



WESTERN RECORDER

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Frankfort man running to fight homelessness

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

FRANKFORT—Rick Mathers is running to fight homelessness, and he's trying to get others to join him.

Mathers, a member of East Frankfort Baptist Church, ran 531 miles last year to raise awareness about this issue. He recently launched Running for Shelter to recruit other volunteers and fund projects to fight homelessness.

The group is sponsoring a kick-off event May 11, with a group of runners going from Franklin County High School to the steps of the state capitol. After starting from another location, a group of walkers will meet them, with both groups participating in a parade.

Other events, including a gospel concert, are still being planned. The final run of the season will be held in September.

The ministry's first fundraiser will be held May 2, when the boys and girls track teams at Franklin County High School will run for pledges from sponsors.

"My focus this year is to get other people involved," Mathers said. "We want people to know this is still happening."

The electrician's unique effort began nearly three years ago. While visiting an amusement park, he saw a poorly-dressed man who seemed to be alone and downcast.

The sight startled Mathers so much he started praying regularly about how God wanted him to respond. Finally, he sensed the Lord directing him to use his running talent as a way to call attention to homelessness.

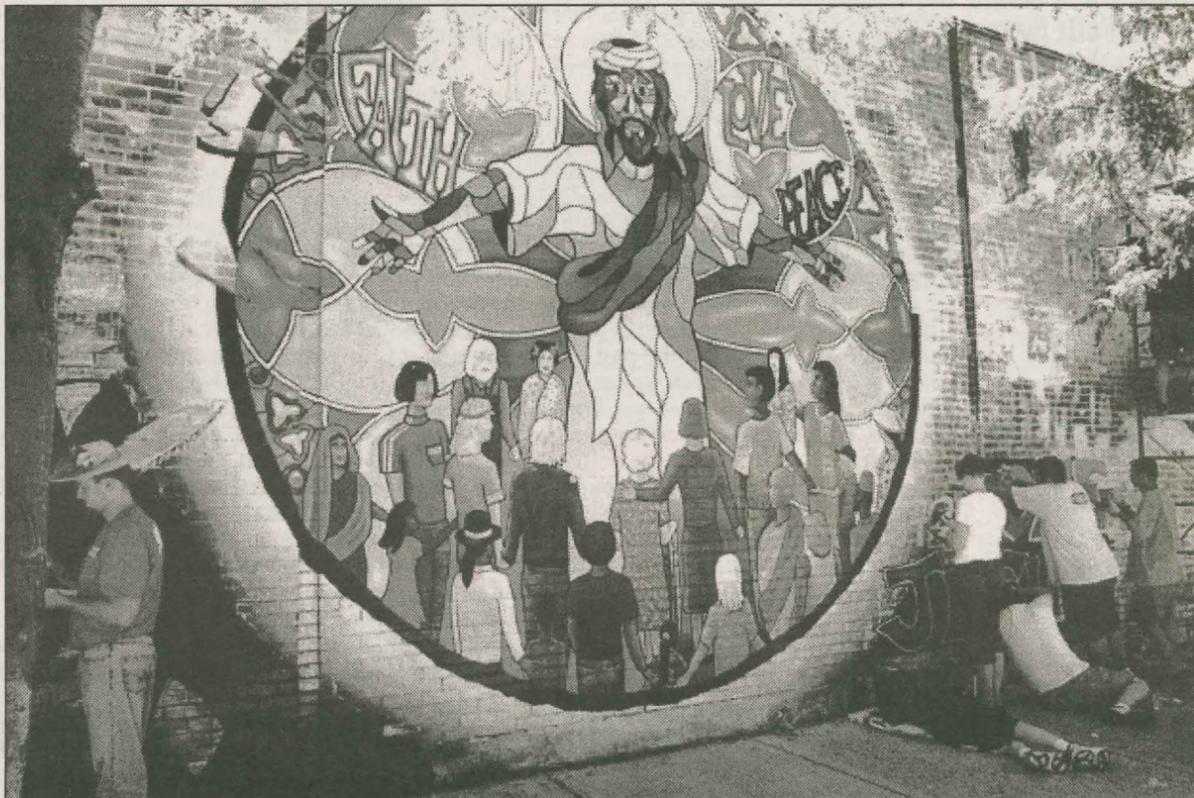
Mathers has never lived on the streets, but he saw a parallel between that homeless man's situation and the break-up of his marriage during that time.

"God doesn't agree with divorce, but He may have been using this to wake me up and get me to end my selfish ways," he said. "Here I had what I thought was a great home and family and suddenly I didn't."

As he investigated the problem, he was surprised to learn that many single-parent families wind up without a permanent residence. As an army veteran, he said he was dismayed to discover that nearly 40 percent of homeless men once served in the military.

With his father, Fred, a member of North Benson Baptist
□ See Frankfort man ..., page 3

Faith & art



MURAL WITH A MESSAGE A stained-glass Jesus, surrounded by people of all ages and races, makes up part of Uptown Baptist Church's racial reconciliation mural. Kentucky native Greg King worked with the Chicago church and many volunteer groups to restore the 1995 mural after it was painted over two years ago. (Illinois Baptist photos by Michael Leathers)

Kentuckian struggles to bring two worlds together

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent

NEW YORK—Louisville native Greg King has spent the better part of his adult life trying to connect two very different worlds: Christianity and the fine arts.

"I have found it a challenge to be an artist with Christian beliefs, but it is the life God has prepared for me," said King, a painter and sculptor now living and working in New York City.

For too long, he said, Christians have viewed artists as immoral deviants while the arts world has viewed Christianity as censorship, hypocrisy and poor taste.

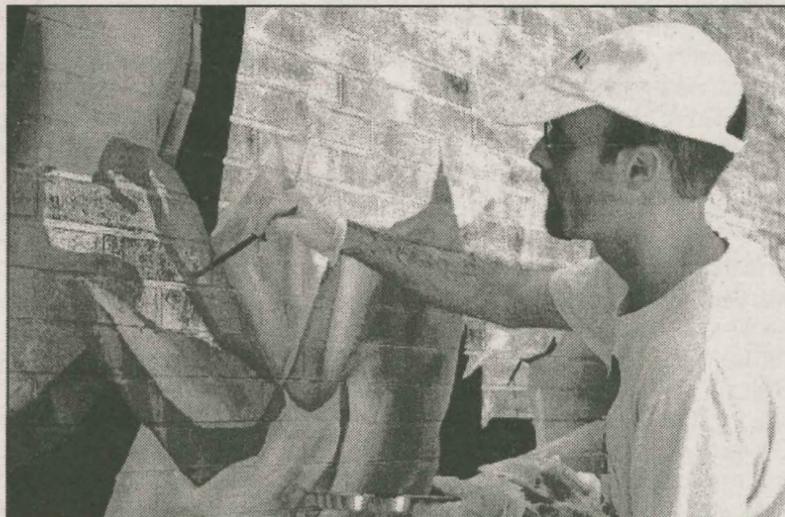
He said his attempt to live with integrity as a Christian and as an artist has shown him an urgent need for the church to get more involved with the arts.

"The culture wars of the late '80s and '90s have left both the church and the art world misinformed, suspicious and bitter toward each other," he said.

"Since the news tends to be dominated by those voices with the highest provocative pitch, mainstream American Christians have come to view the arts as peopled with amoral intellectuals remote snobs, and many artists view Christians as a bunch of ignorant, judgmental hypocrites."

Today King uses his ties to both cultures to build bridges and understanding. "I hope to convince Christians that the arts are an especially important vocation to pursue, and to prove to the art world that being a professional artist and a Christian is not a contradiction in terms."

In the course of his journey, King



AN ARTIST'S TOUCH Greg King restores a section of the Chicago mural depicting sin's destructive impact. "I have found it a challenge to be an artist with Christian beliefs, but it is the life God has prepared for me."

hopes to bring lessons that Christians can apply to their sense of calling and vocation. "Being an artist is no different in some respects than any other profession, so the question of how any Christian integrates his or her faith and work can apply to any person."

King does admit that artists must wrestle with and interpret their beliefs as they impact their work.

"The arts demand more access to the individual artist's personality, and therefore an artist's worldview is either directly or indirectly demanded at some point for the audience to understand their work."

King said his work revolves around the exploration of pictorial forms that he finds meaningful, usually investigations of landscape, archi-

ture and light.

King, a former member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, recently used his gifts to share Christ visually in Chicago.

In 1995, he directed a mural project depicting Christ surrounded by a variety of ethnic groups. But two years ago a safe-sex organization painted over the mural.

King worked with scores of church members and other volunteers last year to restore the original mural. (See story on page 8.)

King said he thinks the hostile climate between the church and the art world has improved in recent years, but he feels the church still has a responsibility to reach out to the arts
□ See Kentucky artist ..., page 8

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, May 1

Missouri Baptists launch alternate state convention

"We determined way back there that if any fences were going to be built, they would be built by the other side."

H.D. Neely, incorporator for the Baptist General Convention of Missouri

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

BRIDGETON, Mo. (ABP)—Insisting they are tired of denominational politics in the Missouri Baptist Convention, 350 Southern Baptists met April 19-20 in suburban St. Louis to launch the Baptist General Convention of Missouri.

"It's going to be a convention for people who don't want to fight anymore," said Randy Fullerton, who presided over the meeting. Fullerton is pastor of Fee Fee Baptist Church in Bridgeton, Mo., the host church for the organizational meeting.

The new convention's vision statement says in part, "We desire to leave the strife and conflict of the past behind and move forward as we seek to fulfill the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations."

The new group pledges "to be inclusive in our fellowship" and to provide financial support for the Southern Baptist Convention and "all our Missouri Baptist institutions."

While the convention "will welcome inquiries and requests for information" from churches and individu-

als, "we do not intend to actively recruit congregations," the vision statement adds.

"We desire to leave the strife and move forward, even if that means walking backward into the future," said Jim Hill, former executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, in describing the new convention's vision.

Factional strife has dominated Missouri Baptist life in recent years, as conservatives and moderates faced off in fierce campaigns for leadership posts in the MBC. Conservatives eventually prevailed, and Hill resigned, saying he could not work with the new leaders. Last year, five MBC agencies switched to self-perpetuating trustee boards to guard against takeover by conservatives. The MBC responded by escrowing funds and threatening to sue if the agencies don't come back under convention control.

Fullerton said his church voted to join the alternate state body out of a desire to put cooperation ahead of politics. "We have been willing to put our money where our mouth is," Fullerton said in describing the 195-year-old congregation's long record of denominational support, "but Fee Fee

Baptist Church will not play politics."

The group, formed in part to support agencies defunded by the Missouri Baptist Convention, ratified a basic budget of \$4 million, with 35.75 percent, or about \$1.4 million, earmarked for national and international causes of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC is expected to refuse gifts from the new convention, however. While the denomination recognizes breakaway conservative conventions in Texas and Virginia, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman has indicated he will recommend against doing the same with the new Missouri convention, saying it competes with the conservative-led Missouri Baptist Convention.

Paul Powell, a member of Third Baptist Church in St. Louis, called for removing the SBC funding portion of the budget. "It's almost for sure we're going to be rejected by the Executive Committee of the SBC," he said. "I think many of us here are tired of being kicked around by the fundamentalists."

Fullerton ruled Powell's motion out of order, however, explaining that at that point only the nine incorpora-

tors who organized the convention were legally authorized to conduct its affairs.

H.D. Neely, an incorporator from First Baptist Church of Bolivar, said, "We determined way back there if any fences were going to be built, they would be built by the other side."

The budget funds all the institutions and agencies of the Missouri Baptist Convention, adding supplemental monies for five agencies for which the MBC has held funding in escrow after they moved to self-perpetuating boards of trustees. They are the Baptist Home, Missouri Baptist Foundation, Windermere Baptist Conference Center, Word & Way and Missouri Baptist College.

"Our ultimate goal would be to use those, as we reach our budget goal, to completely replace the funds that are in escrow," explained Sondra Allen, who was elected the new convention's secretary.

Dick Lionberger, pastor of First Baptist Church of Savannah, Mo., is president of the new group. St. Louis pastor Owen Taylor is vice president. Sixteen members of a board of directors will serve rotating terms of one, two and three years.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **IMB names global strategies leader.** Curtis Sergeant, a Southern Baptist missionary who has served in a restricted area of the world since 1993, has been named the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's associate vice president for global strategies. He will work with IMB leaders who coordinate the work of more than 5,100 missionaries in 185 countries. A missionary kid who grew up in South Korea and Taiwan, Sergeant and his wife, Debra, were appointed in 1991 as representatives of the IMB's Cooperative Services International. He has served since 1999 as a strategy associate for Southern Baptist work in East Asia.

■ **Marshall named seminary trustee.** Bill Marshall, retired executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has been elected a trustee of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Richmond, Va. Marshall, co-director of the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College, was one of four BTRS trustees elected this month. He and his wife, Alice, are former Southern Baptist international missionaries.

■ **Southeastern plans expansion.** Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary voted April 15 to adopt a \$50 million development plan and expand the facilities of the school's campus in Wake Forest, N.C. During the past five years, the school has completed phase one of a master plan, including renovation of faculty offices, classrooms and student apartments. The expansion will continue with plans for a 40,000-square-foot student center.

■ **Religion reporter earns freedom award.** Associated Baptist Press honored Fort Worth Star-Telegram religion reporter Jim Jones with the 2001 Religious Freedom Award April 12. The presentation was scheduled for last fall but was

postponed due to travel restrictions after Sept. 11. Jones, who has covered developments in Southern Baptist life since the 1960s, accepted the award "in the name of secular religion reporters ... and denominational journalists who try to report the news without fear or favor despite much opposition."

■ **CBF receives \$4 million gift.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has received a \$4 million gift from an anonymous donor that it will use for its international mission efforts. CBF's global missions team has increased from 18 workers in 1992 to 115 today. The gift will be used over a three-year period to support 12 career missionaries and 13 workers whose mission assignments range from one month to three years.

■ **Ridgecrest dedicates chapel.** Leaders of LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina dedicated Rutland Chapel April 10. The 300-seat stone and wood structure, set on a mountainside overlooking the conference center, includes conference and fellowship space. Soloist George Beverly Shea, a resident of the area, sang during the dedication service. LifeWay President Jimmy Draper said the chapel is the first new construction at either Ridgecrest or Glorieta (N.M.) conference centers in 30 years.

