



July 2, 2002  
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## FOR THE RECORD

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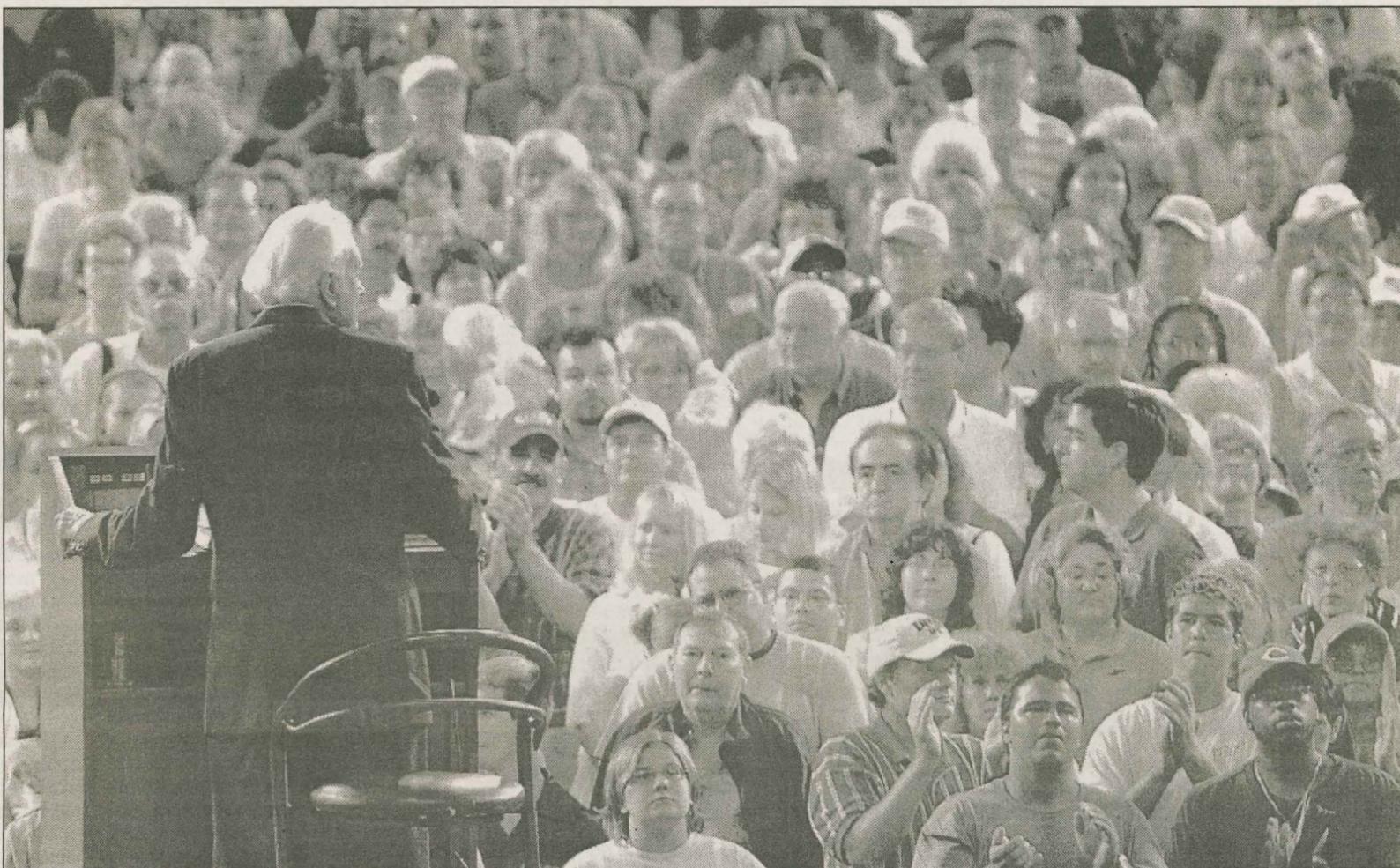
### Books

Reviews include Jan Karon's "In this Mountain" and Jim Cymbala's latest. *Page 13.*

### Left Behind

As the ninth book in the series goes on sale this week, production is under way on the sequel to the movie. *Page 13.*

## Man on a mission



**ALTAR CALL** More than 11,200 people answered Billy Graham's invitation during the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Mission. See stories on pages 6-9. (Photo by David Winfrey)

## Thousands hear Graham urge spiritual & racial peace

**By Trennis Henderson & David Winfrey**  
*Editor & News Director*

CINCINNATI—No matter the label—campaign, crusade or mission—Billy Graham's evangelistic events consistently reap positive spiritual results.

The June 27-30 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission was no exception. The four-day event in Cincinnati's Paul Brown

Stadium attracted more than 200,000 people, including a Sunday night crowd of 65,600 that shattered the facility's previous attendance record.

More than 11,200 people made public decisions for Christ, including 1,500 children who responded during a Saturday morning "Kidz Gig."

Preaching in a city wracked by racial tension, rioting and a downtown boycott, Graham proclaimed a message of racial reconciliation.

"Whether the color of the skin is

dark or is white, we're to love each other," the 83-year-old evangelist declared. "We're to work together."

The Greater Cincinnati event was Graham's first series of meetings in the United States to use the term "mission" rather than the more familiar "crusade."

Graham spokesman Larry Ross said Graham made the change after Sept. 11 in response to concern that "crusade" might have negative, militaristic connotations. He made a sim-

ilar change from "campaign" to "crusade" after World War II for the same reason. Graham has used the term "mission" in many of his overseas meetings in recent years.

Citing Christ's parable of the Good Samaritan during the opening night of the Cincinnati event, Graham told the crowd they should reach out to people in need regardless of racial or cultural differences.

"Listen to this: The Samaritan was  
□ See *Thousands hear ...*, page 6

## Cumberland's Mountain Outreach program dedicates 100th house

**By Clarissa Hutcherson**  
*Staff Writer*

WILLIAMSBURG—Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach ministry has brought the joy of owning a home to its 100th family.

Carlus and Deborah Vanover work hard to give their six children a loving, secure home. Carlus, 43, works up to six days a week at a logging company, and Deborah, 40, is a stay-at-home mom suffering from scoliosis of the spine. Their children range from ages 2 to 17.

The Vanovers' home was falling apart around them. The floor had begun to crack and ceilings were leaking throughout the house.

The Vanovers decided to apply for a Mountain Outreach home last year, but couldn't get the needed paperwork

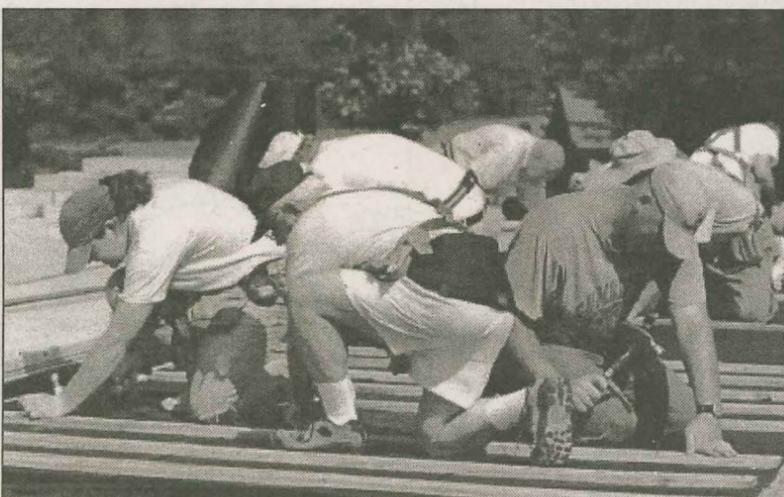
together. This year provided another scare when they thought they had missed the deadline again. They were excited when they learned they had met the deadline and were selected to receive a Mountain Outreach home.

"You'd have to live my life to know how special that day was to me," Deborah said. "I've been on cloud nine ever since."

Over the past five years, the Vanovers have been making slow progress on their own toward building their home, purchasing materials when they had extra money.

They had completed the foundation and part of a basement and installed a septic system.

The family's work to better themselves was among the factors that the Mountain Outreach selection team  
□ See *Mountain Outreach ...*, page 3



**HARD AT WORK** Volunteers from Weatherly Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., along with Mountain Outreach student volunteers and seminary student Ryan Tucker work on Mountain Outreach's 100th home early last month.

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, July 3

## NAMB leaders to cut ties, defund D.C.-area convention

**"D.C. Baptists did not sell out our mission to forced doctrinal adherence."**

*DCBC Vice President Charles Updike*

ATLANTA (BP)—After nearly a year of discussions, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has notified the District of Columbia Baptist Convention that it will end the cooperative agreement between the two entities next summer.

NAMB President Bob Reccord phoned D.C. Baptist Convention Executive Director Jeffrey Haggray June 26 to inform him about the agency's action.

NAMB has provided nearly half a million dollars annually to the D.C. convention for evangelism, church starting and ministry projects, but expressed "deep concerns" last summer and fall that the DCBC had "grown increasingly distant from the Southern Baptist Convention, its positions and priorities."

NAMB's proposal for greater accountability to the national agency was criticized by Haggray who characterized it as an "ultimatum" that vi-

olated the autonomy of the convention. The proposal was rejected by the DCBC Executive Board in March.

After several months of study, DCBC leaders found NAMB's requirements "untenable and inappropriate" limitations on local Baptist work.

"Our convention does more on less than any Baptist body I know anything about," Haggray said. "We have adhered scrupulously to all funding agreements between ourselves and NAMB. Any suggestion that we have mishandled funding from (NAMB) is simply untrue."

The notification letter signed by Reccord and NAMB trustee chairman Terry Fox notes that "because of the inability for us to reach a solution that is satisfactory to both agencies after numerous consultations, we recognize the need to end the current cooperative agreement with the DCBC as it now stands due to irresolvable issues

in the areas of theology, stewardship and partnership." According to the letter, the agreement "will be null and void on the 30th day of June 2003."

Regarding jointly funded missionaries, the letter told Haggray "where there is a desire to continue as a NAMB missionary, NAMB will assist the missionaries in exploring future assignments with the NAMB family." However, the letter added, "Where there is no desire for assistance, NAMB support through the DCBC cooperative budget will cease at the end of the 12-month notification period." NAMB currently supports eight missionaries with the DCBC.

Reccord and Fox acknowledged NAMB's "commitment to carry out the Great Commission in D.C. ... and to continue to share the love of Christ with the people of D.C.," while also affirming the possibility of the two entities working together in the future on

"limited evangelism events and ministry projects that are compatible to both agencies."

Reccord said he believes the foundation of the disagreements stems from the DCBC's attempts to meet the needs of the three denominations with which it is aligned.

"It is regrettable that Robert Reccord chooses to overlook the strong growth in DCBC work," Haggray responded, "choking rather at the rich diversity and soul freedom exercised by Baptists in the national capital region."

DCBC Vice President Charles Updike said NAMB's decision "is all about coercive doctrinal rigidity that cannot help but alienate a world that needs to hear the gospel."

"The good news," he added, "is that we D.C. Baptists did not sell out our mission to forced doctrinal adherence."

*With additional reporting by the Capital Baptist*

## CBF names laywoman moderator-elect

**By Bob Allen**  
*Associated Baptist Press*

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship elected a Missouri laywoman as moderator-elect at the organization's annual General Assembly June 27-29 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Cynthia Holmes of Clayton, Mo., is a St. Louis-area attorney and a member of Overland Baptist Church. She has served several years on the CBF's Coordinating Council.

Holmes will serve next year as moderator-elect before becoming the Fellowship's top elected leader in 2003-2004. Phill Martin of Richardson, Texas, elected last year as moderator-elect, takes over as moderator this year from Virginia pastor Jim Baucom.

Holmes will be the sixth woman to assume leadership in the CBF since it organized in 1991. The 1,800-church Fellowship formed out of a split with the 16 million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

At a pre-General Assembly meeting of the Coordinating Council, CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal said he believes his organization provides a good model for churches in including people of both sexes in leadership roles.

"We are a laboratory of shared leadership between men and women," Vestal said. "It's in our DNA to have leadership that is shared by men and women."

During the General Assembly, Vestal said his vision for CBF is the same as his vision for the church, to represent Christ in the world.

"The mission given by God to every Christian and every church is to be an embodiment of Christ, an extension of Christ," Vestal said. "We are to be what Christ was while He was on this earth. ... Our mission is to live as Christ, to act as Christ and, if necessary, to suffer as Christ."

Vestal said the future of CBF lies in serving and equipping "incarnational" churches. Such churches, he said, will be both "prophetic" in their message and "priestly" in service to others.

Rather than casting stones at non-Christians, Vestal said such churches "will make sinners feel welcome because they are welcome."

Turning to relationships within the church, Vestal asked, "How can we love sinners outside the church if we don't love sinners inside the church, that is if we don't love one another?"

Baucom, pastor of Rivermont Avenue Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., gave both an introduction and response to Vestal's message.

Baucom said he believes Cooperative Baptist churches "are among the true heirs" of the church's mission of incarnating Christ's spirit.

"I submit to you that CBF is Christ's body fulfilled for the 21st century," he said. "We are the Baptist incarnation of God's love in our world today. That is what defines us. That is what tells us who we are."

Controversy at this year's CBF meeting centered on charges by Southern Baptist observers that a top CBF official plagiarized a sermon she preached at an auxiliary event after finding the message had been copied almost word-for-word from another source.

