



WESTERN RECORDER

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Collision course?

Will growing Christianity, Islam mean Third World clash of faiths?

By William Bole
Religion News Service

COLLEGE STATION, Pa. (RNS)—Christianity and Islam could be on a collision course in many countries around the world, according to an author who has tracked the growth of Christianity.

Substantial increases in the Christian and Muslim populations especially will cause conflict in many Third World countries in the coming decades, according to Philip Jenkins, author of "The Next Christendom."

Since Sept. 11, many reports have quoted Harvard University scholar Samuel Huntington's projection that Islam is growing so rapidly that it soon will become the world's largest religion, overtaking Christianity in just a couple of decades.

But Jenkins contends that Huntington and others are missing the global demographic picture.

Islam indeed is expanding as Christianity loses its force in the Western world, particularly Europe, said Jenkins, a historian and religious studies scholar. But the numbers of Christians are exploding in the Southern Hemisphere, he reports.

"Basically, you're talking about Africa being 9 percent Christian back in 1900, and close on 50 percent today. That's a huge change," said Jenkins, a professor at Penn State University in College Station, Penn.

"Somewhere in the 1960s, the number of Christians in Africa outpaced the number of Muslims in Africa," he said. "A great, historic change—and nobody paid attention to it."

As of 2000, there were approximately 2 billion Christians and 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide, according to the World Christian Encyclopedia, which Jenkins draws upon extensively in his book.

Christian growth

Based on projections from the World Christian Encyclopedia, several regions are expected to see explosive growth in Christianity:

| | Today | 2025 |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Africa | 360 million | 633 million |
| Asia | 313 million | 460 million |
| Europe | 560 million | 555 million |
| Latin America | 480 million | 640 million |
| North America | 260 million | 312 million |
| Total | 2 billion | 2.6 billion |

While disputing Huntington's prediction of a reversal of numerical fortunes, Jenkins does think Christians and Muslims are heading toward a clash that could become cataclysmic. But while Huntington sees the future conflict between Islam and Western Christianity, Jenkins projects major clashes in Christian countries in the developing world.

In a worst-case scenario, he pictures Christian and Islamic countries of the Southern Hemisphere locked in religious conflicts reminiscent of the Middle Ages. "Imagine the world of the 13th century armed with nuclear warheads and anthrax," Jenkins writes. He says he put the finishing touches on the book the day before the Sept. 11 attacks.

In his 1996 book, "The Clash of Civilizations," Huntington predicted Muslims would outnumber Christians by about 2020. "In the long run—Muhammad wins out," he wrote.

But Jenkins asserts that Huntington's reading of global demographics is skewed. "The problem is that he's only looking at the very high birth rates in Islamic countries. He's not



GOSPEL GROWTH Southern Baptist missionary Tim Tidenberg and Maasai pastor Mikah Alias baptize a Maasai tribesman in Northern Tanzania in this 1998 photo. The growth of Christianity in Africa is one of the trends that author Philip Jenkins says will lead to future conflict between Christians and Muslims in Third World countries. (IMB photo)

looking at the very high birth rates next door in Christian countries," Jenkins said.

He pointed out that the countries with the fastest growing and youngest populations are evenly distributed between Christian and Muslim societies. Based on these trends, he sees Christianity keeping its massive lead in the foreseeable future. Looking further ahead, to 2050, he still counts three Christians for every two Muslims worldwide.

Huntington was unavailable to respond to Jenkins' projections. Beth Baiter, a spokeswoman for Huntington, said he has been in such demand as a writer and speaker since Sept. 11 that he is "granting almost no interviews."

Jenkins looks to such statistics as birth rates as a major influence to many of his projections.

He points to countries like Uganda, where between 40-50 percent of

□ See *Growth in Christianity* ..., page 8

Survey: 10 percent of churches draw half of all U.S. worshippers

INDIANAPOLIS (RNS)—Just 10 percent of America's congregations attract half of all worshippers each week, according to the results from a recently released massive survey on U.S. worship.

"It's almost a paradox that most congregations in the U.S. are small but most people go to large congregations," said Deborah Bruce, project manager of the survey, funded by the Lilly Endowment.

"It's a challenge in terms of leadership as well because ... the people who are interested in becoming clergy are coming from large congregations," Bruce said.

But, she added, most of the available jobs are in rural and small-town congregations, many of which have difficulty finding clergy willing to locate in their communities.

More than 300,000 people in hous-

es of worship ranging from Christian to Jewish to Buddhist filled out questionnaires for the survey, conducted last spring. Many of its initial results were published last month in "A Field Guide to U.S. Congregations: Who's Going Where and Why."

"A lot of other studies will get a random sample by calling on the phone," said Bruce, a co-author of the book with Cynthia Woolever. "By giving it in worship, we knew that these were people who were actively involved in congregations."

Bruce, who works with Woolever in the research services office of the Presbyterian Church (USA), said the study results confirmed researchers' hunches about some aspects of congregational life—such as the predominance of women—but also highlighted future challenges for clergy and lay leaders.

One of the key findings was that one-third of worshippers have attended their congregation for five years or less.

Bruce said that statistic reflects, in part, the mobility of American society, with many people leaving one location for another due to a job, educational pursuits or marriage. But it also reflects an ongoing spiritual search by some worshippers.

"I think there's at least a segment of society that is on a continuous search, trying to find something that really speaks to them, that really fulfills their spiritual need," she said.

U.S. researchers collaborated with others in Australia, England and New Zealand and learned that some of their findings were universal.

For instance, across all of those countries, worshippers are more ed-

ucated than the general population. In the United States, 38 percent of worshippers have a college degree or other higher education, compared to 23 percent of the U.S. population.

Other key findings of the survey include:

■ Less than half of worshippers (44 percent) are involved in small groups in their congregation, such as religious education classes or prayer circles.

■ Women outnumber men in the pews by 61 percent to 39 percent.

■ 19 percent of worshippers contribute 10 percent or more of their net income to their congregation.

■ 19 percent of worshippers say they are involved in community service through their congregation, compared to 31 percent who say they are involved through groups outside the congregation.

BAPTISTS

Virginia Baptist messengers OK new mission structure

"Local churches will decide, in the Baptist way, what they will support."

John Upton, executive director, Baptist General Association of Virginia

By Robert Dilday & Robert O'Brien
Associated Baptist Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (ABP)—Virginia Baptists overwhelmingly endorsed a new missions vision May 10 at a called meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia. The meeting drew more than 2,500 messengers and visitors to First Baptist Church in Charlottesville.

Executive Director John Upton, who introduced the plan called "Kingdom Advance" about a month earlier, said it would prepare the BGAV to minister more effectively in the 21st century while offering "a seat at the table" for its diverse 1,440 affiliated congregations.

The vote authorizes an ad hoc committee to draw up recommendations to implement the plan. Messengers will consider those recommendations at the BGAV's regular annual meeting Nov. 8-9.

A separate motion also approved at the five-hour meeting authorized the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions to include allocations for Kingdom Advance, if the BGAV opts to tap the offering for funds.

Upton estimated that about \$1 million annually in new money is needed to fund Kingdom Advance. The BGAV budget committee will recommend to the state convention how to finance the plan.

Fewer than 100 messengers voted against the Alma Hunt offering expansion, according to estimates by observers. About two dozen voted against Kingdom Advance.

The unusual called meeting had the largest attendance of any BGAV meeting since 1994. Preliminary figures indicate 2,452 messengers registered, along with 110 visitors. About 385 congregations were represented.

The new plan calls for funding and administering several categories of mission workers in Virginia, the United States and around the world. It also focuses on church planting and revitalization, identifying and developing leaders for the next generation and helping pastors and churches to minister effectively.

But details are still developing, said Upton, who presented the vision to messengers. "There is no program or structure yet," he said. "This is a process, not a program. You are invited in at the beginning of the process."

Upton said Kingdom Advance comes at a time when the state population is outstripping Christian growth, when there is a growing crisis in church leadership development and when ministries are opening up all around the world.

The plan envisions a flexible approach to missions that would avoid competing with other Baptist bodies, such as the Southern Baptist Convention's International and North American mission boards, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Baptist World Alliance.

Instead, it would expand current cooperation with these and other entities and open up opportunities for Virginia Baptists to partner with other Baptists around the world.

Upton and other leaders have insisted they will not launch an effort to lead Virginia Baptists out of the SBC or undercut the SBC's Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings.

"BGAV local churches will decide, in the Baptist way, what they will support," Upton said. "We will offer options and opportunities to all of them who wish to participate."

During his discussions across Vir-

ginia, Upton said he consistently heard three questions: Can you give us something bigger than us to excite our church? Is there a place for us at the table? Is there any way to lift ourselves out of this denominational controversy and get on with the gospel and ministry of Jesus Christ?

"Kingdom Advance says 'yes' to all three questions," he said.

Although approved overwhelmingly, critics of the plan predict it will be doctrinally lax and loosen ties to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Today is a sad day for the Southern Baptist Convention and many Virginia Baptists," said Rick Sadler, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Charlottesville. "What we have is not 'Kingdom Advance' but a kingdom divided."

Upton replied that his prayer is that history books will one day record that "Baptists divided became Baptists united" because of the historic vote. Messengers responded with a standing ovation.

"We all may disagree about some things," Upton said, "but we are going to find things we can agree on and get on with the main thing—the gospel and ministry of Jesus Christ."



"Pastor, why are you recording my counseling session on your sermon illustration cards?"

Land fires volley affirming right to bear arms

NASHVILLE (BP)—American citizens have the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, Richard Land affirmed May 13.

Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said it was a 1939 Supreme Court decision centered on the government's right to ban sawed-off shotguns that institutionalized the view that the Second Amendment pertained only to the states' right to organize a militia.

"There has been a long-term assault on your Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms," declared Land, host of the syndicated radio program, "For Faith & Family."

"Our forefathers understood that a free people had to be able to defend themselves against the government which seeks to gather more and more power to itself and wants to disarm its citizenry," Land added. He expressed appreciation for the Bush administration's calls to the U.S. attorney gener-

al and solicitor general to argue for a reversal of the argument before the Supreme Court that denies individuals the right to own firearms.

The Justice Department told the Supreme Court May 6 that the Constitution's Second Amendment "broadly protects the rights of individuals" to own firearms.

"The right to keep and bear arms is an individual right," Land said. "It is your constitutional right as long as you are a law-abiding citizen."

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Heritage society honors journalist.** The William H. Whitsitt Baptist Heritage Society will honor longtime Baptist journalist Walker Knight with its 2002 Whitsitt Courage Award at the society's annual meeting June 27 in Fort Worth, Texas. The award honors Knight for his advocacy of racial and gender equality while serving as a journalist at the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He also covered the Southern Baptist Convention controversy as editor and publisher of *Baptists Today*.

■ **Maddox to head broadcast ministry.** Roland Maddox has been named president and chief executive officer of Love Worth Finding Ministries, the broadcast ministry of former Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers. Maddox will assume responsibilities previously held by Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., who will continue to serve as the ministry's chairman of the board. Maddox recently retired from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention where he was associate to the president of LifeWay Church Resources.

■ **CBF Foundation elects president.** Don Durham, 33, has been elected president of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Foundation. Durham currently is director of development at United Methodist Family Services in Richmond, Va. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, he previously worked at Albright Care Foundation in Pennsylvania and at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. The foundation seeks to build endowment funds for future ministries of CBF.

■ **FBC, Dallas, plans \$48 million project.** First Baptist Church of Dallas leaders have announced plans for a massive \$48 million downtown building program. The eight-story building will house classrooms, offices, a bookstore, coffee and snack bar, fellowship hall, two chapels, prayer tower, banquet hall/theater, catering facilities and underground parking. It will replace an education and office building constructed in 1953 and a parking garage. Pastor Mac Brunson said once the money is raised, construction will take about two years.

■ **Former Baylor professor sentenced.** Bruce Watson, a former professor at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, received a seven-year prison sentence after pleading guilty to possession of child pornography. Watson, 45, a former assistant French professor, was arrested nearly two years ago after a Baylor computer technician found hundreds of images of nude children on his office computer. Watson said he regrets and feels remorse for his behavior.

■ **Editor named to university post.** Mark Wyatt, editor of the California Southern Baptist newspaper since 1991, has been elected vice president for marketing and communication at California Baptist University in Riverside. Wyatt, a 30-year veteran of print and broadcast journalism, was elected May 3 by the university's board of trustees. A graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., he has worked at television and radio stations in Louisville, South Carolina and Florida.

■ **Fired instructor sues seminary.** A former music instructor at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., is suing the school for breach of contract and failure to pay wages. Douglas Manley was dismissed Dec. 31 by Midwestern President Phil Roberts for allegedly viewing Internet pornography on his seminary-owned computer. Manley is seeking \$18,666 in unpaid salary. In his termination letter to Manley, Roberts said the firing was based on "departure from the basic tenets" of the Baptist Faith and Message. It cited Article XV which says Christians should oppose "all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality and pornography."

■ **Seminary professor Treadwell dies.** Former Kentucky minister Bill Treadwell died April 23 at age 70. Treadwell, a professor at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary, had taught Christian education and leadership at the seminary since 1995. He previously served churches in Kentucky, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.

KENTUCKY

Supreme Court OKs local option alcohol votes for larger restaurants

FRANKFORT—A 2000 law that allows local option elections in dry counties for alcohol sales at larger restaurants was upheld last week by the state Supreme Court.

The court returned a 6-1 decision in the case, filed by the Temperance League of Kentucky.

The law allows petitions for local option elections for specific restaurants.

The Temperance League, recently renamed the Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems, insisted that the law gave special status to specific restaurants.

"They just weren't convinced that it was against the law to give a special interest to the restaurant people and they rejected everything that we had to say," said Claude Witt, the league's executive director.

Associated Press reported that voters in Georgetown, Kuttawa, Murray and Guthrie already have voted to approve alcohol sales at restaurants that seat more than 100 customers and gain at least 70 percent of their total sales from food sales.

"I'm just devastated, because we spent so much time and effort," Witt added.

He said the league will petition the legislature during the next session to either repeal or change the law.

Volunteers clean up fourth disaster for 2002

HARLAN—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers wrapped up their response to major flooding this weekend after serving more than 9,000 meals and cleaning mud and muck out of 14 homes.

Disaster relief volunteers were called to help with emergency feeding and mud clean up on May 5 after flash floods swept through Eastern Kentucky, said Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Associate Larry Koch.

At the time, volunteers were just finishing their work in Providence which had been devastated by a tornado on April 28.

More than 70 trained volunteers responded to the needs in Eastern Kentucky, Koch said.

Kentucky Baptist disaster volunteers have now already responded to four disaster areas this year. This was the second flood recovery response to Harlan and Kentucky Baptists also provided flood relief in Grayson earlier this year.

The work follows a record year of disaster response in 2001 when Kentucky volunteers served in six disaster areas, including a two-month long response to help with emergency feeding at the site of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack in New York.

Koch said the latest response in Harlan also resulted in a new Christian.

"We've had one profession of faith," Koch said. He said a Red Cross volunteer began talking with Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers, who shared their faith with her. She later decided she wanted to come to debriefing and devotional time, where she expressed her desire to become a Christian.

The last house to be cleaned is one



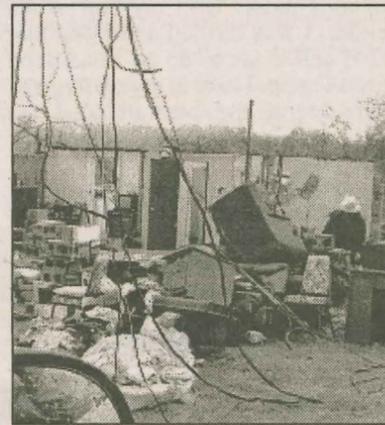
DISASTER RELIEF Volunteers had just finished their work in Providence, pictured here, when they were requested to help with feeding and mud-out in Harlan. (Photos by Howard Ping)

of the worst mud-out cases that volunteers have seen, Koch said.

A family has more than 18 inches of mud and rock in their basement, he said. "There's no way to get it out except hauling it out bucketful by bucketful."

While volunteers are ready for some rest, Koch said there's a chance they will be asked to help flood victims in West Virginia, including Mullins, where Kentucky Baptist relief workers served four weeks last year.

"If we had any volunteers who wanted to go, I know West Virginia would love to have them. They could call our office and we could put them in touch with them," he said.



Disaster relief volunteers are trained and organized through the KBC's Brotherhood department. For more information about disaster relief volunteering or training, call the department toll free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5720.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Church childcare** workers can earn six hours of state-approved credits at the upcoming church weekday education seminars sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Seminars will be offered in three locations: Louisville, Bethlehem Baptist Church, June 1; Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, June 8; and Bowling Green, Eastwood Baptist Church, June 15. Registration costs \$20, which includes lunch. For more information, call the KBC's Sunday school department at (888) 254-5709.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** has an immediate need for breakfast cereal, peanut butter and jelly for its campuses. Demand is high for those items because they are approved meal substitutes when children don't like items on a residence center's regular menu. Donations can be made at any KBHC campus or office. For more information, call (800) 456-1386.

Committee selected to evaluate future KBC ministry priorities

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, has been named chairman of a special study committee designed to evaluate future Kentucky Baptist convention ministry needs and priorities.

The 14-member mission study committee was appointed last week by KBC President Harold Greenfield in consultation with KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. The KBC Executive Board authorized establishing the committee during a May 6 meeting at Cedarvale Baptist Conference Center.

The proposal approved by board members specifies that the committee will review "the changing ministry needs of Kentucky Baptist Convention churches, KBC ministry objectives, leadership and organization requirements and financial and other resources."

The group also will "recommend any changes that are needed in order for the ministries of the KBC to be more effective in the 21st century." The committee is scheduled to present its findings and recommendations to the KBC Executive Board next May.

Charles Barnes, chairman of the Executive Board's administrative committee, presented the recommendation to board members. Barnes, who was named to the study committee, told board members that establishing the committee "may very well be the most important action you are asked to consider at this meeting."

Mackey told board members his goal for the committee's work is that "we can help our churches be more effective."

Citing the need to "have our objectives more sharp and focused," he added, "If we don't strengthen the foundation, we won't be able to reach very far very long. We cannot fail to think about preparation and positioning for the future."

Mackey noted last week that the 14-member committee "represents the diversity of the Kentucky Baptist Convention." Among representatives from all eight regions of the state, Mackey said committee members include pastors, directors of missions and laypeople who represent churches of various sizes.

In an effort to reflect the views of diverse age groups, he said the majority of committee members are under age 50, including three people who are in their 30s.

Mackey said his "desired objectives for the study committee are to identify and build on current strengths, to maximize the potential of resources and to respond in a timely way to the changing needs of churches."

Committee members, in addition to Kilgore, are:

■ **Steve Ayers**, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

■ **Charles Barnes**, former KBC president and member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Paul Chitwood**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.