■ **Baptists in Texas, Mexico study partnership.** Leaders of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the National Baptist Convention of Mexico are exploring ways their two conventions can develop an ongoing formal missions relationship. Unlike most missions partnerships with a specified timeframe, this relationship would be developed with no end in sight, said Don Sewell, director of the Texas Partnerships Resource Center. Leadership exchanges and enhanced seminary training in Mexico are among key partnership proposals.

Texas Baptists face budget woes

DALLAS (ABP)—A budget shortfall in the Baptist General Convention of Texas is translating into unmet needs and forcing institutions and ministries to seek other sources of income.

Churches were initially slow to accept the BGCT's adopted budget, which redirected a portion of theological education funding away from Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and toward Texas Baptist institutions.

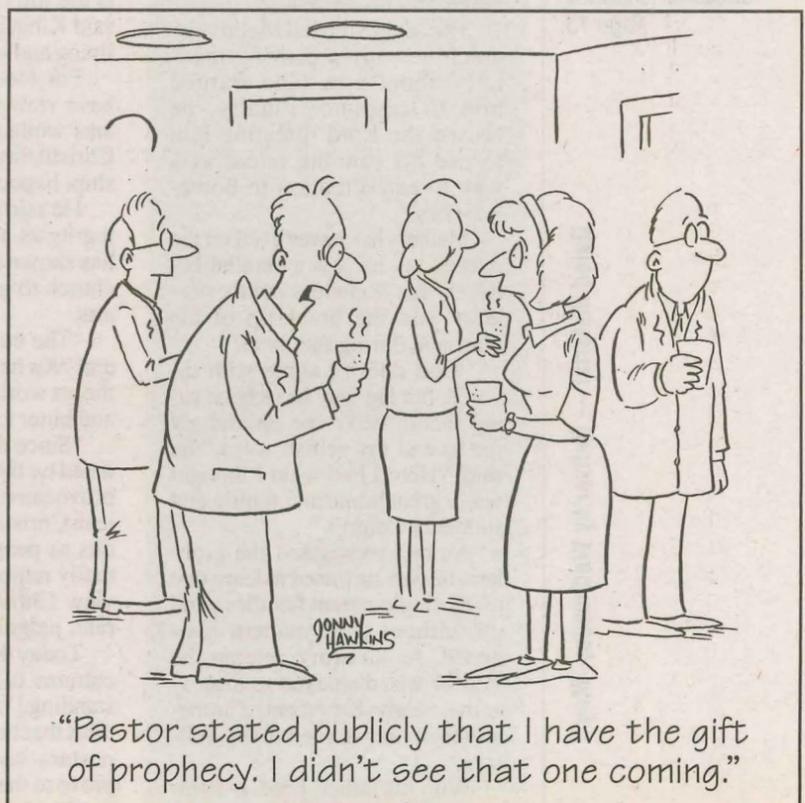
As a result, church gifts to the BGCT budget through the Cooperative Program totaled \$40,857,987 in 2001, 14.1 percent under budget.

This year's BGCT budget was set

at 90 percent of the previous year's budget. That means \$120,605 less for the Center for Strategic Evangelism, \$142,660 less for the Church Starting Center and \$410,373 less for Bible study/discipleship.

The reduced budget also means \$1.7 million less for educational institutions, \$392,500 less for child and family services and \$185,000 less for health care institutions.

And those losses are based on the assumption that this year's receipts will meet budget requirements. Year-to-date BGCT Cooperative Program receipts at the end of the first quarter of 2002 were 6.7 percent below the same period in 2001.



"Pastor stated publicly that I have the gift of prophecy. I didn't see that one coming."

Frankfort man running to fight homelessness

Continued from page 1

Church, driving his support vehicle, Mathers took a month-long leave of absence from his job last year.

Averaging 18 miles a day, he ran in more than 50 communities in 27 counties. The effort raised \$2,500, which he donated to the



ON THE RUN Rick Mathers has launched Running for Shelter to fight homelessness.

Housing and Homeless Coalition of Kentucky.

While unable to repeat the extensive run this year, Mathers said he met some wonderful people in 2001. In addition to numerous motels offering free lodging, several spectators gave him \$5 or \$10 donations.

"I told them I was out there to show God's love and share the gospel," Mathers said. "A couple people said, 'Wow, I can't believe you're doing this.'"

This year he wants to be more than a self-described "one-man band."

This month, he and other Running for Shelter workers are distributing a promotional video to churches in Franklin Baptist Association. The association's mission council is considering other ways of boosting the effort.

"I think this has the potential to spread beyond the association," said Greg Moore, council coordinator. "We've talked about having 5-K runs in six or eight different locations and the money raised going toward this. That's just a dream right now, but if a person has a vision and is willing to follow it through, that's great."

James Everett, worship leader at East Frankfort Baptist and a member of the ministry's board of directors, also hopes to see the ministry move beyond Franklin County.

Everett has an emotional connection with the issue. The former high school teacher had one of his students wind up living on the streets of Washington, D.C., after fighting in Vietnam.

"There's not a concerted effort to raise awareness of homelessness nationwide," Everett said. "A lot of people don't understand the definition. They think it's just someone on a street corner or living under a bridge in a cardboard box."

For more information, contact Mathers at (502) 545-7425 or e-mail LeftfootEarl@aol.com.

'Someone cares'

Regular visitors tell residents of Baptist Homes they've loved

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

ELIZABETHTOWN and MAYFIELD—The phrase "company's coming" conveys a powerful message for children in care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Someone cares. Churches, Sunday school classes and missions groups that regularly visit KBHC residential programs bring blessings to teenagers who are accustomed to being low on the priority list of the adults in their lives.

But Bob Higbee, a regular visitor from Cadiz, said the secret of those church visits is, "we get more out of it than the kids do."

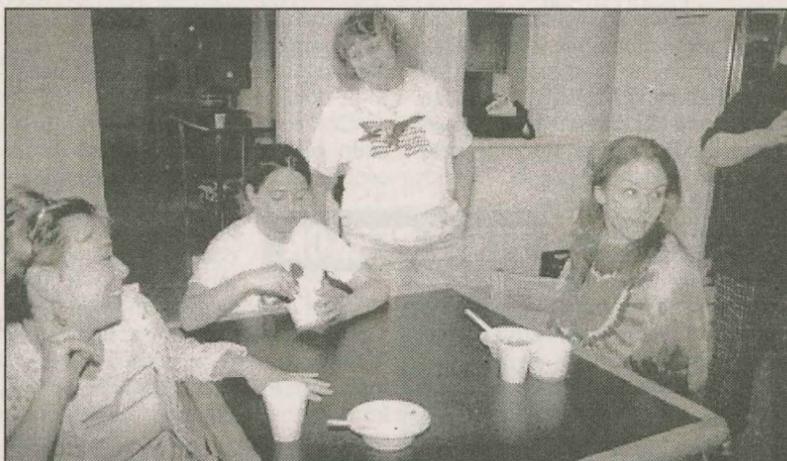
Erlanger Baptist, Red Hill Baptist in Vine Grove and First Baptist Church of Cadiz are three congregations that regularly send visitors to KBHC campuses. Erlanger and Red Hill frequent the Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown and members of Cadiz First Baptist visit Genesis Home in Mayfield.

"These kids don't think they're worth a whole lot," said Diane Spratt, chief clinician at Baptist Youth Ranch. "The boys always send thank you notes, and they thank (visitors) for taking time out of their day to come and see them."

Groups regularly bring food and gifts, but Spratt said the personal interaction with the boys is more precious. "They always stay for a while and play games with the boys and talk to them. They talk to them like they would talk to any other child in their church. That's what makes a big impact."

Red Hill member Vonnice Keltner said the late Mary Witten organized the first visit to Baptist Youth Ranch approximately eight years ago. Since then, Red Hill, a congregation of about 40 members, has visited the program several times each year, usually on Valentine's Day, Easter and Christmas.

"Being a Christian, it makes you want to reach out to others," Keltner said. "We enjoy helping the boys any way we can." The women from



BIRTHDAY PARTY Gina Collins (left), a member of First Baptist Church of Cadiz, visits with Genesis Home residents Miranda and Hallie while Genesis counselor Jeannie Walker (standing) looks on. First Baptist volunteers have hosted monthly birthday parties for Standing since Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children opened the facility. Counselors say regular visits from churches tell the residents they are loved. (KBHC photos by Dannah Prather)

Red Hill bring baked goods and other donations. At Christmas, they collect spending money for each resident. The cash allows the boys to purchase gifts for family members.

"My grandchildren are far away, so this is kind of a fill-in for me," said Red Hill member Sarah Smith.

Classes, sports, family and the future are some of the topics of conversation. The goal is to offer hope, said visitor Jan McIntosh. "Hopefully we give them a little encouragement."

Many children and teenagers in KBHC's care come from environments of neglect. The effect is sometimes exhibited by a lack of social skills. Spratt said that visitors give the residents a chance to shine. "They always want to look their best, use their table manners and hold the chairs out for the ladies."

Erlanger member Terry Lewis said that during early visits, "we were a little apprehensive about how we would relate to them at first. But it has been absolutely fabulous. I have loved children like I never thought I could love a child before who wasn't my own."

Erlanger's involvement began with Gloria Redmon, a longtime supporter of KBHC and member of the Women's Advisory Board. Members initially sponsored the boys at Christmas, then expanded their involvement to include several trips to the campus each year. KBHC boys also have traveled to Erlanger for events at the church and for parties at members' homes.

"Originally, we were going down

there as a ministry to the boys," Lewis said. "Actually it became a ministry to us." The greatest reward is seeking out the shyest boy in the room and making him smile, she added.

Since the doors of Genesis Home opened, members of First Baptist Church of Cadiz have brought dozens of birthday and "unbirthday" parties to the Mayfield campus. Each month they come with freshly baked cakes and spend the afternoon with the girls, whether any of them are celebrating birthdays that month or not.

"We get a list of the girls' (first) names and their birthdays," said Ella Cunningham, who organizes the project. "We put their names in the prayer room at church." The visitors enjoy cake, ice cream and conversation with the girls.

Sometimes the conversation doesn't come easy, according to lead counselor Jonathan Ogburn. "It really depends on the make-up of our group of girls, he said. "But the people from Cadiz come every month no matter what. They try to make that connection with the girls."

April's visit to Genesis Home included an afternoon of volleyball. After the game, some of the Genesis girls and Cadiz visitors were walking arm-in-arm, even though they had just met. One resident said, "Sometimes it seems like no one cares and no one loves you. When people come to see you, it means so much. It means that someone does care about you."

Ogburn said the consistency of the Cadiz group is encouraging to the girls and staff. "I've worked here for five years, and as long as I've been here they have come faithfully. The girls look forward to visitors and after (the visitors) leave, the overall mood of the girls is different."

Cunningham said the trips to Genesis Home are a church tradition now. Throughout the year they will bring small handmade gifts or boxes of personal care items. At Christmas, church members sponsor a lunch for the girls and staff.

"We have gotten to where we understand the girls. We know their stories," she said. Genesis Home staff and residents "know we are here and that if they have a need, we will try to fill it."



REGULAR VISITOR Jan McIntosh, a member of Red Hill Baptist Church in Vine Grove, visits regularly with boys at the Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown. "Hopefully we give them a little encouragement."

Campbellsville trustees approve increased budget

CAMPBELLVILLE—Campbellsville University trustees adopted an increased budget and a strategic planning document during their recent meeting.

The \$21 million budget for fiscal year 2002-2003 was up from the previous \$19 million budget. It includes additional financial aid for student scholarships, several new faculty and staff positions and a pay increase for university employees. The budget takes effect July 1.

The second phase of the school's strategic planning includes goals related to the university's academic affairs, admissions and enrollment, business affairs, development, student services, athletics and general university objectives.

"As this institution looks toward celebrating its centennial in 2006, it is imperative that we have before us a well-defined, comprehensive plan that outlines our goals and objectives," said President Mike Carter. "This plan will keep the university focused on student success, academic excellence and an array of continued improvements."

Some of the goals for the next fiscal year include beginning planning for the school's centennial celebration in 2006; completing improvements and renovations to the library, athletic fieldhouse and environmental education center; and expanding leadership and ministry opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

The board also heard a report from the architectural firm Perkins & Will, which is assisting the university with the design of its facilities master plan. A final report is scheduled to be presented at the trustees' August board meeting.

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

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I know missionary Stan Lee

By David Brandon

Many readers know what Southern Baptist international missionary Stan Lee wrote in refusing to sign the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Some are in agreement but may wish he had said it more kindly. Others are angry that he had the audacity to use the "terrorist" word. Readers know what Stan wrote, but I know Stan Lee.

Knowing what he wrote leaves you grappling with the questions: "Where is this guy coming from?" or "What's his agenda?" I know the place where he's coming from—Rwanda.

My wife, Cathy, and I (Southern Baptist missionaries to neighboring Burundi) were "privileged" to carry out a large relief project in Rwanda from January through May 1997. We saw a lot of Stan and his wife, Marlene. We went through some very difficult days together.

I spent two enjoyable days going around with Stan as he did his veterinarian work in the hills of Rwanda. (Stan rises at 4:30 a.m., prays and reads the Bible until about 6, when he begins his workday.) Stan witnessed to everyone (and everyone's cows in

the process). They heard the gospel and everyone's status with the Lord was challenged. He is aggressive in his witnessing, and he is aggressive with animal diseases. He does what needs to be done.

One cow had swallowed an avocado pit which had lodged in its esophagus. The pit was far enough down to allow normal breathing, but the cow could not swallow more food, so it literally was starving to death. Stan tied a rope around each hoof and had young Rwandan boys hold tension on each rope. Two Rwandan men held the two long horns. Stan tied a fifth rope around the cow's lower jaw and his assistant pulled down hard while Stan thrust his arm past the elbow into the cow's esophagus and retrieved the avocado pit. The cow didn't enjoy the procedure or repent of eating avocados, but he was cured.