Reba Cobb, coordinator of the CBF Resource Center in Atlanta, preached a message titled "The Bent-Over Woman" at the annual meeting of Baptist Women in Ministry June 27.

Contacted later that day by Russell Moore, a free-lance journalist who writes frequently for Baptist Press, about similarities with a published sermon, Cobb said she was unaware her material was not original. A nearly identical sermon, also based on Luke 13:10-17, was preached and published by David Owen, a United Church of Christ minister from Boulder, Colo.

Cobb told Associated Baptist Press her sermon was prepared by a free-lance research assistant hired by Cobb and paid with personal funds. Cobb said she believed the material was original. She said she had since confronted the researcher, who admitted to misrepresentation. Cobb declined to identify the individual.

"The grave error in judgment resulted in me unwittingly presenting portions of a message that had earlier been presented by another minister," Cobb said in a statement. "I have contacted the minister and expressed my most sincere regrets over this incident. I also wish to extend my most sincere apology to others who may be offended by my unintentional actions."

## Baptist relief workers aid fire victims in Arizona and Colorado

HOLBROOK, Ariz. (BP)—Southern Baptist disaster relief kitchen and childcare units from California and Texas have joined the response to the worst wildfire in Arizona's history—a 300,000-acre inferno in East Central Arizona.

The federal government has made this fire a bigger priority than the ongoing Colorado wildfires, which had involved Baptist mobile kitchen units from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

As of last week, the Arizona fires have burned more than 305,000 acres and displaced more than 30,000 people. Authorities report that at least 186 homes have been consumed by the fire.

A Southern Baptist church in Overgaard, Ariz., was lost in the fire, according to Matt Gaston, director of evangelism and missions for Desert Pines Association.

In a third response of Southern Baptist disaster relief forces, flooding in Minnesota has brought new assistance from volunteers in Missouri and Indiana.

In Arizona, a mobile kitchen and staff from Sacramento, Calif., arrived in Holbrook on June 24. Workers began preparing meals for distribution by the American Red Cross to firefighters, emergency workers and evacuated residents staying in shelters.

A second mobile kitchen from Odessa, Texas, and a child care unit from Texas both were en route to Eagar, Ariz., according to Joel Phil-

lips, a North American Mission Board staff member serving as off-site coordinator for all of the responses.

In Colorado, the huge Hayman fire south of Denver was 67 percent contained as of June 24, according to news reports, but other fires continued to grow.

Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas mobile kitchens served emergency workers and displaced residents from the Hayman fire.

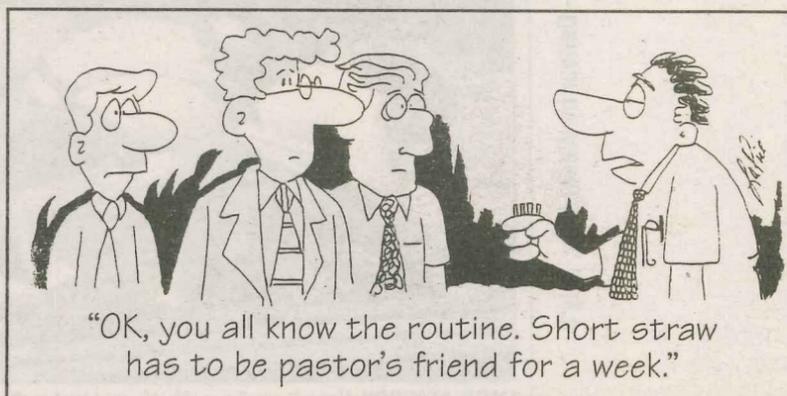
At least two disaster relief units that were serving in Colorado relocated to a conference center in New Mexico to be on standby.

In Minnesota, volunteers have operated a mobile kitchen in Roseau County, Mo., since June 13.

"They've done an outstanding job coming in and working with us, and teaching us a little bit," state disaster relief coordinator Phil Smith said. "It's been a great partnership between Minnesota and Missouri."

Missouri volunteers also are helping two child-care facilities set up near American Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance centers, Smith said. A mud-out unit from Indiana, meanwhile, has begun cleaning up homes damaged by the floods.

Other ongoing national disaster relief responses include rebuilding efforts in flooded areas of West Virginia and mobile kitchen support for workers at the Staten Island landfill in New York.



# KENTUCKY

## Mountain Outreach does more than just build houses

Continued from page 1

used in choosing them for the 100th home, said David Honeycutt, director of Mountain Outreach. "They were making the effort, they just needed that extra help."

Mike Townsend, student coordinator for Mountain Outreach, added: "It would have taken the Vanovers another 10 to 15 years to finish building their home, but Mountain Outreach is building it in three weeks."

Mountain Outreach began in 1982 when Robert Day, a Cumberland College student, showed Dave Emerett, a student from outside the region, some of the poverty-level areas in the Appalachian Mountains near the college. Emerett was shocked to find families living without running water, electricity and proper sanitation.

Inspired to make a difference in the lives of these families, the young men began making repairs on the home of an elderly man. Discovering that the home was beyond repair, they decided to build the man a new home. Neither had construction experience, nor did they have the money to accomplish such a large task. But they got help from Cumberland College staff and local builders.

Other students heard about what Day and Emerett were doing and quickly became interested. Soon, 20 students were working on the home.

By Christmas, the home was nearly finished, but not ready for the man to move in.

Before leaving for Christmas break, the students patched the old house as well as they could and left the man with enough wood to keep the stove burning.

However, that was not enough. When the students returned from Christmas break, they found the old man dying. He was lying under a blanket shivering; the fire had gone out in the stove. The boys quickly called for an ambulance, but the man died in the hospital from hypothermia.

The death deeply affected the students, but helped them realize how important their work was. They vowed to continue the work on the home and agreed to build more homes.

By the time the two young men graduated from Cumberland in 1984, they had helped build nine homes, and created the Mountain Outreach program.

Today, Mountain Outreach does more than just build homes, Honeycutt said.

During the school year, student



**MOUNTAIN OUTREACH** The 20-year-old ministry began at Cumberland College in Williamsburg after two students decided to make a difference in the lives of some of the area's poorest residents. In addition to building homes, the program distributes clothing and furniture, renovates houses and drills wells. ■ Above: Glenn Crocker, a member of Weatherly Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., was the architect for Mountain Outreach's 100th house. ■ Right: Carlus and Deborah Vanover and their six children, Anthony, Cory, Patrick, Chessa, Summer and Carla, have moved into their new home.



volunteers drill wells for people with bad water conditions caused by coal mining and sewer run-offs, renovate homes and build wheelchair ramps and porches. Volunteers also winterize homes, installing insulation and wood stoves and sealing windows. Mountain Outreach also provides clothing and furniture to families in the community.

Once a month during the school year, Mountain Outreach sponsors a one-day renovation "Big Project," recruiting Cumberland students to help.

In the summer, students and volunteers build houses from the ground up. This summer, 37 families applied for the seven homes being built, Honeycutt said.

A review team interviewed every family, then called back half the applicants for second-round interviews, he said.

The review team seeks to pick families with the greatest need, Honeycutt said, taking into account the condition of an applicant's present home and whether the family includes children. Officials also consider whether appli-

cants can care for a home based on how well they maintain their present home.

During the summer, teams of volunteers arrive each week to help build homes. Many of the volunteers are from churches that have sent teams for the past 14-15 years. These teams tell other churches about Mountain Outreach, encouraging them to volunteer as well.

Team members don't need construction skills. Summer student missionaries from Cumberland College are trained and can teach volunteers what they need for each task.

"In a team of 30 people, there may be four who know how to do construction, but the teams always seem to catch on fast," Townsend said. "One group that came had never built a foundation before. They ended up building three in three days."

Volunteers and summer missionaries spend time with the new homeowners, who often drop by to see the progress or to help with the construction of their home.

Trisha Price, summer missionary for Mountain Outreach, said the volunteers and summer missionaries try to build relationships with the homeowners. They share their lunch with them and include them in their lunchtime devotionals each day. Some teams invite homeowners to dinner and purchase gifts for them. The team working on the Vanovers' home gave Mrs. Vanover a birthday party.

Even after they complete their work, volunteer teams often maintain ties to the families they help, Honeycutt said, sending gifts and Christmas cards.

Mountain Outreach follows up with families by making sure they are

doing well and their basic needs are met. They also make sure the families are maintaining the homes.

When a family isn't involved in a local church, Mountain Outreach will link a local congregation with the family so ministry can continue, Honeycutt explained.

Mountain Outreach homes are completely finished when a family is ready to move in. The electricity is turned on, the water is running and the house is completely furnished. Church teams help provide appliances for the homes and furniture comes from the Mountain Outreach warehouse.

But the homes are not given to the families, Honeycutt noted. Families take on a no-interest loan with a payment plan that is customized to fit their budget. The average home costs \$23,000-25,000 to build, and homeowners have an average monthly loan payment of \$60.

The Vanovers' home is larger than most Mountain Outreach homes because they built their own foundation. However, the cost is the same as others because of donations given toward the Vanover home.

Mountain Outreach receives no government funding, operating exclusively on donations given to the college. The mortgage payments from the homeowners go back into the Mountain Outreach fund.

Townsend said this ministry is important to the community.

"Mountain Outreach ministers to the community by giving the people hope. The people have lost hope and Mountain Outreach returns it."



**STUDENT VOLUNTEER** While workers come from outside Kentucky each summer to help Mountain Outreach, the ministry's core group remain Cumberland students like Marsee Williamson of Corbin.

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ The Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association will hold its annual summer conference July 18-20 at Georgetown College. Session topics will include professional certification, finances, efficiency and health. Registration deadline is July 11. For more information, contact KBC liaison Jenny Byrd toll-free at (888) 254-5710.

■ The missions growth team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will sponsor a quarterly prayer meeting for spiritual awakening July 25-26 at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. For more information, contact Linda George at the KBC at (502) 245-4100, ext. 256.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Preach Christ alone

The staff and deacons of Highland Baptist Church are on the record saying they "renounce and reject recent comments by a national Southern Baptist leader" (Western Recorder, June 25 issue). Well, good for them. I hope they are happy.

I wish to renounce and reject their assertion that "the only way to wholeness that God desires" is through interfaith dialogue. My Bible says the only way to wholeness that God desires is through a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ, whereby one repents of one's sins, and by faith, turns to Christ. Furthermore, the "mysteries of the Divine" are found only in Jesus Christ, as Paul says, speaking of "God's mystery, that is Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2-3).

Yes, wholeness that God desires is found in Christ alone. "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete" (Colossians 2:9-10a).

Yes, the staff and deacons of Highland Baptist Church can continue to have their "dialogue." And I will continue to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

R. Scott Savell  
Louisville

## Find new bad guy

I had to write in response to James Clark's June 25 letter in order to share this non-Calvinist's experience with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. My wonderful church receives the Western Recorder and I'd hate to think that they believed everything

they read about my school.

Assuming Clark represents the same people I have talked to for the last few years, I can surmise that he has no Calvinistic friends, hasn't spoken with many professors from Southern, uses the Western Recorder as a source about Southern, doesn't know that many of the great evangelists and missionaries in our history were Calvinists and demeans that which he doesn't understand.

During my four-year indoctrination at Southern I heard two chapel sermons a week. I never heard a sermon propagating Calvinism.

I was challenged constantly and taught passionately to share my faith. I was taught by a prominent professor that we are called to "evangelize, not Calvinize." I was at seminary for two years before I even knew the five points of Calvinism. I learned about worship, evangelism, preaching, teaching, Greek, etc. Not until I took theology, and only after hearing all other competing views, was I presented with the system. Unlike the spirit of Clark's letter, my theology professor never demeaned someone who didn't agree with him as a "non-thinker." My theology professor was not even a five-point Calvinist. Oh my!

There are 100 more likely suspects for the lack of evangelistic zeal in the Southern Baptist Convention. I understand that about 5 percent of Baptists have shared their faith. I hope Clark doesn't want us to believe that 95 percent of the members of the SBC are Calvinist. Lack of equipping, fear of being called intolerant and disobedience are the real problems. Find a new bad guy; Southern Seminary isn't it.

Kevin B. Hash  
Bowling Green

## Unfair tax burden

The City of Louisville is about to grant Churchill Downs a special tax status. In a proposal, the city would be given title to the track's real estate for 30 years. The city would then lease the property back to the racetrack for \$1 a year.

This certainly is bad news for the taxpayers of Kentucky. According to a recent article in the Courier-Journal, the city, county and state stand to lose approximately \$250,000 per year or \$7.5 million over the life of the deal. Churchill Downs is planning an expansion of more than \$100 million. I feel they are preparing their facilities for casino-type gambling in the future. In this year's legislature, the racetracks were the largest financial contributors and strongest lobbyists for expanded gambling in the form of casinos.

I feel it is morally wrong for the taxpayers of Kentucky to bear this unfair tax burden. It seems obvious that special-interest politics is still very alive in Kentucky.

Howard F. Beauman  
Executive Director  
Kentucky League on Alcohol  
and Gambling Problems

## 'Us' vs. 'them'?

In the June 18 article, "Defeat ends Lee Porter's 25 years as registration secretary," Ronnie Floyd said of Jim Wells, "He is one of us."

Does that mean Porter, who served for 25 years, wasn't one of us? What was he? Wasn't he Southern Baptist? Or was he the wrong kind of Southern Baptist?

Is it "us" against "them" in the Southern Baptist Convention? Just wondering.