■ **Julie Eaton**, a school health nurse whose husband, Jeff, is pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg.

■ **Roy Finley**, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Madisonville.

■ **Asa Greear**, director of missions for Greenup Baptist Association.

■ **Les Holland**, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Craig Loscalzo**, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Kevin McCallon**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah.

■ **Randy Pressnell**, associate professor of preaching and pastoral min-

istries at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and a member of East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church in Middlesboro.

■ **Ava Reynolds**, a member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Rick Robbins**, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

■ **Chris White**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton.

Greenfield will serve as an ex officio member of the study committee in his role as KBC president.

Kilgore described the committee as "a wonderful representative body of individuals who bring strengths and perspectives to the table to evaluate the total ministries" of the KBC Executive Board staff.

Overall goals include seeking to "accentuate our strengths as well as shore up areas that might need more attention and also to anticipate new ministries and mission ventures that are on the horizon," he added.

Kilgore said he anticipates that committee members will solicit input from church leaders, directors of missions, KBC staff members and others as they work to "cast a vision of what shape ministries will be taking in the next several decades."

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

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A pastor responds to senior adults

Editor's Note: The following article is a pastor's response to the May 7 commentary, "Senior adult shares 'a letter to my pastor.'"

Dear Senior Member:
Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your taking the time to share with me what is on your heart.

Interestingly, I grew up in the same church environment you did. I was in Mission Friends, RAs, Sunday school and youth choir. I too learned to dress as nice as I could for church because I was going to worship a mighty God and He deserves my best. I even won a first place award in my associational Bible Drill.

In my path to being a pastor, I have taught the Southern Baptist quarterly, served as a deacon and sung in the adult choir. Believe me, today's music isn't my cup of tea either. I was thrilled and awed that God called me to do all I had done growing up. I earned my undergraduate degree and even attended one of our seminaries to get prepared for the job.

After 10 long years of training I was excited to accept my first call as pastor. But something had happened while I was in school. When I stepped

into the pulpit expecting to see faces of all ages, I saw mostly senior faces. This isn't the church I remember. I remember grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren worshipping together. I even remember worshipping alongside some of you but as I look out over the congregation I don't see your children or grandchildren attending.

This surprises me because I thought you were passing down your love for the programs and music of the church to your children and grandchildren.

I now face the daunting task of being pastor to a church of wonderful senior saints with a great love for their church but who are limited in their involvement and nearing glory. Attendance is declining and the finances are getting critical.

To address the situation, I tried to find out why your children weren't attending. They told me that church was too boring and stodgy. They wear a suit all week. Why should they wear one on Sundays? They told me they couldn't relate to the hymns and they had no idea what an "Ebenezer" is. They told me the organ makes them think they are in a funeral home. They told me Sunday was their "Family Day" so I added services on Saturday

evenings. It became clear to me that if the church was to last another generation I was going to have to do something to interest your children and grandchildren in church and it would have to be convenient for them.

And so I set about to have music and instruments that they listen to in their homes and on their CDs and radios. I make the atmosphere casual because they don't like formality. I give up on our programs because their children are busy every night of the week with T-ball, soccer, ballet and Tae Kwan Do—and Grandma is there cheering them on. I made all these changes so your children would come to church and we could be one big, happy family once again, something I thought you would like.

However, even though your children and their children are coming to church again and enjoying singing and hearing the sermons, you have become more difficult to please. I'm very confused. I expected you to be willing to do anything to know your family knew Christ as Savior and was living for Him. I thought the idea of your grandchildren going to hell without Jesus would make you willing to do what they needed to enjoy church.

I appreciate your support, but it would be easier on me if you had only passed your values on to your children.

One of your pastors

COMMENTARY

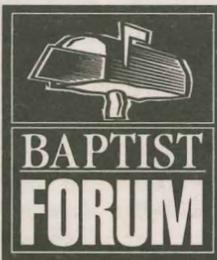
Don't sue leaders

The bar association won't agree with Paul. And who can guess what the ACLU would opine? But here is what the New Testament says to people who claim to be Christians while being encouraged by profit-chasers to belatedly file certain lawsuits:

"I speak to your shame. ... Brother goeth to law with brother ... before unbelievers. Now

therefore there is utterly a fault among you. ... Why do ye not rather take wrong? Why do ye not rather suffer (allow) yourselves to be defrauded? ... Ye do wrong."

Some among us who claim "moderation" may question the authority of that text, if not its authenticity. But that's 1 Corinthians 6:5-8 in the King James Version. Check out Roman Catholic and other Protestant versions. They offer no comfort to



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

The value of partnerships

The Kentucky Baptist Convention values its partnerships with associations. There are 72 active Baptist associations in the commonwealth, with the oldest associations predating the state and national conventions. The KBC's primary objective is to serve the churches, and one of the best ways to serve is in partnership with associations.

We partner with associations in a number of ways, including finding innovative ways to serve the churches. During the recent director of missions workshop sponsored by the KBC, Jim Herrington challenged all of us on how to lead congregational change. It begins with personal change and transition through spiritual and relational vitality. It continues through learning disciplines and understanding the change process.

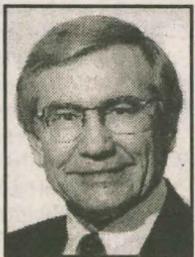
In his book "Leading Congregational Change," Herrington says "finding creative ways that enable the entire congregation to thoroughly understand God's vision for their future

and its implications" is a key challenge. As a director of missions in Houston, he concluded it was necessary to change the association before it could help churches.

One director of missions asked how the KBC would respond if he tried some creative things that provoked criticism. I responded by stating, "If you are doing something creative for Kingdom growth, I will be there with you."

Reaching Kentucky for Christ will require that God work mightily through every church and every member. Please ask God to stretch and direct all of us until everyone has heard the gospel in an understandable way and has had an opportunity to respond.

We also are partners with associations in communications. The KBC and associations share the great stories of missionary service locally and around the world. In order to assist in communications, the KBC has placed computers at no charge in more than 30 associational offices.



Bill Mackey

those who sue their religious leaders and hierarchy, especially when that defendant hierarchy is being seen in the reality of its fallibility, from its head on down.

I can't help but pray that Roman Catholics will discover that the only supreme source of truth is not in an organization of mortals they think Peter established in Rome, but in the Word of God. "The holy scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation" (2 Timothy 3:15).

*Donald MacDonald
Louisville*

STEWARDSHIP

Are you facing financial woes? Take this test

By Don Spencer

Sometimes our world can seem overwhelming, especially when it comes to personal financial issues.



Many folks never really know how much they spend in certain areas.

The fact is, it costs a lot of money to cover even basic living expenses. Sometimes these costs and debts that accumulate become bigger than what you've planned for. As a result, you are out of control and your finances might be controlling your life.

Are you living on the edge financially? If so, you are not alone.

Often professional help is needed to regain control. Answer the following questions "yes" or "no" to see if you need help. If you are in over your head, the first step is knowing your financial situation.

■ Are you unsure how much money you owe?

■ Do you and your spouse frequently disagree about money matters?

■ Do you skip some bills to pay others?

■ Do you fail to save some money each month?

■ Do you have insufficient cash saved for an emergency?

■ If you lost your job, would you have trouble paying for your basic living expenses?

■ Do you often spend money impulsively only to regret later making the purchase?

■ Do you fail to tithe?

■ Do you receive calls or letters from creditors about overdue bills?

■ Are you using an increasing percentage of your monthly income to pay off debts?

■ Can you make only the minimum payments on your credit cards?

■ Have you postponed medical or dental appointments because you can't afford them right now?

If you answer "yes" to:

■ 3-4 questions. Be careful. You might be developing financial problems.

■ 5-8 questions: You might be on the edge of financial disaster. Get started today to develop a plan to gain control of your situation.

■ 9-12 questions: You are in over your head financially. Get professional help immediately and act now to take control of your finances.

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

Parents seek ways to help combat child sexual abuse

Q: How can I protect my child from sexual abuse?

The sexual abuse of a child typically involves a great betrayal of trust by someone close to the child—a parent, neighbor, babysitter, teacher or even minister. Obviously, these are people life requires and encourages children to relate to on a regular basis.

Although there are no guarantees, these ideas can help reduce the risk that your child will be sexually abused:

- *Help your child develop positive attitudes toward his or her body and toward sex.* Look for every opportunity to remind your child that his or her body is a wonderful gift from God (Psalm 139:14). Age appropriate sex-education materials are readily available to help you teach about sex. Make sure your child knows and understands that certain parts of the body are so special that no one else is supposed to see or touch them, with the occasional exception of a doctor. Teach your child to tell you if something like this happens.

- *Protect your child from situations where abuse can occur.* Always know where your children are, who they are with and what they are doing. Check references on babysitters before leaving your children with them. Ask questions about activities before signing your children up. When choosing activities for your children, look for procedures or even written policies that require two teachers or leaders to be in the room at all times.

- *Pay attention.* Be alert to changes in behavior that might signal something is troubling your child. Talk with your children constantly. Ask questions about what's going on in their lives. Make sure they know they can talk to you about anything.—David Garrard

Q: I've recently divorced and also have been laid off from work. I'm looking for what to do next. Somebody told me to just "pray the prayer of Jabez." What do you suggest?

You are dealing with multiple losses. You have a right to grieve. That doesn't mean "grief lite," where others expect you to immediately feel better and get back into the swing of things. It means for you to really feel your anger, sadness and other emotions in the warm, supportive context of friends and family.

