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FOR THE RECORD

Baptist World Alliance
SBC-CBF flap clouds meeting in Spain.
Page 2.

Editorial
Mission trips build church relationships.
Page 5.



Kentucky
Acteens from two churches recently worked in Eastern Kentucky. Page 7.



Dizzy dude
Goofy fun and spiritual decisions abound at Homes for Children's camp. Page 8.

Baptists
Missouri Baptists might leave five agencies out of next budget. Page 10.

Poll: Confidence in religion/church at all-time low

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Americans' confidence in institutional religion is at its lowest point in 30 years, according to a new Gallup Poll. Only 45 percent of Americans have a "great deal or quite a lot" of confidence in the church or organized religion. That's down from 60 percent last year, and the lowest since Gallup started collecting the data in 1973.

"There is little question that the sex abuse scandal rocking the Catholic Church is the main cause of the drop-off in confidence this year," said Gallup pollster Frank Newport.

The previous low point for religion came in 1989, at 52 percent, when Protestants were rocked by televangelist scandals involving sex, money and very public falls from grace.

Catholics have even less faith in institutional religion, according to the poll. Just 42 percent of Catholics, compared to 59 percent of Protestants, have healthy amounts of confidence in the church.

Thirty-two percent of people had "some" confidence in the church or organized religion, 18 percent had "very little" and 3 percent had none. The poll of 1,020 adults has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Institutions ranked from most confidence to least are:

- Military.
- Police.
- Presidency.
- U.S. Supreme Court and banks (tie).
- Church/religion.
- The medical system.
- Public schools.
- Television news.
- Newspapers.
- Congress.
- The criminal justice system.
- Organized labor.
- Big business.
- Wall Street.
- Health Maintenance Organizations.

'Missioncation'



TEAMWORK Missioncation volunteers (from left) Amanda Smith, Kristen Sorensen and Monique Despain frame a porch for a Habitat project as Nathan Stewart supervises. The construction effort was among more than 15 mission projects during Crestwood Church's recent mission trip to Charleston, S.C. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

Crestwood mission trip involves 350 volunteers

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

CHARLESTON, S.C.—It was a massive undertaking for a local church mission trip.

Approximately 350 members of Crestwood Baptist Church boarded buses and vans June 23 for a 12-hour journey to Charleston, S.C.

The church's third "Missioncation" trip in six years featured more than 15 ministry teams. Volunteers served for a week in such areas as Habitat for Humanity and Repair Affair projects; community center

ministries; beach and market outreach; ministry to Alzheimer's patients; Upward Basketball, Upward Cheerleading and "Starting New At Golf" clinics; and prayerwalking. Other volunteers worked behind the scenes coordinating transportation, hospitality, recreation and child care.

Even with the huge turnout of volunteers—more than one-third of Crestwood's average Sunday morning worship attendance of 1,000—Missioncation organizers emphasized the project wasn't about the numbers.

"The purpose of Missioncation

all along when we built it was that we wanted to mobilize our church and let people know what God can do in their lives when they let Him," explained minister of youth Jeff Fuson.

Fuson, who has helped coordinate each of the three trips, said Missioncation began in 1996 with 120 volunteers doing renovation projects, sports ministry and Bible studies in Portland, Maine. In 1999, more than 220 volunteers took part in a trip to Greenville, S.C., that was expanded to include Habitat projects

□ See Kentucky church's ..., page 3

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, July 17

Burnout is not part of God's plan, speaker tells women's leaders

By Terri Lackey
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Christians facing a breakdown or burnout "are taking on tasks beyond our ability, tasks God never intended us to do," a women's ministry director recently told church leaders.

"God is never going to burn us out," said Margaret Kennedy, founder of Threads of Hope, a radio and writing ministry in Dothan, Ala.

People might not be able to manage their time, but they can manage their schedules by choosing what they do during a given day, she said.

"Our busyness can be a blockage to Kingdom work," Kennedy told women attending the recent Discipleship and Family Week conference at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

"Busyness is something every leader will always struggle with. There will never be a time we don't have to manage ourselves and our schedules," she said.

Kennedy suggested women examine all of their current responsibilities and determine whether God intended they take them on. "Unless we are willing to live wisely, we will miss the will of God," she said. "Sometimes, the most godly thing a wife or mom can do is take a 30-minute nap."

Women who are leaders "are surrounded by a lot of people's agendas," Kennedy noted. "People clamor for our time. But wise leaders determine to invest themselves in activities and projects they know they can accomplish."

Jesus was a leader who managed Himself while purposefully following His Father's agenda, she said.

Women can do the same, she added, if they follow a few "time tackling tips." Kennedy's list included:

■ **Start each day with a quiet time.** "You should start each morning scheduling some time with the Creator of the universe. Find a special spot in your home where you go each morning."

■ **Plan and prioritize in writing.** "Make a list and rank it in importance," she said. "Studies show that those who write down their goals are 90 percent more likely to complete their tasks than those who do not."

■ **Be realistic.** "When we are trying to do too much, we are going to feel frustrated, stressed and guilty. Accurately block out the amount of time it takes to do a task. And don't put more on that planner than you can possibly do."

Kennedy suggested using only one

calendar or planner, not several in various locations. "Having two or more planners will only add to your frustration."