Vernon Carpenter  
Frankfort

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Moving from good to great

In his popular book on companies that have moved from good to great, author Jim Collins has identified seven characteristics. One characteristic that caught my attention was "core competencies." Companies that have moved from good to great have focused on their core competencies and refused to be distracted.

As I reflected on his book, I thought about the core competencies of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. I recognize that our Lord, through the 2,400 KBC churches, makes all of these possible.

#### ■ Missions and ministries.

There are volunteers by the tens of thousands who are conducting mission and ministry projects in Kentucky, across North America and around the world. More than 100 Baptist Student Union summer missionaries are serving around the world right now. One, Amy Chavers, has been serving for two weeks in Pike County and personally has led 61 people to pray to receive Jesus Christ. Director of Missions

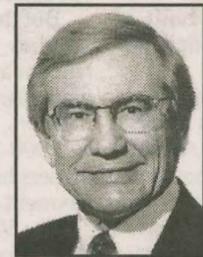
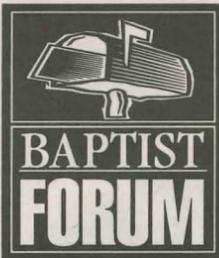
Carl Boyd said, "I have never seen anything like it. What God is doing through Amy is absolutely amazing."

More than 1,200 volunteers participated in ministries coordinated by Lonnie and Belinda Riley last year in the Eastern Kentucky area of Lynch. Also, Kentucky Baptists strongly support missions through praying, giving and providing missions education.

More than 330 disaster relief volunteers served in New York after the twin towers attacks. More than 1,000 disaster relief volunteers have been trained. This is an unquestioned core competency for Kentucky Baptists.

We are grateful for the financial support of missions through the Cooperative Program and other gifts.

■ **Evangelism.** Kentucky Baptists believe that every person needs to know Jesus Christ in a personal way in order to experience a full and meaningful life now and to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Consequently, the objective is to share Jesus with



Bill Mackey

**FAMILY**

## What are primary financial goals for young adults?

By Jeremy White

Although sound financial principles apply to every stage of life, special attention should be given to different priorities at different stages of life. My next few columns will focus on financial priorities for various age groups.

For people in their 20s and 30s, key financial priorities include:

- *Select a suitable career.* Your most important asset is the ability to earn an ongoing income.
- *Pay off student loan debt.* It is important to get rid of this debt quickly. Later, growing family needs will make it more difficult to pay such debt.
- *Save for your first home.* Owning a home is a tax-advantaged investment you can live in. By having enough down payment, first-time home buyers reduce their insurance costs, obtain better rates and lower long-term interest costs.
- *Maintain adequate life insurance.* Young parents should maintain enough life insurance on themselves to provide for a surviving spouse and children in the event of an unexpected death. Term life insurance provides the maximum insurance coverage with the least premium cost.
- *Obtain and maintain health insurance.* Younger people typically are healthy, but it is difficult to pay for large medical expenses, such as maternity costs, without proper health insurance.
- *Begin retirement plan savings.* Retirement might seem a long way off, but starting early and using the power of compounded interest makes it easier to build retirement savings.
- *Avoid credit card debt.* Young couples are tempted to begin at the lifestyle level of their parents, which took years to achieve. Credit cards can lure you into a lifestyle beyond your means. The interest on credit cards can strangle a family's finances.
- *Begin or continue the life-long habit of tithing.*
- *Balance time with family and financial needs.* The pressure to meet the above priorities tempts parents to work more and spend less time with family. Your children are only young for a short period of time. Buy less, stay simple, work more later in life.

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

**FINANCIAL FORUM**

## Parents' positive example can teach children patriotic views

**Q: How can I teach my children to appreciate America?**

Set a good example and show your own appreciation for America. Sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" when you are at a ballgame. Display a flag in your home or in your yard. Pray regularly for our president and for other leaders of our country. Take your children with you when it comes time to vote.

Teach your children respect for the flag. Show them how to stand at attention and salute when the flag is presented. Help them learn the Pledge of Allegiance. Tell your children the story of Betsy Ross, and help them learn about our flag's history. Children also might be interested in learning how the flag is supposed to be displayed and cared for.

Celebrate the Fourth of July as America's birthday. Make a cake; have a party. Consider having a July Fourth parade. Provide streamers, balloons, hats, etc. Let children decorate their bikes and tricycles. Invite neighbors to participate and include their children in the festivities. Take pictures or shoot video; award red, white and blue ribbons to everyone who takes part.

Talk about the freedoms that make America special, including the freedom to choose leaders, own property, travel, work for ourselves and worship.

Look for appropriate ways to talk to your children about the price of freedom. Celebrate Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Help your children write thank you notes to veterans in your church or community. Boys and girls might want to include patriotic drawings. Take your children to a military cemetery on a national holiday. Pray together, giving thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Visit the various memorials. Encourage older children to read stories about American heroes.—*David Garrard*

**Q: I am a perfectionist, and I know that is creating tension in my relationship with my teenagers. What can I do to change this?**

Let me first commend you for your honesty. As 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Confession is the first step toward opening yourself to allow Christ to change you from within.

Perfectionism is rooted in our inability to accept ourselves—and others—the way we are and our mistaken belief that we have within ourselves the power to make things right.

Individuals who struggle with perfectionism often have a strong moral compass and an honesty and sense of integrity that helps them and others appreciate right living. They might be seen as "reformers" who have an innate ability to sense what is wrong and to work for the positive. This gift can be perverted to something that looks instead like intense, angry judgmentalism. Perfectionists might nit-pick themselves and others and get caught up in details that really do not matter in the long run. Children might end up both resenting perfectionist parents and emulating them in self-judgment as they grow older.

May I encourage you to take this issue before the only Perfect Father as you request permission from Him to be the "good enough" earthly parent who is made sufficient by His grace. Perhaps an excellent prayer for you would be the "Serenity Prayer" made famous by Alcoholics Anonymous: "God grant me the serenity to accept those things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference."—*Scott Wigginton*

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



## Graham—and God—make spiritual impact

Billy Graham did it again. Or to put it more precisely, God did it again through Billy Graham.

Amid widespread racial tension in Cincinnati and recent reports of Graham's critical comments about Jews in a taped conversation 30 years ago with President Nixon, the esteemed evangelist once again stood and faithfully proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ this past week in Cincinnati.

The June 27-30 Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Mission culminated two years of praying, planning and preparation by Christian leaders throughout the region, including key leadership among churches in Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

Results included participation by nearly 1,000 churches representing 60-plus denominations, more than 200,000 people attending the four-day event and an estimated 11,200 public spiritual decisions.

How did such significant developments occur? Rather than ducking responsibility for his ill-chosen remarks about Jews three decades ago or declining to address the lingering crisis of racial unrest, Graham faced both issues head-on. The 83-year-old evangelist even refuses to allow declining health to sidetrack him from Kingdom business.

After his arrival last week in Cincinnati, Graham's first meeting was with Jewish leaders in the area. He again apologized for his 1972 Oval Office conversation with Nixon in which Graham said Jewish leaders "stranglehold" on the national media "has got to be broken or the country's going down the drain."

"This was the first opportunity he had to meet with Jewish leaders" since the story broke earlier this year, Graham spokesman Larry Ross explained. "I think it's significant it was the first thing he did in the community."

**STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR**



Trennis Henderson

Though Graham issued two written apologies after the White House conversation was reported, Ross said last week's meeting gave him the opportunity to apologize to Jewish leaders face-to-face.

Graham's "30-plus years of work on behalf of oppressed Jews and other people more accurately reflects what's in his heart," Ross said. "This was the final piece in the puzzle to complete the process."

The famed evangelist's humble response to Jewish leaders is quite a contrast to the actions of Southern Baptist Convention leader Jerry Vines who sparked a similar controversy last month with critical remarks about Mohammed and Islam. Unlike Graham, Vines has refused to apologize or meet with Islamic leaders to discuss the issue.

Graham's example of sincere regret for offending another faith group is a worthy pattern for all Christian leaders to emulate.

Graham handled the racial issue equally well. Long known for his commitment to racial harmony, Graham met with African-

American leaders who launched an economic boycott of downtown Cincinnati after a white police officer was acquitted for killing an unarmed black teenager last year.

Despite the boycott, mission chairman Anthony Munoz said, "All the churches have come together, black and white, all the denominations. I think it proves that things have already started to happen" to help heal the region's racial strife.

Even more significant than Graham's focus on racial reconciliation and interfaith respect is his unwavering emphasis on the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"God is waiting to welcome you with open arms," he told the mission crowd. "God is a God that loves you." That not only is Graham's consistent message; it is his spiritual legacy.

## Do your health habits glorify God?

At this year's Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins challenged pastors and messengers to start getting serious about their health.

"During 2001, at least one-half of the medical claims paid out were for preventable diseases," he said. "As a whole, we are overweight and do not exercise enough."

This was a powerful challenge to leaders and churches to take seriously their health and the impact that poor health has on ministry. When we are stressed, sick, overweight, tired, undisciplined and lack focus we are not the proper testimony that God desires for us to be in a lost world. As believers, we must establish lifestyles that honor God in every area, including our physical condition.

Good health is much more than just the absence of disease or properly managing a disease with medication. Good health stems from an attitude that chooses to honor God by properly caring for the bodies He gave us.

Are you physically prepared to handle any situation or event that may come your way each day?

Ministry opportunities that require physical strength and endurance could happen at any time. It is not our job to

anticipate these opportunities and prepare for them, but to be ready to act and minister when they occur.

Are you ready to accept the challenge to improve your health, increase your energy level and honor God with your body? If so, begin with one or more of these steps that will put you on the road toward better health:

### FIRST PERSON



Branda Polk

■ **In prayer share your struggles and frustrations with God.** Ask for His guidance as you begin to make small lifestyle changes that will impact your health. You can rely on His strength (Philippians 4:13).

■ **See your doctor for a complete physical.** Involve your medical professional

in your wellness plan and follow his advice in beginning a healthier lifestyle. If necessary, ask him to recommend a nutritional consultant or dietician who can analyze your eating habits and help you take steps to improve them.

■ **Educate yourself on better nutrition and fitness options.** Consider beginning exercise or nutrition classes in your church to encourage members also to honor God with their bodies.

■ **Think differently about your food intake.** Do not "go on a diet." Diets tend to be short-lived and diffi-

cult to follow. Instead, shift the focus in your choices. Select fruit and vegetables first when planning what you will eat. Then, build the rest of your meal around these choices. Increasing the amount of fruit and vegetables you eat each day will fill you up on better nutrition with fewer calories.

■ **Get physically active.** If you do not currently have a fitness plan in place for targeted exercise time and your doctor has given you the go ahead to exercise, begin with a simple walking plan. Walk 10 minutes one way and 10 minutes back. Begin at a slower and comfortable pace and gradually increase your speed as you get more fit. Don't worry about how far you go. Target the time as your goal.

■ **Get support and accountability from others.** Enlist a team of two or three other people to encourage and pray for you. Let those in your family know what you are doing and why. Enlist their support as well. You need other people to walk through these changes with you.

So, what are you waiting for? It's never too early or too late to begin a plan to improve your health and lower the cost of your medical insurance. Are you up for the challenge to be healthier?

*Branda Polk is a certified personal trainer and Fit 4 coordinator at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. More information is available at www.fit4.com.*

## Thousands hear Graham issue call for spiritual, racial peace

Continued from page 1

another race; he was another religion," Graham noted. "He had compassion on that man that was wounded. He didn't know who he was. ... He just knew he was a man in need and he went over and helped him.

"There are people in the Cincinnati area that need to be picked up," he emphasized. "They need to be cared for, whatever the color of their skin. They need to be loved."

Decision counselor Sherie Baker, a member of Crittenden Baptist Church, said she was touched the first night of the crusade watching so many people respond to Graham's invitation to accept Christ as their personal Savior "and seeing the emotions that it brought about."

Baker took the "life and witness" classes that the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association sponsors in connection with each mission. She said the courses taught her lessons that will last long after the mission.

"We were told that Christians aren't supposed to be spectators. We're not supposed to be couch potatoes. We're supposed to go out and tell people what has happened to us.

"Not everybody believes in the Bible, so that's not going to make an impression on everybody. But when you tell them what Christ has done for you personally, when you tell them your own story, they can't really argue with that."

Baker said she hopes the mission will bring a greater peace to the region.

"Christ is the only way to true peace, and the more people that give their lives over to Him, the better it's going to be for the whole area," she noted.

Larry Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring, called the mission "the most mobilizing event in the history of the church."

Of the mission's 15 committees, five were headed by members of First Baptist, he said. "Because of that, just everyone in church has taken some kind of job," he said, noting that more than 300 members worked as decision counselors and 75 members sang in the choir.

Davis credits a meeting two years ago with former pastor Jim Coldiron, a leader in the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, with resulting in the mission.

Coldiron was back at the church to preach, and Davis said he took Coldiron to lunch and told him he'd be interested in inviting Franklin Graham or Anne Graham Lotz to the region.

"There are so many things that have gone on that have just been providential," Davis noted. "It turns out God was doing a much bigger thing."

Davis said Coldiron talked with another BGEA leader, Sterling Houston, who called back saying Billy Graham was feeling a burden for the region and might be receptive to an invitation.

Davis also noted that the event was in the works for a year before race riots pointed to the need for racial as well as spiritual peace in the area.