Stan is that type of man. He sees a problem and attacks it. His priorities aren't comfort or political correctness. He knows the cure and administers it. Stan Lee's priority concern is not what you or I think of him. He cares about serving the Lord with his life, period. When he wrote his recent let-

ter he was in Nairobi, Kenya, while his wife was in the hospital there. He was angry that his faith was being judged by his signing or not signing a relatively insignificant document. I'm certain he felt that his actions over the last 20 years in Rwanda should speak louder than his signature on something someone else wrote. I agree.

Stan Lee never called anyone simply a terrorist. He called the silent, unnamed accusers sitting in judgment of his beliefs "spiritual terrorists." They were terrorizing him.

We Baptists these days are all over each other concerning our beliefs and to what degree we believe the Bible. I evidently don't really believe unless I use at least three adjectives—infallible, inerrant and inspired—each time I mention it. However, in our quest for pure belief, we seem to have totally lost touch with the One who is the author of the words. Our perpetual unforgiveness and judgmental spirit tells the truth about Who we know more than what we sign or won't sign.

I know Stan Lee through relationship. His letter is an accurate reflection of who he is. Stan wasn't too forgiving in his letter. But he was only trying to get an avocado pit out of the esophagus of the Southern Baptist Convention before we starve to death spiritually!

FIRST PERSON

'Media anarchy'

I appreciated Trennis Henderson's response to my letter in his editorial last week, and I agree with him that the Western Recorder is responsible to print all things newsworthy pertaining to Baptists. However, I fail to see how a livid response from a single missionary deems itself newsworthy.

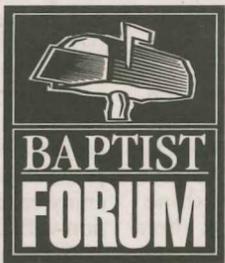
Henderson admitted that the accusations of terrorism were "too harsh for the context"—and if so, they were not newsworthy. If "too harsh for the context" no longer disqualifies something from the news—especially among Baptists—then we are free-falling into

media anarchy.

Besides, if the Western Recorder is serious about finding out "what the missionaries think" when it comes to affirming the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, why did it only publish the opinion of three angry missionaries (Stan Lee and the Belews), and not seek out some sort of consensus? If a few hundred missionaries cried out "terrorism!" in response to Jerry Rankin's request,

then it becomes a newsworthy accusation. Otherwise, it is blameworthy coverage.

If there are a multitude of missionaries who oppose signing the BF&M, then obviously it is a serious issue and



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

The joy of rest that restores

Kay and I recently took some vacation days that had been scheduled for at least one year. It is very difficult to protect a full week so this was a very special time.

Having preached for the launch of revival services at New Bethel Baptist Church in Verona, we traveled down I-75 for the retirement celebration of Jerry Lowrie conducted at Cumberland College. We are very proud of his successful fulfillment of his full-time ministry.

We continued our journey to visit with our daughter and granddaughter, Lillian Grace, who is now 17 months old. She is a delight. We want to thank many readers for their prayers for her safe delivery and health. Her father is on staff at First Baptist Church of Indian Trail, N.C., even as he continues his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Semi-

nary. Following leisurely visits with Kay's family and my mother, we spent the evening and night with my brother. Renewing these relationships was restful and refreshing for us.

A brief visit with my father's sister brought a surprise. Her granddaughter occasionally works the night shift at the nursing facility where my mother lives. She said that on good days Mother will recognize her, but on other days she might not. However, she

said that Mother always prays before going to bed and can call every family member by name. I will treasure that report as long as I live and will share it with future generations. I knew about my father's prayer life and knew that I had lost a real prayer warrior when he died. This story of my mother's prayers will continue to be



Bill Mackey

the media is responsible to offer a voice. However, when Lee's regrettably sharp comments are funneled freely through the media, they instantly become explosive political tools instead of personal concerns.

When writing the article, Mark Wingfield chose which portions of Lee's letter to include. He certainly could have accurately portrayed Lee's concerns without the extreme terminology. This is not censorship; this is Christian responsibility.

My previous letter was not intended to proclaim "peace, peace, when there is no peace," but rather point out that Christian media outlets, while trying to maintain "balance," must also be responsible in what they print.

Chuck Fuller
Pellville

powerful refreshment for me.

Both daughters, Anonda and Beth, and our granddaughter joined us at North Myrtle Beach, S.C., for several days. It was special to rest, walk on the beach, visit with some friends and conduct my physical therapy exercises, which have enhanced my recovery from an inflamed nerve in my back. It was special to experience the development of our granddaughter and her first visit to the beach and ocean.

Her grandmother really misses her, but Lilly is flying in Thursday evening with her father so she can visit with us while he attends classes. Her grandmother has prepared a large playroom in the basement for Lilly.

God continues to teach me the value of rest that restores my soul, mind and body.

Please note that on May 1, the KBC staff will be involved in a staff development day. The switchboard will be open and can take messages and make urgent contacts as needed. Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

CHURCH

Education helps enhance church stewardship

By Doug Strader

Many people have heard the story about the man who criticized Dwight L. Moody's evangelism methods. Upon hearing the criticism, Moody asked the man about his evangelism method. The man, in essence, replied that he did not actually have an evangelism plan. According to the story, Moody responded, "I like my way of doing evangelism better than your way of not doing evangelism." In other words, something was better than nothing.

It recently was reported that only about 15 to 20 percent of our churches actually do any kind of stewardship education. From my personal observations, that sounds like an inflated percent. To realize that many churches are attempting to build a solid financial stewardship base without doing any meaningful education in the process seems to be a lost cause. How can we develop financial stewards without educating members? How can we expect people to begin tithing if we do not instruct them? How can we hope to develop the tithers into grace-givers unless we offer instruction and support?

One of the responsibilities of a church stewardship committee is to do stewardship education. What kinds of things can this committee do to fulfill that part of its responsibility? Specific goals in the area of financial stewardship education include:

- Have a clear, church-adopted mission statement.
- Develop and approve a good, sound ministry budget.
- Teach financial stewardship lessons regularly in Sunday school.
- Preach on financial stewardship at least quarterly.
- Have financial stewardship testimonies at least quarterly during morning worship.
- Provide offering envelopes for all ages.
- Host a money management seminar twice a year.
- Make the offering time more worshipful.
- Enlist testimonies about ministries of the church, highlighting where the money goes.
- Use stewardship tracts regularly in the worship bulletin.
- Keep good financial records and send thank you notes with quarterly giving statements.

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

FINANCIAL FORUM

Rebuilding trust requires time, effort between parents, teens

Q: I'm having trouble trusting my teenager since an incident last year when I caught him in several lies. He is telling me to get over it. I'm telling him it's not that easy. How long should it take to rebuild trust?

If only rebuilding trust were as easy as damaging it. I will assume you trusted your son before this incident. That is not always the case. In cases where there is a longstanding "trust deficit," other issues might come into play. Let me encourage people in that category to seek the counsel of a wise and experienced minister or professional Christian counselor.

Rebuilding trust cannot easily be assigned to a given time frame. It should be, however, a matter of mutually agreed upon behaviors that are specific, measurable and attainable. Think about concrete behaviors your teenager can demonstrate that each represent a piece of an overall body of evidence that suggests he can be trusted. While the behaviors should be linked to the offense, examples might include:

- Calling to request an extension of curfew or to review a change of plans.
- Letting you know if there is a problem before you discuss it on your own.
- Taking responsibility by voluntarily making restitution to you for expenses incurred due to the problem behavior.
- Making whatever personal and public apologies you both deem appropriate.
- Asking to be subjected to random drug testing for a period of a year.
- Agreeing to use the computer only with you or your spouse present and to do so in a public area where you readily can see what material is being accessed.

Remember it is important that you develop "eyes to see" and "ears to hear" the evidence that is being presented. If your teen is acting in trustworthy ways, it is important that you notice. Make sure you are watching to "catch your teen doing something right."—*Scott Wigginton*

Q: My mother's siblings are planning to help me with the health needs for my mother. How should I coordinate and use their involvement?

Sibling relationships are unique in that they're the only close family relationships with the potential to last a lifetime. Siblings share biological and cultural heritage and many memories. Their lifelong bonds seem to be based primarily on their shared history.

Although the number of living siblings an individual has declines with age, contact among siblings typically increases with age. Even people age 80 or older have an average of one living sibling. Approximately 75 percent of older adults consider at least one of their siblings to be a close friend.

It seems that ties of affection are stronger between sisters than between brothers or between brothers and sisters. Sisters, in fact, report feeling closer in adulthood than when they were growing up. Compared to middle-aged people, older people generally rate their emotional closeness with siblings higher and conflict lower.

As you consider the emotional ties among siblings and their willingness to help care for your mother, work closely with your aunts and uncles to develop a schedule in which they can provide care for your mother on a regular basis. Also be willing to let them take care of her at times you are unavailable or need a break. Carefully coordinating those efforts should provide positive benefits for everyone involved.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



Take time this week to pray for America

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Those familiar words from James 5:16 take on heightened urgency as Americans prepare to observe the first National Day of Prayer since Sept. 11.

Amid national and international struggles ranging from the war on terrorism to escalating violence in the Mideast, the May 2 day of prayer offers a significant opportunity to focus spiritual attention on the needs of our nation.

Many people will take part in public prayer services at the state Capitol, county courthouses, churches or other settings, while others simply will take a few moments to pray privately or with family members. Either way, make a point to pause for prayer during the day and consider including the following petitions in your prayer time.

■ *Pray for wisdom and guidance for President Bush, his cabinet and members of Congress as well as state and local government leaders.* As 1 Timothy 2:1-3 instructs, "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior." That is motivation enough to pray for our elected leaders this week and throughout the year.

■ *Pray for physical and emotional healing among victims and family members most directly affected by the horrors of Sept. 11.* While the terrorist attacks impacted all of us, there are thousands of Americans who lost loved ones, suffered physical injuries, lost jobs and remain emotionally devastated by the tragic events. Pray that God will place people in their lives to help provide hope and healing.

■ *Pray for the service and safety of military personnel, police, firefighters and other public servants.* Our nation was reminded graphically Sept. 11 of the life-and-death risks faced daily by firefighters and law enforcement officers. While keeping them in your prayers, also seek tangible ways to share encouragement and appreciation with these dedicated men and women.

■ *Pray for schoolteachers, coaches, administrators and other adults who have an ongoing influence in the lives of children and youth.* Many educators serve in thankless, underpaid jobs out of a desire to impact students in positive ways. Pray for their insight and perseverance in the midst of challenging circumstances.

■ *Pray for our local congregations, ministers and volunteer church leaders.* Pray that God will help plateaued and declining churches gain a renewed vision of ministry in their local setting. Pray that growing churches will stay focused on sharing the gospel, discipling new believers and strengthening Christians. Ask God to help pastors and other church leaders seek and follow His will, overcome discouragement and burnout and share the joy of Christ with others.

■ *Above all, pray that God will bring spiritual renewal to our nation that will heal our land and honor Him.* "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7:14 reminds us.

There is no greater hope for our troubled land, both as individual citizens and collectively as "one nation under God." Take time this Thursday to pray for our nation and for God's unending grace and guidance.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Some see missionaries as 'American Taliban'

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—What's the difference between "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh and any zealous young missionary preaching the gospel overseas?

Not much, to hear some folks tell it. In their view, Lindh is a dangerous fanatic—and so are evangelical missionaries.

Lindh, 20, sits in a federal jail in Virginia awaiting trial on charges of taking up arms against Americans overseas and supporting terrorists. Pundits already have noted the obvious ironies surrounding him: Named after late Beatle and peace activist John Lennon. Raised in liberal Marin County, Calif. Encouraged by open-minded parents to experiment with various forms of "spirituality."

Lindh experimented, all right. He ended up ditching Marin County, his family and his country to look for the most extreme form of Islam he could find. The quest led him to Yemen, Pakistan and finally into the arms of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The quest apparently was OK with his enablers—at first. Mom and Dad even financed his trip to Yemen. His transgression was picking an ideology marked by intolerance and absolutism. Those are possibly the only two unforgivable sins in the cathedral of postmodernity.

The Taliban wanted to kill or imprison anyone who disagreed with

their definition of truth. Every civilized nation should oppose that kind of intolerance. But America's pluralist establishment has no use for any belief system that embraces absolutes—particularly religious faith.

And missionaries who dare to proclaim absolutes abroad—such as "Jesus Christ is the only way to God"—are positively anathema.

The very word "gospel" means "good news." Good news is supposed to be joyfully shouted from every street corner and housetop, not just politely murmured in churches.

Wherever Christ's command to evangelize all nations is rejected or redefined, the church begins to settle down, get comfortable—and die. It happened in Europe. It can happen here—regardless of the size and wealth of our churches—through apathy, unscriptural priorities or outright disobedience to God.

The pluralist police would like to see the American missionary movement shut down altogether. For years they have portrayed evangelical missionaries as little better than medieval Crusaders, bent on converting all non-Christians—or destroying their cultures.

National Public Radio recently reported on a missionary group that parachuted tiny gospel recordings into tribal villages whose leaders forbade any other form of evangelization. A listener responded with this chilling thought: Those who dropped the re-

cordings are no better than the terrorists who attacked the World Trade Center—and should be treated as such.

Meanwhile, Thomas Friedman of The New York Times has declared America's "real war" is not against terrorism. "Terrorism is just a tool," Friedman says. "We're fighting to defeat an ideology: religious totalitarianism."

"The opposite of religious totalitarianism is an ideology of pluralism—an ideology that embraces religious diversity and the idea that my faith can be nurtured without claiming exclusive truth," Friedman writes. "America is the Mecca of that ideology, and that is what bin Laden hates and that is why America had to be destroyed."

So there you have it. America is the Mecca of pluralism, and the fanatics among us who preach exclusive truth are essentially bin Ladens who must be enlightened—or somehow silenced.

There's just one problem, besides the obvious threats to freedom of religion and speech: Christianity without belief in—and proclamation of—Jesus Christ as the one Lord and Savior of all nations bears little resemblance to what the Bible declares, what Jesus preached, what millions have believed for 20 centuries.

The youth of the world are looking for truth, not pluralist pap, wherever they can find it. We should offer it to them in the person of Jesus Christ—with love and without apology.