Ask around to find the best divorce/loss recovery groups and programs in your area. In spite of how you feel today, you are not alone. Good groups exist to help you process your feelings, provide you coping skills and help you begin the difficult process of forgiveness. As you are able to let go of the past, you open yourself to a new future and the possibility of living in the present free from the chains of destructive emotions.

Concerning Scripture and prayer, spend time in the four Gospels to get a sense of your very best friend, Jesus Christ. As you walk through the emotional labyrinth of post-divorce life, spend time in all 150 of the Psalms. The Psalms are prayers, covering the entire range of emotions. Whether you are angry or sad or when times of joy sneak up on you, you will find each of those emotions expressed as a prayer in the Psalms.

Seek wise counsel from those you trust who can affirm you in the midst of your brokenness. God is faithful—as surely as day follows night and spring follows winter, times of opportunity follow seasons of difficulty. God promises to carry you through as you seek to follow Him.—James Stillwell

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.



Committee seeks to 'cast vision' for KBC

Former Kentucky Baptist Convention President Charles Barnes told KBC Executive Board members earlier this month that establishing a proposed KBC mission study committee "may very well be the most important action you are asked to consider at this meeting."

Though the proposal was overshadowed by debate over issues related to the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Barnes was right. The special study committee, unanimously approved by board members, was given the responsibility to "recommend any changes that are needed in order for the ministries of the KBC to be more effective in the 21st century." Their findings have the potential to make a significant impact on Kentucky Baptist life for years to come.

Current KBC President Harold Greenfield appointed the 14-member committee last week in consultation with KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. With members from diverse geographic regions and various size churches, the group represents a healthy cross-section of state convention interests and needs. The committee of 12 men and two women includes eight pastors, three laypeople, two directors of missions and a Clear Creek Baptist Bible College professor.

Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was appointed study committee chairman. A member of the KBC Executive Board and its administrative committee, Kilgore most recently chaired a study committee that recommended the revised KBC regional structure approved May 7 by board members.

Barnes, who presented the mission study committee recommendation in his role as chairman of the Executive Board's administrative committee, is among those named to the study committee. In addition to his experience as KBC president, Barnes chaired the committee that produced the Baptist Faith and Message report adopted last fall by state convention messengers.

The work of that committee and messengers' strong support of the proposal are among the factors that bode well for the KBC's latest study committee. When the BF&M study committee was established in 2000, committee members faced the daunting task of finding common ground amid diverse responses to the Southern Baptist Convention's revised faith statement.

Barnes and other committee members worked diligently to craft a report that could be embraced by the vast majority of Kentucky Baptist messengers. Rather than getting bogged down in the line-by-line details of the 2000 statement, the committee opted to focus on the big picture. Their proposal focused on the Bible as "the basis of all our faith and practice," while also choosing to "acknowledge the value" of influential faith statements, ranging from the 1742 Philadelphia Confession of Faith to the latest version of the Baptist Faith and Message.

The study committee's recommendation was overwhelmingly adopted by messengers, helping maintain Kentucky Baptists' historic commitment to cooperation amid diversity.

As another KBC study group undertakes a pivotal assignment, members hopefully will look to the Baptist Faith and Message study committee as a worthy role model. The new committee's task includes reviewing the changing ministry needs of Kentucky Baptist churches as well as KBC ministry objectives, leadership and organization requirements and available resources.

Kilgore describes the committee's work as "an exciting opportunity to anticipate and cast a vision of what shape ministries will be taking in these next several decades."

As committee members begin their work and prepare to report to the Executive Board next May, pray that they will have the wisdom and insight to cast a strong, unifying vision of ministry that will enhance the work of God's Kingdom in Kentucky and beyond.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Preachers need to practice what they preach

By Lloyd Elder

NASHVILLE (RNS)—In our church leadership roles, do we practice what we preach?

"I feel confident preaching on Sunday, but I can't find time for my other responsibilities." "When major conflicts arise in the church, I hope they just disappear!" "I never know what the rest of the church staff is doing, or when they're going to do it."

I hear these sentiments all too often from church leaders across the country. It is clear there is a common thirst, from large church ministers to small church bivocational pastors: the desire to improve in their role as leader.

Budding pastors, as well as seasoned veterans, often are blindsided by the emotional, interpersonal and administrative elements of today's church life. But balancing budgets, schedules and church disputes while still ministering to congregation members is just as essential to church leadership as the message from the pulpit. Luckily for those of us in the church, the answers for effective leadership are right in front of us.

Servant leadership is a burgeoning movement within corporations and educational institutions. It's also an

ancient pattern Jesus taught His followers. In church life, we might be so familiar with the teaching of Jesus about servant leadership that we ignore its impact in the strategic direction and day-to-day operation of the church.

To put it bluntly, do we "practice what we preach" when it comes to being a leader in the church, its institutions and its agencies? How do we organize our time, handle conflict and manage decision-making? What is our philosophy of motivation, of delegation? Do we listen to those we lead in a way that honors them as truly an equal part of the body of Christ?

The corporate and institutional world is discovering the power of servant leadership for dynamic, effective leadership.

Robert Greenleaf, credited as being the "grandfather" of this leadership style in business, concluded that great leaders must serve others first and foremost.

In "Servant Leadership," Greenleaf writes, "A new moral principle is emerging which holds that the only authority deserving one's allegiance ... are individuals who are chosen as leaders because they are proven and trusted as servants."

I offer this challenge to those of us

engaged in ministerial leadership on any level: Make servanthood our church leadership model.

- Consciously earn the trust of those you seek to lead.

- Empower others through delegation, praise and encouragement.

- Practice open communication and mutual respect.

- Listen first! Really listen! Serve more, talk less!

- Develop mission and direction with your church or team, not for them.

- Doggedly lead in service to that mission.

Leadership is a trusting, team relationship, not a personal state of achievement. It is the way to lead in Jesus' image, and also happens to be today's most effective management style.

Let us applaud the contemporary business movement for discovering the power of Jesus' message in a setting outside church life, but let us also make servant leadership a regular part of a Christian leader's education and professional development. It is not only the message we preach on Sunday mornings; it can be the vital norm inside the greatest business on earth—the mission Jesus has given to the church.

Lloyd Elder, retired president of the former Baptist Sunday School Board, is director of the Moench Center for Church Leadership at Belmont University in Nashville

COMMENTARY

ISSUES

Faith leaders urge Bush to fight destructive effects of gambling

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than 220 religious leaders have endorsed an open letter to President Bush and Congress seeking action to reduce the effects of legalized gambling on American society.

"We believe it to be a moral and cultural cancer," the leaders wrote in a letter published as an advertisement in the May 6 edition of Roll Call, a newspaper that focuses on covering Capitol Hill.

"Therefore, we respectfully urge Congress to begin to address the devastation that gambling has wrought on our children, families, communities and nation."

The letter expressed concern for people with meager resources who buy lottery tickets and don't have enough money for food or rent.

"Each of us—and the faith communities we represent—could provide countless stories of families shattered by gambling addiction," they wrote. "We are often the ones forced to pick up the pieces of lives ripped apart by divorce and domestic violence."

The writers criticized the gambling industry for its financial contributions to political candidates and accused it of contributing to crime, suicide and gambling addiction.

"Gambling has become a blight on our nation's cultural landscape," the leaders concluded. "We call on members of Congress to place America's citizens and families ahead of the false promises and hefty political contributions of the gambling industry, and to begin to address this rapidly growing menace to our national welfare."

Signatories, representing Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, included James Merritt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Richard John Neuhaus, president of the Institute on Religion and Public Life; Glenn Plummer, chairman of the National Religious Broadcasters; and Jim Winkler, general secretary of the United Methodist Church's General Board of Church and Society.

Update: Robertson responds to criticism by selling racehorses

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)—Pat Robertson will divest himself of horse racing interests following criticism from supporters who questioned the religious broadcaster's involvement in a sport that promotes gambling.

"I am sorry that my fondness for the performance of equine athletes has caused you an offense," he wrote in a reply sent to supporters of his ministries at the 700 Club and the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Robertson, who owns a two-year-old colt named "Mr. Pat" came under fire following a report in The New York Times. The report outlined financial involvement in horse racing—to the tune of more than

\$500,000.

Robertson contends that he was interested only in the competition among horses and not gambling.

"I like Saratoga (racetrack). I go there for the breakfasts in the morning and to watch the horses train," he told the Times. "It's marvelous. There is a certain mystique to horse racing."

In the letter, the broadcaster told supporters that he raced horses as a

child and said "none of this brought any sense of embarrassment to me because I felt then, and feel now, there is nothing wrong with contests of skill, either between human athletes or equine athletes."

"He wants to be above reproach, so he'll do whatever he has to do," Angell Watts, spokeswoman for the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach told Associated Press.

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I raise these questions because we encounter so many people who executed a will and other estate planning documents years ago, placed them in a safe deposit box at the bank and then proceeded to ignore them. I recall one incident when a widow could not even remember whom she had

and anxiety could have been saved had these two individuals reviewed their documents on a regular basis.

We recommend you review all of your documents at least every three years, or anytime circumstances change that justify a review. It does not mean you will have to make changes, but at least you are consciously re-evaluating and re-

confirming the validity of your plan given the changed circumstances. I am amazed each time I review my plan at what I had forgotten about my plan. Some changing circumstances that should prompt your immediate review are: marriage or remarriage of yourself or others included in your plan, divorce of yourself or others in your plan, birth or adoption of chil-

dren, children growing up, becoming a grandparent, assets increasing in value, receiving additional assets through gifts or inheritance, relocating to another state, beneficiaries or their circumstances having changed.

