparked concern from moderate Baptists who say the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message is a denominational creed and theologically spurious. The Baptist General Convention of Texas has created a transition fund to aid IMB missionaries who resign or are fired for refusing to sign the IMB affirmation.

Rankin and other IMB officials deny they are imposing a creed. And they insist missionaries must be accountable to the doctrine established by the convention that supports them.

"I do not deny their right to know what I believe and what I teach," Lee

### Retired missionary: Rankin breaks pledge

EL PASO, Texas—As recently as December 2000, Jerry Rankin pledged to a retired missionary living in El Paso that as long as Rankin is president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, no missionary would be required to sign a doctrinal statement.

Now that retired missionary, Siegfried Enge, is wondering why Rankin in January declared IMB missionaries must sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Enge and his wife, Donna, served with the IMB 32 years, including 19 years at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in El Paso.

In a Dec. 8, 2000, letter to Rankin, Enge recounted meeting Rankin at the Baptist Spanish Publishing House in 1993. "I asked you about missionaries possibly being obligated to sign a doctrinal statement. ... I remember your clear and unequivocal answer: 'As long as I am president of the IMB, no missionary will be obligated to sign a doctrinal statement.'"

wrote in a recent e-mail from Rwanda. "What I deny is their right to force me, on pain of losing my appointment, to sign an extra-biblical document written by men and revised three times in my lifetime."

In addition to the theological scrutiny he underwent in the appointment process 25 years ago, Lee recently wrote a 38-page statement of his beliefs. He sent that statement, along with the unsigned affirmation form, to his regional director.

"I do not allow anyone—pastor or priest or king, relative or friend—to think and decide for me what I will do and believe," he wrote. "I know that ultimately I alone will have to give an account of myself before God."

Rankin has said on several occasions that he made the request of IMB missionaries to dispel the doubts of those who suspect the SBC's missionary force harbors theological liberals.

Lee faults Rankin for pandering to such accusations.

"We, who have placed our lives and our careers and our futures and our children and even our grandchildren and everything we love and cherish on the line for the opportunity to

bring benighted souls into the light of Christ, have been treated with contempt and accused like tax collectors and pagans," Lee wrote. "We have been accused not face-to-face, not openly and forthrightly, but rather in secret, by men and women who, shamed as they obviously are by their actions, remain in the dark breathing out their accusations in whispers and innuendoes, threatening to cut off support but refusing to step into the light and be known."

Rankin, he charges, has "aided these spiritual terrorists." Acquiring missionary signatures to an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message will not put the matter to rest, Lee predicts. "People who criticize in secret will not be satisfied if every missionary places his or her hand on his or her heart and pledges allegiance to the Baptist Faith & Message. Terrorists are never satisfied."

It is improper to require Baptists to sign a man-made document "that is obviously deficient since it has been revised so many times," Lee wrote. While the Baptist Faith & Message has changed, "God's Word has not changed," he added.

On Dec. 19, Rankin wrote back to Enge, confirming the former missionary's recollection of that visit. "You are correct—Baptists are not a creedal people," Rankin wrote to Enge. "Asking people to sign the BF&M would make it a creed. No one is proposing that be done. And I stand by my statement made during my visit to El Paso, although it was probably unwise for me to make such a statement since I do not have the authority to prohibit our board from requiring it if they should so choose. Fortunately, that does not seem to be their inclination."

After Rankin wrote to missionaries around the world this January telling them of his administrative action requiring them to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message, Enge wrote to Rankin once again.

"I am totally surprised and shocked by this request," Enge wrote. "It certainly does not accord with what you wrote to me in December 2000.

"It is one thing to ask missionary

candidates to draft their own doctrinal statements and then to signify that they have read the BF&M 2000 and indicate any disagreements with it, and another thing to ask them to sign their affirmation. Signing an affirmation or signing the BF&M is the same thing."

Rankin and other IMB officials have drawn a distinction between asking missionaries to sign a statement about the Baptist Faith & Message versus asking them to sign the Baptist Faith & Message itself. This is the line between using the faith statement as a creed, Rankin contends.

In the latest letter from Rankin to Enge, dated March 4, Rankin explained: "Our missionaries are not being required or coerced to sign a creed, nor has there been a reversal of our policy not requiring them to sign the 2000 BF&M. ... It can hardly be considered imposing a creed when they are just being asked to affirm what Southern Baptists have said is what they believe and work in accord with it."

Similar sentiments have been expressed in a public letter written by missionaries in Asia, Sarah and Larry Belew.

In an open letter circulated via e-mail, the Belews announced they will not sign the affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message.

"We do not want to be fired," they wrote. But they also "do not want to participate in the political power struggles of the SBC. We do not want to be used as pawns in the game either."

The Belews list five reasons why they cannot sign the affirmation required by Rankin:

■ "The way this document is being used is nothing short of creedalism."

■ "This document is politically motivated" and is making missionaries a "political football."

■ The 2000 Baptist Faith & Message is a fallible document. "We will not lower our commitment to being biblical Christians by constraining ourselves within the bounds of this document."

■ "This is a culturally biased and culturally shaped document."

■ "Jesus instructs us to take or make no oaths."

## Andersen reneges on foundation settlement

PHOENIX (ABP)—Nearly 13,000 investors in the failed Baptist Foundation of Arizona got more bad news March 28, when Arthur Andersen said it was backing out of a \$217 million out-of-court settlement reached March 1.

In a stunning setback for investors, Andersen said its wholly owned insurance company is "unable to approve or pay claims at this time due to its financial position." The firm was indicted by the federal government March 14 for its auditing of Houston-based energy company Enron.

Investor Tom Kennedy called

Andersen's decision to renege on the settlement agreement "treachery in the highest order."

Lawyers for the foundation's liquidation trust quickly asked a retired federal judge who presided over the settlement negotiations to enforce the agreement.

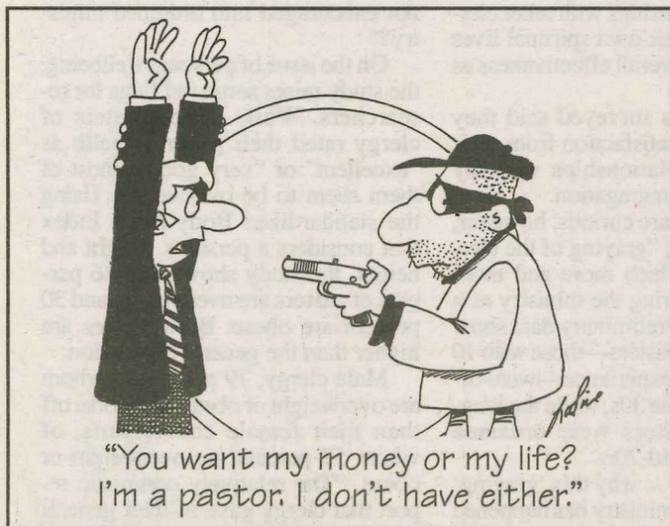
Meanwhile, Judge Edward Burke of Maricopa County Superior Court rescheduled a jury trial for April 29.

The trial, originally scheduled for March 4, was averted when Andersen, accused of negligence in its audits of BFA accounts, agreed to pay investors the equivalent of about 32 cents on the dollar of their original

investments.

In light of Andersen's decision to renege on that deal, Arizona Attorney General Janet Napolitano called on the state's board of accountancy to impose "the administrative equivalent of a death penalty" by revoking the accounting firm's registration.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street Journal reported that Andersen's insurer, Professional Services Insurance Company Limited, had been rendered technically insolvent because Andersen failed to make a \$100 million premium payment. The insurance company's approval was needed for Andersen to pay its settlement agreement.



## Participation in missions to be theme for WMU annual meeting

MADISONVILLE—Highlighting opportunities for missions involvement “Down the Street ... Around the World,” the 2002 Kentucky Woman’s Missionary Union annual meeting will be April 12-13 at First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

Featured speakers include a couple serving as “Last Frontier” missionaries who cannot be identified due to security concerns. Other missions speakers include Carl and Martha Rees, who serve in Middle America; Kendale Moore, who is involved in literacy missions; and Dottie Williamson, who works in multihousing ministry. Several Kentucky Mission Service Corps volunteers also will speak.

“I like to think of the Kentucky WMU annual meeting as the gathering place of people who care about missions,” said Joy Bolton, state WMU executive director. “I encourage all Kentucky Baptists to come to First Baptist Church, Madisonville, and discover the many opportunities to be on mission locally and globally.

“Come for inspiration as we hear from our missionaries what God is doing around the world,” she added, noting that the program also will “look to the future in our launch of the 125th year of work by Kentucky WMU.”