"That was one of those things that we would term 'hand of God,'" he noted. "It's been that kind of story now for two years.

"Kentucky has really stepped to the plate here, and particularly Kentucky Baptists," Davis added, estimating that Kentuckians represent 10 percent of the metro region's population but 40 percent of the workers for the mission.

French Harmon, pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, was a leader for the mission's men's committee. His group encouraged a total of 1,200 men at two rallies to put a red dot on their watches reminding them to pray in recent months for one minute a day for Graham.

Harmon said the mission has spurred his congregation to "involvement and inspiration and a sense of urgency to present the gospel."

"They just sense that they're part of a larger Christian community and very happy to see so many people come to know Christ."

Harmon noted that after the first night of the mission, his church already was receiving information through the Internet about new Christians assigned to the church for follow up.

"We have a follow-up team that will be encouraging people to come to our discovery Bible studies and come to church on Sunday."

During the mission's closing service on Sunday night, Graham shared Christ's parable of the prodigal son and the forgiving father.

The account in Luke 15 "is a picture of a young man's restlessness," Graham noted. He said it also is a recognition of the young man's needs as well as his eventual repentance and reconciliation with his father.

Citing the prodigal son's hunger and sorrow that led to his repentance, Graham noted that "his physical hunger is a picture of our spiritual hunger."

People "have aimed for our personal happiness and missed the mark of God's plan for our lives," he said. "Outwardly you go to church, you've been baptized, you've been confirmed perhaps ... but deep down inside you don't really belong to Christ.

"God is waiting to receive you in mercy and love," he added. "There may never be another moment like this in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati."

The four-day mission "truly was God's time for Billy Graham to come to our community," Harmon noted.

Citing "such a spiritual vacuum with the boycott and the riots," he added, "I think God has placed Billy Graham in our community 'for such a time as this,' as the Bible says."

With additional reporting by Religion News Service



WORSHIP LEADER Michael W. Smith sings at the opening night of the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission. Smith said he still finds it amazing to be asked to sing for a Graham event. (Photo by David Winfrey)

## Smith still honored to partner with Graham

By Clarissa Hutcherson  
Staff Writer

CINCINNATI—He's won 22 Dove Awards, sold out concert halls throughout the country and constantly reaches the top of the contemporary Christian music charts.

And right up there with all that, according to Michael W. Smith, was a night in Cleveland eight years ago when he performed for the first youth night concert associated with a Billy Graham mission.

"He's great every time, but I will never, never, never forget Cleveland," Smith told reporters June 27, before taking the stage for the opening night of the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission at Paul Brown Stadium.

"That was actually a real highlight of my whole career," he added, recalling crying as kids walked to the front of the stage to make personal decisions for Christ.

Smith had performed with Graham since the 1980s, but the youth night in Cleveland represented a change in strategy for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

"To do a 'rock concert' at a Billy Graham crusade was a real stretch, but I will never forget that night because I had never heard Billy preach like he did that night," Smith explained. "I think it was just his heart for kids and really wanting to reach this generation."

Smith still considers it an honor to partner with Graham.

"I'm friends with him (Graham) so part of me is like, 'Hey this is just what we do.' And some mornings you wake up and pinch yourself and say, 'Wow, what an incredible thing to be a part of,'" Smith said. "We are all aware that the hand of God is on this man in a powerful way like no other. He has been all around the world and is respected. He just has the favor of God. It's pretty amazing."

Smith said he thinks Americans' hunger for God has increased in recent years.

"Look in Time magazine this week, it gives you an indication that there is a real hunger in people. They ask, 'Is there an Armageddon? Is the Lord coming back? I think it is wonderful

because people who never gave God the time of day are saying, 'Maybe He really is who you say He is.' And that's good news."

Smith said he's hoping last week's four-day Graham event will bring healing to Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

"If we'll die to ourselves and come together as the body of Christ, I really believe healing can take place. That's what I pray for and hopefully this crusade will be a catalyst in making that happen."

Working with Graham, Smith said he's observed that each host city has its own personality, making it impossible to predict which sites will be more receptive to Graham's message.

"I think Nashville, and I'll just go on record saying it, was a little tough. Sometimes you get in the Bible Belt and you think that is going to be a hot spot. We tend to get complacent in the Bible Belt, which is so unfortunate, we (the mission team) try to wake everybody up down there."

Smith has had an outstanding year professionally. Last March, he took home six Dove Awards, including Artist of the Year and Producer of the Year.

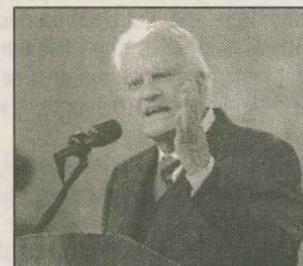
While the songs he sings for a Graham event vary from city to city, Smith said he focuses on worship music.

Smith's latest recording, "Worship," was released Sept. 11, a fact he finds filled with divine intervention. He also credits God for making it his fastest-selling recording.

Despite Smith's full schedule, he still had time to fulfill a dream of his and his wife to start a church. New River Fellowship started three years ago in the couple's barn. A year later, it moved to a local YMCA, and it currently has approximately 300 people attending each Sunday. "We're busting at the seams."

Smith said he will never retire because he will always be about building the Kingdom of God.

"Wherever I am, whether it is a Billy Graham crusade or playing for 100,000 people at a festival in Pennsylvania, I feel like I am supposed to usher people into the presence of God and watch in awe and see what God does."



Graham

## America's soloist

*At 93, George Beverly Shea still singing loud & clear*

By David Winfrey  
News Director

CINCINNATI—George Beverly Shea might well give that battery bunny a run for its money.

Shea proved both his sustained popularity and vocal prowess last week at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission.

Still, Graham's primary soloist for more than half a century admitted he recently wondered whether it might be time to retire.

"I can't be awfully attractive in front of that camera, and I guess people wonder, 'What's the matter with that guy? Can't he quit?'" Shea told the Western Recorder last week while he was in Cincinnati.

"It's kind of unusual for a guy of 93 to stroll across a stage and go to hang onto a pulpit and sing a song like that. But all I can say is it's been a great privilege," he said.

"A year ago I kind of spoke to him (Graham) about perhaps I should walk off, and he said, 'No, you're going to walk on,'" he recalled. "Then (Graham's son) Franklin called me. He had heard that I had made that statement, so he said, 'Please stay with my father while he's still preaching.'"

Shea admitted he wonders if he might be nearing the end. The mission in Dallas "is coming up the 17th of October. I have a kind of feeling that will be our last. For me, I think so."

When Shea does hang it up, he'll leave behind a legacy so full that even today's brightest contemporary Christian performer is reluctant to aspire to it.

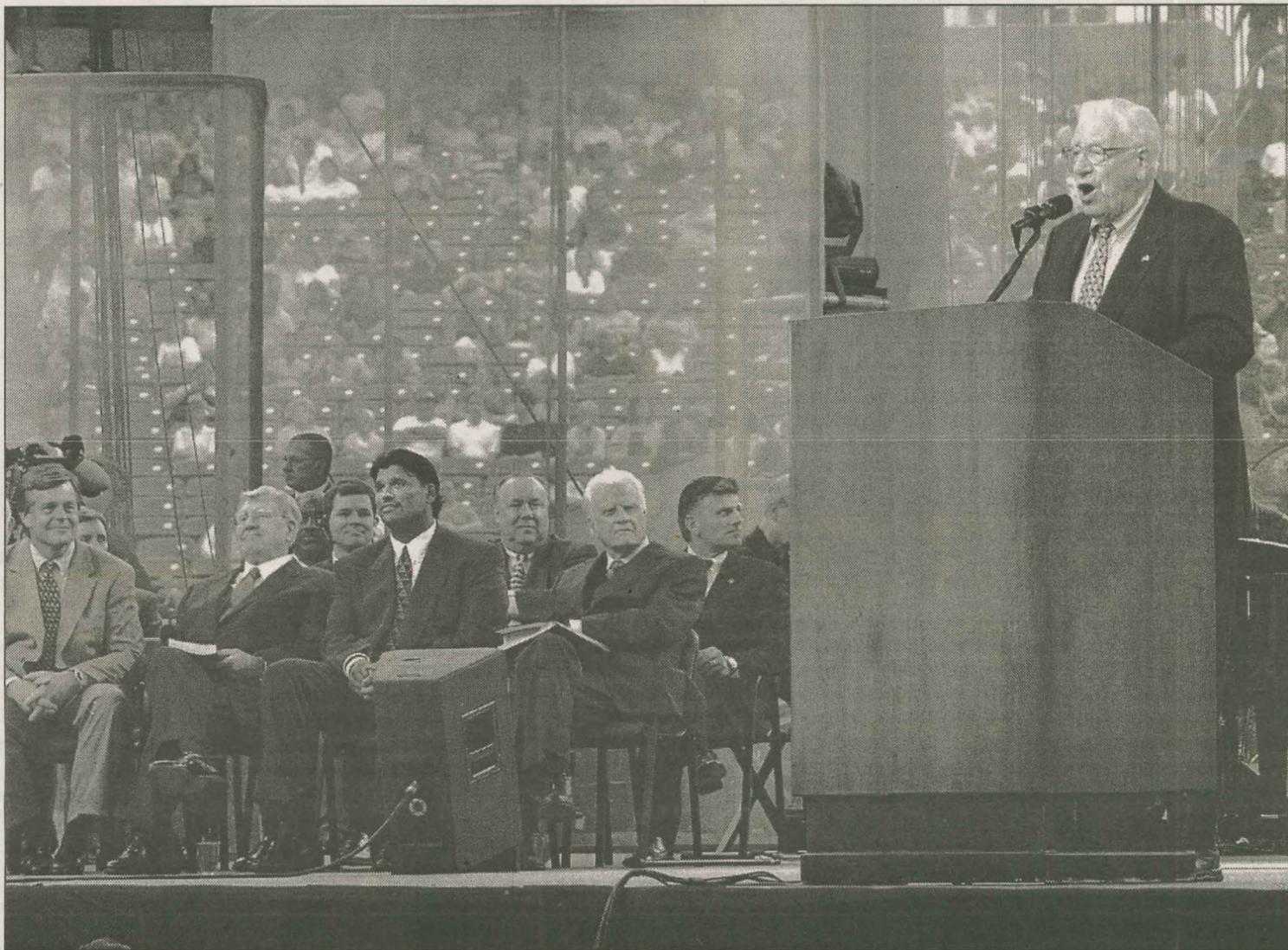
"I'll never fill Bev's shoes, I'll just say that," said Michael W. Smith. "He is a dear friend and a wonderful, wonderful man and never ceases to amaze me."

Smith spoke with awe recounting how Shea takes an interest in the music of someone half his age. "He always wants to find out what all I'm doing and everything, and I'm going, 'You're George Beverly Shea!'"

These days, Shea evokes a modesty that hardly befits a music star who's recorded more than 70 albums and CDs.

Ask about his staying power with Graham and Barrows, and he'll attribute it less to his own ability than to Graham's friendship. "He's such a loyal person he didn't look around anymore," Shea said.

Shea first met Graham in 1943 when Shea was hosting a radio hymn program for Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Graham "was a



6-foot-2, blond gentleman and such a Southern gentleman," Shea recalled. "I realized I was meeting someone rather special."

Later that year, when Graham took over the "Songs in the Night" radio program in Chicago, he recalled Shea's singing and enlisted him for the broadcast.

"In 1946, he (Graham) wrote me some letters and said, 'We're going to start the campaigning in '47 in Charlotte and we'd like you to come along as soloist.' ... I believe he had three in the future lined up," Shea recalled. "Then we finally got Los Angeles in 1949, that rather famous tent meeting. That's how we got really going."

These days, Shea sees his role as less of a performer and more of an advance man to prepare the crowd to settle down for Graham's sermon. "Now we have television and quite some exciting guests, and people applaud a great deal," he noted. "Billy kind of likes that quiet solo before his message, and that's been my job."

From the beginning, the "awesome threesome" of Graham, Shea and music director Cliff Barrows have kept their own personalities in check with a combination of humor and focus on their ultimate mission, Shea said. "It's the subject matter: the lifting up of Jesus in word and song and seeing all the churches come together."

Still, the two find time to tease and cut up, he added. He still recalls

the laughs he got in 1957 when more than 20,000 New Yorkers filled Madison Square Garden.

"The Garden was full, and I stood up there and sung, 'I come to the garden alone, while the dew ...' And that kind of struck Billy and Cliff as very funny. They teased me about that for a long time. ... We get along that way."

Today, he lives in North Carolina with his wife, Karlene. When he's not singing for Graham or answering courtesy mail ("I like to make a nice letter.") Shea works on a book of stories about famous hymns. "We thought we'd do 52, now we're down to 30."

Perhaps the best story about his own music is the one for "I'd Rather Have Jesus." Shea was 23 years old, singing for radio broadcasts as an avocation while taking voice lessons and working as a clerk for Mutual of New York insurance in Manhattan.

"And my mother found this beautiful poem, 'I'd rather have Jesus,' by Rhea Miller, who was a Nazarene pastor's wife. She knew if she put it on the piano I'd see it there, and she knew I could use a little more dedication to the Lord and His work as a Christian."

"And it had the desired effect. I saw those words early on a Sunday morning. 'I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause' and so forth. I was in B-flat and just sang. I don't like to say the Lord gave a certain tune or melody, but that's how I felt about it."