Call toll-free Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, for "no cost" assistance.

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

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SMILE

Overwhelming support

Recently, I received an invitation to speak to the Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. I was eager to share news about Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's work with these key leaders from across our state.

When KBHC announced earlier this year that we plan to relocate Glen Dale Children's Home and Spring Meadows Children's Home upon the sale of these current campuses, we wondered how Kentucky Baptists would respond to the news. The staff and board of KBHC greatly respect the past of this ministry. Making changes was not something we did on a whim. Rather, this difficult decision was reached when we truly believed we had reached the end of all other options.

To be sure, some people have been saddened and disappointed by the decision, but their response does not end there. People we have spoken with also have expressed an understanding of the necessity of such a decision. Kentucky Baptists know a thing or two about stewardship.

I was so gratified by the response of the Executive Board. There was a lot of information I had to share, and some of the issues are compli-

ated. Licensing, regulation and accreditation all have come to bear upon our ministry. It isn't always easy to explain the "why" behind all aspects of our work, but the Executive Board gave me their full attention. Later, they showed their support of KBHC's work in an overwhelming way. Privately, I received many words of encouragement from Executive Board members and leaders of other Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions.

Our development department recently pulled some figures that both excite and humble me. Of the approximately 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches affiliated with our convention, 2,044 are actively supporting Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children! On behalf of the children and families you help us serve, thank you. Your continued support of this ministry brings hope to children, teenagers and families who desperately need to know they are valued—by others and by our Lord.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

Thanking Barbara Cox

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's annual faculty/staff banquet, we honor a member of our staff who has demonstrated consistent excellence and dedication. The recipient of the Service Award for 2002 is Barbara Cox.

Cox has worked at Cumberland College for 20 years, serving in a variety of capacities. She began her Cumberland College career as a secretary in the office of student services. She then became assistant manager of our bookstore. Presently she serves in the registrar's office as assistant registrar.

Cumberland College's registrar's office receives a constant flow of traffic, and Cox comes in contact with almost every Cumberland College student. She helps students register for courses, drop and add courses and keep on schedule for graduation.

Cox also takes care of all Veterans Administration matters for our students who have served in the military. She assists students in applying for VA benefits and monitors the schedule and progress of each VA student.

Cox also assists Cumberland's registrar in working with our inter-

national students. Her assistance with paperwork and willingness to find answers help smooth the transition for students who find themselves so far from home.

The full-time and part-time workers in the registrar's office praise Cox. They say she is a whiz at running reports on the computer system. They also appreciate her willingness to help them in any way she can.

One of Cox's colleagues says she "has always been more than competent in her many tasks. She is a very caring person and one of the most compassionate people I have ever known."

Cox and her husband, Hoyt, have two daughters, Jessica and Courtney. Her Christian commitment is evident in her family life, her church involvement and her work at Cumberland.

All of us at Cumberland College thank Cox for her dedication and service.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kudzu

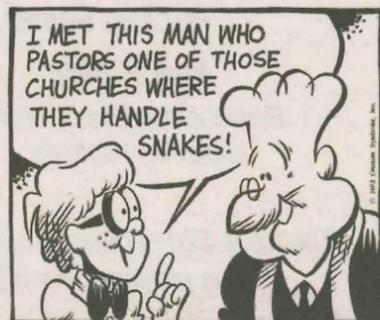


MARLETTE 6-13



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Across

- 1 "Give ear, O ____ of Israel" (Psalms 80:1)
- 8 Animal fat
- 11 "And now abideth faith, ____ charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- 12 "Every ____ shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5)
- 14 Gold, chem. symbol
- 15 Revise
- 17 Direction
- 18 Dental surgeon, abbr.
- 19 "Make the ____ for fire" (Ezekiel 24:9)
- 20 Advantage, resource
- 22 Over (poetic)
- 24 Father
- 26 What the doctor wants you to say when you open your mouth
- 27 "To him ... who liveth for ____" (Revelation 4:9)
- 30 "They shall fall, and ____ rise" (Amos 8:14)
- 33 Abijam's son (1 Kings 15:8)
- 34 Foreign
- 36 A cereal grain
- 37 Three letters of Latin anagram for Christ
- 38 Chemical warfare, abbr.
- 39 Old Testament, abbr.
- 40 Longing
- 42 Land measurement
- 44 Larger, abbr.
- 46 "The four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their ____" (Revelation 11:16)
- 48 A snake-shaped fish
- 49 "The veil of the temple was ____ in the midst" (Luke 23:45)

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| 54 | | | | 55 | | | 56 | 57 | |
| 58 | | | 59 | | | | | | |

- 51 Paul was a ____-maker
- 53 Building wing
- 54 "What then? are we ____ than they?" (Romans 3:9)
- 56 "He shall suck the poison of ____" (Job 20:16)
- 58 Exclamation of disgust
- 59 "Cattle shall feed in large ____" (Isaiah 30:23)
- 21 "He that hath an ____, let him hear" (Revelation 2:7)
- 23 "Elias verily cometh first, and ____ all things" (Mark 9:12)
- 25 "I am the God of Bethel, where thou ____ the pillar" (Genesis 31:13)
- 28 Very large
- 29 Color again
- 31 Passport
- 32 European Community, abbr.
- 33 Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- 35 Inhabits
- 36 "Hurt not the wine and the ____" (Revelation 6:6)
- 38 Crawls
- 41 "Take, ____; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 43 Common Era, abbr.
- 45 Gregory, for short
- 46 "There is but a ____ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 47 Tin, chem. symbol
- 50 New Testament, abbr.
- 52 Black sticky material
- 54 Abbreviation for a dry measure
- 55 Royal Academy, abbr.
- 57 Direction

Last week's solution

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ISSUES

Growth in Christianity, Islam could cause third world clashes

Continued from page 1

the people are age 14 or under. One would expect such a country to have a booming expansion for at least 30 or 40 years, he said. Add to that the religious trends there. "There's a reasonable bet that Uganda is going to be ... about 80 percent Christian in 30 or 40 years," he said.

Meanwhile, evangelical Christians and missions agencies continue to work to influence the rate of Christians through conversion from Muslim and other faiths.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board personnel are working with more than 300 predominantly Muslim people groups in 75 countries, according to spokesman Mark Snowden. The agency's report of statistics from 2000 found IMB personnel and their partners reported the planting of more than 120 churches and more than 3,400 baptisms among predominantly Muslim groups.

Jenkins said most commentators are clueless to the religious realities in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world. "Everyone knows—quote, unquote—that Christianity was taken to places like Africa by missionaries and then presumably when imperialism ended, then Christianity died with it. That's the impression. But any book written today on religion and Africa, say, would talk about this religious explosion as one of the most remarkable events in the continent," he said.

It might be more accurate to say Southern Hemisphere Christianity came into its own only after Western colonial powers packed up and left in the 1950s and 1960s.

"Think about it. When the empires close down, if you become a Christian, then you no longer think, 'I'm just doing what the white bosses want me to do.' It's no longer like a subservient thing. It's something you do because you want to, because you believe it."

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I would like to share part of a letter I received from a friend who was very instrumental in directing a young Vietnamese boy to Oneida. He had no money so, like many of our other students, he was given a full scholarship. Here is what she had to say:

"What a blessing we received when God directed our path to Oneida! We are thankful for all that you have done for Tri (pronounced "tree"). ... We had always heard ... that Oneida was a wonderful place to send a child for a Christian education. ... There is no better place than Oneida.

"We were touched in many ways. Tri was accepted for who he is, with no expectations on Oneida's part. To say that the teachers at Oneida are dedicated seems to be an inadequate description. They give of their lives. They love and nurture students as if their own. He not only received an education that was unavailable to him in Vietnam but (witnessed) the love of our Lord through the actions and caring attitude of the Oneida staff. The love that abounds at Oneida graciously led Tri through difficult times of homesickness, culture shock and thoughts of giving it up. ... Because of your love, kindness and generosity, Tri was given an opportunity to take a new direc-

tion in life. Just to have the privilege to learn to read, write, speak English and graduate from high school is beyond our dreams. The most important lifelong experience for Tri was being exposed to the love of our Savior through your ministry. Our prayer is that Tri will relate back to his Oneida experience ... (and) will accept the Lord as Savior.

"Tri's family in Vietnam has asked us to express their heartfelt gratitude for the love ... you have shown their son. Oneida's witness, as you know, will go far beyond Tri.

"There comes a time in our lives ... when we wonder what difference we are making in the lives of others. We hope that you can find comfort in knowing that somewhere on the other side of the world is a young man living a life that was significantly changed because of Oneida's ministry."

We are very grateful for this most gracious letter. Several hundred students from around the world have been helped just as this young man, but often no one takes time to say "Thank you." It is a unique opportunity to work

with students from around the world, many of whom are not Christians. While they were here they heard the gospel message every school day and each Sunday.

We are never guaranteed that a heart will be opened to the message of salvation, but we are commanded to tell the story. Our hope is that the seed of God's Word has been planted and that our young people will consider what they have heard.

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

A rotary push mower and Kelly Hall lawn

I hope 1957 alumnus Carl Sears makes it back for the rededication of Kelly Hall. As a child, Sears mowed the Kelly Hall lawn with a rotary push mower. While his dad attended Clear Creek, Carl attended Harmony Elementary School.

"I traveled with Dad to his preaching assignments and didn't want to be a preacher. I wanted to make more money than he did and planned to be an electrical engineer," Sears said. His father became district missionary for Jackson, Lee and Madison counties.