Erich Bridges is a senior writer for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

BAPTISTS

SBC program highlights

Tuesday, June 11

- Aid workers Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer, 10 a.m.
- President's address, James Merritt, 11 a.m.
- Presidential election, 2:15 p.m.
- North American Mission Board report, 2:55 p.m.
- Convention sermon, Claude Thomas, 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12

- International Mission Board report, 11:15 a.m.
- Woman's Missionary Union report, 3:15 p.m.
- Resolutions Committee report, 4:15 p.m.
- Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, 5:25 p.m.

2002 SBC focus: 'Power for the ... task'

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention messengers will elect a new president and hear reports on missions, family life and ministry goals during their June 11-12 annual meeting in St. Louis.

Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, is the only announced presidential nominee. The new president will succeed James Merritt, an Atlanta-area pastor who has served the maximum two consecutive one-year terms.

The election will take place Tuesday afternoon, June 11, in St. Louis' America's Center, site of the two-day SBC annual meeting and various auxiliary meetings including the June 9-10 Pastors' Conference and Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

Featured speakers include aid workers Dayna Curry and Heather Mercer who were arrested last year by the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan for sharing their faith. They will speak during the 10 a.m. Tuesday SBC Executive Committee report.

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, will be the convention's closing speaker Wednesday afternoon.

Through a missions emphasis highlighting the SBC theme of "The Highest Power for the Greatest Task," Merritt said he has been praying that the convention "will make a fresh commitment to evangelism and to missions to reach people for Christ."

"I will always believe that missions, as much as anything else, is what really distinguishes us from so many other denominations," he said. "It's one thing to say you believe in salvation by grace through faith alone,

but if you really believe it, then who should have more of a passion for souls than Southern Baptists?"

Other emphases at the SBC will include:

■ **A report on strengthening families.** It will include information about the first-ever convention-wide family rally—June 19, 2003, in Phoenix, Ariz., the day after the June 17-18 SBC annual meeting there. The rally is among the initiatives of the SBC's two-year-old Council on Family Life led by former SBC president and Oklahoma City-area pastor Tom El-liff.

■ **Introduction of a new ministry thrust called "Empowering Kingdom Growth."** The EKG emphasis, the work of an eight-member Cooperation Task Force of state convention and SBC entity leaders, has been endorsed by the Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors and the SBC Executive Committee.

This year's convention will continue a change made last year to begin the final SBC session Wednesday at 3 p.m. and ending about 6 p.m., replacing the Wednesday evening session.

Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Snellville, Ga., said the change drew a positive response from messengers last year and bolstered attendance at the closing session.

Merritt's presidential address is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday, while Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, will deliver the convention sermon at 8:30 p.m..

Interpretations of "The Highest Power for the Greatest Task" theme will be presented by Bob White, ex-

ecutive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, on Tuesday morning; evangelist Junior Hill of Westmeade-Decatur, Ala., Tuesday afternoon; Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church, Lake Forest, Calif., and Terry Fox, senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan., both on Wednesday morning.

The week before the SBC, the annual Crossover evangelistic emphasis coordinated by NAMB and Missouri Baptists will seek to penetrate metro St. Louis with the gospel. Hundreds of adults and teenagers will participate in mission opportunities throughout the region.

The two-day schedule for the annual meeting will mean messengers wanting to introduce resolutions for consideration must do so before the start of the Tuesday afternoon session. Messengers who want to have resolutions considered are encouraged to send them before the annual meeting to the Resolutions Committee c/o Convention Relations, Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203.

Messenger registration will open at 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 10, and at 8 a.m. on the following Monday through Wednesday.

Messengers must be credentialed by their respective churches. Cards for messengers from Kentucky Baptist churches are available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Attention: Wanda Karolyi, Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433 or by e-mail at Wanda.Karolyi@kybaptist.org.

Additional information about the annual meeting is available at www.sbc.net.

2001 SBC profile: Membership tops 16 million while baptisms decline

NASHVILLE (BP)—Membership in Southern Baptist churches topped 16 million in 2001, an increase of more than 92,000 members over the previous year.

The record total of 16,052,920 members was an increase of 0.58 percent, slightly less than the gain of 108,000 or 0.68 percent in 2000.

The total number of churches grew to 42,334, a 1.79 percent increase, or 746 churches more than the 2000 total of 41,588. At the same time, church-type missions operated by churches declined by 5.91 percent or 310 to a total of 4,933.

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention compiles the Annual Church Profile from church reports routed through Baptist associations and state conventions.

While membership grew, baptisms declined by 18,727 or 4.52 percent to a total of 395,930. The decline in baptisms for the second year in a row ends four years of baptism totals above 400,000.

Sunday morning worship attendance grew while attendance at Sunday school and discipleship training declined.

Sunday morning average worship attendance grew by 3.36 percent or 186,541 to 5,730,980.

Sunday school enrollment declined 3,671 or 0.04 percent to a total of 8,182,744, following an increase of 0.48 percent in 2000.

Discipleship training enrollment/participation declined 6.24 percent, or 137,713 to a total of 2,070,714, following an 11.75 percent increase in 2000.

Music ministry enrollment/participation increased 3.29 percent or 54,442 to a total of 1,709,319. This followed a decline of 0.72 percent in 2000.

Other increases were reported in total tithes, offerings and special gifts of \$8.3 billion (6.68 percent above 2000), including undesignated receipts of more than \$6.4 billion (7.77 percent above 2000). Total receipts increased by 5.9 percent to \$8.9 billion.

Total value of church property grew 13.83 percent to nearly \$28.7 billion. Part of that increase is due to an increased number of states reporting information in that category over the previous year.

Other declines were registered in Woman's Missionary Union enrollment and men/boys mission education enrollment. WMU enrollment declined 34,477 or 3.86 percent to a total of 857,680. Men/boys mission education enrollment dropped 13.29 percent or 64,773 to 422,637.

SBC PREVIEW

■ **Pastors' conference.** June 9-10 in America's Center, St. Louis. Theme: "Lest We Forget." Featured speakers: Retired U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North; SBC presidential candidate Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas; former SBC presidents Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn., and Jerry Vines, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; and Kentucky Baptist pastor Kevin Cosby of St. Stephen Baptist Church, Louisville.

■ **Woman's Missionary Union meeting.** June 9-10 in Ferrara Theater at the America's Center. Theme: "God's Plan ... My Part." Featured speakers: Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God" and president of Henry Blackaby Ministries; Debbie Morris, author of "Forgiving the Dead Man Walking"; and national WMU President Janet Hoffman of Farmerville, La. For registration information, call (888) 968-0322 or visit www.wmu.com/annualmeeting.html.

■ **Evangelists' conference.** Worship service, June 9, 9:30 a.m., Level 2, America's Center. Featured speakers: Evangelist Benny Jackson of Memphis, Tenn., and Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla. Evangelistic service, June 9, 6 p.m., Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis. Featured speaker: Georgia evangelist Bill Saye.

■ **Ministers' wives conference.** June 11, 11:30 a.m., America's Center Ballroom. Theme: "Renew a Steadfast Spirit within Me." Featured speaker: Janet Parshall, host of the "Janet Parshall's America" talk show and Focus on the Family's "Renewing the Heart" radio program. Tickets are \$10 before May 15 or \$12 at the door. For information, call (479) 751-4523.

■ **Directors of missions' conference.** June 9-10, Radisson Hotel and Suites, St. Louis. Theme: "The Association: Still Baptists' Best Strategy for Great Commission Fulfillment." Featured speakers: Anne Graham Lotz, author and conference speaker; Michael Lindsay of the Gallup Organization; O.S. Hawkins, president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board; Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board; and Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

■ **African-American Fellowship.** Worship fellowship, June 9, 6:30 p.m., Good News Baptist Church, Jennings, Mo. Featured speaker: Willie Jordan, pastor of St. Mark's Baptist Church Cathedral, Harvey, Ill. Pastors' meeting, June 10, 4:30 p.m., St. Louis Hilton Airport. Featured speaker: Fellowship President George McCalep Jr., pastor of Greenforest Community Baptist Church, Atlanta.

■ **Baptist World Alliance breakfast.** June 12, 7 a.m., Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis. Theme: "Windows on the World." Tickets are \$15 and are available at Baptist World Alliance, 405 N Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046 or by calling (703) 790-8980, ext. 129.

■ **Hispanic Fellowship.** June 8-9; Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis. Theme: "There Is Life in Jesus." Featured speaker: Evangelist Alberto Mottes of Anaheim, Calif.

■ **Messianic Fellowship.** June 10, 9 a.m., room 231, Level 2, Cervantes Convention Center. Featured speaker: Stuart Rothberg of Sagemont Baptist Church, Houston. For information, e-mail 4zionsake@mindspring.com.

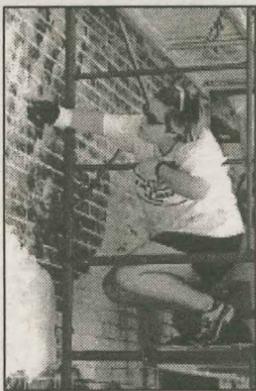
■ **SBC Student Conference.** June 9-10, First Baptist Church, O'Fallon, Ill. Featured speaker: Youth communicator Tony Nolan. For information, call (770) 410-6345 or e-mail studentz@students.com.

■ **Seminary luncheons.** June 12, America's Center. Contact seminaries for reservations: Golden Gate, (888) 442-8708; Midwestern, (816) 414-3720; New Orleans, (504) 282-4455; Southeastern, (919) 863-8203; Southern, (800) 626-5525, ext. 4143; Southwestern, (817) 923-1921, ext. 7260.

Restoring the soul

Volunteers keep mural's message alive in Chicago neighborhood

By Victoria Moon
State Correspondent



The restorers weren't sure how they were going to complete such a painstaking project, but King said God provided in an unexpected way.

CHICAGO—In the midst of gang-related graffiti, safe-sex billboards and abandoned drug houses still stands a message of hope, courtesy of Kentucky native and artist Greg King and members of Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago.

King, a former member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, lived in Chicago during the 1990s to further his career as a visual artist. While there, he joined Uptown Baptist and participated with them in creating a mural for the community.

The wall, previously covered by a graffiti tribute to slain gang members, seemed a good place to create a mural showing the reconciliation available through Christ.

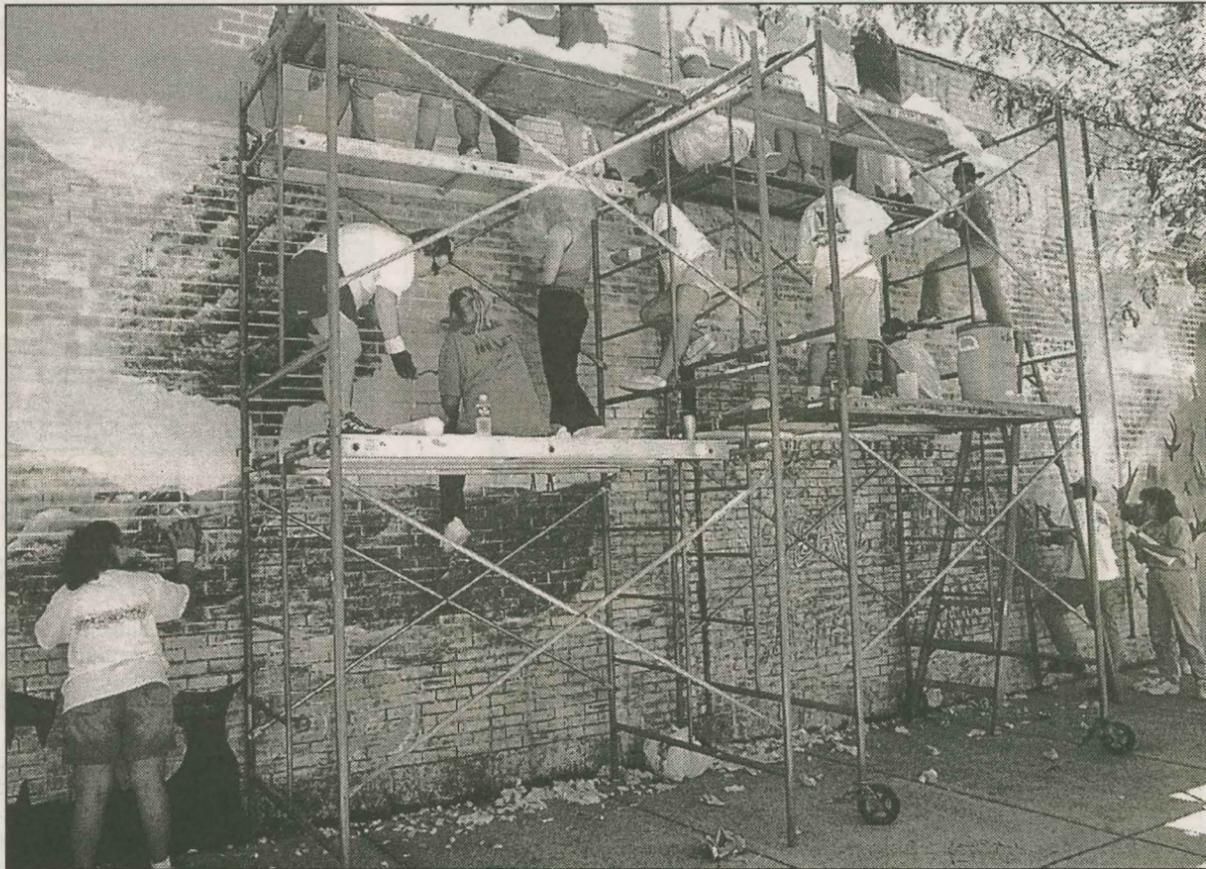
King worked with neighborhood youth through summer art workshops to brainstorm the mural's design, a stained-glass window with a picture of Jesus surrounded by people of all ages and races.

"The mural is a good reflection of the community," said King. "There are 60 different nationalities in this one area, and a range of classes as well. There are poor people and homeless people. There are gangs. It's a mixed-up crazy area, and the church is a positive force in the midst of that."

King said he sketched the mural out on the thrift store wall, and the mural was painted by a core group of five to six artists and neighborhood youth who volunteered to help. The mural was completed in 1995.