When he traveled to Chicago to work for Moody, he noticed the

Moody Press store. "I gave them 12 copies, and they said, 'Well, we'll try to sell it,'" he recalled with a chuckle. "Fifteen cents a copy, and then they called back: 'Can we have 12 more?' And then it got to be 500 a month and so forth."

Today Shea can sing "I'd Rather Have Jesus" in about a half-dozen languages, including Korean, Mandarin and Swedish. Before a performance in another tongue he'll go to his files to check the phonetics, but even then nobody's perfect.

"You sing it in English and then you get a little closer to the microphone, you look up and you smile and you try it in their language and they seem to appreciate it."

Others who appreciate him include the Guinness Book of Records, which contacted him a few years ago informing him that their research showed he'd sung to more people than anyone else.

Guinness officials asked him to fill out the necessary paperwork to be included in their book. "But I was in Canada vacationing. I was too late to get it in, and it never happened," he said. "Nobody was disappointed but my middle grandchild."

Besides, Shea insisted, any accolades for his long career with Graham and Barrows should go to God.

"I had no idea when I was taking all those vocal lessons ... that was what it was going to be," he said. "I don't remember opening any doors or putting my hands on the knob. I just let the Lord lead."

**STILL GOING** George Beverly Shea sings at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission last week. (Photo by David Winfrey)

## Graham mission involvement energizes Anchor Church

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**"It's exciting to see people come forward with a hunger for people to share Christ with them."**

Mission counselor  
Tom Melhorn

ERLANGER—When nine members of Anchor Baptist Church depart July 6 for New Hampshire, they will carry the excitement of last week's Billy Graham meetings to the mission field.

Sunday school director Peggy Belew said one reason she trained to become a children's counselor at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission was to prepare her to share Christ with people she meets on the church's first-ever mission trip.

"The Graham organization really helped us with the Christian life and witness course, and the information and material we got," said Belew, who counseled with several children and teenagers who accepted Christ as Savior during the June 27-30 Graham mission. "This has been a real growing experience."

"Growth" was a word that often crossed the lips of Anchor members who rode a chartered bus June 29 to Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati. While the congregation, which averages 80 to 100 people on Sundays, hasn't seen noticeable growth this year, expectations are high.

Buoyed by retiring a \$200,000 church debt since Darryl Crenshaw became pastor in 1998, church leaders contacted the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky early this year about chartering buses to all five mission meetings.

Seeking to provide a community service, Anchor members put the \$1,250 expense in the church budget. Nearly half of the 200-plus riders came from outside the church.

The June 29 charter, bound for the evening's "Concert for the Next Generation," featured laughter, animated chatter and occasional songs, including an upbeat rendition of "Jesus Loves Me."

More than one-third of active members were involved in the mission as counselors, choir members or other volunteer positions.

They were thrilled by the news that eight children who rode that morning's charter had accepted Christ as their Savior during the mission's Kidz Gig program.

"This is one of the most exciting things I've been involved in," said Jim Morrison, 15, who helped collect decision cards each night. "It's an exciting experience to see that many people go down on the field at once. That's awesome."

"There's joy from personal evangelism and witnessing," said Tom Melhorn, a choir member and counselor. "It's something all Christians should do, but through the mission it's become more natural. It's exciting to see people come forward with a hunger for people to share Christ with them."

Once the bus pulled up at the stadium, riders scattered since it was nearly impossible to find large blocks of seats together, explained Ted Padgett, Anchor's volunteer transportation coordinator.

Arriving early, the group waited 90 minutes in the blazing sun for Christian hip-hop singer Kirk Franklin to take the stage. Franklin and Christian band dc Talk each performed high-energy, 30-minute music sets.

Sensitive to the boycott aimed at Cincinnati after racial tensions erupted in riots last year, both groups emphasized racial unity in their remarks.

"From this stage it's beautiful to see every color," said Franklin. "It's beautiful."

dc Talk's Michael Tait, who wore a black shirt emblazoned with "DiverseCity," said one of the band's main messages is diversity.

"We believe God created us all, regardless of color," Tait declared.

"We believe in appreciating our diversity, not hating on each other."

Despite the enthusiastic receptions given the musical groups, neither matched the ovation that greeted Graham.

Chaka Watch, one of the guests riding Anchor's bus, grew up in Zimbabwe. Watch, a youth ministry director for the Salvation Army in New Rochelle, N.Y., applauded Graham for faithfully serving God over the decades.

"I've learned a lot," Watch said of the Graham mission experience. "This is a man known all over the world and I had the experience of listening to him. He taught me some things that I'm going to make sure I teach other people."

Looking toward this week's trip to New Hampshire, Crenshaw noted, "It will be exciting because almost every person on the mission team has been involved in the Graham mission."

"Any time you have people sharing their faith, that helps," he added. "You would like to think that was a more natural thing for believers to do, but spiritual warfare is involved and a lot of people are intimidated. I know with some of our folks, this has helped them step through that fear barrier."



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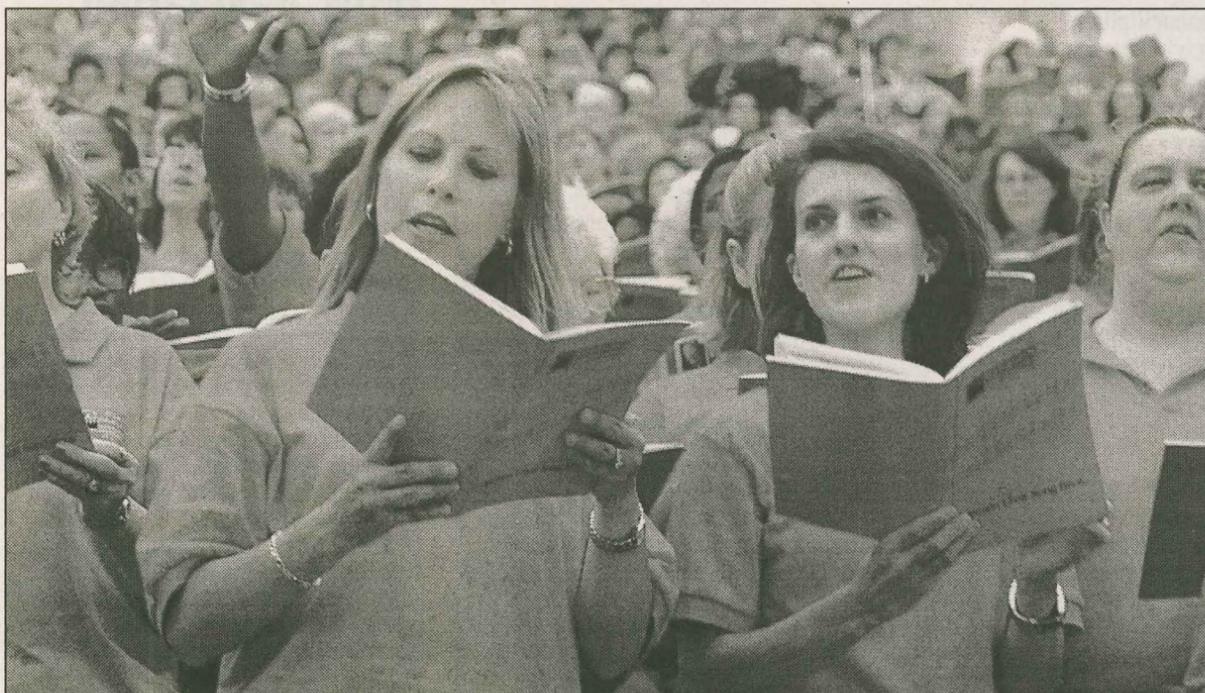


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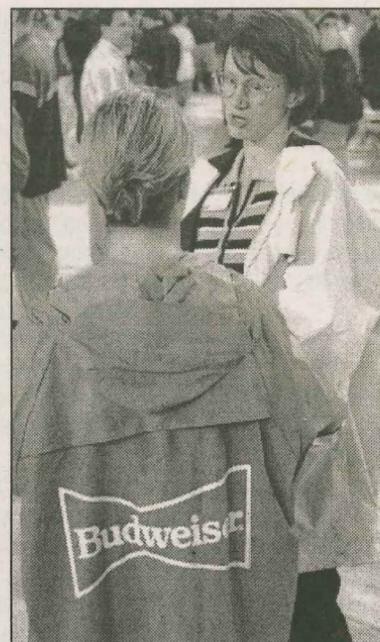


# KENTUCKY

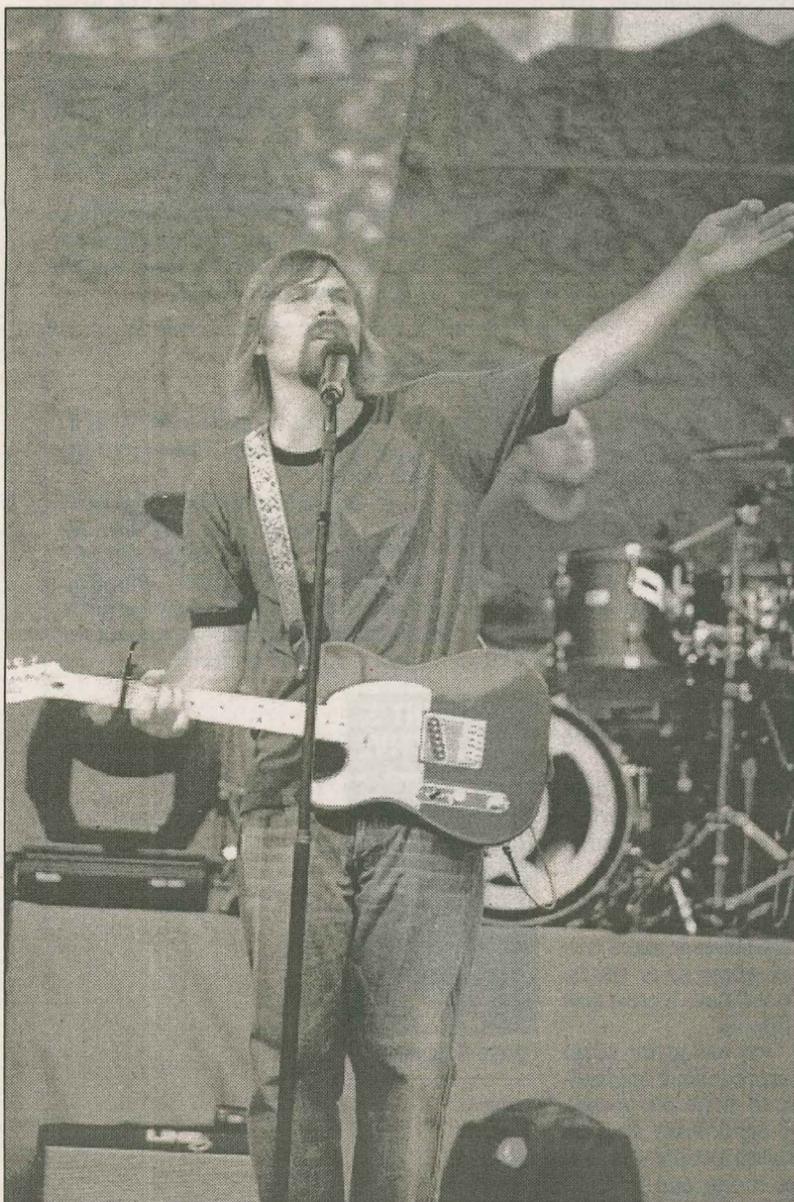
## Graham mission reflections



**MASS CHOIR** Lisa Smith (left) and Mary Ray, members of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky, sing on the front row of the mass choir. An estimated 5,000 people sang in the choir during the June 27-30 event.



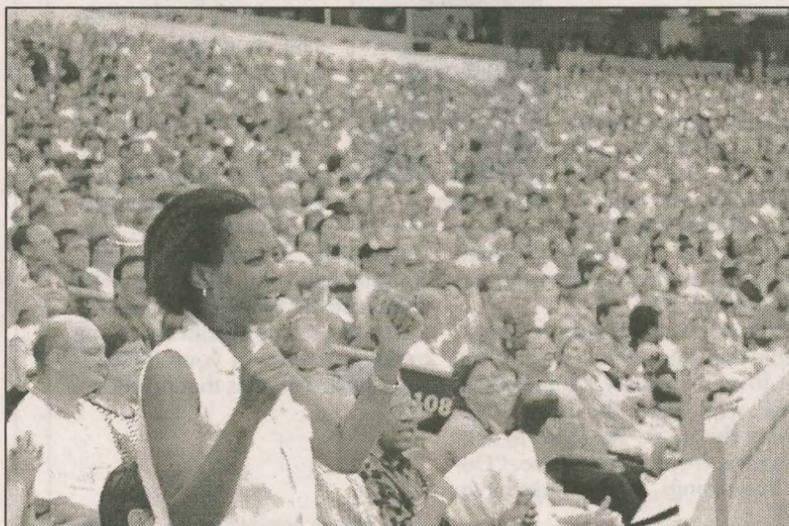
**ONE-ON-ONE** Decision counselor Alison West, a member of Faith Evangelical Free Church in Milford, Ohio, talks to a person who responded to Billy Graham's invitation.



**PRAISE BAND** Mac Powell, the lead singer of Third Day, shares praise music during the mission's closing service Sunday night.



**CLOSING PRAYER** Decision counselors and people who responded to Billy Graham's invitation to accept Christ pray at the close of the Thursday night service.