The memory of Clear Creek Boys Camp remains vivid. "My call to preach came during the camp. Many were saved and others surrendered to the ministry. Although Clear Creek was where it started, I fought the call for years," Sears stated.

After a term in the Army, Sears studied electrical work at the vocational school in Somerset and came to Clear Creek at age 28.

"We had two boys and only about \$8 when we moved. I got a job on the campus work crew but ran out of money before payday. I explained to my boys that we had nothing for supper. My wife was ironing my pants and found 50 cents. We bought a loaf of bread

and some milk. The next day the chapel speaker, Sam Morris, asked me to dig some worms and we'd go fishing. The Lord always provides," Sears said.

Standing near the Aldridge building during a campus visit, Sears noted he helped dig the building foundation and poured columns that support the chapel roof.

"I was shy and didn't do well in school, but Clear Creek really brought me out and helped me," Sears said.

His teachers rank in the hall of faithful servants: L.T. Hastings, Carl Hunter, John Isaacs and T.D. Brown. "My first impressions of Carl Hunter were not favorable. He was an aggressive teacher, a specialist in Sunday school work and gave us so much

material. If he called on me in class I always had a mental block. But I was challenged to learn and grew so much from his influence," Sears recalled.

The influences of those early years continue to bear fruit. Fourteen years ago, Sears told Macedonia Baptist Church he would be their "weekend preacher." He is still with them.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

FamilyNet to revive animated series 'Jot' for new generation

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The classic animated series "JOT," created in 1964 by the former Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission, will return to the airwaves on FamilyNet Television this month.

"JOT Classics" will air daily during FamilyNet's children's block beginning May 6 and will be compiled for product sales.

"JOT" was conceptualized in 1959 by Ruth Byers, a Baylor University graduate who majored in children's and teens' theater, and Ted Perry, a writer with the RTVC. Paul Stevens, then-president of the RTVC, commissioned Byers and Perry to develop "JOT" into a children's television show with the purpose to reach children with moral messages.

Stevens, Byers and Perry, along with staff from the former Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board), educators, community leaders from across the United States and others, collaborated on "JOT." Preliminary sketches and scripts were submitted to a production company and after some tweaking, JOT came to life.

"The Lutherans had 'Davey & Goliath' and I wondered what we Baptists could do for children's television," Stevens recalled.

In the preliminary sketches, he said, JOT had hands and feet in all the frames, but exorbitant production costs forced a change resulting in a "bouncy, fun" JOT whose hands and feet only appeared when he was at rest in a scene.

"JOT" was designed to teach



young viewers morals and manners through easy-to-understand lessons. The four-and-a-half minute segments deal with topics such as racial tolerance, making right choices and adapting to life in the big city. "JOT" aired nationally and internationally for nine years.

"For people like me who grew up with 'JOT,' seeing these stories again brings back fond memories," said Martin Coleman, vice president of programming at FamilyNet. "I remember Dad honking the horn for me to come get in the car, so we could get to church on time. But I just couldn't go until 'JOT' was finished. Now I'll get to watch 'JOT' with my own kids."

"JOT" was translated into 19 languages with the simple lessons carried around the globe in the form of film, Sunday school and vacation Bible school literature, lesson plans and products.

Broadcast syndication continued for years after production ceased. "JOT" also inspired "A Day in the Life of JOT," a stage production inspired by several episodes performed at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Book aims to help adults answer kids' important questions about Christianity

By Mandy Crow
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Children can sometimes ask more questions than parents can answer.

But a new book is being offered to help adults answer children's questions when it comes to some important issues of the Christian faith.

Tommy Sanders, director of childhood ministry publishing at LifeWay Christian Resources and author of "When Can I?," said parents and teachers should be ready to talk about matters when children begin asking questions about Christianity at an early age.

"Children begin the journey toward faith in Christ at the very first teachable moments," said Sanders, a pre-kindergarten Sunday school class teacher at First Baptist Church of Goodlettsville, Tenn. "Our goal should be to partner with the Holy Spirit all along the way."

The book offers parents and teachers resources for answering questions about baptism, communion and becoming a Christian.

"Leading our children to know, love, trust, obey and follow Christ is not just an event or an occasion,"

Sanders said. "It is a journey that begins at birth."

Written to help children understand the steps essential to the Christian life, the book contains four stories, each focusing on a specific question about faith and Christianity, including baptism, communion, why Jesus came and how to become a Christian.

All four stories are told with the young reader in mind. The first two stories are written on a kindergarten level, the last two deal with deeper issues of faith for older young readers.

A special section after each story offers follow-up questions and guidance in dealing with the specific faith issues for authority figures such as parents, teachers or ministers.

"When Can I?" gives parents, teachers and ministers words, phrases and questions that are more understandable for children," Sanders said.

The book is designed to help adults avoid misunderstandings and to create an environment that encourages children to express their feelings and faith in their own words, he said. "While there is no separate or watered-down version of the gospel for children, the language of adults and the church can be confusing to them."



All I Need to Know about Ministry I Learned from Fly Fishing. Myrlene Hamilton. Judson Press, 2001. 95 pages. \$12. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

I am not a person who enjoys fishing, and I thought that would be a hindrance to the benefit of this book. I was wrong. This is an enjoyable and beneficial book about ministry whether or not you fly fish.

There are basically 39 short devotions in this book. The five chapters of the book are broken up into short passages, most beginning with a scripture verse.

Each passage also includes a real life experience from fly fishing and its application to the practice of ministry. The book is written for professional ministers but also can help laypeople as they work out their ministry through the church.

There is nothing really groundbreaking in this book, but that is OK. The book presents what should be a common sense understanding of ministry. If the book were a seminary course it would be "Ministry 101."

A problem often identified in the church today, however, is that we have forgotten the basics of ministry in favor of the latest ministry fad. This is a book that calls the church and its ministers back to the essential components of ministry.

If so much is to be learned from fly fishing, then maybe I should consider taking it up as my new sport. Wayne Hager

The McDonaldization of the Church: Consumer Culture and the Church's Future. John Drane. Smyth & Helwys Publishers, 2001. 215 pages. \$16.20. ♦♦♦♦

Nine years ago, George Ritzer published a critique of Western culture titled, "The McDonaldization of Society."

In that book, he observed that Western society had become imprisoned in an "iron cage" characterized by "efficiency, calculability, predictability and control."

John Drane picks up on Ritzer's observations in describing how the church has become captive to the effects of the "rationalist-materialist world view handed down ... from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries."

Drane contends Western culture finds itself at a crossroads between worldviews. We are discovering, he argues, that the grand vision of the Enlightenment has led to a society filled with fractured and broken lives and "has created personal dysfunction on the grand scale." As a society, we are struggling to give birth to a new vision of ourselves and our world.

Unfortunately, the church is not only behind the curve, but it seems content to either observe the process of restructuring or fighting for the dying vision of humanity, commu-

nity, knowledge, etc.

Drane not only reviews the context in which church exists, he also outlines seven categories of people to whom the church must address the gospel and points to ways the church can embody the good news for a world in transition.

His vision for the church is a challenge to re-examine paradigms for worship, community and mission.

More than another discussion of modernism versus postmodernism, "The McDonaldization of the Church" is a call to understand why most people do not connect the church with the person and message of Jesus.

It is a call to remember that God calls on us to "love the Lord with all our heart, soul ... and strength," along with our minds. Jim Holladay

Unconditional Joy: How to Get It, Have It and Keep It. Glenn Nowell. Whitaker House, 2001. 206 pages. \$11.99. ♦♦

Reviewing books authored by friends of colleagues is a stressful experience. The stress is heightened when the author requests I review it. Whenever the book commends itself, despite my relationship to the author, I am relieved. When it does not, I wish I had passed the task to Victoria or Wayne.

Glenn Nowell believes in his book and is enthusiastic about how he has seen results from using its contents with groups, couples and individuals. I wanted to like it as much as he, but could not. He deals with an important topic: How can we be set free from destructive attitudes and behaviors that destroy our lives and relationships? Out of his life experience, Nowell finds the answer in the Beatitudes as reflected in Matthew 5:1-12.

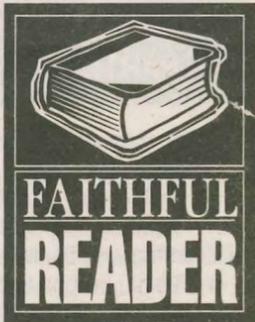
My struggle with his approach came at the point of his calling the Beatitudes a seven-step process to unconditional joy. I never had

thought of them as a sequential process, one building on the other as stair steps in the Christian life.

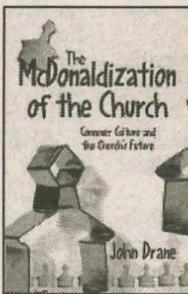
Nowell's line of reasoning was not convincing. I found his paraphrase/interpretation of the Beatitudes less than satisfying at some points, e.g. "hungering and thirsting after righteousness" becomes "doing whatever is necessary to make amends."

I also found his attempts to balance a "God helps those who help themselves" approach to a relationship with Jesus Christ with the affirmation that we are saved by grace awkward. He swings back and forth between a Pelagian definition of grace as moral instruction and the Augustinian view that grace is the unmerited favor of God that transforms our lives.

That is not to say his observations about human nature are without merit. I simply wish he had been clearer about the role of grace. Jim Holladay



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



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:

■ Missionaries Mark and Tatiana McNiel as they lead a new church in the Ursynow district of Warsaw, Poland.

About 35 Poles and several English/Polish-speaking internationals attend.