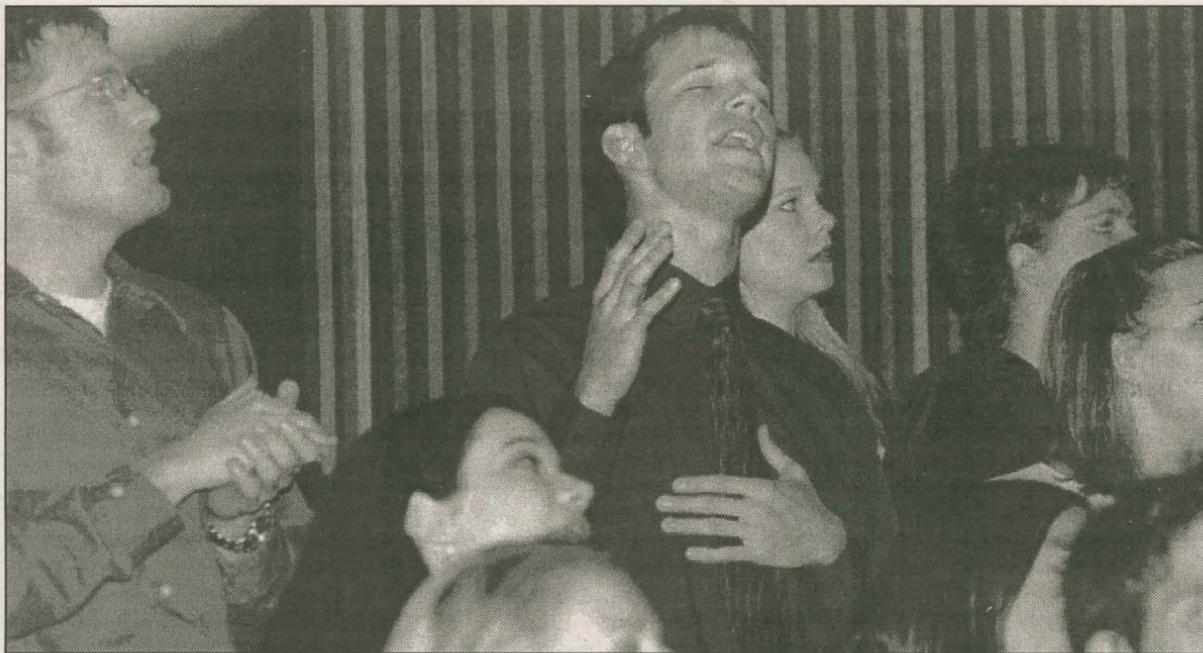
Participants will have the opportunity to have lunch with a missionary program guest and attend a missions fair Friday afternoon.

The program also will feature offerings to provide Christmas gifts to Kentucky-born international missionaries and gifts for Kentucky missionary kids attending college in Kentucky. WMU also will host a Saturday morning missions event for children in grades 1-6 and their leaders.

Steve Evans, minister of music at Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro, and his daughter, Alaina, will present musical concerts Friday morning and afternoon. Youth from the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in Dixon will sing at the Saturday morning session. The Kentucky Baptist Men’s Chorale and Wind Orchestra and the Kentucky Baptist Women’s Chorale also will provide music.

The annual meeting will begin Friday at 9:45 a.m. and conclude at noon Saturday. Preregistration is required for the Friday box lunch, preschool child care, interpretation for the deaf, and dinners for Baptist Nursing Fellowship and Acteens/Youth on Mission.

For registration information, contact Kentucky WMU at (502) 244-6485 or toll-free at (888) 254-5726.



**SINGING PRAISES** Zach Lynch, a student at Cumberland College, sings during the summer missions commissioning service April 6 in Louisville. Lynch will serve this summer helping lead Missions Adventure Camp with Kentucky Baptist Convention’s Brotherhood department.

## Students commissioned to serve this summer

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Former missionary kid David and his wife, Lisa, beamed as they talked about their son, Matt, a student at Murray State University who will be a summer missionary serving throughout Kentucky.

“We’ve been trying to encourage him through it all, even though he’s got a pretty busy schedule,” said David Smith, whose parents served with International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, in Indonesia.

Smith was reunited with the Rankins April 6 during a commissioning service for Matt Smith and 111 other Kentucky Baptist Student Union college students who have volunteered for summer missions.

Students will serve in a variety of roles in Kentucky, throughout North America and abroad.

The event also served as an appointment service for five Acteen Activator teams serving in Kentucky and Florida. Acteens is an organization for girls ages 15-18 to participate in missions through Woman’s Missionary Union.

The high-energy service at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville featured contemporary Christian music, videos of student testimonies and words of encouragement from the Rankins and national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee.

Answering the question of why to go, Bobbye Rankin reminded the teenage girls and college students “the glory of God has not yet penetrated all the peoples of God.”

Participation in missions is part of God’s plan for their lives, she told the summer missionaries. “You may remember the call of God to Jeremiah: ‘Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.’

“We have a call. We have a command. We have a commission from our Lord and Savior,” she added. “Why do we go? We go because He



**MISSIONS SPEAKERS** International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin (above right) and his wife, Bobbye (above left), speak during the commissioning service for summer missionaries. Also speaking at the service was Woman’s Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee (inset).

goes with us.”

Lee told the students that they are to go into the world as Jesus did. “We must go in the spirit of Christ Himself. We must go in a spirit of servanthood.”

Lee encouraged the summer workers to keep their lives consistent with their words and to look constantly to Jesus for their inspiration.

“You need to look at the life of Christ, and when you are in doubt about what He is calling you to do, look at His Word,” she said. “Never lose sight of how you go. It is in the spirit of Christ, the greatest servant of God.”

Jerry Rankin told the students they are going into a world that is full of faiths, from Hindus and Buddhists to Muslims and other religions. “But it’s a world the Bible describes as lost.”

Rankin described traveling to a country where he was recognized as an American and asked about pop singer Madonna. “But when we told them about Jesus Christ, they had no idea who we were talking about,” he said.

“That’s the world to which we go. ... A world that’s been reached for our commercial profit, but one that’s never been reached by the world-changing gospel of Jesus.”

Rankin said too many young peo-

ple are asking the wrong, self-centered question: “What’s God’s will for my life?”

“The question we should be asking is not, ‘What is God’s will for my life,’ but ‘What is God’s will for my world?’” he said.

Rankin described the terrorists of Sept. 11 and suicide bombers in Israel as willing to give their lives so that others might die.

“Are you willing to give your life, not that people might die, but that they might live?” he asked. “God is calling you to a world that He loves. ... Do you care?”

The combined commissioning services for Acteens and college students was designed, in part, to give Acteens a vision for missions after high school, according to LaRaine Dail, Kentucky WMU associate for youth.

The service was tied in with the Exalt missions conference for girls in grades 7-12. Approximately 400 girls attended that conference, sponsored by Kentucky WMU.

Lee praised the joint commissioning service as a model for other states to consider in order to encourage Acteens to maintain a missions lifestyle throughout college and adulthood.

“We want to learn how to hang onto Acteens,” Lee said. “If we lose them when they go to college, it’s very difficult to draw them back into a missions lifestyle as adults.”

## Disaster relief volunteers end work

HARLAN—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers finished their feeding and cleaning duties April 4 in Harlan. Approximately 160 volunteers served in both Harlan and Grayson, responding to flash flooding earlier in March.

Workers provided 8,475 meals in Harlan and 13,759 meals in Grayson, according to Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s Brotherhood department.

Volunteers also provided “mud-out” relief, helping residents clean out their homes. Workers cleaned four homes in Harlan and 16 homes in Grayson, Koch said.

For more information about training opportunities for disaster relief, contact the KBC Brotherhood department at (888) 254-5720.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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**TRENNIS HENDERSON**  
Editor

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**MAURI SMITH**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

**JOYCE MARTIN**  
Partnership Editions  
Editor

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

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## Don't compromise

The story on the front page of the March 19 Western Recorder, "Does interfaith worship compromise Christianity?" must be answered with a resounding "yes!"

I differ with Roy Fuller in that he seems more interested in being an American than a Christian. It is a double standard when we take into consideration the first three of the 10 Commandments of having no other gods before us.

When we worship with a Buddhist or a Hindu or a Muslim, are we not breaking those three commandments? I fear we are and I for one will not worship another god, whether or not it might be politically correct or to make some friends of another faith.

*Don Daniel  
Elizabethtown*

## Scrutinize study

The document "Why Marriage Matters" should be subject to rigorous scrutiny. As summarized in the Western Recorder's March 12 issue,

the document claims that marriage helps prevent various social ills. However, when one notices who sponsored the study, such findings seem anything but surprising. The study's sponsors include the Center of the American Experiment; the Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education; and the Institute for American Values.

The study makes broad, sweeping claims without giving consideration to societal structure. For instance, the study reports that "Divorce and unmarried childbearing increases poverty for both children and mothers."

Obviously two incomes are better than one. But at a deeper level, many factors contribute to such a discrepancy.

First, women earn somewhere around 30 cents less an hour than their male counterparts. Second, women continue to remain under-represented in top-paying positions. Third, the uncontrolled phenomenon of "dead-beat dads" costs children billions of dollars each year. Fourth, American

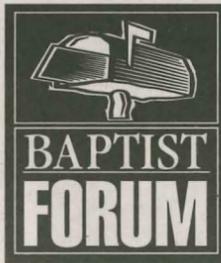
law itself affords many benefits to the married that it withholds from the non-married.

In short, it may be true that divorce and unmarried childbearing increases poverty for both children and mothers. However, it might have more to do with societal structure than a lack

of commitment to the marital institution.

I do not doubt that solid marriages provide many benefits to society. I also do not doubt that the study's claims possess some truth. At the same time, I am hesitant to accept that marriage represents the panacea for many societal ills. Moreover, I worry that such value-laden, agenda-driven studies might further stigmatize groups that already are marginalized. Certainly we should promote marriage. But we also should accept that marriage, by itself, cannot eradicate the other structural defects that plague our society.