**REJOICING** Mary Sue Settles of Cincinnati sings along during worship time at the mission. Approximately 201,600 people attended the four-day event at Paul Brown Stadium and more than 11,200 made public spiritual decisions.

## NATIONAL NOTES

### ■ Court: Homeless OK on church steps.

A federal appeals court has ruled in favor of a New York church permitting homeless people to sleep undisturbed on its steps. The decision, which favors the policy of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in midtown Manhattan, could have national ramifications on the issue of religious freedom because the court cited the church's "sincerely held religious belief" that its homeless policy is protected by constitutional guarantees.

■ **Students settle suit over tracts.** Just before their case went to trial, five students settled their suit against Miami-Dade Community College over distribution of religious literature. The settlement agreement allows people wishing to distribute literature to do so without getting the college's permission. Five students filed the suit in 1999 after being threatened by school security officers with arrest for handing out religious literature on campus.

### ■ Falwell still fighting parody Web site.

After losing his case through arbitration, Jerry Falwell has filed suit in federal district court to try to prevent a Web site from spoofing his views on the Bible. In the suit, filed June 20 in Lynchburg, Va., Falwell said his name has become a trademark and the sites [www.jerryfalwell.com](http://www.jerryfalwell.com) and [www.jerryfallwell.com](http://www.jerryfallwell.com), confuse Internet users who may mistakenly think it is sponsored by him.

### ■ PCA urges racial reconciliation.

The Presbyterian Church in America has overwhelmingly approved a resolution confessing its involvement in the "heinous sins" of racism and slavery and seeking forgiveness and racial reconciliation. The resolution concludes with a call for racial reconciliation, the creation of urban and minority congregations and the enhancing of ministries across racial, social and economic lines. Formally organized in 1973, the Presbyterian Church in America is a more conservative religious body than the Presbyterian Church (USA) and has more than 300,000 members.

### ■ Missouri Synod faces budget problems.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has had to make one of the largest budget cuts in the denomination's history, setting a budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1 that is \$10 million less than the current budget. "This is the national budget. This is not the whole church," said Brad Hewitt, chief administrative officer for the denomination. "This is no different than what we're seeing in everything in America. People are less likely to fund things that are big and institutional and more want to be connected to it directly."

### ■ Presbyterians refine abortion stance.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has refined its position on late-term abortions to specify when the controversial procedure might be allowed "under the rarest of circumstances."

At the group's annual General Assembly meeting in Columbus, Ohio, delegates approved the statement 394-112, calling the procedure "a matter of grave moral concern to us all." The procedure would be allowed in order to save the life of the mother or preserve her health, in cases of rape or incest or when the fetus suffers from "untreatable, life-threatening fetal anomalies."

### ■ Religion TV show gets sixth season.

The PBS television show "Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly" has received renewed funding for its sixth season. Lilly Endowment, an Indianapolis-based foundation, has committed \$6.6 million to the new season. "Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly" is the single most important source of information and perspective on religion and ethics in all of broadcast journalism," said Craig Dykstra, vice president for religion at Lilly Endowment.

■ **Unitarians: Legalize all drugs.** The Unitarian Universalists have called for the decriminalization of all drugs and an end to treating drug users like criminals. The Unitarian Universalist Association, meeting in Quebec for its annual meeting, passed a "Statement of Conscience" June 22 that called the American war on drugs a failure. "The more you try and attack drug abuse with a heavy-handed punitive approach, it makes everything worse," said Charles Thomas, executive director of the group Unitarian Universalists for Drug Policy Reform.

## Poll: 23 percent think Revelation predicted attacks

NEW YORK (RNS)—Almost a quarter of Americans surveyed say the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks were predicted by the Book of Revelation, a joint poll by Time magazine and CNN has found.

Twenty-three percent say the attacks were predicted in the last book of the Bible. Almost three times that percentage—64 percent—disagreed.

Seventeen percent of Americans said they believed the end of the world as described in Revelation will occur in their lifetimes, compared to 42 percent who said it would occur "eventually" and 33 percent who said "it will not occur."

Poll results were released in the June 24 edition of Time, whose cover story is "The Bible & The Apocalypse." It cites the popularity of the "Left Behind" book series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins.

"Since Sept. 11, people from cooler corners of Christianity have begun asking questions about what the Bible has to say about how the world ends," writes Nancy Gibbs, Time's editor-at-large.

The poll also found that 36 percent of those surveyed say the Bible is the "Word of God" and should be taken literally while 44 percent say it should not be taken literally.

Since Sept. 11, 36 percent of those surveyed said they have spoken to others about what the Bible says concerning the end of the world.

## Contribution not acquisition

Someone has said, "Success comes not by acquisition but by contribution." Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, "What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

The Scriptures teach us that if we are wise, we shall pay more attention to eternal values than to the things of the world.

In 1 Timothy 6:7 we find this, "For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it." Therefore, we ought to put godliness above everything else. In so doing, we shall gain what is lasting. Everything else is temporal.

Verse 9 warns us of the temptation trap into which we fall by our love of money. Sometimes those who have the least love money the most. We need to ask ourselves from time to time, "Do we have things, or do things have us?"

In verses 17-19 the Apostle Paul told Timothy to charge those who were affluent, not to be arro-

gant or proud nor to put their trust in their wealth. Instead they (we) should put their (our) trust in the living God who gives us all things richly to enjoy. All things come from God and are to be enjoyed, but they are not to be worshipped.

Not only are we to trust the Lord, but also we are to be worthy of His trust. The Lord is seek-

ing trustworthy men and women. If you are one of those, He is more likely to give you something, which you can use for His glory.

Here is what Jesus said about trust: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been

trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" (Matthew 16:10-12).

To the extent we can assist you to have success in your stewardship, please give us that privilege.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## 'Think globally, act locally'

"Think globally, act locally" is the theme of some people in the environmental movement. That also is a great theme concerning missions.

Southern Baptists began with a commitment to missions. God has given Baptists a strategic role in world evangelization so far in our history.

The development of a global community in missions sharpens our strategic role in the present and near future.

Research shows that only about one-third of the world's population even claims, "I am a Christian." That statistic should be enough to turn every believer into a witness where he or she is. We still have a great task before us.

God has given us an unprecedented opportunity to share the gospel. We have this opportunity because we are a mission people—hearing, believing, living and telling His story. Today this involves us in global evangelization.

What can we do locally?

■ Pray more fervently, consistently, knowledgeably for our missionaries around the world.

■ Go into your part of this world as a verbal and visual witness to God's good news of salvation.

■ Commit yourself to serve as a mission volunteer somewhere in our world.

■ Commit the resources that God has given to win the lost. Let us continue to give our tithes and offerings to our regular, ongoing church ministry and mission efforts as well as an additional amount to special mission projects.

### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Harold Greenfield

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

# SMILE

## A busy summer

By Robert Dunston

When the spring semester ends, Cumberland College's doors remain open and summer programs keep us hopping.

On June 21 we finished our five-week undergraduate summer term, but graduate courses in education will be taught throughout the summer.

The summer of 2002 began with Cumberland College hosting an Elderhostel in late May at the Cumberland Inn. As you read this article, our second Elderhostel program will be drawing to a close.

A total of 16 churches will work with Mountain Outreach this summer, building homes for families. Appalachian Ministries will host three churches as they provide vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs throughout the area.

The month of June featured several groups on campus. Kentucky Girls State again chose Cumberland College as the site of its annual meeting to help young women learn about government. Cumberland also hosted Crossroads and the Kentucky Baptist Convention All-State Choir and Orchestra.

June was also the month for men's basketball camps. Cumberland offered a team camp, a day camp and a Big Man camp.

In early July, Cumberland College will host Champions for Christ. A week later, the Appalachian Writers Conference will meet on our campus.

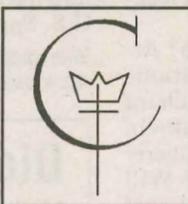
July also will be a busy month for sports camps. We will offer camps for women's basketball, men's wrestling, football and cheerleading.

We also offer two orientation conferences during the summer. These events help new students and their parents become part of the Cumberland College family and ease the transition to fall campus life and courses.

Cumberland College always looks forward to having groups on campus. We want everyone to see and enjoy Cumberland's facilities and learn more about what God is doing through our students and staff. We hope you will visit us soon!

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

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



## Kudzu

Doug Marlette



## Church of the Covered Dish

Thom Tapp



## Bible Crossword

### Across

1. "\_\_\_ the lilies" (Matthew 6:28)
8. Woody Guthrie's son
11. Ann, Russ.
12. Moses' brother
13. Indianapolis' state, abbr.
14. Roman Catholic, abbr.
15. "They \_\_\_ unto them" (Exodus 12:36)
17. Bean curd
19. Apiece
21. Sews quickly
23. Turns away from sin
25. House of Lords, abbr.
26. The writings that contain the new covenant, abbr.
28. "Hole of the \_\_\_" (Isaiah 11:8)
29. Nickel, chem. symbol
30. High male voices
34. "Every \_\_\_ of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14)
36. "He took ... the \_\_\_ out of the house" (2 Chronicles 33:15)
37. Three, prefix
38. More, suffix
39. "Pure \_\_\_ of water of life" (Revelation 22:1)
41. Overeaters Anonymous, abbr.
42. New England state, Concord is the capital, abbr.
44. Evergreen
45. Perform
46. Caleb's brother (Joshua 15:17)

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50. "He riseth ... and took a \_\_\_" (John 13:4)
52. Grievance
54. Metal thread
55. "Get thee hence, \_\_\_" (Matthew 4:10)
56. The meal's last course
21. Noblemen, below a baron and above a knight, abbr.
22. Snake
24. Not applicable, abbr.
27. Tellurium, chem. symbol
31. Modern Bible translation, abbr.
32. Poem
33. Sea level, abbr.
34. "\_\_\_ of heaven" (Malachi 3:10)
35. Small drip
37. Black sticky substance
40. Within, prefix
41. "Cake of \_\_\_ bread" (Exodus 29:23)
43. Howard, for short
44. Womanly, abbr.
46. Officers of the Guard, abbr.
47. Head covering
48. National Vision Associates, abbr.
49. Man's name
51. To make a mistake
53. Born, Fr.

### Down

1. Joseph's profession (Mark 6:3)
2. One time
3. The Empire State, abbr.
4. Girl's name, for short
5. Bilhah's son (Genesis 35:25)
6. "They work, and \_\_\_" (2 Thessalonians 3:12)
7. Railed transportation, abbr.
8. Small insects
9. Throw out the \_\_\_
10. Burden
16. Chinese ruler
18. Son of Shemaiah (1 Chronicles 26:7)
20. Rural route, abbr.

### Last week's solution

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## Get the facts about adoption



**Thursday, July 11**  
**7 p.m., Eastern Time**  
**Highland Baptist**  
**1101 Cherokee Rd.**  
**Louisville, KY**  
*registration required*

Call Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children  
 Pregnancy and Adoption Services

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## Court ruling on vouchers sparks diverse reactions

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 27 that providing taxpayer funds to religious schools does not necessarily violate the Constitution's ban on state support for religion.

The high court ruled 5-4 that Ohio could continue providing state-funded scholarships to disadvantaged Cleveland children to use in private schools, including religious ones. The program was established to give students more educational opportunities. The city's public schools are some of the lowest performing in the nation.

Opponents of the vouchers argued that including religious schools in the program violated the separation of church and state.

"This is probably the worst church-state decision in the last 50 years," said Barry Lynn, director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "All taxpayers now have to pay for religious indoctrination."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, affirmed the ruling as "the most significant Supreme Court decision in terms of its impact on public education since *Brown vs. Board of Education*," the 1954 ruling outlawing racial segregation in public schools.

The Supreme Court said the Cleveland program doesn't establish religion, because parents exercised free choice in using the vouchers to send their children to parochial schools.

Under the Ohio law upheld by a majority of justices, Justice David Souter said Christian schools that refused to hire Muslim or Hindu teachers could be sued.

The decision is a major victory for President Bush and many conservative groups that support government support of private religious schools. Bush tried to push a federal school-voucher program last year, but Congress declined.

## National leaders condemn pledge ruling

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Religious leaders and Capitol Hill lawmakers vowed to work diligently to overturn a decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that found the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because of its reference to "one nation under God."

The swift response remained in effect despite a postponement issued late June 27 by Judge Alfred Goodwin, who wrote the original opinion. Goodwin issued a stay on his decision until others on the 11-member court can review the case.

The San Francisco-based court ruled on June 26 that the words "under God"—inserted into the pledge in 1954 at the height of the Cold War—violate the Constitution's separation of church and state.

"A profession that we are a nation 'under God' is identical ... to a profession that we are a nation 'under Jesus,' a nation 'under Vishnu,' a nation 'under Zeus' or a nation 'under no god,' because none of these professions can be neutral with respect for religion," Goodwin wrote in the 2-1 decision.

The court was responding to a lawsuit filed by an Elk Grove, Calif., atheist, who complained that a taxpayer-funded teacher was leading his daughter in a pledge that included a mention of God.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1943 that students cannot be forced to recite the pledge. But it also ruled in 1984 that phrases such as "In God we Trust" are allowable because

their religious significance has been lost through rote repetition.

President Bush denounced the controversial ruling as "ridiculous," declaring it is "out of step with the traditions and history of America."

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives each passed resolutions July 27 affirming the pledge's constitutionality. The Senate passed a bill the next day affirming the inclusion of the phrase "under God" in the pledge.