■ A deaf youth club begun this month in the Czech Republic. This Saturday club offers fun, fellowship and Bible lessons. Approximately 50,000 deaf people live in the Czech Republic.

■ A small group of Basque believers in Spain who meet monthly to pray and plan activities to reach their people.

■ Follow-up to the work of a medical team and a Christian education team from the States who ministered in Bulgaria this month.

■ Mission groups from Kentucky preparing to serve in New England this summer.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ANNVILLE**—Bond Church called **Mike Seals** as associate pastor and minister of youth.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Burton Memorial Church called **Kevin Hash** as pastor effective May 23.

■ **CADIZ**—Rock Front Church called **Donnie Garner** as pastor.

■ **CRAB ORCHARD**—Crab Orchard Church ordained **Jerry Bailey**, **Larry Gooch** and **Phillip Shelton** as deacons.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Second Church called **Tim Smith** as pastor.

■ **FALLS OF ROUGH**—Falls of Rough Church ordained **Mike Rhudy** and **Charles Woosley** as deacons May 5.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Trinity Southern Church licensed **Kenny Schlueter** to the gospel ministry May 5.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Bethel Church celebrated its 200th anniversary May

19. Former pastors and staff members shared in the service. **Bob Litton** is pastor.

■ **INDEPENDENCE**—Hickory Grove Church called **Will Langford** as pastor effective May 19. He previously was pastor of Lakota Hills Church in West Chester, Ohio.

■ **JENKINS**—First Church called **E.J. Mullins** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Bellepoint Church in Frankfort.

■ **KUTTAWA**—**Jason Brinker** resigned as pastor of Suwanee Furnace Church to begin church planting work in the Seattle area.

■ **LEBANON JUNCTION**—Mount Carmel Church called **Jimmy Parker** as interim pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church called **Sandra Williams** as interim minister of music.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill

Church will host the youth choir and handbells from First Church in Shawnee, Okla., in concert May 29. For information, call **Louie Bailey** at (502) 896-4425.

Maple Grove Church called **Buddy Bass** as associate pastor to children and families and **Nathan Hardeman** as associate pastor to students. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Enon Church called **Rayland Smith** as pastor.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—Stonelick Church ordained **Charles Willoughby** as a deacon April 28. **Danny Boyd** is pastor.

■ **PARIS**—Central Church called **Thomas Wright** as minister to students effective June 1.

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

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Run Church called **Glenn Toney** as interim pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Brush Grove Church ordained **Paul Edward Lewis** and **Clayton Trent** as deacons April 21.

Strategist affirms association's work

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—As Southern Baptists observe Associational Missions Week May 20-26, a Kentucky Baptist association has been cited as a role model for effective missions involvement.

Don Beall, director of associational missions strategy for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board described Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association as "a good example" of a mission-focused association.

"There are 22,000-plus people living in those two counties, and in June 67 people are going to go to Seattle during Embracing Seattle to be on mission," he noted. "There are two, maybe three people from each of those 40 churches who will go."

A group of mission volunteers from the association "just got back from Honduras," he added. "They have become a global/local association."

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.

FARMERS: Sell locally-grown produce at Wednesday afternoon freshmarket hosted by Walnut Street Baptist Church in historic Old Louisville. Send inquire to FarmWorks Market, WSBC, 1143 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40203.

FOR RENT: Two-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Destin, Fla. Available May 17-June 15; Aug. 3-10. (502) 538-6769.

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

HEALTH: Great news for people with diabetes: Medicare pays for diabetes testing supplies. Liberty Medical Supply (you've seen us on TV). Satisfaction guaranteed. Call toll-free: (800) 301-6497.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, downtown Bowling Green, is seeking a full-time youth minister. The minister is to provide leadership and guidance to students (grade 7-12) and their parents, and assist the pastor in the development and coordination of a comprehensive education, activity and outreach program for youth. A seminary degree and three to five years youth ministry experience is desired. Salary open with benefits. For additional information, contact Steve Snodgrass, Youth Search Committee Chair, (270) 781-2718, ext. 221. Church Web site is www.firstbaptistbg.org.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Gethsemane Baptist Church, 10400 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229; by fax to (502) 969-3191; or e-mail to RDSS13@aol.com.

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: Bivocational minister for country church with a lot of history. Send resumé to: Providence Baptist Church, 5947 Old Boonesboro Road, Winchester, KY 40391, Attn: Search Committee. For information, call (859) 744-2890 or 744-7768.

SEEKING: Full-time youth pastor for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church near Union City, Tenn. Send resumé to: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 688 Sublett Road, Union City, TN 38261.

SEEKING: Minister of childhood education for ages birth-5th grade. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Lexington Baptist Church, 308 East Main St., Lexington, SC 29072.

SEEKING: Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of education. College degree required; seminary training preferred. Please send resumé and cover letter to: Grace Baptist Church, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505, Attn: Education Minister Search Committee.

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: Dynamic and diverse congregation seeks skilled and experienced minister of music and worship to oversee a comprehensive music and worship program designed to develop each member to participate in worship, including direct responsibility for congregational praise and worship, adult and youth choirs. Would work in concert with team of minister, including senior pastor, minister of youth, musicians and other church members. Resumé accepted until position is filled. Video tape examples demonstrating skills and proficiencies welcomed. Send to: First Baptist Church, 101 West Church St., Smithville, TN 37166, Attn: Music Search Committee. No phone inquiries, please. Tapes cannot be returned.

SEEKING: Part-time director of music to assist senior pastor and associate pastor. Located in a small northern Kentucky town near large metropolitan areas and having a weekly attendance of 250+ and great potential for growth, Williamstown Baptist is a Southern Baptist church striving for a blended, purpose-driven ministry. Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, well-organized and a creative team player. A bachelor's degree is required with related experience a plus. Send or e-mail resumé to: Stephen C. Rice; 214 North Main Street; Williamstown, KY 41097. E-mail: srice@fuse.net. Phone: (859) 824-4102.

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.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Pineville, Ky., is accepting resumé for full-time pastor with a degree from an accredited seminary. Please send to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 405 Kentucky Ave., Pineville, KY 40977.

SEEKING: Elliston Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, Ky., is accepting resumé for a pastor. Send to: Gary Richardson, RT #1, Glencoe, KY 41046.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Liberty Missionary Baptist Church. If interested, send resumé to: 12835 Copley Road, Ashland, KY 41102.

SEEKING: Buena Vista Baptist Church is seeking a strong Southern Baptist, solid Bible preaching and teaching mission-oriented pastor. Please send all correspondence and/or recommendations to: Pastoral Search Committee, 324 Clifty St., Somerset, KY 42501. (606) 679-1686.

SEEKING: Full-time church financial secretary with knowledge of Automated Church Systems software preferred. Salary negotiable with experience. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 5708 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40219. Fax: (502) 964-9678.

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

SEEKING: Memorial Baptist Church of Frankfort is searching for a full-time worship pastor. Responsibilities will include planning and conducting a comprehensive program of music and arts with an emphasis on blended worship. Interested candidates may send a resumé to: MBC, 130 Holmes St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

One year and counting

Media reports: Kidnapping taking toll on missionaries

MANILA, Philippines (BP)—A year of captivity has taken a toll on the health of kidnapped New Tribes missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, according to news reports.

The New Tribes Missions agency, based in Sanford, Fla., specializes in planting indigenous churches among unevangelized people groups in remote areas around the world.

The Burnhams, who were kidnapped in the Philippines on May 27, 2001, have been New Tribes workers since 1985.

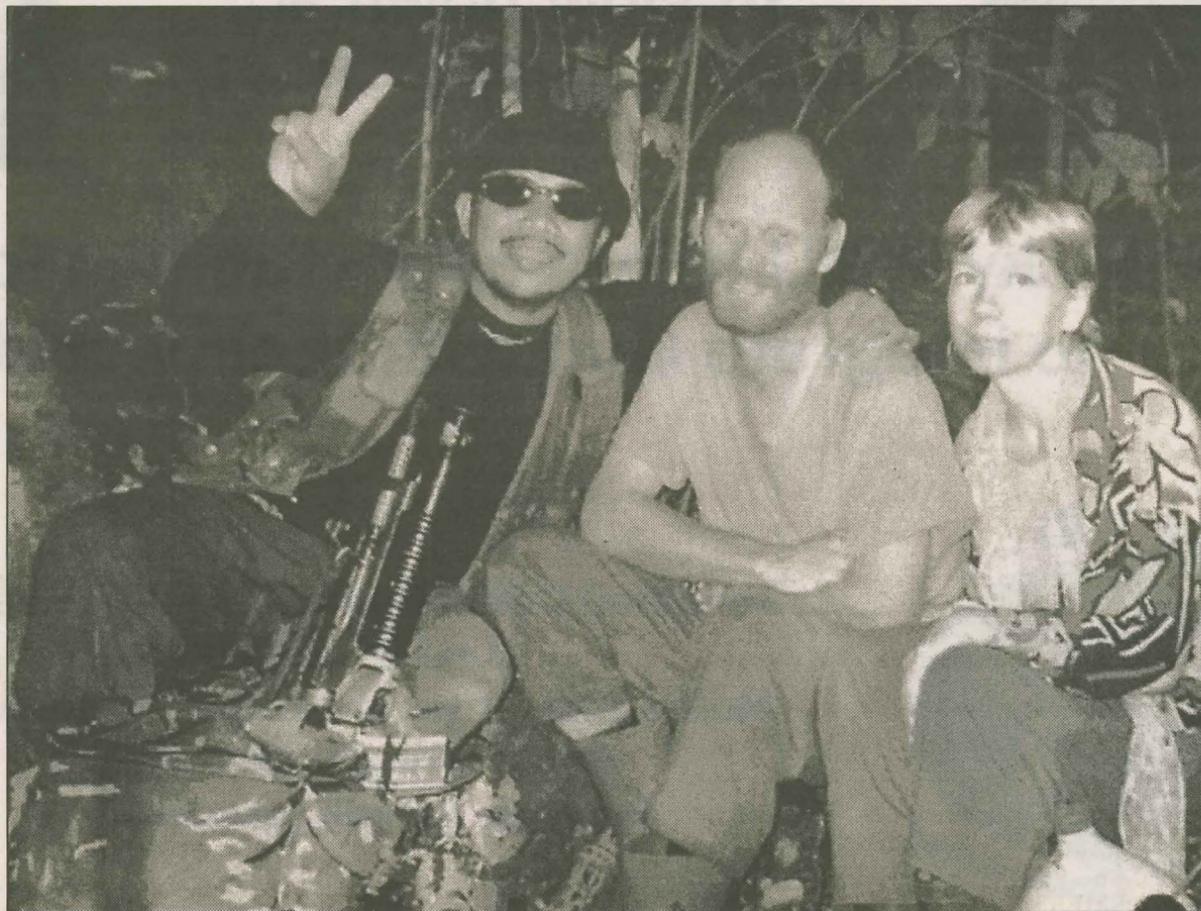
He is a pilot and she worked in conjunction with New Tribes aviation needs. Burnham grew up in the Philippines, where his parents have been missionaries for more than 32 years.