*Joe Simpson  
Ann Arbor, Mich.*



## KBC audit work group issues report

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board's business and finance committee met Feb. 1, 2002, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its Executive Board as reflected in their 2001 audited financial statements.

This annual audit review process is an important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that a procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

These entities include Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Baptist Healthcare System, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist mission programs and subsidy.

Kentucky Baptists can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of their institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them. The work group was complimentary of the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities. Kentucky Bap-

tists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: John Mark Toby, Somerset, chair; Rick Robbins, Covington; Bill Class, Covington; Irene Smith, Smithfield; Gary Forman, Frankfort; Carol Taylor, Louisville; Don Phelps, Sturgis; Harlan Williams, Hardin; Business Manager Lowell Ashby; Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders; Executive Associate Steve Thompson; and Executive Director Bill Mackey. In addition, meeting with the work group were two certified public accountants.

The work group's report was made to the full business and finance committee on March 22 and approved.

*John Mark Toby, chairman  
KBC audit work group*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### God is at work across Kentucky

On recent Sundays I have experienced churches where God obviously is at work. Let me tell you about just three.

Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington is located on Winchester Road and is surrounded by beautiful countryside. Foy Back has led the 10-year-old church in significant growth. The group started with about 30 people but current attendance is 130 in Sunday school and 200 in worship.

The church has a spacious campus, but zoning restrictions will be a challenge for future expansion. The church has purchased additional land in order to expand and has the option of adding an additional service.

The same Sunday I spoke at Cornerstone I traveled across Lexington to Porter Memorial Baptist Church. My responsibilities were to preach and present a Cooperative Program recognition to Porter Memorial as

the second highest Kentucky Baptist church in total CP giving during 2000-2001. The church's CP gifts totaled \$396,104, which was second only to First Baptist Church of Paducah, which gave \$489,714. I am grateful to God for the generous support of the Cooperative Program by these two outstanding churches.



Bill Mackey

Porter Memorial's pastor, Bill Henard, shared with me that church's relocation challenge. Through prayer with church leaders, he felt led to postpone an

offer on property because the church was unsettled on the issue. In the fall Henard spent 40 days seeking a word from God in prayer and fasting but he said the only thing that happened was that he lost 20 pounds. He was considering asking the congregation to join him in a special prayer and fast for property. Nothing was available in their area at that time.

However, God intervened through

an option that lapsed and the best possible tract of land became available. It is very expensive, but God has provided a way and His people are together and ready to move forward. I left the parking lot knowing that God was at work.

Easter Sunday I had the privilege to preach at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, a church where I previously had served as pastor. It was a privilege to see so many familiar and new faces and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in a church building filled with people. The choir was outstanding as was a flag procession by the church's youth.

Lay leadership is strong in the church. On a recent Sunday the supply minister could not come so a deacon delivered the message. Then on Palm Sunday the deacon chairman led the Lord's Supper. A lay musician is leading the Sunday night contemporary service. Several laypeople are leading services at the local jail.

It's a joy to see God working in churches all across Kentucky!

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

## FAMILY

### All you really need to know about managing money

By Jeremy White

Robert Fulgham's clever essay, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," wisely reminds us of simple truths. Its popularity likely is due



to simplicity; we adults often make life too complex.

What 5-year olds do in kindergarten—hold hands with a buddy, play some, rest some, laugh a lot, cry some, share toys and respect authority—are life skills necessary for adults too.

I was reminded of another example of simple truths in a recent survey of the Forbes 400 wealthiest people.

The majority of these masters of money stated that their most important financial advice is to borrow less and save more—surprisingly simple advice.

You might not understand the difference between a Roth IRA, traditional IRA, 401(k) or 403(b); whether you should have an Education Savings Account, a Section 529 Plan or an UGMA/UTMA account; or why a charitable remainder trust might be better than a charitable gift annuity. However, you still can do well financially.

We often make managing money seem difficult. As I see it, these basic truths of managing money are the most important:

■ Giving is a vital part of your financial health.

■ The borrower is slave to the lender.

■ Compounding is a powerful force. It can work for you (with your savings) or against you (with debt).

■ Spend less than you earn.

■ Pay yourself before others. (Always save something.)

■ Plan for the future.

■ Newer and bigger are not always better.

■ Maintaining usually costs less than replacing.

■ Buying to impress others leads to empty wallets and empty lives.

■ God's Word has much wisdom—especially in Proverbs and the Gospels—about money.

■ No one else—not the government or your employer—is responsible for providing for your future. You are.

■ Invest for the long term.

If you know and apply these basic truths, you should do fine with managing money and being a good steward.

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

## Parents can help safeguard teens from eating disorders

**Q: You recently described several factors that contribute to eating disorders. What are some practical steps I can take to help safeguard my teenage daughter against an eating disorder?**

Begin early with your daughter, emphasizing that true beauty has much more to do with the condition of her heart and soul than with the shape or condition of her body. Little girls often are touted for being "pretty." Society and the media bombard them with Madison Avenue images that reinforce the myth that beauty is skin deep. Remind her that God gives out many different body types and encourage her to accept hers even as she learns healthy habits of diet and exercise.

Remember to praise her not only for accomplishments; praise her for the character qualities that you see. An excellent list can be found in the Galatians 5:22 passage that outlines the "fruit of the Spirit." Pay attention and let your daughter know when you see her display attributes such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Foster open communication in your family that sends the message, "You can talk about anything." Let your daughter know that she can make mistakes without feeling like she is a mistake. Set appropriate limits for her while protecting her from unrealistic expectations and perhaps even the parental tendency to want to control her every move.

Help her find areas in which she excels and connect her with opportunities to discover and develop her talents. Constantly catch her doing something right and resist the urge to criticize. Instead, let her experience your discipline while at the same time seeing you always balance rules with relationships.—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: How can I teach my child to be a good sport?**

The folks at Upward Basketball like to say, "We can't all be good at sports, but we can all be good sports." Parents should work as hard at teaching sportsmanship as they do at teaching specific skills of a game.

Don't make winning and losing the only measuring stick. Emphasize the fun that comes from playing and learning the game. Children will watch how you respond to sports, so set a good example. Don't take the game too seriously. Involve your child in sports programs like Upward Basketball that emphasize sportsmanship.

Teach your children to play by the rules. Help them learn to respect the authority of the referees and umpires who enforce the rules, even when they disagree with their decisions. (Your example will be a key here.) Teach your child to respect his or her opponent. Shake hands before and after the game. Congratulate an opponent who plays well. Don't be a show off.

Point out examples of good and bad sportsmanship when you see it on television or in person. Teach your child to encourage other players, especially the player who might not be very skilled. Remind them to cheer for others when they are not in the game, and to play unselfishly when they are.

Challenge your child always to give his or her best effort. Continuing to play hard, even when things aren't going their way, shows respect for the game and for teammates. Most of all, encourage your child to have fun!—*David Garrard*

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



## Bible debate: 'Tug-of-war' over accuracy

The full-color, half-page ad in the current issue of SBC Life declares that LifeWay Christian Resources' new Holman Christian Standard Bible translation "took out thee and thou but left in he and she."

Noting that the translation "signals the victory of 21st century scholarship over 21st century politics," the ad in the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's monthly public relations publication goes on to explain, "The Holman CSB is committed to modernizing the grammar of the Bible, but we would never presume to 'modernize' Scripture. Changing 'thou' to 'you' has no bearing on theology or translation accuracy. But the decision to leave 'he' and 'she' unchanged is scriptural, because these terms reflect the truth about God and His Creation."

While such guidelines might sound good to Baptists who affirm the absolute authority of Scripture, the problem is the advertisement's claims aren't accurate.

David Stratton, a pastor in North Carolina, recently compared the wording in seven New Testament books in the King James, New International, Holman and Today's NIV translations, according to an article published in last week's Western Recorder. (The Old Testament isn't available yet for either Holman or Today's NIV.)

Stratton found 194 verses in which the Holman version is more gender-neutral than the NIV. When compared to both the KJV and NIV, Holman's gender-neutral quotient jumped to 339.

Among the examples Stratton cites, in Mark 4:9 the KJV reads, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." The NIV states, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." What does the Holman version say? "Anyone who has ears to hear should listen!" Sounds a lot like changing the specific "he" to a generic "anyone," doesn't it?

In James 5:16, the KJV describes the "effectual

fervent prayer of a righteous man." The NIV also uses the words "righteous man." The Holman version drops the word "man," and refers to "the righteous."

While those might sound like minor translation changes, when such examples are multiplied hundreds of times, many passages in the Holman Christian Standard Bible begin to reflect a gender-neutral tone.

A group of 26 conservative evangelical leaders has expressed concerns about "troubling translation inaccuracies—primarily ... in relation to gender language" in Today's NIV being produced by the International Bible Society, but they have remained strangely silent about gender language changes in the Southern Baptist-related Holman version. Yet, Stratton's study found that the Holman translation is more likely than the TNIV to translate masculine participles that refer to God in a gender-neutral manner.

Critiquing the TNIV in a recent interview on NBC's "Weekend Today," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al

Mohler said, "There are basic principles here at stake, and our concern is that making these decisions in this translation will lead to even further compromises of the text. ... I think it does a disservice to the Word of God."