"Our reaction from the community was pretty positive," King said. "Some people had a problem with the mural because it was so specifically religious, but overall we received a great deal of support and appreciation from those who lived in the community."

But about two years ago, a bureaucratic mistake resulted in the



VOLUNTEERS AT WORK Volunteers line scaffolds last year as they work to restore the mural on a brick wall just a few blocks from Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago. (Photos by Michael Leathers)

mural being covered by another group of mural artists who had been commissioned to create a mural promoting safe sex.

"I couldn't believe it," said King, who had moved to New York City by that time to pursue a graduate degree in art. "People on the street who saw what was happening were upset, but no one stopped them from painting over the mural."

According to King, the coordinators of the Christian mural project were out of town that weekend, so they were not aware of the damage to their mural until they returned home.

"I can understand why the other muralists wanted our wall," King said. "It's in very good condition, very visible and at ground level. It's a great wall for a mural, but I was shocked that they went about doing what they did."

He was not aware of the damage to the mural until he received a call in New York in 2001 from Brian Bakke, who was at that time Uptown's direc-

tor of community ministries.

"Brian told me what happened, and he and a bunch of us who had worked on the original mural wanted to restore it, so the church hired an artist and a conservator to take a look at what could be done."

King, who returned in July 2001 to work on the mural's restoration, said the paint covering their mural wasn't of good quality, and as a result, the decision was made not to repaint the mural but to chemically remove the top layer of paint and retouch the original work.

"A group of five artists were working on the mural every day from 9 to 5, but it was a slow process," he said. "The original was almost completely covered in white paint, and we were having to be very careful because we were using acetone, a very toxic substance, to remove the top paint layer."

The restorers weren't sure how they were going to complete such a painstaking project, but King said God provided in an unexpected way.

"Around August, we suddenly had groups of volunteers, up to 40 people a day, helping us," he said. "They brought face masks and cotton for us to safely remove the paint from the wall, and then they came in behind us after we did some of the more complex repainting and retouched it."

The restoration has cost about \$12,000, Bakke said, and many churches from across the country have sent in money to help with the project.

Today the mural is restored to its original state, and King said working on it left a lasting impression on him.

"I was so happy to see it come back," he said. "For me, it pushes the point home that this mural, this work of beauty, is important to keep because it is a symbol of all the good God is doing in this neighborhood."

"In my opinion, art-making is a form of worship, a way God has provided to bring peace and an understanding of His character to myself and others. This mural is a great reflection of that process."

Kentucky artist struggles to integrate Christianity and the arts

Continued from page 1
community as a whole.

"Christians can participate in the arts," he said. "They can and should attend art openings, theatrical performances and poetry readings. They should do this more than a couple of times in order to get to know the issues important to artists, to get to know the artists themselves and to compare what they see or hear to the better-known artists of history."

"Christians also need to understand and tolerate the fact that we live in a democracy where freedom of speech is a core value, and to expect to find a lot of work that is definitely hard to appreciate."

Finally, King said, churches should actively seek out and provide outlets for the artists in their midst. "Offer to show their work in the church building, if that is agreeable to the artist and appropriate to the space, or even offer to buy work that benefits the space. This fosters a climate of support for the arts for generations to come."

Two examples of churches that do this, King said, are Uptown Baptist Church in Chicago and St. Peter's Church in Manhattan.

"Uptown Baptist is a church of only about 200 members, but they have an arts ministry headed by a talented, working artist," he said. "They have painted murals throughout the

community, and the sanctuary is decorated with beautifully-made banners. They also sponsor art camps and actively try to display artwork by those for whom art is a professional calling."

St. Peter's Church has an ongoing and successful art exhibition program where artists show their work in the main entryway of the church as it leads to the sanctuary, he added.

"When we're talking about art and creativity and imagination, we're talking about accessing a key aspect of our Creator's character," King said. "Our freedom to invent and unlimited imagination reflects His eternal nature and the endlessly explorable creation He's designed."

For more information

To find out more about integrating faith and the arts, check out these Web sites:

- Christians in the Visual Arts, www.civa.org.
- Canaan Gallery, www.canaangallery.com.
- Index of Christian Art, www.princeton.edu-ica/.
- ArtsReformation.com, www.artsreformation.com.
- Symbols in Christian Art and Architecture, home.att.net/~wegast/symbols/symbols.htm.
- Image: A Journal of Arts and Religion, www.imagejournal.org.
- Mars Hill Productions, www.mars-hill.org.

Christian group targets welfare changes to fight domestic hunger

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Changes in the federal welfare program and more U.S. aid to Africa and other poor parts of the world could lead to dramatic reductions in hunger worldwide, the Bread for the World Institute reported recently.

"The decisions Congress makes this year will affect millions of hungry people," said David Beckmann, president of the grassroots Christian lobby group for hunger issues, in releasing the group's annual hunger report for 2002.

Congress must reauthorize by Sept. 30 the government's major welfare legislation, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the "welfare to work" program proposed by President Clinton and enacted by Congress in 1996. The TANF program replaced the cash assistance entitlement program Aid to Families With Dependent Children.

According to the report, "A Future With Hope," while the number of people in the United States receiving TANF has dropped by nearly 60 percent since its launch, 31 million people remain at or below the poverty line—defined as \$18,000 for a family of four. "The same number of people in the United States are considered hungry or at risk of hunger," the report said.

President Bush's welfare proposal aims to take more people off welfare through a \$22 billion annual federal commitment to work preparation, cash welfare and child care. Beckmann said the administration proposal does not provide enough in the way of education and training to help the poor get into productive employment.

To improve the administration plan, Bread for the World helped develop the Working From Poverty to Promise Act, which would boost educational and training opportunities and ease time limits for recipients to find work.

Global hunger and poverty are also at the top of the political agenda for 2002, the report said.

The report noted that "poverty-focused development assistance, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, is the key to cutting global hunger." Approximately 300 million African people live on less than \$1 a day.

The report advocates investing \$7 billion a year—\$6 billion domestically and \$1 billion internationally—toward cutting hunger in half in the United States within a couple of years and in the world by 2015.

"For less than the amount we spend each year on movie tickets, we could cut hunger in half worldwide," the report states.

Senator to Kentuckians: Support cloning ban

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—With a vote on whether to ban cloning expected in the U.S. Senate by mid-May, Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback urged Kentuckians to take a stand against the practice.

Speaking April 19 at the Right to Life of Louisville's annual banquet, the Kansas Republican said cloning advocates fail to consider its implications.



Brownback

Cloning raises "enormous" issues about humanity's future, he said, including the question of whether humans will re-create life in their image or allow God to do the creating.

"The question is, what is a clone?" said Brownback, the key leader of an effort to enact a federal ban on cloning. "Is it a person, or a piece of property, a piece of livestock? A number of people want to research on clones. They want to research on embryos, saying, 'These are not people, these are pieces of property. They can be done with as their master chooses.'"

Brownback said the pending Senate vote will revive discussion about a topic that has deserved debate since the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe vs. Wade* ruling legalized abortion. Namely, is a fetus a person or a piece of property?

The same question swirled around slavery, he said, referring to an 1800s Supreme Court decision that ruled slaves were three-fifths of a person. Likewise, Brownback said, cloning raises similar confusion.

"News accounts say it's an entity with the potential to be a person," he said. "We struggle with the idea of acknowledging that this is a person."

Cloning's supporters argue it is needed to find cures for such diseases as Alzheimer's and cancer, he said. But Brownback said the same claims were raised in support of research on fetal tissue and that method hasn't worked.

In addition, he said, the need for fetal tissue has declined in recent weeks following advances using adult stem cells to treat multiple sclerosis, manufacture cartilage from fat cells and repair corneas.

He said cloning ban supporters aren't limited to the religious right. Some women's health groups have signed on, he said, fearing exploitation by researchers wanting their eggs. Likewise, environmentalists don't want animal genetic material placed in humans.

Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieux, a Democrat who supports a woman's right to choose an abortion, has also signed on as a co-sponsor of Brownback's bill.

"(Cloning) is immoral, unethical, unnecessary and it should be illegal," Brownback said to hearty applause. "In the words of President Bush, you don't create life to destroy it."

Among those in the audience was the leader of a proposed ban on cloning in Kentucky, which unanimously passed in the state House of Repre-

Poll: Most Americans oppose cloning

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans are overwhelmingly opposed to human cloning but more divided about government funding of stem cell research, a recent survey suggests.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents said they oppose human cloning and 17 percent favor it, according to the poll, released earlier this month by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

The survey comes as President Bush pushes the Senate to act on proposed legislation that would ban both "reproductive cloning"—cloning an embryo for the purpose of bringing it to term—and the cloning of embryos to create stem cells for research and treatment of disease.

The Senate, where there is significant support for federal funding for cloning embryos to create stem cells, is expected to begin debate on the proposal soon. The House passed a ban on all aspects of cloning last July.

"I believe all human cloning is wrong, and both forms of cloning ought to be banned," Bush said, adding that "anything other than a total ban on human cloning would be unethical."

"Research cloning would contradict the most fundamental principle of medical ethics—that no human life should be exploited or extinguished for the benefit of another," Bush recently told approximately 175 doctors, scientists, lawmakers and religious activists who oppose cloning.

But the American people are far less certain, according to the poll, which showed 43 percent of Americans support government funding of stem cell research while 35 percent do not.

Still, those figures show a decrease in support since last year, when a Gallup Poll found 55 percent of respondents approved of the funding and 29 percent did not.

"The high opposition to human cloning seems

to fit with the public sense of distaste when contemplating the potential existence of human clones," said Melissa Rogers, executive director of the Washington-based Pew Forum.

"On the stem cell issue, Americans seem to make some distinctions, and they seem to be really torn between two competing values—the potential for medical cures and ... protection of the human embryo."

Overall, 55 percent of Americans who said they oppose cloning told pollsters they view it as morally wrong while 15 percent said they object to it because the science is not yet safe enough.

Pollsters found that religion played a significant role in the views of opponents to government funding of stem cell research. Thirty-seven percent of the funding critics cited religious beliefs as the biggest influence on their attitudes, making it the most important factor, ahead of what they have heard from the media (29 percent) or their education (12 percent).

In comparison, 5 percent of supporters of the research funding cited religion as the greatest influence on their viewpoint.

Americans with greater levels of religious commitment were less supportive of the federal funding for stem cell research than those who prayed and attended religious services less often. Fifty-eight percent of highly committed white evangelical Protestants oppose the federal funding of stem cell research, compared to 19 percent who support it. Forty-eight percent of highly committed religious African-Americans oppose the funding, compared to 39 percent who support it.

Rogers said some of the opponents may have been influenced by statements by leaders of religious communities since the stem cell debate began.

"It just sort of highlights what we sense to be true many times and that is that religious ideas can sometimes be the primary force in shaping policy positions."

sentatives but failed in the Senate during the recent legislative session.

Rep. Joe Fisher hopes to reintroduce his bill next year, saying states need to adopt legislation no matter what Congress decides.

While the federal government can ban interstate transportation of cloned material, it is not certain if such a ban would apply within a state, said Fisher, a Fort Thomas Republican.

Citing a 1995 Supreme Court ruling that held the federal government could not ban possession of firearms around a school, he said that precedent casts doubt on whether all cloning could be prohibited.

Despite testimony in the recent legislative session that no such research presently occurs within Kentucky, lobbyists for the universities of Kentucky and Louisville believe they should be able to replicate human life for research, Fisher said.

While everyone opposed "reproductive" cloning that would reproduce a human being, supporters argued that cloning embryos and using their stem cells for the treatment of disease is different, he said. In reality, Fisher said, they are the same thing.

Without a ban on human cloning, he said, restricting the growing and harvesting of embryos would be im-

possible. "We're trying to prevent this from happening in the first place so this ethical dilemma doesn't happen," Fisher said. "To deny the humanity of an embryo is to deny your own humanity. It contradicts medical ethics. No human life should be extinguished for the benefit of another."

In an interview after his speech, Brownback noted that the complexity of cloning and its potential benefits tend to obscure the reality of the procedure.

While scientists might be able to find a cure for someone's disease by removing pieces of his or her spinal cord, without one's consent that wouldn't be right, he argued.

"But yet it seems as if we continue to get blinded by that, saying this is not a person, it's property, it's livestock," the senator said.

But Brownback also urged the audience to speak the truth in a loving manner. Noting that the late Mother Teresa was a friend to Sen. Hillary Clinton despite the latter's pro-abortion stance, he said the late Catholic nun recognized that love brings repentance.

"We should never stop speaking that truth," he said. "We should always move forward with that great love."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Study: More faith-based groups getting federal dollars.** A study of government partnerships with faith-based organizations found an increase in the number and variety of funded contracts for providing social services. Based on inquiries in 15 states, the Hudson Institute concluded that faith-based organizations are providing 40 different kinds of services with government contracts. That figure, which includes job training, youth camps and domestic violence prevention, is much higher than the seven categories discovered by researchers in an earlier study.

■ **Lawsuit to cost church nearly \$1 million.** An Alabama Baptist church has been ordered to pay \$950,000 to the family of a 16-year-old boy who drowned while on a mission trip in 2000. A Baldwin County jury awarded punitive damages April 3 in a wrongful-death suit against First Baptist Church of Columbiana, Ala. Terry White drowned May 31, 2000, while on a mission trip with other youth to migrant camps. Pastor Mike Miller said the church has insurance but the decision could set a dangerous precedent for Alabama churches.

■ **Pat Robertson loves the horses.** A recent story in the New York Times reported that Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson invested \$520,000 in a horse named Mr. Pat that he had hoped to enter in one of the Kentucky Derby prelude races. "I don't bet and I don't gamble," he told the Times. "I just enjoy watching horses running and performing." So far, a breathing difficulty has kept Mr. Pat from racing.

■ **Supreme Court to consider abortion protest case.** The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether a federal law designed to thwart organized crime can be used to punish abortion protestors. The justices will review a federal appeals court decision that upheld a lower court's opinion that the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act applies to protest activities at abortion clinics.

Pastor's housing tax break going to Senate

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Fresh off a victory in the House of Representatives, supporters of a housing tax break for clergy hope to score a similar win in the Senate before a federal appeals court has the chance to rule on its constitutionality.