On May 14, Reuters news service quoted a Philippine military official as saying Abu Sayyaf guerillas might release Mrs. Burnham.

"Perhaps, the Abu Sayyaf is considering this for humanitarian reasons," the official told reporters. Reuters noted that Manila newspapers had reported on an unidentified emissary to the rebel group who had delivered medicine to the couple where they have been held on Basilan Island.

The emissary cited a urinary tract infection as causing Gracia Burnham's deteriorating health. Martin Burnham, meanwhile, apparently was suffering from malaria, the Manila media reported.

In a May 1 statement, New Tribes Mission acknowledged that a failed ransom deal—in which it had no involvement—had heightened the danger facing the Burnhams.



KIDNAPPED MISSIONARIES American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham are pictured with Abu Sabaya (left), a leader of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrilla group in the rebels' hideout in Basilan Island, southern Philippines in this September photo. The American couple was kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf rebels in May 2001. (RNS/Reuters photo)

A \$300,000 ransom payment raised by the Burnhams' families failed to free the missionaries around Easter, when their captors, the terror-linked Abu Sayyaf Group, subsequently demanded an additional \$200,000, according to an April 26 report in *The New York Times*.

On May 5, in an extensive *Dallas Morning News* story, reporter Gregg Jones described the Burnhams' lives in captivity based on reports from former hostages and Abu Sayyaf rebels who had spent time with the American couple.

Martin Burnham "passes his days in a hammock hung between two trees

in a jungle camp. His wrists are handcuffed. His movement is limited by a short chain looped around his shackles and tethered to a tree."

Gracia Burnham, meanwhile, can move about freely, but she must cover her head with a Muslim veil, Jones reported. The missionaries "are free to practice their Christian faith by praying and reading the Bible."

Jones also recounted that the Burnhams "live in jungle camps where they sleep in hammocks and bathe in rivers. They endure long marches over rugged terrain, frantic escapes from gunbattles between their captors and government soldiers, and the never-

ending struggle to survive in a debilitating tropical climate on a poor diet."

In a statement last week, New Tribes Mission said its crisis teams in Manila and the United States "are continuing to work around the clock to track down reliable information about Martin and Gracia."

"While we would welcome Gracia's release, we call on their captors to free the couple and their fellow hostage, Filipina nurse Deborah Yap," the missions agency said. "Please join us in asking God that Martin and Gracia, and Deborah, will soon be released. Pray also for His will to be done and His name to be glorified."

"His wrists are handcuffed. His movement is limited by a short chain looped around his shackles and tethered to a tree."

Dallas Morning News report on kidnapped missionary Martin Burnham

Grayson County ordered to remove Ten Commandments from courthouse

LEITCHFIELD—A federal judge has ordered Grayson County officials to remove a religious and historical display from the county courthouse.

U.S. District Judge Joseph McKinley Jr. issued a preliminary injunction last week that ordered the display removed, according to the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. McKinley said he would make a final ruling after the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rules on a similar case in Eastern Kentucky.

"The court believes that it is likely that the plaintiffs will be successful in their argument that this display has primary or principal effect of advancing or endorsing religions," he stated in his opinion.

Grayson County Fiscal Court allowed the commandments to be displayed at the courthouse last October when two residents asked for permission to hang the display.

Judge McKinley stated that even though the display contained copies of the Magna Carta, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Bill of Rights, the presence of the Ten Commandments without any other moral or legal codes gave the impression that the commandments were more important.

This is the fifth time in the past two years that a federal judge has blocked the posting of the commandments on Kentucky public property, according to the *Courier-Journal*.

The ACLU still is awaiting rulings on three other suits in Rowan, Garrard and Mercer counties. Eric Stanley, a lawyer for Liberty Counsel of Orlando, Fla., which is defending several Kentucky government agencies in similar suits, said he expects the U.S. Supreme Court eventually to decide how the commandments can be displayed on public property.

Pastor reads Bible aloud to fund church roof repairs

LONDON (RNS)—During five days recently, a Church of England rector read aloud the whole Bible in her church to help raise much-needed funds to repair the church roof.

Sharon Swain began at 7 a.m. April 30 with "In the beginning God created ..." and ended at midnight May 4 with "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen."

The medieval parish church of St. Michael in Brantham faces a bill of \$105,000 to repair the roof.

Before the 55-year-old Swain began her Bible-reading marathon the parish already had raised \$37,100, and she anticipated the publicity her effort attracted would raise another \$14,000. Work on repairs starts this fall.

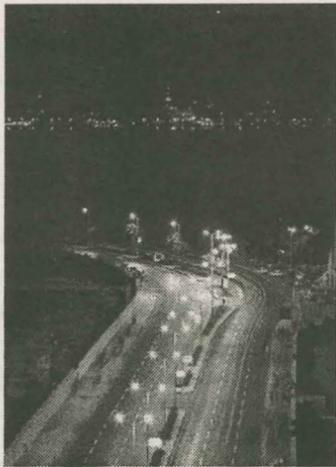
Unlike many similar efforts, she was not sponsored. Her aim, she said, was to raise awareness locally of what needed to be done. But it also stimulated an immense interest in the Bible.

"There were always people in church listening to the Bible," she said. Several people told her they now realize how certain passages in the Old Testament link up with passages they know in the Gospels.

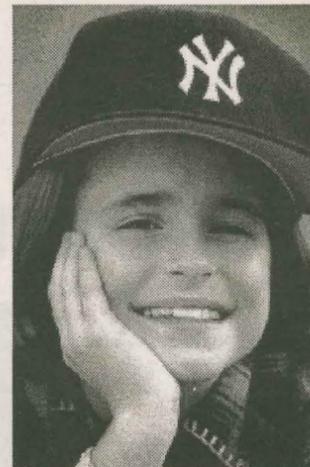
The most difficult passages to read, she said, came in Chronicles with its list of who settled where in Israel and long lists of Hebrew names to read out: "Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi, Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel, Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei," for example.

The event left Swain with "terrible" mouth ulcers that now are subsiding due to a judicious use of mouthwash, she said. To keep going during the marathon, she maintained a steady diet of cereal and porridge.

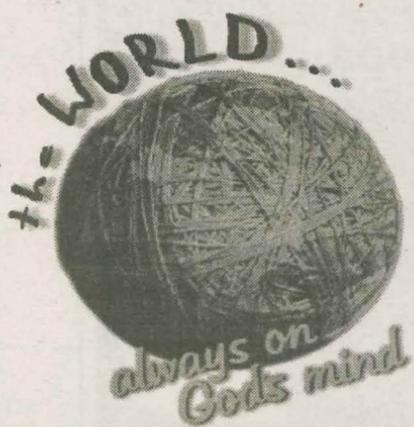
When she arrived to conduct the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, the day after her reading ended, Swain found a film crew from the local television service there to record it. But by that time, she said, she was past worrying.



Today's children live
in a fast-paced world.
Summer is a time
to slow down &
make sense of it all.



**Kentucky WMU offers opportunities for girls
to integrate God with their world.**



At Jonathan Creek Camp & Conference Center
June 21-22, 2002

Mother/Daughter Overnight (grades 1-3)
GA Overnight (grades 4-6)
Acteens Splash (grades 7-12)

Mission Adventure Camp for Girls*
on the Cedar Crest Campus of Cedarmore
Weeklong Camp

June 17-21 Grades 4-6 girls & 4-10 boys
June 24-28 Grades 4-10 girls & boys
July 8-12 Grades 4-10 girls & boys
July 15-19 Grades 4-6 girls & 4-10 boys



Express Camp
July 1-3 Grades 4-6 girls & 1-3 boys
Overnight Camp
Grades 1-3 girls & boys
June 21-22 June 28-29 July 12-13

*Mission Adventure Camp for Boys is sponsored by the Brotherhood Dept. of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and takes place on the Rabro Campus of Cedarmore.

For more information, contact KY WMU.
(888) 254-5726 or (502) 244-6485
kywmu@kybaptist.org
www.kybaptist.org/camps