Randy Stinson, executive director of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, which is affiliated with Southern Seminary, told Associated Press, "We believe the Bible is the Word of God, so changing these things deliberately is dangerous."

While critics question TNIV publishers' view that their version "will translate the Bible more accurately and present it more clearly," they apparently take similar statements by Holman translators at face value.

Promotional material for the Holman version claims it is "the winner in the tug-of-war between accuracy and readability." Too bad that same standard isn't being applied to its advertising claims.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Interdependent by God's design

By Henry Blackaby

ATLANTA (BP)—God, by creation, made each of us interdependent. We need each other, and others need us.

For Adam, God gave him a helpmate. They needed each other. All the way through the Scriptures God was putting people together for mutual support and strength.

But supremely in the New Testament do we realize the importance of interdependence. In 1 Corinthians 12:7 Paul affirms each believer by announcing: "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all (the common good)." The Holy Spirit is God's provision for the people of God. He manifests Himself to each member of a local church. But this evidence of the Spirit is not merely for each individual, but for the "common good" or for the "edifying" (building up) of all the others.

Paul made this interdependence very clear when he said, "To each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift ... for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry for the edifying of the body in Christ, till we all come to the

measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:7,12,13). Paul expands on this more specifically in Romans 12:3-6.

The implications of this are enormous. Each believer is incomplete without fellow believers. This is true in a marriage, a family, a church and in the workplace. Each believer has been given by God, from His purpose in creation, a unique relationship with Himself. He comes to know God uniquely.

That unique relationship is not merely for him to enjoy, but for him to share with others. Others do not know God just that way and will be incomplete in their full relationship with God without this help. Therefore it is crucial for every believer to be not only open to their fellow believers, but to deliberately look for God in their brothers and sisters. To be in a full and right relationship with them so you will be able to receive a fresh relationship with God through them is crucial. This means that each believer must make his life and his experience and understanding of God available to others too. We are mutually interdependent.

We are deeply aware of this rela-

tionship in our marriage and in our family. Each member must be encouraged to share in an open and free way. This is true in the workplace as well. God places fellow believers in our workplace on purpose—just for this spiritual help.

In your workplace you might lack courage to share your faith. Remember, though, that many times God has placed a gifted believer next to you who can do the sharing. What God has given them is for you too. Or someone is very timid and shy but God has made you an extrovert. This is not merely for you to enjoy your life in the workplace but for other believers to be helped (edified or built up) through your presence.

To receive from others or to share with others will be to ensure steady spiritual growth and maturity. God is greatly honored when we do this, for we fulfill in our lives what He intended when He planned our lives from creation.

Look for what others know of your Lord and receive what they have to share with you. But also look for opportunities to share the uniqueness of your experience and understanding of God with those God has placed immediately around you.

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

## Campolo: War on terrorism hurts missions efforts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (ABP)—The United States' war on terrorism could set missions back 1,000 years, according to popular author and speaker Tony Campolo.

Campolo, professor of sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa., told a North Carolina Baptist Men's conference in Charlotte that Jesus called Christians to be peacemakers.

Since Sept. 11, Campolo said, it has become taboo to quote Jesus even in church.

"I'm not sure we want to hear about this Jesus who says 'Those who live by the sword die by the sword' as we engage in a military buildup," he said. "I'm not sure we want to hear of a Jesus who says 'Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.'"

The American government has said it won't negotiate in the war on terrorism, Campolo said. "What's our answer to terrorism?" he asked. "It's going to set missions back a thousand years. We're going to kill them. We're going to root them out and kill them."

Campolo said that response is like trying to get rid of malaria by killing mosquitoes. "You get rid of malaria by destroying the swamps in which the malaria mosquitoes are bred," he said. "There's a swamp out there called poverty and injustice."

Campolo said he is tired of "big-time evangelists" calling Islam an evil religion.

"You say, 'But they quote it right out of the Koran,'" he said. "I can quote out of the New Testament and the Old Testament and make our faith a violent religion. I would not want you to take those passages and make my God into a violent destructive God Who goes around calling His people to murder others."

Campolo told of how St. Francis of Assisi left the Christian army during the Crusades, went to the tent of a sultan leading the Muslim army and tried to win him to Christ.

"He didn't succeed, but the sultan said, 'If all of you Christians were like you, Mr. Francis, we wouldn't be here today.'"

Campolo said Jesus called Christians to work for justice. "If we're going to win that Muslim world to Christ we cannot make stupid statements about their religion and we cannot, in fact, engage in a holy war against them."

Campolo said he is worried because American Christians have taken off WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelets and replaced them with American flags.

"People, I love this country," he said. "It's the best Babylon on the face of this earth, but it's still Babylon. This is not the kingdom of God, and my ultimate allegiance belongs to Jesus and so does yours."

Campolo described himself as a "pro-Israel evangelical," but spoke against some of Israel's actions in its conflict with the Palestinians. He said the fact that the people of Israel are "the chosen of God" does not make them immune from injustice.

"When they send tanks into the West Bank and level 70 houses in retaliation to some madman setting off a bomb in Tel-Aviv, they're using Hitler-like tactics," Campolo said. "I am suggesting that those who do not speak out for justice for the Palestinians have no right to talk about freedom and justice for the Jews, because I've got to tell you that God loves the Palestinians every bit as much as He loves the Jews."

## A board of believers

The board of directors for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies will have concluded a two-day meeting by the time you read this edition of the Western Recorder.

Because the meeting is over, our board members will understand that I'm not just trying to politic them with a nice article. However, I don't thank them publicly often enough.

Before I joined this ministry nearly five years ago, our board was working diligently for more than a year as the agency now known as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc.

This was a board made up of deeply committed people who truly believed God had a great plan for Cedarmore and Jonathan

Creek. This board of pastors and laypeople was passionate in their pursuit of God's vision for both camp and conference centers.

Now, almost five years into this new ministry, we still are blessed to have a board that cares so deeply about seeing God's plan develop at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

A few of these board members were a part of the original board. Some are new. Each of our board members is an ardent supporter of

the camp and conference ministry in Kentucky.

Our board is made up of strong men and women who each make significant and unique contributions to this ministry.

So I say a heartfelt thanks to our board members.

They are a pleasure to work with. They are supportive of my leadership. They have been and continue to be bold and willing to take the necessary steps and risks to launch new ministries and camping programs.

This board believes that the greatest years are ahead for both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

To be sure, we've only been going as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies for less than five years. But what a five years it has been! There is, however, much work still to be done.

God has blessed us, and me personally, by bringing a board that will play a key part in our ministry in the years ahead.

To God be the glory!

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

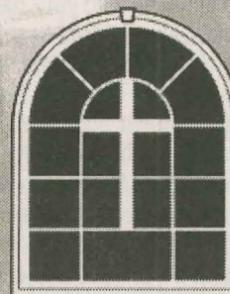
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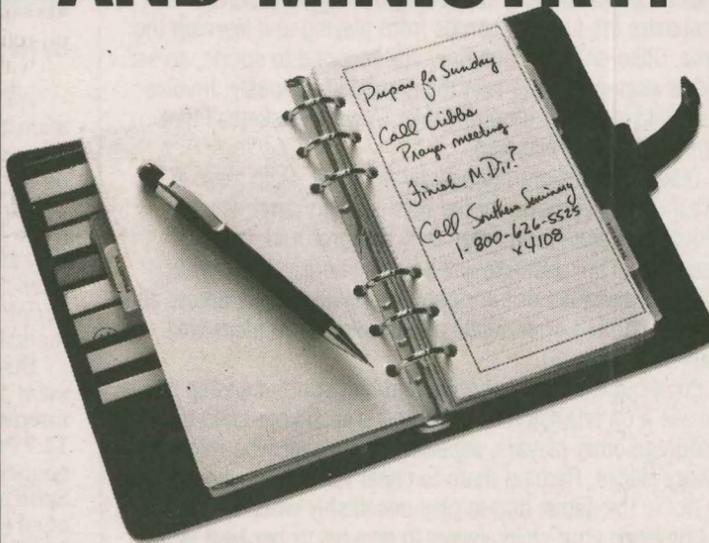
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The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

# SMILE

## 'Treatment'

Hindsight being 20/20, there is something I regret about the way we announced our plans to relocate Spring Meadows and Glen Dale Children's Homes. That regret comes from using the word "treatment." That word seems to be causing some Kentucky Baptists concern, so I want to elaborate on this. I also want to encourage anyone who has questions or concerns about this issue to call me toll-free at (800) 456-1386. I am available to you and your church to discuss this and any other Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children matters.

I also encourage you to go to our Web site at [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org), or contact our communications department at the toll-free number for materials regarding the relocation of these two programs.

Treatment has been going on at Glen Dale, Spring Meadows and many other KBHC programs for years. Treatment is listening to a child tell her story of abandonment. Treatment is telling a boy haunted by sexual abuse that his past doesn't have to ruin his future. Treatment is holding a child safely while he relives a trauma some of us couldn't imagine in our worst nightmare.

Readers of this space, the Baptist

Children's Messenger, our Web site and other communications know that our programs have been changing to meet the emotional needs of our children. In 1994, my predecessor Curtis Mooney wrote in the Messenger, "We have added staff, increased training and focused programs on serving children who have increasing levels of emotional and behavioral problems."