At stake is an 81-year-old tax break that allows clergy to deduct most of their housing costs from their taxable income. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco has questioned its constitutionality, but a coalition of churches is fighting to keep it intact.

If the court were to reject the law on the grounds that it violates the separation of church and state, supporters say it would cost pastors and other clergy \$2.3 billion over the next five years.

On April 16, the House passed a

bilaterally sponsored bill 408-0 that protects the measure. The bill now moves to the Senate, which has yet to schedule consideration of the bill.

But time might be a critical factor. The Court of Appeals has asked for briefs from legal experts on the law's constitutionality by May 3. One court-appointed expert, Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of Southern California, has already publicly doubted the law's constitutionality.

The case originated in California when Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church, was audited by the Internal Revenue Service. Warren used the law to deduct \$79,999 from his income for housing expenses.

The IRS said Warren could deduct only \$59,479 as the "fair market rental value" of his house. In an open let-

ter to pastors on his Web site, Warren blamed the problem on an IRS agent with "a grudge against pastors."

Warren appealed his case, and two years ago a tax court ruled 14-3 in Warren's favor. The IRS appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which said it wanted to investigate the law's constitutionality.

The House bill would clarify and codify the tax credit.

For example: A pastor making \$50,000 could ask the church to designate part of his or her salary to cover housing expenses, say \$12,000. Under the tax provision, the pastor would have to pay taxes only on the remaining \$38,000—a significant savings for the pastor.

IRS officials have stated that if the bill passes they will drop their case before the California court.

Poll: Women, African-Americans more spiritually committed

LINCOLN, Neb. (RNS)—Data from a recent Gallup survey suggest that female church members are more "fully spiritually committed" than men, along with African-Americans and those with less education.

The survey asked a series of nine questions concerning "the extent to which faith permeates an individual's life," ranging from daily prayer to the ability to forgive others to deriving "inner peace" from religious faith.

The survey's 729 respondents were asked to rank each of the nine categories on a scale of one to five, with five indicating that a person

"strongly agrees" that each factor is a part of his or her life.

In many ways, the survey confirmed what long had been assumed when it comes to religion in America. Twenty-one percent of women ranked all nine categories as very important, compared with 13 percent of men. When education levels were factored in, those with technical or vocational degrees were the most spiritually committed, at 25 percent, while those with graduate degrees were the least committed, at 11 percent.

The data also confirmed that spiritual commitment tends to be stronger

among older adults. Twenty-two percent of adults over age 60 registered as fully committed, compared to 11 percent of those under age 39.

African-Americans far outpaced other racial groups, with 27 percent registering as fully committed, compared to 16 percent of whites and 11 percent of Hispanics.

Albert Winseman, a United Methodist minister who oversaw the survey, said the results show that a "one-size-fits-all" approach to spirituality doesn't work. "Know your people, know their needs, and then find ways to meet those needs person by person."

The perils of JTWR0S

As we consult with people across the state, we have discovered one of the most prevalent and potentially counterproductive estate planning errors involves the joint ownership of assets.

After the death of a spouse, the surviving spouse often adds someone else's name, usually an adult child, to certain assets. The ideas are to avoid probate and conveniently to authorize someone else to pay bills and manage assets should the surviving spouse need such assistance. While the motives are worthy, they very likely will result in some unexpected and unintended consequences.

Here are four potential perils related to "joint ownership with rights of survivorship" after the death of a spouse:

■ **JTWR0S unintentionally dis-inherits certain heirs.** Consider a couple with three children. After the death of one spouse, the surviving spouse now owns all of what previously was held jointly by the couple. The surviving spouse has a new will drawn in which everything is left in equal shares to the three children. As time goes by the surviving spouse adds to the bank accounts, certificates of deposit and the brokerage account the name of the

child who lives closest to that parent. As a result, the parent has made that one child a joint owner of those assets. When that parent dies, those jointly owned assets are going to pass by operation of law to that one child, not equally to the three children as the parent intended and expected.

■ **The joint owner child could deplete those assets.** Survivorship joint ownership means each owner owns 100 percent, not 50-50. As a result, the joint owner child can withdraw funds without the parent's consent.

■ **Creditors of the joint owner child can make a claim against those jointly held assets to pay any debts or legal judgments of the joint owner child.**

■ **Although the joint owner child would have a moral obligation to share the assets with the other two siblings, there is no legal obligation, and there could be gift tax consequences if shared.**

Call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free for the alternatives, and avoid the perils of JTWR0S.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701; www.ky.baptistfoundation.org



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SMILE

Tender hearts

"Compassion fatigue." This term has popped up often since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. I'm sure it will end up in a dictionary at some point.

In spiritual terms, I think we could define compassion fatigue as a hardened heart. That might sound a bit harsh, so hear me out.

We see tragic sights on TV news, then watch TV dramas that come with disclaimers saying that the episode is based on actual events. We read newspapers and magazines that dissect tragedy to the microscopic level. We are led to pray, serve and give, but many times these activities bring no peace because we are told over and over that the tide of evil and suffering is too great. What we are doing is a drop in the bucket.

So, we become tired. We are weary of praying, serving and giving. What's the point? What good will our little drop do? We may shed tears of compassion, but inside, our heart is getting tough. We don't want to care so much because it hurts.

Compassion fatigue might cause us to glance over the headline that reports a 5-year-old was tied to a bedpost and gagged by his mom

and her boyfriend. We also might shrug off the story about the mother who burned her own children, then waited days, until after the wounds were infected, before she took them to the hospital. These aren't theoretical cases. Both stories were in Kentucky newspapers just a few weeks ago. Compassion fatigue says, "What can I do?"

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Here are some answers: You dedicate yourself to being aware and observant of the children around you. Talk to them. Look at them. If you notice changes in their behavior or appearance that cause you concern, pick up the phone and call the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 752-6200. Reports made in good faith are free from criminal and civil prosecution. You can even make the report anonymously.

Consider joining Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in our mission to children and families. Become a donor, volunteer or foster parent. Pray that we will not grow weary doing good and our hearts will remain tender for the children who need us.

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

Building in Ohio

By Robert Dunston

During early January, Cumberland College student Brandon Moore, son of Danny and Lela Moore of Wartburg, Tenn., led a team of Cumberland students to Utica, Ohio.

Other team members were Eleshia Caldwell, Linda Chapman, Crystal Clark, Stephanie Dobbs, Melinda Etter, Anthony Evans, Michelle Henson, Samantha King, Rebecca Newby, Stephanie Petz and Janie Toy.

The Cumberland team did construction, maintenance and repair work at The Lighthouse, a church in Utica, and at The Rock, a youth facility that soon would be opening.

Moore had been to the church last year with a Cumberland spring break mission team. The spiritual and numerical growth of the church during the past nine months impressed him greatly.

Cumberland's team painted four rooms and a stairwell at the church and tore down ceiling and electrical wiring in the youth building to make way for newer, safer materials. They also cleaned up spaces at the church and organized space so ministry could be

accomplished more effectively.

Team members suspected their primary ministry would be in construction, but another opportunity presented itself.

On their first day they walked across the street to a pizza shop for lunch. The pizza shop was closed, so they went to a deli on the same block. There they had a wonderful meal and conversation with the owner who was a Christian and the waitress who was not a Christian.

The next day the pizza shop still was closed, so they returned to the deli. The waitress was not there, but the owner was. She said their business that day and the day before enabled her to pay her electric bill and that their conversation about Christ had begun to reach the waitress. For the remainder of the week, the team had lunch at the deli.

Our Cumberland team discovered ministry can occur in many settings. We thank them for responding to God's call and serving Christ.

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 Janet W. Adkins

Across

- Christian disciple from Joppa who was known for her charity (Acts 9:36-43)
- Resurrection day
- Sixth Jewish month (Nehemiah 6:15)
- Jesus did not give this to Pilate (John 19:9)
- In the direction of
- Derisive wit that attacks evil
- A priest placed blood on the tips of these (Leviticus 14:14)
- Dog noise
- Laughter noise
- "The valley of the shadow of _____" (Psalms 23:4)
- Live
- Noah's boat
- What John did to the little book given to him by the angel (Revelation 10:10)
- Eagle (Leviticus 11:18)
- The son of Ikkesh (2 Samuel 23:26)
- Expressing gratitude
- Ceremonial act
- "Wilt thou break a _____ driven to and fro?" (Job 13:25)
- In order that
- Up to now
- "May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the _____, and length, and depth, and height" (Ephesians 3:18)
- "This is the _____ which the Lord hath made" (Psalms 118:24)
- Absence or closure of a natural body passage
- "I shall _____ thee wisdom" (Job 33:33)
- The Lord makes us do this in green pastures

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
10				11										
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		15			16		17		18					
19			20										21	
22		23		24						25	26			
27				28			29	30						
31						32							33	34
35					36	37						38		
		39		40		41							42	
43		44		45								46		47
48	49						50					51		
52				53									54	

- To act properly
- "_____ Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and earth" (Jeremiah 32:17)
- "They sought to _____ hold on him" (Mark 12:12)
- Edward, for short
- One does this on the seventh day of the week
- Feminine pronoun
- "For every one that _____ shall be cut off" (Zechariah 5:3)
- Esau was, but Jacob wasn't
- Pleads
- Part of the children of Zebulun's inheritance (Joshua 19:15-16)
- "Covet earnestly the best _____" (1 Corinthians 12:31)
- Opposite of out
- "The day of the Lord is _____" (Obadiah 1:15)
- Location of the water of Meribah (Numbers 27:14)
- Amorite king (Deuteronomy 31:4)
- Contests of speed
- "The mountains and the _____ shall break forth before you into singing" (Isaiah 55:12)
- Paul continued a _____ and a half at Corinth (Acts 18:11)
- The father of Rizpah, Saul's concubine (2 Samuel 3:7)
- President Lincoln, for short
- Address abbreviation
- "Mine _____ affecteth mine heart" (Lamentations 3:51)
- Edwin for short
- In this way

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
11	N	A	A	N	A	H				12	A	B	A	T	E	S
14	O	N		15	P	I	E	R	C	E	D		21	M	P	
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22	S	A	U	L		23	R	M	S		26	B	A	N	D	S
26	E	N	G	I	N	E	S		28	B	A	N	D	S		
31	32	G	O	O	D		33	R	A	I	D		34	35		
36	R	A	T	S		37	S	O	N		38	O	R	E	O	
38	A	N		40	A	T	E	N		41	D	R	A	U		
43	I	D		44	A	L	L	O	W	E	D		46	D	R	
47	N	E	E	D	L	E		49	E	R	O	D	E	S		
51	D	R	E	A	M		52	D	O	N	O	R				

Smith, Third Day and McKeehan dominate Dove Awards

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Contemporary Christian music veteran Michael W. Smith garnered six Dove Awards from the annual ceremony of the Gospel Music Association Thursday, April 25, including Artist of the Year.

An emotional Smith credited his win of the artist award to his latest album, "Worship," which has been part of the popular subgenre of praise and worship music within Christian music.

"God has used this record to heal people all around the world," he said, holding his 33rd Dove statuette. "And I'm just grateful that He took a little runt from West Virginia and He gave me a platform and I just give Him all the praise and glory and honor."

Right behind Smith in the top number of Dove wins Thursday was Third Day, which won Group of the Year for the second year in a row. Toby McKeehan, known for his work with dc Talk and for his new solo album "Momentum" under the name tobyMac, also won five Doves, including Producer of the Year.

Lead singer and songwriter Bart Millard of MercyMe, a praise and worship band that performs in a modern rock/pop style, won Doves for Songwriter and Song of the Year for "I Can Only Imagine," a tune about heaven.

ZOEgirl was named New Artist of



THIRD DAY AND SMITTY Michael W. Smith (center) and Southern rockers Third Day speak backstage during the 33rd annual Dove Awards last week. They took advantage of the attention to announce a joint "Come Together and Worship" tour that will hit the road in the fall playing at large arenas. (BP photo by Justin Veneman)

the Year. Third Day's lead singer Mac Powell was named Male Vocalist of the Year while Nicole C. Mullen, known for singing "Call on Jesus," was honored as Female Vocalist of the Year.

The awards program, which aired live for two hours from the Grand Old Opry House in Nashville, was co-hosted by gospel singer Yolanda Adams and St. Louis Rams quarterback Kurt Warner, who touted gospel music's recent success with almost 50 million albums sold in 2001.

"One of five teenagers buys gospel music. Sales of gospel music are up 24 percent this year and gospel music is leading all music styles in

growth," Warner said, echoing figures released April 21 by the Gospel Music Association during the Gospel Music Week Convention.

Although Adams jokingly referred to the Oscars and said "we never go that long," the two-hour airing of the show on PAX TV ended abruptly before the last scheduled musical presentation.

The show featured a performance by an all-star artist choir called Voices of Hope, who presented the national television debut of "In God We Trust," a song project sponsored by the Gospel Music Association to promote healing after Sept. 11.

A partial list of winners includes:

Song "I Can Only Imagine" by Bart Millard.

Songwriter Bart Millard.

Male Vocalist Mac Powell.

Female Vocalist Nicole C. Mullen.

Group Third Day.

Artist Michael W. Smith.

New Artist ZOEgirl.

Producer Toby McKeehan.

Rap/Hip-Hop Dance Recorded Song "Somebody's Watching Me" by tobyMac.

Modern Rock/Alternative Recorded Song "Invade My Soul" by By the Tree.

Hard Music Recorded Song "Live for Him" by Pillar.

Rock Recorded Song "Come Together" by Third Day.

Pop/Contemporary Recorded Song "I Can Only Imagine" by MercyMe.

Inspirational Recorded Song "Above All" by Michael W. Smith.

Southern Gospel Recorded Song "He's Watching Me" by Gaither Vocal Band.

Bluegrass Recorded Song "Thank You, Lord, for Your Blessings on Me" by Easter Brothers.

Country Recorded Song "Goin' Away Party" by Jeff and Sheri Easter.

Urban Recorded Song "Thank You" by Kirk Franklin and Mary Mary.

Traditional Gospel Recorded Song "Hold On" by Selah.

Contemporary Gospel Recorded Song "Anybody Wanna Pray?" by CeCe Winans.