The court ruling prompted widespread protests from religious leaders.

"What are they going to do? Arrest a whole generation of patriotic school children?" asked Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "What's next? Will they attempt to remove our national motto, 'In God We Trust,' from our money and excise it from our national anthem?"

Land and Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham called for "civil disobedience" to the ruling among schoolchildren in the states under the 9th Circuit Court's jurisdiction.

James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family, said he was "ashamed" to be an American because of the verdict.

By contrast, Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the decision "shows respect for freedom of conscience."

Calling Congress' 1954 addition of the words "under God" to the pledge "a mistake," Lynn said, "Our government should never coerce schoolchildren—or anyone else—to make a profession of religious belief."

The court decision was not to go into effect for several months to allow for appeals. It covers only the nine Western states within the court's jurisdiction. Still, the White House and Justice Department said they will seek ways to try to overturn the ruling, even forcing it to the U.S. Supreme Court.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

## Did you know?

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Plus they can receive up to \$210 in annual matching contributions!



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## 'Here am I, Lord. Send me ... someday'

If you read this column regularly, you know I often tell about the 600-800 volunteers who help us every year. I have shared about the tremendous service volunteers provide, though they just spend a week or two with us. However, I do not think I have written about the times when a volunteer or visitor shares a sad story. It usually goes like this:

"Bro. Underwood, did you know that my husband and I were considering coming to Oneida 15 or 20 years ago? When we were in our early 60s getting ready to retire, we thought we would like to come to Oneida to be full-time volunteers. We didn't know how long we could help—five or maybe 10 years, if our health was good. But we couldn't make up our minds, so we put it off. Now my husband is deceased and my health isn't good. We just waited too long."

I have heard some versions of that story dozens of times. The person is always remorseful that he or she allowed the opportunity to slip by. It is easy to tell the Lord we want to be used to our fullest, but if He asks us to step out of our comfort zone we often hesitate. Our desire to please Him might become diluted.

We have been blessed for many years to have several faculty and staff who are full-time volunteers. These faithful friends offered themselves for service and were willing to follow the Lord's direction to Oneida Baptist Institute.

We have many opportunities for volunteer service—opportunities for you to fill a vital need in our ministry, and one that will not always be there simply because the passing of time erodes our abilities and desires. Age and health problems are the most common deterrents to serving later rather

er than today.

If you have considered such a call, let me tell you what we have to offer. First is the opportunity to use the talents God has entrusted to you, gifts that are surrounded by a lifetime of experience and wisdom that can be used to reach a young person who is just beginning life's journey. Many of our students need the love and warmth that only can be provided by our older friends. One of their greatest needs is to have the friendship and love of a grandmother or grandfather. Although you are not actually their grandparents, they frankly don't care.

Second, we offer the chance to be obedient to God's call. Has the Lord been preparing you and blessing you so that you could provide this vital ministry, if only for a few years? We will give you the opportunity to be obedient and we also will provide your housing, utilities and meals. You can serve with very little out-of-pocket cost to you.

We are not asking for a five- or 10-year commitment. You may want to serve for a year or two. You can work directly with young people or you can be part of our support staff. You can help in the office or in the kitchen. Others might want to work outside, on the farm or help maintain our grounds. I would be happy to talk with you about ministry opportunities. We have a need for your particular gift, talent or skill. We have several folks who are serving right now as full-time volunteers. They can tell you firsthand the joys of service.

Interested? Call me at (606) 847-4111, ext. 202. I have a ministry opportunity for you.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Georgia volunteers become students

The Paul Harris family first came to Clear Creek as volunteer workers with Georgia Baptist Carpenters for Christ. The Sandersville, Ga., group has sent workers to the campus for six years.

Paul's wife, Judy, has worked with them four years. Their son, Stevan, recalled: "As a high school freshman, I came with the group.

Dad was on top of the new classroom building and I was on the ground handing him two-by-fours." Their home pastor, M.D. Cabe, is a 1972 graduate and usually accompanies the team.

Father and son are now Clear Creek students. "I like going to school with my Dad," Stevan said. "I never thought we'd be here together, but I like it."

The Harris family lives in the campus residence used by two former presidents, L.C. Kelly and D.M. Aldridge. Some of the Georgia Carpenters helped Paul and Stevan remodel the kitchen and baths. Paul and Judy are both employed on the student "workshop" program. He uses carpentry skills in the Kelly Hall renovation; she is secretary to the financial aid director.

Stevan helps with the youth program at East Jellico Baptist Church.

Paul preaches whenever a church needs a supply and looks forward to being pastor of a church.

"Paul has always been a quiet person, but that has changed since he was saved in 1996," Judy said. "He is always willing to share Christ. If the Lord can use him, the Lord can use anybody."

Stevan recently joined Clear Creek Station No. 4 of the Bell County Volunteer Fire Department. "I'm interested in EMT work and decided to join for the training and to help with the local needs," Stevan said. "I've been through the burn trailer where you learn how to fight fires. It is really hot."

This month Stevan journeys with a campus mission team to Manaus, Brazil, to do evangelistic work in villages along the Amazon River and in the city.

"The trip is a big adventure for Stevan, but I know the Lord will use him and help him grow through this opportunity," Judy said. "It is different at our house with a husband and son in college and a daughter in high school. I won't say who has the better grades!"

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# BOOKS

## Forum of Bible Agencies: We did not endorse TNIV

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Forum of Bible Agencies, an organization of experts on Bible translation, announced it has neither approved nor disapproved of Today's New International Version, a successor to the popular New International Version that has prompted controversy among evangelical Christians.

In a statement released June 24, the organization "emphasized it has never endorsed the TNIV" and does not have a policy of approving or endorsing any translations of its members.

Zondervan, publisher of the new translation, and International Bible Society, holder of its copyright and a member of the forum, had released a previous statement that said, "It is the consensus of the FBA that the TNIV falls within the Forum's translation principles and procedures."

Larry Ross, a spokesman for the forum, said the earlier statement was a "private memo" given to the IBS in April to aid the society in discussions with critics. "The forum is not to be a Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval on specific translations and they don't exist to take a position on specific translations," Ross said.

Larry Lincoln, spokesman for the International Bible Society, said he was not aware that the earlier statement was considered private. "When we sent that out, it was designed not to be an endorsement. It was simply designed to address the issue of whether the TNIV followed any established (translation) principles and procedures."

Forum members include the Bible League, New Tribes Mission and the Jesus Film Project.

**In This Mountain.** Jan Karon. Viking Penguin, 2002. 382 pages. \$25.95. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

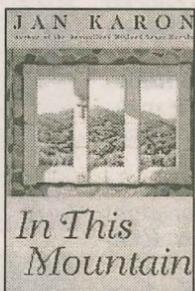
This is the seventh novel in the Mitford series by Jan Karon. She also has penned a couple of other Mitford-related books as well.

The series takes place in fictional Mitford. The central character is Father Tim, a now-retired Episcopal priest. Since the beginning of the series, Father Tim has become guardian to Dooley, married Cynthia and become involved in the lives of nearly everyone in Mitford, whether a part of his congregation or not.

I am fairly sure that a 46-year-old male pastor is not the target audience of these books, but I have delighted in each one I've read. If you like a well-told story that will offend no one, then stick with the Mitford series.

Besides the entertaining story, what connects with me is the constant interaction with issues of faith. What is appealing is these issues are addressed with intelligence and heart and are woven throughout the book. Karon explores marriage, parenting, two-career marriages, relationships, retirement, ministry, judgment, forgiveness, grace, love and other topics. She is a fine storyteller, so her exploration of these faith concerns don't come across as preachy, but rather as real possible events in the life of someone, even if that central someone is a clergy person.

Since the real joy of Karon's books is the unfolding story, you will have to read it yourself to see what is happening in Father Tim and Cynthia's life. Suffice it to say, once you start reading, you will read until the story is completely told and then count the time until Karon pens the next installment. *Wayne Hager*



**Reframing Spiritual Formation: Discipleship in an Unchurched Culture.** Edward Hammett. Smyth & Helwys Publishers, 2002. 149 pages. \$13. ♦♦♦♦♦

Writing in the footsteps of Bill Easum, Thomas Bandy and Leonard Sweet, Edward Hammett insists that the church better get with it or face the prospect of fading into irrelevance, if not oblivion in the 21st Century.

The cardinal failure of the church during the past 100 years or so, he claims, is that members have been turned into passive spectators at worship and quiescent receivers of information in Christian education programs.

In fact, that might be the fundamental predicament: Christianity has been turned into a program rather than a vigorous way of life. The solution, according to Hammett, is to reframe our understanding of what it means to be the church. By this he means that we must open our eyes and see that we are in an unchurched culture. The next generation we need to reach won't respond to a religion of the head, but of the heart; not to a passive, individuated faith, but a communal one. He prods us to see that the church exists, not solely for the believing community, but for the world.

Like Easum and Bandy, Hammett urges us to look to the first-century church for our pattern of approaching an unchurched world. He sees direct parallels between their time and ours. This call has both possibility and peril. We have much to learn from their zeal, but we run afoul if we simplify the complexity of the issues they faced, both internally and externally as we seek to

find the magic pill for what ails today's church.

All in all, Hammett's book offers much to commend as a basis for beginning a strategic planning process. *Jim Holladay*

**The Church God Blesses.** Jim Cymbala with Stephen Sorenson. Zondervan Publishers, 2002. 154 pages. \$9.99. ♦♦

I have been a fan of Jim Cymbala's writing since I first read "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire." He followed that with "Fresh Faith, Fresh Power."

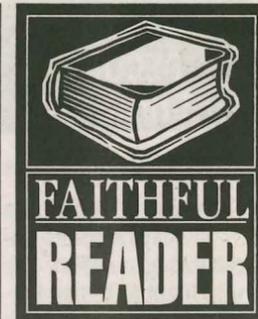
Both of those books are refreshing and provide a needed corrective to much of the church growth books (of which there are an abundance) that focus on slick strategies and marketing and leave the spiritual aspect (i.e. divine presence) out of the process.

With this book, I am afraid the author has succumbed to the publisher's desire to have another Cymbala book to sell. The book is small in size (the pages are half-size) and really offers nothing that Cymbala has not said already.

True, there is an occasional twist, but with his opening thought you know where he is going. I am also uncomfortable with Cymbala's heavy emphasis in this book upon spiritual warfare. That aspect has always been present, but it is harder to keep it in perspective in this book.

If you have not read any of Cymbala, you would probably have a different reaction to this book.

Yes, there is some good stuff here, but remembering the earlier books, my main point is that this book is not needed. Cymbala's writing is still punctuated with great stories, some new and some old. I simply prefer to recommend one of the first two books and use the purchase price to buy a book with new ideas. *Wayne Hager*



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

## Producers hope this sequel isn't 'Left Behind' on shelves

By Ron Csillag  
Religion News Service

TORONTO (RNS)—Kirk Cameron, the bubble-gum heartthrob from the 1980s sitcom "Growing Pains," will revive his role as TV journalist Buck Williams, joining forces with others to battle Satan incarnate in the sequel to the "Left Behind" film.

Although critically panned and a box-office failure, "Left Behind" was one of the best-selling videos in the United States when it was released in 2000, outstripping such mainstream videos as "Toy Story 2," "The Green Mile" and "Erin Brockovitch."

The video's popularity is, many believe, evidence of a solid market for Christian entertainment, a market that generates more than \$3 billion a year in videos, books and music.

Now, Cameron and the rest of the cast from "Left Behind," including his wife and "Growing Pains" co-star Chelsea Noble, are in Toronto to reprise their roles for what they hope is a more successful follow-up.

The movies are based on the "Left Behind" series of books about the Christian end-times. The eight volumes by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins have sold more than 25 million copies with their popular blend of der-

ring-do and themes from the Bible's Book of Revelation, which depicts the second coming of Jesus, beginning with a seven-year period of turmoil known as the tribulation. The ninth book of the series, "Remnant," is being released this week.

"Left Behind II: Tribulation Force," slated for video and DVD release this November, picks up where the first movie left off. It's now a week after the Apocalypse has begun, and end-times Rapture is in full swing. In an instant, millions of people have vanished into thin air, presumably, believers taken to Heaven in preparation for Judgment Day.

Chaos rules a smoldering world. Amid skyrocketing suicide, the breakdown of all order and mass religious hysteria, the world looks to the much-loved president of the United Nations, Nicolae Carpathia. Trouble is, Carpathia isn't what and who he appears. He seems unaware of a small group of rebels—the Tribulation Force—that has banded together to tell the world the truth: he's really the anti-Christ and has positioned himself to take over the world.

Cameron's reporter character, who starts out as a hard-bitten nonbeliever, is one of four members of the Tribulation Force out to open the world's

eyes to the truth. It's a role the actor relishes with a youthful zeal—even though he's 32 and the father of five.

"I find (the genre) fascinating," he said between takes on the set. "I've worked on movies that were based on true-life stories. But this movie, potentially, is based on a true-life story that has yet to occur. Kinda interesting, you know?"

While the movie won't thump the Bible in an overt way, it will contain a message that will be familiar to many Christians, Cameron said.

"So many people have been raised with religious backgrounds and are familiar with biblical stories.

"The 'Left Behind' books have brought those familiar teachings out of the realm of just hearing it from a preacher on a Sunday morning, to a real life story of a guy named Buck, and others that people get to know and care for," he said.