In 1997, when our board of directors approved our new mission and values statement, we told Kentucky Baptists that one of our core values was "to always strive to improve and adapt our services to anticipate and meet changing needs."

None of this is new. Treatment occurs in foster homes and in places called "centers" and places called "children's homes." Care and treatment are partners. Kentucky's children and families need KBHC and Kentucky Baptists to be partners, too. Call us for a speaking engagement. Schedule a tour of a KBHC facility. Be a partner, for the kids' sake.

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

## HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

## Olympic ministry

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College student Betsy Moore, daughter of Gene and Linda Moore of Independence, spent summer 2001 in Salt Lake City. She served as a member of the "More Than Gold" team, a singing group composed of Baptist Student Union members throughout Kentucky.

During the Olympics, Moore returned to Salt Lake City for further ministry. She and the other members of "More Than Gold" served in a variety of ways during their week at the Winter Games in February.

Moore and the others worked with Global Outreach, often serving at

church had provided such a warm, welcoming and popular place for the many visitors from around the world.

One night at the coffee house, Moore and the team members spoke with a young man from Salt Lake City. He was quite anti-religious but team members talked with him for two hours. At the end of the conversation he still was not convinced of the truth of Christ, but the team believed God had used them to plant seeds.

Moore stated that each day in Salt Lake City was clear and beautiful except their last day. Every day they had seen the majestic beauty of the mountains demonstrating God's marvelous creation. On the last day, clouds obscured the mountains but Moore knew they were still there. She often tells people that like the hidden mountains, we sometimes do not see God's presence but He is still there.

Moore had a wonderful time serving with other Kentucky Baptists as they ministered to the world. We appreciate Moore's joyous spirit and dedication.

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

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Bible Crossword

By Cheryl Keiser

### Across

- "A \_\_\_ that needeth not to be ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15)
- "The word of God ... is sharper than any two-edged \_\_\_" (Hebrews 4:12)
- Friend, Fr.
- When you will arrive, approximately, abbr.
- In favor of
- Belonging to God's chosen nation
- Young lady, Fr., abbr.
- Man's name
- Sons of Judah, Er and \_\_\_ (Genesis 46:12)
- Edward, for short
- Chinese dynasty
- Firstborn son of Judah (Genesis 38:2-3)
- Primps
- "\_\_\_ not yourselves" (Romans 12:19)
- "When the morning stars \_\_\_" (Job 38:7)
- "Jesus thou \_\_\_ of God" (Matthew 8:29)
- Letter before "em"
- Teletypewriter, abbr.
- In order that
- Small particle
- Translation, abbr.
- Son of Adam
- Prophet during David's reign
- Masculine article, Fr.
- Indicate agreement with a movement of the head
- "These \_\_\_ Milcah did bear" (Genesis 22:23)
- Letter after "em"

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57						58				

- Preposition
- "Lion will not \_\_\_ himself" (Isaiah 31:4)
- Sea lettuce
- "\_\_\_ obtained favor" (Esther 2:15)
- Moisten

### Down

- "As \_\_\_ as snow" (Revelation 1:14)
- "A \_\_\_ thing" (Daniel 2:11)
- Department store chain
- Appearance
- Sea monster of loch
- America's uncle
- "\_\_\_ the ears, but he heareth not" (Isaiah 42:20)
- Transportation on tracks, abbr.
- "Let us not be weary in well \_\_\_" (Galatians 6:9)
- "\_\_\_ my people go" (Exodus 5:1)
- Brief periods of time
- Hills
- Response, abbr.
- "I ... beheld your \_\_\_, I found an altar with this inscription, To The Unknown God" (Acts 17:23)

- City in Nevada
- "Delivered when she was past \_\_\_" (Hebrews 11:11)
- "Take it, and \_\_\_ it up" (Revelation 10:9)
- Josaphat's father (Matthew 1:8)
- Building wing
- To stow, especially in a ship's hold
- Exclamation
- St. Paul is the capital of this state, abbr.
- Not that
- "The heathen \_\_\_" (Psalms 46:6)
- Masculine article, Sp.
- "Lest he \_\_\_ my soul like a lion" (Psalms 7:2)
- New England state, abbr.
- "As it was in the days of \_\_\_ so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26)
- Stomach, for short
- Girl's name
- Syllable of satisfaction
- Exist
- Low pressure, abbr.

## Last week's solution

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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Groups affirm NBC dropping hard-liquor ads.** Twenty conservative organizations, led by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, have written the NBC television network to thank its executives for deciding not to air hard-liquor ads. They also recommended the network go a step further and ban all alcohol advertising. The latest decision returned the network to a voluntary ban on such advertising that had been in place for half a century. Among those signing onto the ERLC letter were Chuck Colson, chairman of Prison Fellowship Ministries; Tom Minney, vice president of public policy for Focus on the Family; and Sandy Rios, president of Concerned Women for America.

■ **Panel dismisses complaint against judge.** An Alabama judicial panel has dismissed a complaint filed against Chief Justice Roy Moore, who wrote in an opinion that homosexuality was an "inherent evil." The Judicial Inquiry Commission's decision dismissed a petition by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a New York-based gay rights group, Associated Press reported. Lambda Legal alleged that Moore's remarks violated judicial rules that mandate judges be impartial. Moore, best known for hanging a plaque of the Ten Commandments in court, made his comments in a written opinion in a child custody case that involved a lesbian.

■ **Protesters file suit after arrests.** Anti-abortion protesters arrested last summer by Kansas City, Mo., police officers have filed suit claiming their free speech rights were violated. "This is a case about protecting the First Amendment rights of those who want to speak out in defense of life," said Francis Manion, senior counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice. Though charges against the five protesters who were arrested June 23 were dropped in November, Manion said the suit was filed to prevent future discrimination.

## Bill seeks to lift ban on church politicking

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A long-standing IRS rule that churches and other non-profit organizations that are exempt from paying taxes may not engage in partisan politics, such as endorsing candidates, would be removed from the tax code if a bill pending in Congress becomes law.

A bill now in a U.S. House committee would allow churches to spend as much as 20 percent of their budget on partisan politics without risking loss of their tax-exempt status.

Supporters of the change say the current law infringes churches' right to freedom of speech. Opponents say removing the limits would unnecessarily politicize America's pulpits.

House Resolution 2357, the "Houses of Worship Political Speech Protection Act," is sponsored by Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.). It would re-

move a prohibition—in place since 1954—that prevents churches and other non-profit groups organized under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code from engaging in partisan politics while maintaining their freedom from being taxed.

"For me, it's a First Amendment issue," Jones said. "Prior to 1954, a rabbi, priest or minister could say anything they wanted to say. This is simply trying to return free speech to churches and synagogues."

Opponents of the bill say current laws don't prevent tax-exempt charities from speaking out on political issues. Churches and ministers already can address social and moral issues as long as they don't endorse candidates.

"This bill isn't about free speech; it's about hardball politics," said Barry Lynn, director of Americans Unit-

ed for Separation of Church and State. "Pat Robertson and his friends are desperately trying to forge churches into a political machine, and this bill allows them to get away with it."

Language of the new bill was drafted by Colby May, a lawyer for the American Center for Law and Justice. The ACLJ was founded by Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson.

Richard Land, head of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, supports the Jones legislation. "We don't think the government should be telling churches what to do," he said.

While he believes churches should have the right to endorse candidates, Land added, "We will continue to urge our churches not to do it." Overt partisan politicking is "not an appropriate role for the church," he said.

## Graham defends dad's comments about Jews

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP)—Evangelist Franklin Graham said his father's conversation about Jews that was recorded 30 years ago at the White House were taken out of context.

Evangelist Billy Graham's comments were not directed at all Jews but at a small media elite who controlled "the major outlets at that time," Franklin Graham said in an interview with The Charlotte Observer published April 2.

"The issue has never been Jewish people," Franklin Graham. "His concern was liberalism in that time

in the media. And it's changed."

The tapes were recorded in 1972 by a secret recording system installed in the White House by former President Richard Nixon. The tapes, released last month, included Graham's concerns about alleged Jewish domination of the media.

"This stranglehold has got to be broken or this country's going down the drain," Billy Graham says, agreeing with Nixon's own comments earlier in the conversation.

Franklin Graham, his father's chosen successor, said his father's comments were taken out of context.

He said many other people have had private conversations they wouldn't want to be made public.

"Anytime you have a private conversation with anybody and it's taped and released, your confidence has been broken," he told the newspaper.

In two separate apologies, the elder Graham, now 83, said he should have disagreed with Nixon's remarks about Jews. He asked the Jewish community "to reflect on my actions on behalf of Jews over the years that contradict my words in the Oval Office that day."

## 'I was out of control'

In my last article I shared the story of Judy, a young lady who had made some wrong decisions in her life. I reminded our readers that Oneida is not a school for "problem children." Though Judy came from a troubled background and had been in court because of some poor choices, her story was not typical of Oneida's student body.

We never have denied that many of our students have made some bad choices and have gotten into trouble. However, I think that it is only fair to consider why they may have made such poor decisions.

Keep in mind that approximately 80 percent of our students come from broken homes. Of that 80 percent, nearly half come from single-parent families. Surely it was not God's intention for young people to be raised this way. Friends and family members, usually grandparents, try to nurture a child in those situations. But it is very difficult to replace Mom, Dad and the normal family unit.