'I wanted things my way'

The young lady who wrote this senior essay was raised just a few miles from our campus. Seeing the progress she has made at Oneida makes us very proud. There were some rough times, and at one point we had to ask her to leave. It was a sad day for all of us. We all knew she desperately needed to be here, but she refused to allow anyone to help her.

After a few months, she finally began to see why she needed Oneida Baptist Institute. We agreed to let her return on the condition that she would work during the summer so we could see if she was really serious about being at OBI. "Alice" (not her real name) worked as hard that summer as any student. She spent most of the summer mowing the grass on our campus, something traditionally done by our boys. Here is part of her essay:

"Before coming to Oneida, ... I had a very bad attitude. ... I wanted things my way. If I didn't get it my way, then I wasn't very happy. I made mistakes, mistakes that I didn't learn from until this past year. I got myself into a lot of trouble at home, at school and at just about everywhere.

"My mother decided that I would come to Oneida. ... I wasn't too thrilled, ... but eventually I gave in. ... Coming to Oneida ... was not easy for me. I was 15 years old, about to turn 16, and I wasn't ready to leave home. ... I liked it here, but I didn't want to come back for my junior year. ... I wanted to be at home, living life to its fullest and partying with all my friends. I did everything I could think of to get my mother to realize I wanted to be at home. ... It took getting expelled before she realized it. But I didn't see her from that point on in my life, and I have only

seen her twice since then. ... Some say you never realize what you have until it's gone. Well it's true. ... I worked very hard to get where I am today, and to be back at Oneida.

"One thing that I love about Oneida is the fact that when I need a shoulder to lean on, there is always someone. I don't know where I would have ended up if I had not returned to Oneida.

"When I first came to Oneida, I never wanted to hear the gospel or anything about God. ... I had gone to church a lot at home, and I gave my life to Christ, but I did not walk with Him the way I should have. Chapel and church at Oneida ... kept me going. I have found a peace within myself and I learned a lot about myself."

"Throughout my life, I have set goals. Now as a senior, I have to make choices that will impact the rest of my life. ... I plan to attend Spalding University ... and major in history. Three years ago I would have been unable to say that I was ready for my future role in society, ... but at Oneida I got myself back on the road to success and I have gotten my life and attitude

together.

"There have been many things I have learned ... by coming to Oneida. Honestly, I fear what my life would have been like if I had not come to Oneida when I did. The single most important thing I have gained by coming to Oneida is that I learned who I was and what I wanted out of life. I learned that you can't get through life by fighting; sometimes you have to let go of things and even those who matter most to you."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Clear Creek trustee meeting

Twenty-two trustees attended the spring meeting on April 10. We welcomed two new members: Ernest Slusher, a deacon at Pineville First Baptist Church, and Ellis Payne, pastor of White Plains Missionary Baptist Church. The agenda resulted in the following decisions:

■ Trustees approved a "Continuing the Heritage—Enlarging the Vision" recommendation that affirms Clear Creek's heritage while moving to claim a wider influence as a Bible college. Core values and strategic issues to fulfill that mission were approved. The document also included internal academic reorganization, corresponding degrees and implementation strategies. The plan includes creation of the L.C. Kelly School of Pastors, the D.M. Aldridge School of Missions and Evangelism and the R.P. Mahon School of Church Ministries and Community Leadership.

■ First reading was given to a trustee bylaw that states the board "must be committed without reservation to the Bible as the basis of all our faith and practice." The bylaw stipulates The New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833)

as the "primary doctrinal guideline for employees."

■ James Ditty was appointed to the D.M. Aldridge Chair of Missions and Malcolm Hester was appointed to the L.C. Kelly Chair of Biblical Interpretation.

■ Trustees adopted the 2002-03 budget of \$3,349,115. Tuition for a full-time student was increased by \$147 a semester.

■ Trustees expressed appreciation to Charles Hanking, who is retiring after 13 years as director of physical plant. The physical plant building was named in honor of Charles and his wife, Renee.

■ The Kentucky Highway Department was granted an easement to repair a one-mile section of road that collapsed in the recent heavy rains.

■ Trustees authorized action to secure the Harmony Elementary School property, which adjoins the campus. The 10-acre plot was donated to the Bell County Board of Education in 1958. The school closed in 2000.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Big-name supporters

Celebrity Christian endorsements can mean big bucks for charities

By Marcia Davis
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Taking a leaf from the notebook of secular celebrities ranging from singer Barbra Streisand and actor Martin Sheen to rock star Bono, prominent Christian celebrities are learning to plug into and publicize their favorite ministries and charities.

And when they cast the light of their fame on a charity or cause, the cause's own beacon shines that much brighter, say experts on Christian philanthropy.

Take "painter of light" Thomas Kinkadee. When he put brush to palette to benefit the Salvation Army International and World Vision, he ended up helping hurting people across the world, said officials of those charities.

Kinkadee's "The Light of Freedom" limited edition charity prints—inspired by the events of Sept. 11—gleamed more than \$2 million for the Salvation Army, all directed to the disaster relief work in New York City and northern Virginia. The 20,000 prints were sold to collectors or given to Salvation Army donors of \$100 or more, said Maj. George Hood, national public affairs director for the Salvation Army.

"It was a natural marriage of art and skill with practical service," Hood said. "He's such a respected artist. The spiritual values he lives out align with the essence of the Salvation Army's culture of service out of a spiritual calling."

Before he agrees to linking a celebrity with the Salvation Army, Hood said he seeks to understand the celebrity's motivation for such a linkage. He said he steers clear of celebrities who appear to care more about

driving their own profits than helping the ministry's causes and programs.

Kinkadee and World Vision launched a partnership in 1999 that has proved to be one of the most successful corporate partnerships in the charity's history, said World Vision president Rich Stearns. World Vision reported that Kinkadee's "Bridge of Faith" prints drew sponsors for more than 52,000 needy children.

Christian celebrity links also have helped Habitat for Humanity, according to president and founder Millard Fuller. Habitat's most famous long-term celebrity volunteers have been President Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, he noted.

"Celebrity can attract people to contribute, but if ministry is not sound, the donor-charity relationship will be a fleeting thing," Fuller said in an interview.

He cited the singing group Third Day as a recent example of a beneficial relationship.

Named the Dove Awards' Group of the Year in 2001 and 2002, the contemporary Christian band is donating a dollar from every concert ticket sold during its "Come Together" tour, which concludes in early May. The partnership will fund three Habitat homes in the United States and five homes in other countries to the tune of about \$250,000, band member Mark Lee told Religion News Service.

Lee said the band members are taking hammer to nail to participate in the building process alongside other volunteers and sometimes with the home's future tenants.

"For us, it's giving up a couple of hours of our time on a Saturday," he said, "but for them, well, it's totally changing someone's life."

"Third Day's greatest contribution is not the money. What makes them authentic and legitimate is that they really believe in what they are doing," Fuller said.

"That's what they

inspire many individuals, younger people and churches to become involved in their greatest contribution."

Bethany Christian Services, an adoption and family services agency based in Grand Rapids, Mich., recently launched its first foray into celebrity affiliation in its 57-year history. It is helping sponsor multiple Grammy and Dove Award winner Steven Curtis Chapman's 2002 "Live Out Loud" tour, said Dawn Dean, Bethany's public relations director.

"It's public relations, not fund raising," Dean said.

"Bethany receives no money from the sale of concert tickets or any of the promotional concert items," she said, "but we have the opportunity to put our name in front of a group of Christians who may not have heard of us before, and we are offering people the oppor-

tunity to sponsor an international child at the concerts."

Dean said each concert venue features Bethany's traveling exhibit, and the partnership, which began in February, is showing results.

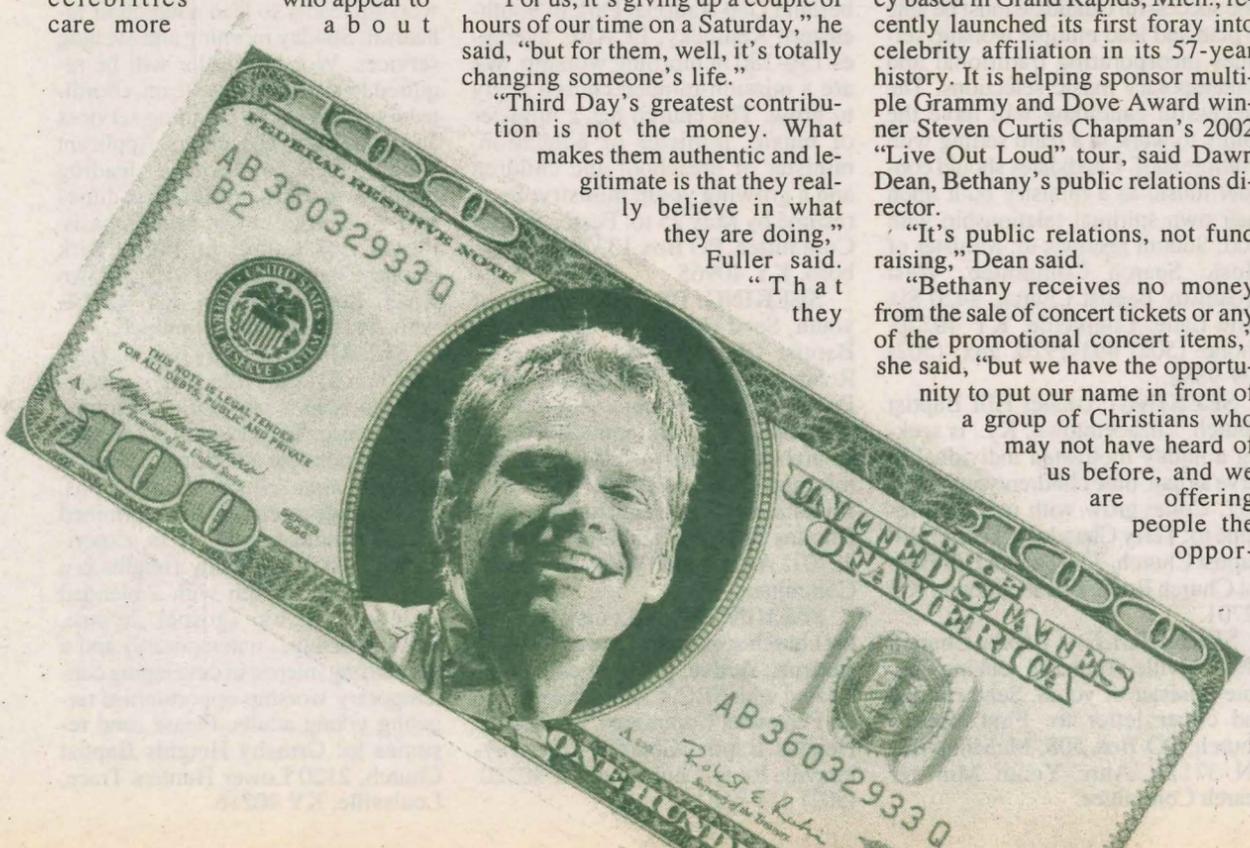
"We are getting recognition," she said. "We have had more hits on our Web site since the concert series started, and our local offices have handed out more materials and are answering more questions than before."

Dean said the relationship with Chapman was "happenstance" for the agency, but Chapman was the driving force behind the partnership. "He adopted his youngest daughter through Bethany International Services," she said, "and he's really promoting adoption more than our particular agency."

Celebrity-charity partnerships are not all bright lights and happy endings, warn organizations that serve as charity watchdogs.

Paul Nelson, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, a nonprofit agency that monitors Christian charities, cites charity credibility as a critical consideration for the donor public.

"Celebrity is supposed to bring credibility," Nelson said, "but actually there are more important things donors should look at when considering giving to a charity: if records are open to the public, if the charitable organization is not dominated by a single personality and if the funds are raised and used with integrity."



PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Give thanks that three footlockers of medicine sent from the States to Romania for distribution to the Roma/Gypsies cleared customs and was distributed by volunteers from the States in March.

■ Prayer walking team is needed for Green Mountain Baptist Association in Barre, Vt. Contact Associational Missionary Terry Dorsett at Terrydorsett@cs.com.

■ Reed Smith, a missionary in Poland, asks prayer that he will be able to work well with his contacts. "I have been meeting with people every day which is sometimes hard for an introvert like myself and I know that I am being upheld by God because otherwise I would be totally burned out."

■ Janet Terrell, a missionary in Khabarovak, Russia, requests prayer for "Russian Christians as the government seems to be restricting religious freedom even more."

■ Iranian and Afghan refugees in Sofia, Bulgaria, who recently professed faith in Christ, and the International Baptist Church as Pastor James Duke and church members seek to disciple them.

■ Baptist representative Martha Moore as she works with university students in Germany.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Parkway Church will host "A Women's Celebration" May 7, 6:30 p.m. Speakers will include **Barbara Joiner** and **Anna Mary Byrdwell**. For information call (502) 348-4677.

■ **BROWNSVILLE**—Brownsville Church held spring revival services April 5-7 with **John East** as evangelist. There were 10 public decisions. **Wayne Carter** is pastor.

■ **CAWOOD**—Friendship Church recently honored **Gary Craig Sr.** for 10 years as pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church honored **Roger McCurry** April 21 for 20 years as minister to senior adults and activities. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—**Eddie Davis** resigned as pastor of Zion Church to become senior pastor of First Church in Zachary, La., effective May 1.

■ **KUTTAWA**—First Church called **Carl Nelson** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Roland Memorial Church, Greenville.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Crestwood Church celebrated its 60th anniversary April 23. **Wallace Kent** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Hillview Church will hold revival services May 19-22, 6:30 p.m., with **David Livingston** as evangelist. For information, call (502)

447-4455.

Kevin Howerton resigned as associate minister of spiritual growth and development at Melbourne Heights Church, effective April 21. **Bill Shoulta** is pastor.

New Cut Road Church called **Jayne Schweizer** as minister of evangelism and outreach.

Parkland Church honored **Ray Zuberer** April 21 for 20 years as custodian. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **MYRA**—Faith Church will hold revival services May 6-7 with **Phil Hoskins** as evangelist. **Dave Hammond** is pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church will hold a spiritual renewal weekend May 3-5 with Stephen Seamands, professor of theology at Asbury Seminary, speaking on "The Healing Power of Forgiveness." Services will be April 3-4, 7 p.m., and April 5, 10 a.m., with a workshop April 4, 9:30 a.m. For information, call (859) 885-6211. **Jim Lyons** is pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Willisburg Church will hold revival services May 19-22. For information, call (859) 375-2227.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Providence Church called **Leon Greer** as interim pastor.