While Cameron is a wholesome commodity, he says he wouldn't have minded slipping out of typecast and into the role of Nicholae.

"When they first offered (Buck's) role to me, my first thought was, 'I'd love to play the anti-Christ!' That would be a real twist."

Asked how he would handle being the Prince of Darkness, Cameron



chuckles. "I'd play him very similarly to the good guy. The best bad guys are not the ones that scream and yell and rant and rave, but the guys you can't believe are the evil ones. I'd play him as a very charming, likeable and capable guy."

But it's the role of good guy in which Cameron feels more comfortable—both as an actor and a Christian. "As a Christian, it's important to me that the beautiful message of the Bible is not corrupted or sold out for the sake of a sensational movie," he said. "And that's why I'm happy with the way the script turned out. It presents its story and biblical perspective with integrity and in a way that is true to its source."

**TRIBULATION FORCE**  
Kirk Cameron (left), plays a reporter in "Tribulation Force," the second installment of the film series of Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins' best-selling "Left Behind" books about the end-times. Unlike the first movie, which was released on the big screen, this movie will go straight to video and DVD release in November. (RNS photo)

# PEOPLE

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Mark Boes

On July 4, Americans joyfully celebrate our freedom as a nation. It is important to remember, however, that the first American patriots were not the authors of freedom.

As author Paul Scherer noted, "We find freedom when we find God." The Bible adds, "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1).

True and lasting freedom through Jesus Christ is God's gift to everyone who believes. Jesus told His followers, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

He further explained, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

There it is. Plain and simple. True freedom is not the gift of the United States Constitution or the Bill of Rights. Eternal freedom is God's gift to us, and it is received by giving control of our lives to Jesus Christ.

Would you like to be eternally free? Free from the enslavement of all the wrongs in your life?

Eternal freedom is just four short steps away:

- Agree with God that you have done wrong.
- Ask God to forgive you for that wrong.
- Make Jesus the boss of your life.
- Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus Christ from the dead to rescue you from sin.

Today can be your eternal independence day—a day of freedom that will be celebrated forever. Go ahead, find out what true freedom is all about.

Mark Boes is pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BETHLEHEM**—Bethlehem Missionary Church ordained missions team leader **Jesse Quire** as deacon.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Eastwood Church will host a music camp July 8-11, led by Dove Award-winner **Kathie Hill**. Children's choir leaders are invited to "An Evening with Kathie Hill" July 11, 6 p.m. For information, call (270) 842-7867.

**Gene Willett** retired June 9 as pastor of Jackson Grove Church after nine years. He is available for supply and interim pastorate. For information, call (270) 842-2770.

Also, Jackson Grove Church called **Scott Hippler** of Living Hope Church in Bowling Green as interim pastor June 16.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church honored **Eva Reeves** for 36 years as nursery care provider. Also, **Mildred Dunn**, **Helen Puckett** and **Barbara Roult** were recognized for 10 years of service at the church's child development center.

■ **FRANKFORT**—North Fork Church called **Jay Stratton** as pastor.

■ **LANCASTER**—Lancaster Church called **Mark Wade** as full-time minister of education June 9. Also, **Chad Farris** was called as full-time minister of music, starting June 16.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill Church hired **Carolyn Holm** as office manager. She previously was

receptionist and music secretary from 1998-2000.

Lyndon Church honored **Jim Holladay** and wife, **Patty**, on their 25th wedding anniversary.

Melbourne Heights Church will host **Marshall Kellam** in concert July 14, 6:30 p.m. **William Shoulta** is pastor.

Parkland Church honored **Rhonda Grider** June 23 for 10 years as educational secretary. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Rockford Lane Church honored **Kim Mattingly** June 1 for eight years as minister of children. **Randal Pollock** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church honored staff anniversaries: **Steve Florence**, minister of music, four years; **John Tappan**, minister of education, one year.

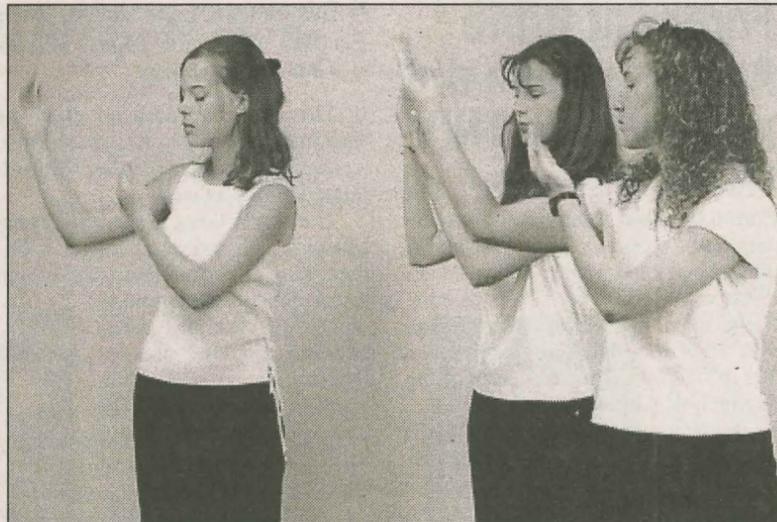
■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church called **Dan Summerlin** as pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Indian Hill Church called **Bobby Oaks** as pastor.

Poplar Grove Church called **Bill Meece** of Somerset as pastor June 1.

### What's going on?

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



**SPLASH** Acteens and friends from Western Kentucky gathered at Jonathan Creek June 21-22, for Splash. Splash is an annual summer event sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades 7-12, focusing on missions, faith development and discipleship. ■ Above: Acteens from New Hope Baptist Church in Hopkinsville perform an interpretive movement to the song, "God So Loved." ■ Left top: Girls cool off at the aqua jump on Kentucky Lake. ■ Left bottom: Two girls share a laugh during a Splash program. Splash coincided with two other WMU activities at Jonathan Creek: the mother-daughter overnight and the Girls in Action overnight. More than 160 women and girls took part in all three activities. (WMU photos by LaRaine Dail)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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:** Mini-buses and shuttle vans by StarTrans. Call Whitworth Bus Sales, Inc., (502) 894-0110. Church discounts. Your Kentucky bus and van connection.

**HEALTH:** Affordable health-care. Pre-existing conditions accepted. Only \$54.95/month, entire family. Doctors, hospitals, prescriptions, vision, dental and more. The non-insurance solution. Call toll-free: (877) 889-8844. www.healthcaredeal.net.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students for Salem First Baptist Church. We are seeking the person God wants to lead our students in Bible study, spiritual growth, discipleship, evangelism and fellowship. Please respond to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 721 West Main St., Salem, IL 62881, or fbc1@midwest.net.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for small, historic rural church in Johnson County. New brick sanctuary, convenient location, willing workers and unlimited possibilities. Send resumés to: Dean Murray, Box 742, Paintsville, KY 41240.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Northside Baptist Church in Science Hill, Ky. The church averages 85 in Sunday school and 120 in worship. If interested, send resumé to PO Box 129, Science Hill, KY 42553.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church in downtown Ashland, Ky., is seeking an experienced associate to fill the position of minister of music and spiritual formation. The candidate should possess organizational and people skills, be energetic, self-motivated and will be responsible for the overall music ministry of the church along with the development, promotion and direction of church education programs for all ages. Salary based on education and experience. Please forward resumé to: Music and Spiritual Formation Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787, or e-mail: fbcashla@fbcashlandky.com, or fax: (606) 324-4344.

**SEEKING:** Olivet Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Send resumé to 13741 Palmyra Road, Herndon, KY 42236; e-mail: olivet@iolky.com.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Salvisa Baptist Church, PO Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372.

**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 resumés 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:** First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., is seeking a full-time music associate/organist. These positions currently are combined but may be separated in the future. Please send a resumé to: Richard Suggs, minister of music, First Baptist Church, 621 E 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101, or call the church music office: (270) 842-0331, ext. 104. Experience required; at least a bachelor's degree (music/arts) is preferred.

**SEEKING:** Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., is accepting resumés for the position of full-time minister of music with the additional ministry area of adult education. Lewis Lane is an evangelical church moving toward a blended style of worship (gospel, hymns, praise/worship, contemporary). Experience and a master's degree from an accredited graduate school or seminary are preferred. Please send resumés to: Sue Trautwein, chair, Minister of Music Search Committee, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301.

**SEEKING:** Hickory Grove Baptist Church, one of the state's most exciting Southern Baptist churches, is accepting resumés for minister of music. The church campus is situated on 45 beautiful acres and averages 575 in morning worship. Interested candidates should mail their resumés to: Search Committee, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 11969 Taylor Mill Road, Independence, KY 41051.

**SEEKING:** Young adult minister position available—full-time plus great benefits package. Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK. More than 6,000 membership. E-mail resumé to: rushing@councilroad.org. For additional church information, visit Web site at www.councilroad.org.

**SERVICES:** America's fastest growing Christian long distance company. No monthly service charge; 4.9 cents per minute; 6-second billing. Toll-free: (800) 587-8346. www.covenantphoneservice.com. Agent opportunity available.

# KENTUCKY



**ROOF JOB** High school student volunteers and college student staffers tear off eight layers of shingles on Lucy Woolums' roof in Lexington before installing a new one.

## Up on the roof

### Campbellsville ministry puts new roofs on Lexington homes

By Brian Gomez  
*Lexington Herald-Leader*

LEXINGTON—Many students would want to be rewarded handsomely for working on rooftops, but several have paid \$150 for the opportunity this summer to climb ladders, rip apart shingles and hammer nails.

Thirty high school students in the Kentucky Heartland Outreach program, a ministry of Campbellsville University, donated their time and money last month to help repair low-income homes in Lexington. The money covers lodging and food while the students serve one-week stints.

Four properties chosen by the Fayette County Realtor Community Housing Foundation were repaired at no cost to the homeowners, who could not afford the work. Kentucky Heartland Outreach director Todd Parish focused primarily on replacing roofs.

"These homeowners couldn't get this any other way," Parish said about the program founded in 1999 by Campbellsville University President Mike Carter. "They would have to be here in these poor living conditions if they didn't have somebody that would help."

The crew that worked on Lucy Woolums' home in southeast Lexington encountered some dry rot and damaged boards on the roof. The students had to dig their way through eight layers of shingles held together with tar paper.

"We were kind of hoping to tear it up and slap it right back down, but we've had some difficulties," Campbellsville educational ministries junior Amanda Reardon said.

The 10 Campbellsville students working all summer with their younger counterparts are paid a stipend.

In the past three years, more than 60 homeowners have had their properties repaired through the program, which also will help homeowners later this summer in Burkesville, Paducah, Hodgenville and Campbellsville. Parish hopes to expand the program throughout Central Kentucky.

"I don't think anybody expected it would grow this rapidly," he said. "I had hoped that one day, it would be a full-time operation."

Shiloh Baptist and Trinity Baptist churches in Lexington provided food and housing for the students.

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**HOT WORK** Jim Bird of Cincinnati uses the only shade available to shield his head from the heat, while Amanda Reardon of Dayton, Ohio, replaces damaged roofing on a Lexington home. (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by Justin Fowler)

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# Summer of Service

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*During the summer of 2002 more than 50 Cumberland College students are serving across the Commonwealth, throughout the United States and around the world.*

## Kentucky

Amy Acree, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Elizabeth Baily, Jonathan Creek Camp  
Tiffany Bailey, Appalachian Ministries, Whitley County  
Toney Cooksey, youth ministry, London  
Abi Clifton, youth ministry, Owenton  
Stevie DeGeorge, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Tim Dowd, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Drew Dukes, Son Share, Cedarmore  
Anthony Evans, youth ministry, Owensboro  
Kevin Floyd, youth ministry, Lincoln County  
Michelle Henson, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Kristian Howe, youth ministry, London  
Matt Howe, youth ministry, London  
Matt Holbrook, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Chris Lundin, Mission Adventure RA Camp  
Zachary Lynch, Mission Adventure RA Camp  
Matt Mann, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Adam McChesney, Son Praise, Cedarmore  
Daniel McKee, youth ministry  
Betsy Moore, 180 Degree Ministries  
Jessica Perko, Appalachian Ministries, Whitley County  
Trisha Price, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
David Riggs, Mission Adventure RA Camp  
Nanette Smith, Appalachian Ministries, Whitley County  
Chuck Sumner, Son Burst, Cedarmore  
Mike Townsend, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Janie Toy, Mission Adventure GA Camp  
Mat Whitaker, Mission Adventure RA Camp  
Kristin Williams, Appalachian Ministries, Whitley County  
Marsee Williamson, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County  
Casey Woods, Mountain Outreach, Whitley County

## United States

Shellie Bayne, Centrifuge, East Team  
Debbie Burnett, Arkansas  
Jennifer Dyer, Branson, MO Resort Ministry  
Karen Morgan, Crosspoint  
Brandon Moore, University of Amherst, MA  
Christy Newby, Colorado Resort Ministry  
Daniel Plemons, youth ministry, TN  
Crystal Reams, New Orleans, LA  
Jamey Short, Camp All-American, Georgia  
Lisa Van Berkel, Camp Timberline, CO

## International

Leslie Bellar, Paris, France  
Josh Benton, Paris, France  
Stephanie Dobbs, Paris, France  
Melinda Eber, Haiti  
Clarissa Hutcherson, Paris, France  
Paige Kolok, Haiti and Spain  
Woods Nash, Paris, France  
David Reed, Peru, South America  
Emily Shipp, Paris, France

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