Alice (not her real name) is a good example. She is completing her fourth year at Oneida and has been a blessing to us. Alice needed structure, discipline and good friends. Oneida helped fill a tremendous void in her life, and she blessed us by becoming a gracious young lady. Here is part of her senior essay:

"Let me start (with) why I came to Oneida. My sister and I moved in with my grandparents after my parents were arrested. ... My grades started to drop to D's and F's, and I was out of control. Through my church, my grandparents heard about Oneida and decided I should give it a try. I thought at the time I would only be here a few weeks, but weeks turned into months, and months turned into years."

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

"Coming to Oneida was crazy. When I got to Oneida everyone knew I didn't want to be here. I was awful! I had a very bad attitude and didn't care what any of the house parents thought. My freshman year, I got into a lot of trouble until I became involved in sports. Then I started to change. I really began to like Oneida. I have positive friends here and a lot of people to support me. ... The best thing about Oneida is the friends I have made. The worst thing about Oneida would have to be the swats. ... I have only had swats a few times, and thank goodness I will never have to worry about them again."

"At Oneida I have been involved in Beta; student government; editor of the school's newspaper, ONE; volleyball; cheerleading; softball; and basketball manager. I was stage manager for the play 'A Christmas Story,' a third floor dorm aide, and I was asked to speak at the Kentucky Baptist Convention (in 2001). ... I will miss chapel when I leave. ... I will also miss praise and worship."

"The single most important thing I have learned at Oneida is what true friendship is. Before I came here, all my friends and I would get high. They said they cared about me, but now I know they didn't. ... I will miss Oneida more than I realize. ... Oneida is an all-around good place, and I am grateful I have had the opportunity to go to school here and now graduate."

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for making it possible for us to meet the needs of young people who need a helping hand.

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)

## Clear Creek seniors share memories

Graduation 2002 for Clear Creek will be May 10 at Binghamtown Baptist Church. The commencement speaker is Richard Harris, vice president for church planting at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Thirty-five seniors will receive diplomas.

Each year the seniors share their fondest memories.

■ Michelle Carpenter: "At Clear Creek I have learned how to be a good and godly wife, both by experience and by the examples around me. I will always remember that this is where I carried and gave birth to our first child."

■ Rodney Earles: "I will never forget the way people responded when Joy was sick in the hospital. The prayers, food and visits were so wonderful; the Christian love was so great. God brought Joy through her illness and it left the doctors baffled because they could not explain what had happened, but we know that God worked a miracle."

■ Howard Miller: "It was hard to keep up with my studies and to prepare to pass the tests. All the homework seemed impossible at times. Looking back gives me a

wonderful feeling, hanging in there and sticking it out, because I know God called me to Clear Creek."

■ Robert Belenz: "God brought me through four years at Clear Creek and provided many dear friends. I treasure the revival of 1998; the birth of our son, Nicholas Alexander; and a large financial gift that paid in full my last two semesters."

■ Fred Cagle: "As a result of God bringing me to Clear Creek I have many new friends. I am thankful for all the improvements and new buildings, especially the chapel remodeling. I thank God for the opportunity to study His Word with professors who love the Lord."

■ Christinia and Brian Gatlin are one of three couples who will graduate. Her fondest memory is "the laughter from classes, the Foxes' Den, and best of all, those late-night card marathons with the Benefiels that usually resulted in laughter until we couldn't breath." Brian appreciates "the opportunity given me by Old Yellow Creek Baptist Church to serve with them while I was a student."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# BOOKS

## Missionary chronicles God's 'Rescue'

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—Shortly after intruders nabbed Gene and Jean Phillips at their missionary residence in Africa, Christians around the world began praying for the veteran Southern Baptist missionary couple, then living in the small country of Lesotho.

It was January 1999, and emerging Internet technology helped news about their kidnapping spread quickly throughout the world.

The Phillipses credit this immediate, worldwide prayer effort as the reason their captors decided suddenly to not kill them but instead to release them unharmed.

For Gene and Jean Phillips, the abduction was another entry into their diary of times when they say God plucked them from the jaws of devastation and refined them through the African fires blazing around them.

The story of the Phillipses' dramatic abduction and nearly 50 years in Africa is told in a new book titled "Rescue."

The Phillipses lived through some of the more harrowing moments in African history of the last century—through unthinkable hardships that would have caused most people to abandon their cause. From the Rhodesian civil war to bush-country living, to their abduction in Lesotho, they say they continually learned the dependability of God's rescue.



The pair retired in 1996, but spent a year in Lesotho in 1998-99 and six months in Botswana last year.

When all else seemed to fail them, Mrs. Phillips writes, God came through, sparing their lives, answering their prayers, meeting their special family needs and helping them sing praises despite one frightening, traumatic episode after another.

"God continues to use our experiences for His glory," Mrs. Phillips writes. "Though we wouldn't have chosen this way for Him to be glorified, that's what we want—His glory."

**Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?** Bruce Walkte. Eerdmans Publishing, 2002. 187 pages. \$15. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Numerous books are available on the will of God. What makes this book worth reading? The answer is found in the subtitle to the book: "A Pagan Notion?"

Walkte contends that much of what Christians practice to "find" the will of God is actually a pagan way of placing one's life in the will of God.

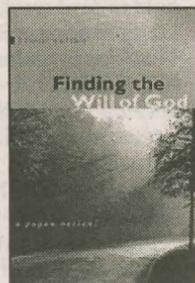
First, the whole notion of "finding" the will of God is pagan because it assumes that we worship a God Who is in the process of creating a will for us and then "hiding" it. Walkte asks repeatedly and in a number of ways why a God Who has a perfect will for us would want to make it extremely hard to "find" it. Of course, his answer is that God is not in the business of hiding the divine will.

Secondly, Walkte sees much of what we use to "find" God's will as actually coming from pagan divination—tangible practices that "find" the will of God.

Walkte contends that Christian practices such as praying harder, following hunches, meditating more on Scripture and even living a better life, in order to find God's will, actually have more in common with pagan practice than biblical Christianity.

Instead, Walkte encourages the reader to read the Bible, develop a heart for God, seek wise counsel, look for God's providence and ask the question, "Does this make sense?"

Walkte's last chapter, however, holds open the possibility of God simply intervening directly in one's life. I like this book even more for what it corrects than what it offers as a positive guidance to God's will, although that is helpful, too. *Wayne Hager*



some true, some fictional—from many of today's top speakers and writers.

Authors include Barbara Johnson, Patsy Clairmont, Thelma Wells, Luci Swindoll, Sheila Walsh, Becky Freeman and Chondra Pierce, just to name a few, and the book's essays run the gamut from husbands to children to church and back again.

"Don't Stop Laughing Now!" is refreshing proof that women's inspirational literature has come a long way from where it once was. Its stories ring true and touch on women's real lives, rather than relating cleaned-up, precensored versions of what Christian writers think the truth should be.

"Don't Stop Laughing Now!" offers more than a few good laughs and the pleasant realization that even revered spiritual leaders get runs in their pantyhose, have bad hair days and generally need a God-given sense of humor as much as the most average among us. On stressful days, that knowledge can be a very comforting thing. *Victoria Moon*

**Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry.** William Willimon. Abingdon Press, 2002. 368 pages. \$25. ♦♦♦♦

For nearly 30 years, William Willimon has studied, taught and served in pastoral ministry. Much of that time he has been dean of the chapel and professor of Christian ministry at Duke University Divinity School.

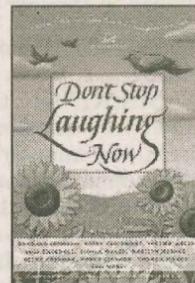
As a pastor, preacher, teacher and writer on the church, his influence extends far beyond the bounds of Duke. Willimon is one of those unique people who transcends the boundaries drawn within American Protestant Christianity between liberal/conservative.

"Pastor" is his attempt to delineate a pattern for ordained ministry that not only addresses the contemporary context, but is true to the history and character of the church.

In the opening chapter, he outlines five characteristics about the nature of ordination: it is "an act of Christ and His church"; it is "for service to Christ and the church"; it "arises 'from above' as a gracious gift of the Holy Spirit"; it "arises from below, from the church's need for, and wisdom in designating, leadership"; and it "forms those who are to serve as priests to the priests." His discussion of the priesthood of believers in this last section should make us Baptists sit up and take notice.

After examining several contemporary images of the pastor, Willimon uses the rest of the book to describe the dimensions of pastoral identity and responsibility: priest, pastor, interpreter of Scripture, preacher, counselor, teacher, evangelist, prophet, leader, character and disciplined Christian.

Thoroughly biblical, in constant dialogue with the history and traditions of the church (warts and all), as well as appreciative (and wary) of the present context of the church, "Pastor" is a total look at the life and work of pastoral ministry. *Jim Holladay*



**Don't Stop Laughing Now! Stories to Tickle Your Funny Bone and Strengthen Your Faith.** Compiled by Ann Spangler and Shari MacDonald. Zondervan, 2002. 239 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

The preface of this book includes the story of a stressed-out single mother who picked up the first volume of this series and read it. She related her response to the book to compilers Spangler and MacDonald: "I read and prayed and read some more."

"I related to so many of the stories. For two days I laughed out loud, so much so that I feel like a new woman as I await the arrival of my children today, knowing I can once again be the responsible strong woman God made me."