School earns racial harmony award

WASHINGTON—Campbellsville University has been selected as one of two Christian universities in the nation to receive the 2002 Racial Harmony Award for its work in "racial and ethnic harmony and diversity."

The award, sponsored by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, was presented to Campbellsville President Mike Carter during the recent CCCU presidents conference in Washington, D.C. CCCU, which includes nearly 100 Christian schools across the nation, also honored Oral Roberts University.

"The council celebrates the commitment which Campbellsville University has demonstrated to this im-

portant work at all levels within the institution," a CCCU statement noted.

Among Campbellsville's specific efforts cited by CCCU are a series of campus dialogues on race hosted by Carter, an annual President's Racial Reconciliation Ministry Award that recognizes individuals who have worked to promote racial harmony and a series of community and campus events that have brought together minority and ethnic groups in the region.

"As a Baptist-affiliated, comprehensive university, the institution is working to promote reconciliation among all groups," Carter said. "This is an expectation of us as a Christian institution."



WIND ENSEMBLE Campbellsville University's Wind Ensemble performs at a concert April 22 at Campbellsville Baptist Church. Trumpet players include (from left) Corey Bonds of Scottsville, Ashley Shouse of Taylorsville and James Curry of Louisville. (Campbellsville University photo by Rosa Edwards)

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 RENT: Sanibel Island, Fla. Two-bedroom, 2-bath condo for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely beach. www.sanibelcondo.net. Call Pat, (502) 895-8752.

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.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of recreation and evangelism to administer a comprehensive recreation ministry for new facility and oversee an intentional evangelism strategy for Boone Trail Baptist Church, located in upper East Tennessee. The church prefers someone with ministry training and experience in this field. You can visit our Web site at www.boonetrailbaptist.com and submit resumé to btouthguy@cs.com or mail to Boone Trail Baptist Church, 1985 Carroll Creek Road, Gray, TN 37615, Attn: Darrell Myers.

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

SEEKING: Dawson Baptist Church, 6 miles east of Owensboro, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music and a part-time minister of youth. Interested candidates send resumé to: Personnel Committee, PO Box 78, Philpot, KY 42366.

SEEKING: West Broadway Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music for a medium-sized, rapidly growing congregation. The candidate should be a person called to ministry using gifts of worship and music. Ideally, the candidate will have a seminary degree in church music. The successful candidate must be able to plan and lead multiple worship services incorporating traditional and contemporary music selections. The successful candidate will have the ability to work in a team setting with multiple staff. Candidates should consider music as a ministry built upon their own spiritual relationship with God. Submit resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220. Phone: (502) 491-1920. Fax: (502) 499-9882.

SEEKING: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., is seeking a highly motivated individual to serve as part-time children/youth minister. Come grow with us! Send resumé to: Terry Chaudoin, Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Baptist Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, McMinnville, Tenn., is seeking full-time minister of youth. Send resumé and cover letter to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 508, McMinnville, TN 37111, Attn: Youth Minister Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to Youth Search Committee, Hardinsburg Baptist Church, PO Box 54, Hardinsburg, KY 40143; or fax to (270) 756-5203.

SEEKING: Liberty Baptist Church in Leitchfield, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested candidates may submit resumé to: Gladys Duvall, PO Box 88, Millwood, KY 42762-0088.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church. Located in Middlesboro near the entrance to historic Cumberland Gap National Park in South-eastern Kentucky, ECABC averages 150-180 in morning worship. We are a mission-minded church ready to grow. The church has a minister of music, minister of education, minister of preschool and children and a growing youth ministry. Send resumé by May 25 to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1332, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Cornerstone Baptist Church, 4451 Winchester Road, Lexington, KY 40509, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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

SEEKING: 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: 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: 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.

Recipe for success



DOWN TO BUSINESS Southern Seminary students Deyi Wei (left) and Bryan Brown (right) talk to Chin Wu during a recent visit to a Louisville restaurant. Wei and Brown helped rescue the restaurant from financial woes, and also led some of the employees to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. (Southern Seminary photo by David Merrifield)

Southern students minister to troubled restaurant

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The American dream. It's that carrot-on-a-stick promise of prosperity that lures thousands each year to the "land of opportunity."

Yet for many immigrants, affluence remains out of reach, and the dream can quickly become nightmarish.

Such was the case with the owner of a Louisville Chinese restaurant, Double Dragon. Having invested his life's savings in the chase for cash, the proprietor was facing certain financial ruin. Debt heaped. The landlord grew impatient. Eviction loomed.

Enter Southern Baptist Theological Seminary students Deyi Wei and Bryan Brown—two seminarians who, through their free assistance and advice over the past seven months, have helped bring the business from the brink of bankruptcy to profitability.

In the process, they have conveyed a Christian witness to all involved—owner, family, staff and others.

Wei, himself a native of China, was the first to become involved in the ministry to the restaurant. He met the owner while translating for a social services organization. Through that relationship, Wei started visiting the restaurant to eat and he began to learn of the owner's dire straits.

The owner's financial problems were beyond his ability to relieve. But, Wei did know someone who could help—Brown.

Brown had come to seminary from Indianapolis after working several years in the business world. In his job before seminary, he and a business partner directed a multi-million-dollar calendar company.

Wei introduced Brown to the restaurant owner. The situation—which stemmed primarily from language barriers and a misunderstanding of American business practices—was even worse than they thought.

"He had put every penny of his savings in that restaurant," Brown recalled. "It was even more of a heightened sense of urgency."

Brown offered his help, assessed the financial predicament and went to work.

His first goal was to stop the bleeding.

"Just like any type of emergency room situation, we had the critical things we needed to work on," Brown said. "The most critical situation was that the landlord wanted to evict the family" from the restaurant.

Brown convinced the landlord to accept a six-month schedule to repay the late rent and give Wei and Brown some time to improve the business.

With an economic tourniquet applied, Brown suggested ideas to move the business toward profitability. With Wei translating, Brown gave advice on how to improve anything and everything—from the cost of food to cleanliness.

Brown also offered several simple enhancements, such as seating patrons near windows to make the restaurant appear busier. He confronted vendors to prevent them from taking advantage of the family. He distributed fliers to local establishments and homes. And he and Wei taught the restaurant staff basic English skills.

Brown said the result has been a 40 percent jump in business since September. Rent payments are being paid on time.

In stemming the tide of debt, the door also opened for Wei and Brown

to address a more eternal issue, the Christian message. "I think God had stricken them ... in a way that their hearts were softened," Wei said.

Wei and Brown's ministry was multifaceted. Wei gave the family Bibles and Christian materials in Chinese, including a "Jesus" video. Soon, they also began to lead the staff and the family in a weekly Bible study.

The two seminary students' time with the family has borne much fruit. The owner's two daughters have accepted Christ, and other employees, including the owner, are hearing the gospel with open hearts.

Brown and Wei now are turning their attention to discipleship and to ensuring a positive influence continues. "Deyi and I both graduate in May, and we're trying to leave them with a Christian group of people that can support them not only in their business but in the life of Christ," Brown said.

Brown and Wei's Christian influence has not been limited to just the family and workers, however. The landlord has noticed the two seminary students' ministry as well.

"The question he kept asking me initially was, 'Now, why are you doing this?'" Brown recalled. "I told him, 'This is a ministry.' ... He now is more open. He says, 'I know what you're doing. You're trying to deal with this in a Christian fashion. And I may not have done that all the time. But I want to try to.'"

Brown and Wei say none of the inroads to ministry would have been tapped without first meeting the needs of the restaurant's owner. Truth, love and service must be combined in ministry, Wei said. "When we preach the gospel, we don't just preach theology," he explained. "We preach theology that is really working itself out."

Day of Prayer events planned in D.C. & throughout Kentucky

FRANKFORT (RNS)—On Thursday, they'll be reading Scripture around the Capitol in Frankfort.

Meanwhile, throughout the commonwealth, Kentuckians will be meeting in city halls, courthouses and parks for this year's National Day of Prayer activities.

The events in Kentucky will mirror those in Washington and beyond as organizers say they expect more participants this year as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Prayer for the day

The following was written by U.S. Senate Chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie for the National Day of Prayer: "Gracious God, all that we have and are is a result of your amazing generosity. Since Sept. 11, in the battle against terrorism, we have discovered again that you truly are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

"We rededicate ourselves to be one nation under you. In you we trust. We reaffirm our accountability to you, to the absolutes of your commandments, and to justice in our society.

"Bless our president, Congress, and all our leaders with supernatural power. We commit ourselves to be faithful to you as sovereign of our land and as our personal Lord and Savior. Amen."

"We've always been a nation that wants to solve problems and we want to help our nation," said William Hunter, president and founder of the Presidential Prayer Team. "Believers just feel that ... prayer is the way we can help."

Hunter's initiative has drawn 1.2 million "members" since last year to a Web site, www.presidentialprayerteam.org, to pray regularly for the president and the nation.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force switched its theme after the terrorist attacks and asked U.S. Senate Chaplain Lloyd Ogilvie to write a prayer for the 2002 observance.

The annual day of prayer was created in 1952 by

Congress and President Truman, but has become more popular since President Reagan designated the first Thursday of May for the observance.

While much of the focus is on the specific day, some activities will occur in the days just before or after it.

In Washington, people began reading the Bible Monday at 8 a.m. in a marathon session that is expected to end with reading Revelation on Thursday afternoon.

In Frankfort, organizers are sponsoring a prayer service and 20-minute circle of Scripture reading around the Capitol Thursday at noon.

Around Kentucky, prayer gatherings also are scheduled for noon Thursday at the following locations:

- Warren County Courthouse.
- Floyd County Courthouse.
- Henderson Central Park.
- Lewisburg City Hall.
- Pikeville City Park.

Other activities include prayer walking efforts for neighborhoods throughout the northeast United States.

Planners of the national observance expect Thursday's activities will culminate with the nationally broadcast Concert of Prayer, an event that will originate in Washington, but be picked up via television, radio and the Internet. Airing from 8-11 p.m. EDT, it will be carried mostly by stations that are affiliated with the National Religious Broadcasters.

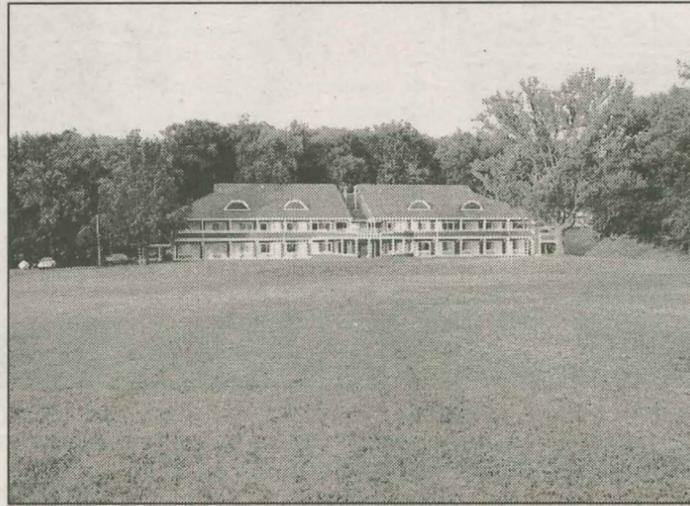
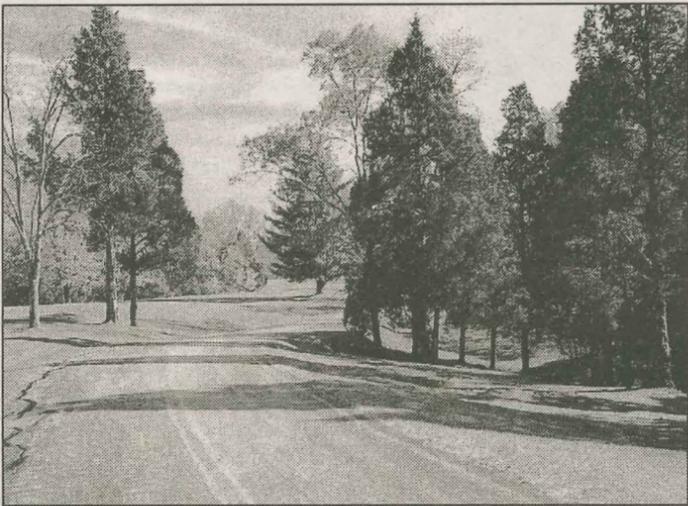
"Whether you're sitting at home in your kitchen by yourself or in your church ... or driving across Iowa, it's intended that you would be participating with us the entire time," said Bob Bakke, executive producer of the "concert."

Bakke explained that the word "concert" refers to people being in agreement about their requests of God, though the event also features songs from Christian musicians such as Don Moen and Nicole C. Mullen.

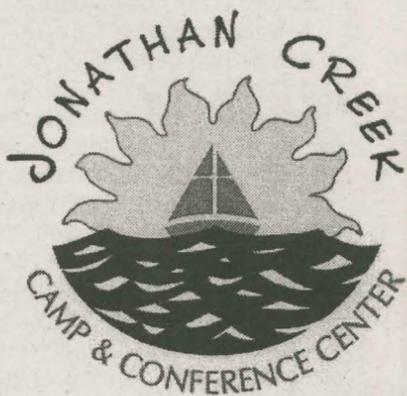
For information about local events, see www.nationaldayofprayer.org.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

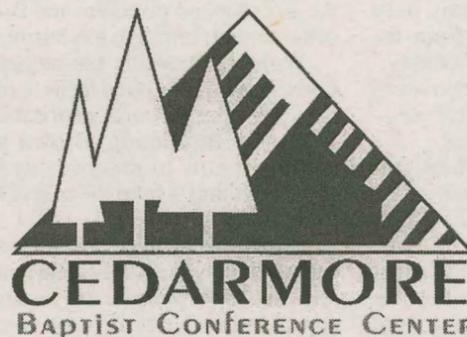
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