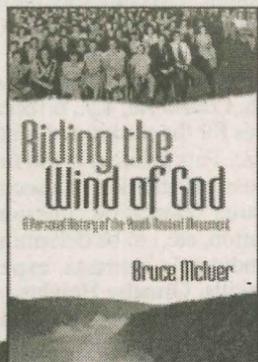
While "Don't Stop Laughing Now!" might not have this dramatic effect on most readers, it does offer a collection of humorous stories—

*During the '40s, in the wake of the Depression and in the midst of WWII, a small group of students began to pray for spiritual revival.*



# Riding the Wind of God

A Personal History of the Youth Revival Movement



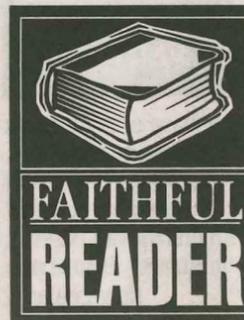
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By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C.; Jim Holladay, pastor of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville; and Victoria Moon, librarian for Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville. They welcome feedback or suggestions for book 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)

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Funds needed to assist a team of Kentuckians who will set up a camp for orphans in Wisla, Poland, on June 18-July 1. The cost will be \$50 per child or approximately \$6,000 for the camp. To sponsor one or more children, send your check payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, attn. Carla Purvis, partnership missions office, 10701 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243.

■ A newly open opportunity for Baptists to begin a Bible study in Portalegre in central Portugal.

■ Sunday Bible study groups for the deaf in Prague, Czech Republic. The adults and children are beginning to search deeper into the Word and ask more questions, Baptist representatives say.

■ Collegiate ministry coordinators, most of whom are Mission Service Corps volunteers who raise their own financial support, in the Baptist Convention of New England: Connecticut: Jackie and Cedra Flake; Vermont: John and Sue Heath; Maine: Keith and Penny Litchfield; Rhode Island, Eastern Connecticut and South Massachusetts: Andy and Amy Haynes; Greater Boston: Curtis and Brandy Cook.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church honored **Ella Wright Saigeon** on her 99th birthday April 4. **Jason Pettus** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—East Cadiz Church called **Ron Yonts** as minister of music. He began his new ministry March 3.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—New Salem Church called **James Collison** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Cane Valley Church, Campbellsville.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Russell Heights Church will hold revival services April 18-21 with **Jeff McCarthy** as evangelist.

■ **FULTON**—**Donald Houston** recently resigned as pastor of Liberty Church.

■ **GREENSBURG**—**Cary Dunbar** recently resigned as pastor of New Hope Church.

■ **HINDMAN**—**Dale Niswonger**, a former pastor of several Kentucky Baptist churches, died Feb. 25 after a brief illness. He was 48. Niswonger, a member of Hindman Church at the time of his death, had been pastor of Calvary Church, Frankfort; Forks of Elkhorn Church; Parksville Church; Pleasureville Church; and Salvisa Church. He also taught junior and senior high school, was director of the Franklin County Senior Citizens Center and worked as a program consultant for the state Department of Education. He is survived by his wife,

Mary, and daughter, Mindy.

■ **KENTON**—Kenton Church will hold revival services April 14-17 with **Doug Ramage** as evangelist. **Steve Watkins** is pastor.

■ **LA CENTER**—Oscar Church celebrated its 100th anniversary and homecoming March 17. **Marty Brown** is pastor.

■ **MYRA**—Faith Church will host **Michael Combs** in concert April 20, 7 p.m. For information, call pastor **Dave Hammond** at (606) 855-4645.

■ **POWDERLY**—Powderly Church will hold revival services April 24-28, with **Harold Greenfield**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as evangelist.

■ **SALEM**—Old Salem Church called **Dennis Winn** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Main Street Church will honor **Jerry Lowrie** with a reception at the Rollins Fine Arts Center on the campus of Cumberland College April 14, 2:30-4 p.m. Lowrie, who celebrated his 25th anniversary as pastor March 1, will retire April 14.

### What's going on?

Send your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.

## New Tribes: 'No ransom' for workers

SANFORD, Fla. (BP)—New Tribes Mission has issued a news release denying "any participation in attempts to pay ransom or raise money for ransom" for the release of missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham who were kidnapped in the Philippines on May 27 of last year.

The missions agency said a U.S. media outlet had reported that the U.S. government had facilitated a ransom payment to the Osama bin Laden-related Abu Sayyaf group in the Asian country.

New Tribes Mission officials noted that "no source is cited and they have failed to verify this with the

U.S. government. If such a payment was made, it was done without our consent or knowledge."

Mission leaders noted there has been a shift in U.S. policy on ransom payments, but the missions agency stated it will continue its longstanding "no ransom" position.

"Paying ransom only increases the risk of future kidnappings. As missionaries, the nature of our work makes us vulnerable to kidnappings," the news release stated. "Therefore, major mission organizations have agreed to establish a no ransom position in order to send the message that it is not profitable to kidnap missionaries."

## Stack, longtime DOM, dies at age 76

OWENTON—Retired Director of Missions George Stack, who served in the same ministry position more than 40 years, died March 31 at age 76.

Stack was director of missions for Owen County and Ten Mile Baptist associations from 1958 until his retirement in 2000. The two associations include 39 churches.

Stack's tenure of nearly 43 years serving the same associations likely is a record in Kentucky Baptist life, said Randy Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention state missions department.

"That was the only full-time

Christian ministry he did out of seminary," Jones noted. "He planted his life there."

Stack was a graduate of North Greenville Junior College and Furman University, both in Greenville, S.C.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Describing Stack as a "Christian gentlemen," Jones pointed out, "His life was his work and ministry. He loved the people and loved what he did."

Stack is survived by his wife, Joyce, and two sons. His funeral service was April 4 at First Baptist Church of Owenton.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Ordained Southern Baptist pastor seeks a full-time position. Four years experience with baptisms exceeding 85 people—all credit due to God. Please call (502) 839-0796.

**FOR SALE:** Used fitness equipment? Buy new for less! Visit our Web site, save \$\$\$: fitnessgear4less.com/2472037.

**FOR SALE:** New and used buses and shuttle vans. Call American Bus and Accessories, Inc., (800) 582-7118.

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

**SEEKING:** Edgewood Baptist Church, Nicholasville, Ky., is seeking a full-time youth minister. Please send resumé to: Edgewood Baptist Church, 717 South Main St., Nicholasville, KY 40356, Attn: Personnel Committee Chairman.

**SEEKING:** Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky., seeks full-time minister to youth and activities. The student minister would have direct responsibility for youth-oriented programs, for grades 7-12. Prefer seminary degree. Send resumé to: Student Minister Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 720 W 7th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**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:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 175-W Clay Ridge Road, Alexandria, KY 41001, Attn: Harold Hornsby.

**SEEKING:** Baptist Seminary of Kentucky invites applications for a faculty appointment in the area of biblical studies to begin in the fall term of 2002. Responsibilities include teaching in the area of New Testament and/or Old Testament, along with one biblical language plus an administrative role commensurate with gifts for a seminary in its first year. Candidates must be Baptist; MDiv and PhD are required. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Send a letter of application, curriculum vitae and three letters of reference to: Dr. Greg C. Earwood, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, 150 E High St., Lexington, KY 40507.

**SEEKING:** Growing Baptist church in Lexington prayerfully seeks a full-time minister of music, children and youth. Responsibilities include leading worship through music, directing adult and children's choirs, and overseeing children and youth education and recreation. Interested candidates should submit resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 22113, Lexington, KY 40502.

**SEEKING:** South District Association is seeking a full-time director of missions. South District is located in the Danville, Ky., area, serving 23 churches in Boyle, Garrard, Marion and Washington counties. Please send resumé by April 30 to: Robert F. Bausum, 5055 Perryville Road, Danville, KY 40422-9706.

**SEEKING:** Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky., is seeking to fill two positions: Part-time children's ministry coordinator and part-time preschool ministry coordinator—both to work under the supervision of the children's ministry director. Send resumé by April 15 to: Personnel Committee, Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students (children and youth). Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 373, Glenwood, AR 71943.

**SEEKING:** Salem Baptist Church in Salem, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o David Kelley, 785 Condra Road, Smithland, KY 42081, or e-mail to: davedwkey1@aol.com.

**SEEKING:** Lynn Camp Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky., is seeking music director for Sunday/Wednesday services. Send resumé to: 31 Indian Oaks Lane, Corbin, KY 40701.

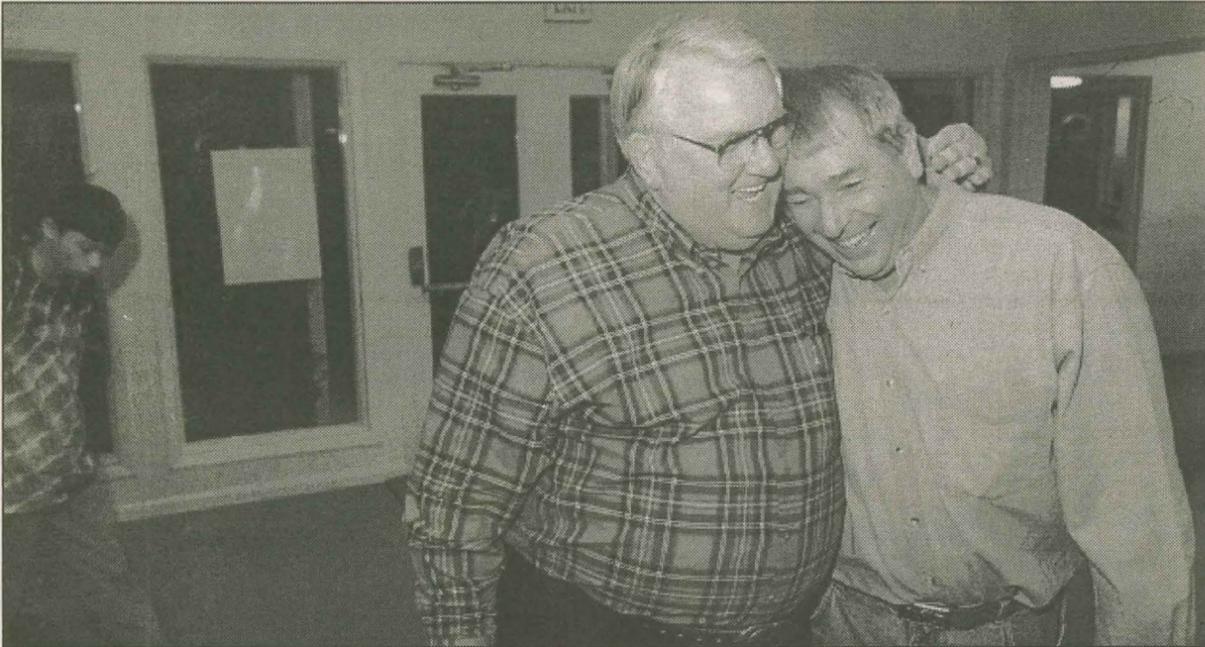
**SEEKING:** A spiritually mature, licensed and/or ordained Southern Baptist minister with a desire to serve as an associate pastor for evangelistic, multi-cultural Southern Baptist church. Duties will include ministry in outreach visitation to new members, prospects and inactive members; hospital, nursing home and home-bound visitation; and teaching disciples and special studies. Send resumé with references to: Chairman, Search Committee, Mill Creek Baptist Church, 1182 South Jones St., Radcliff, KY 40160; fax to: (270) 351-6058; e-mail to: milcreek@msn.com.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Ashland, Ky., seeks a part-time interim minister of youth and children. Approximately 15-20 hours a week. Must be a mature Christian and at least 21 years old. Must have ability to lead and relate with all ages. Send resumé to: Minister of Youth and Children Interim Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 1701 Winchester Ave., PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787.

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

## A new mission



**MISSIONARY** Stuart Cundiff (left) hugs fellow church member Sonny Brown after a Wednesday night service. Cundiff serves 21 churches and five missions as associational missionary for a 10-county region of Indiana. He and his wife, Jan, are among the missionaries whose work is profiled to promote the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's goal is \$52 million. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

## Former Air Force special agent now helps pastors

By Karen Willoughby  
SBC North American Mission Board

COLUMBUS, Ind.—It's a second career for retired Air Force Special Agent Stuart Cundiff, and unlike his first, it's one he can share completely with his wife, Jan.

Stu Cundiff, the Air Force equivalent of an FBI agent for 22 years, often was away from his wife and family. More often, Cundiff couldn't discuss his work with her. But for the last dozen years they've served together in South Central Baptist Association of Indiana.

Cundiff is director of missions for the association; Mrs. Cundiff is the state literacy consultant and associational language missions director. Together the couple are featured missionaries for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. This year's goal is \$52 million.

His ministry has four main aspects, Cundiff said: He is a pastor to the pastors, supporter of existing churches, starter of new churches and builder of the association.

"Usually not a day goes by that one of the pastors doesn't call me and ask me for advice and counsel," Cundiff said. "Sometimes I just listen. Some-

times I'll pray with them even over the phone."

Jan Cundiff's work often is just as personalized. She teaches English as a second language to Chinese students on Mondays, a Japanese woman on Tuesdays and the wife of a Hispanic pastor on Wednesdays. Weekends often are filled with English as a second language training workshops around the state, or associational gatherings.

There were nine churches and one mission congregation when Cundiff was named director of missions in 1989. Today, there are 21 churches and five missions located in 10 counties in south-central Indiana. The Cundiffs drive about 2,000 miles each month as they minister.

"We've been here 12 years," Cundiff said. "There is not one pastor in this association who was here when I got here. There has been a complete turnover. We need to pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up native-born Indiana Hoosier men to plant their lives here in Indiana as pastors and lay leaders, to sow Indiana with Christ-centered churches. That's my main prayer."

Mrs. Cundiff's main prayer is one of praise that God has gifted her with an ability and interest in teach-

ing English as a second language, and that she gets to work with new and existing language churches in South Central association. The language congregations include one Chinese, one Korean and two Hispanic. A Japanese congregation still is in the vision stage.

"When I was 18 years old I knew that God called me to be a foreign missionary," Mrs. Cundiff said. "I just didn't know He was going to bring the mission field here to me. It's been a wonderful experience to learn that God is not limited to the way I think. He has ways way past my ideas."

"Because of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions we are able to do for others without having to raise funds for ourselves," she added. "It's just amazing to think about how many people make it possible for us to not just do what we are called to do but what we love to do."

Service in the Air Force filled a 20-year gap between his call to the ministry and his acceptance of that call, Cundiff said.

"The hymn says, 'Give of your best to the Master, give of the strength of your youth,' and I didn't," Cundiff said. "I lost 20 years. I'm now playing catch up. I'm just doing what the Lord wants me to do. And trying to do it to the best of my ability."



## Study suggests television sex & violence declining

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The amount of television entertainment involving sex and violence dropped between 1999 and 2001, a new study has found.

The study by the Washington-based Center for Media and Public Affairs found that the amount of sex decreased by 29 percent and the amount of serious violence fell by 17 percent.

The media research think tank, in a study released March 21, found that

much of the decline occurred on the four major broadcast networks, ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox.

Overall, the amount of sex on broadcast and cable television decreased from 17 scenes per hour in the 1998-99 season to 12 scenes per hour in 2000-2001.

Researchers also found a substantial drop in serious violence. In prime-time television series across the board in 2000-2001, there was an average of 15 violent scenes per hour, a 17

percent decline from the average of 18 scenes per hour in the 1998-99 season.

The executive summary for the study concluded that "popular culture is not necessarily on a permanent and steeply downward slide. ... Rather than continuing to subscribe to the philosophy that 'nothing succeeds like excess,' Hollywood is providing viewers with less extreme programming that appeals to wider audiences."

## Wedgewood members dedicate monument to shooting victims

By Gregory Tomlin  
Baptist Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Members of Wedgewood Baptist Church and the Fort Worth, Texas, community dedicated a memorial March 31 to seven victims of the nation's worst church shooting.

Larry Gene Ashbrook, 47, entered the south foyer and sanctuary of the church on Sept. 15, 1999, and fired randomly into the crowd comprised mostly of young people celebrating at a "See You at the Pole" event.

Ashbrook wounded seven others before taking his own life. Killed were Shawn Brown, 23; Kim Jones, 23; Sydney Browning, 36; Joey Ennis, 14; Cassie Griffin, 14; Kristi Beckel, 14; and Justin Stegner Ray, 17.

Brown and Jones were students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Browning was a member of the ministerial staff at Wedgewood. Ennis, Griffin, Beckel and Ray were at the church as part of a celebration of prayer around flagpoles at area schools and other schools throughout the country.

Pastor Al Meredith called the service a "celebration of life and dedication of the memorial plaza honoring the seven martyrs who died Sept. 15, 1999."

During the two-hour ceremony, Meredith also noted that the gunman was unable to extinguish the spiritual life of those who died.

"The day after the shooting, I could honestly stand before reporters and say that we grieve not as those who have no hope. As far as we know, all of these kids are with the Lord."

Erected just outside the south foyer of the sanctuary, the memorial plaza consists of an eight-sided granite monument. Seven sides are dedicated to each of the martyrs bearing their name, photo, date of birth and a description of the individual written by the family. The eighth side describes the events of the evening of Sept. 15.

Black-granite prayer benches surround the 17,000-pound monument, which includes a flagpole. Cold Spring Granite Co. in Cold Spring, Minn., manufactured the monument, made of granite from India.

Meredith introduced a family member of each victim and invited them to speak. As each came forward, speakers paused to light a candle of remembrance and hope.

Shawn Brown's widow, Kathy Jo Rogers, who remarried last year and is expecting a child, said she has learned much about God through Brown's death. She said she had to learn to trust God fully since the shooting.

"I never really had to trust God with something I didn't understand," she said. "I had to learn that God is sovereign and doesn't waste anything."

Rogers established a scholarship fund at Southwestern Seminary in memory of her late husband.

Stan and Stephanie Jones returned from Saudi Arabia to remember their daughter. They distributed pieces of a puzzle to those present. Life, they said, is like a puzzle, "and God knows how all of the pieces fit together." What is certain, Mrs. Jones added, is that they will see their daughter again.



**MEMORIAL** A granite monument, flagpole and benches commemorate the nation's worst church shooting, Sept. 15, 1999, at Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. A gunman attacked an evening worship celebration, killing seven people and wounding seven others before killing himself. (BP photo by Richard McCormack)



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