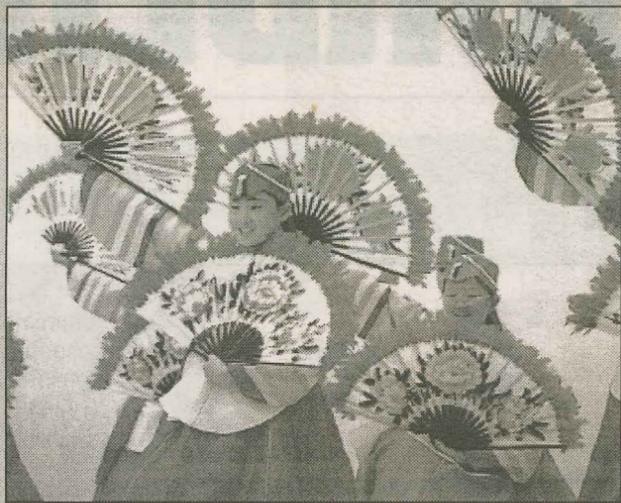
■ **Take effectiveness over efficiency.** "Effectiveness is doing the job. Effectiveness is doing the job right."

■ **Eliminate time wasters by identifying them.** "Talking on the phone is the No. 1 time waster. If you're in the middle of a project, use the answering machine. And do not feel guilty when you utilize it."

Other time wasters, she said, include paperwork, meaningless meetings, procrastination or indecision, lack of organization, ineffective delegation, inability to say "No" and attempting to do too much at one time.

■ **Discover biological prime time.** "When are you most active? For some, it is morning; for some, it is

□ See Burnout is not part ..., page 9



MUSIC FANS Members of a Korean Baptist children's choir perform during last week's Baptist World Alliance meeting in Spain.

BWA gathering undergirds Baptist witness in Spain

SEVILLE, Spain—A Korean children's choir singing in English at a Spanish church reflected the international flavor of last week's Baptist World Alliance General Council meeting.

The "Evening with Spanish Baptists" was held July 12 at the 140-member Evangelical Baptist Church of Seville, the only Baptist congregation in a city of 700,000 people.

The annual General Council meeting attracted more than 540 participants from 65 countries, making it the BWA's largest council event. The international Baptist group also hosts a Baptist World Congress every five years that attracts several thousand participants.

Last week's meeting initially was scheduled for Beirut, Lebanon, but was switched to Western Europe after concern about travel to the Middle East in the wake of Sept. 11.

"It's a miracle tonight that we are gathered here in the name of Jesus," said Manuel Sarrias, general secretary of the Spanish Evangelical Baptist Union.

Describing Spain as a mission field with only 0.25 percent of the population identified as evangelical believers, Sarrias said, "We are here where God has placed us. We want to be faithful to our Baptist principles."

During the July 9-13 General Council meeting, members adopted resolutions on terrorism and violence in the Middle East.

Denouncing "the use of violence in the name of God and the service of religion," the resolution on terrorism called on BWA member bodies "to reaffirm the conviction that Christ's kingdom will be served only by means consistent with the Prince of Peace." It also affirmed BWA's "willingness to engage in debate and conversation with other religions and ideologies to resolve areas of tension."

The resolution on the Middle East deplored the continuing violence and called on all Baptists to "pray for reconciliation among the peoples of the Middle East." It also urged all nations to "work diligently for the positive resolution of this regional conflict" and called on the involved parties "to end the violence and to negotiate a lasting peace in the spirit of forgiveness and grace."

Other resolutions addressed such issues as evangelism, the worth of children and the need for increased financial support of BWA by its member bodies.

Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary, said a key focus of the organization is to "defend the rights and freedom of our suffering brothers and sisters" around the world.

He said the weeklong meeting, which included reports from Baptist work in nations throughout the world, was a reminder that "Baptists around the world want to be together and there is strength in unity."

SBC, CBF differences cloud BWA meeting

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

SEVILLE, Spain—The 11-year conflict between the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention reached the international stage last week in Seville, Spain.

Evaluating CBF's application for membership in the Baptist World Alliance, the BWA's membership committee issued a three-page report outlining the criteria for CBF to be recommended next year for BWA membership. Several members of the SBC delegation responded by voting against receiving the committee's report.

Despite SBC leaders' opposition, the 290-member BWA General Council voted overwhelmingly to receive the committee report. The action came during the BWA's annual General Council meeting July 9-13 in Seville.

Among the principal players in the unfolding drama, BWA is the international umbrella organization of Baptists. Founded in 1905, it represents more than 200 Baptist unions and conventions that include approximately 44.5 million baptized believers and 110 million worshippers in 193,000 Baptist churches.

The SBC, one of BWA's founding members, is the group's largest member body with 16 million church members. It funds approximately 20 percent of BWA's \$2.1 million annual budget.

The CBF was established in 1991 by Southern Baptist moderates in response to conservative control of the SBC. CBF leaders repeatedly have refused to identify the organization as a separate Baptist convention.

The CBF-SBC debate overshadowed other actions at the five-day BWA meeting, including resolutions addressing such issues as terrorism, violence in the Middle East and evangelism. BWA President Billy Kim of Korea, completing the second year of his five-year term, even offered to resign if he could not help resolve the membership issue in the coming year.

CBF officials first applied for BWA membership a year ago. The membership committee deferred action on the request at that time, citing concerns about the CBF's relationship with the SBC as well as whether CBF could be identified as a separate Baptist entity.

CBF leaders reapplied this year with additional supporting documentation, gaining a favorable hearing from the 20-member committee.

"All conversations between the CBF and the membership committee have been warm and favorable and we have been left with very positive views of the CBF as an organization," the report states.

While "we recognize the independent legal status of the CBF as an organization," the committee said it continued to study the issue of CBF's separate identity "given the overlapping constituencies between their fellowship and that of the SBC."

The report notes the committee's other primary concern "is the public nature of the deep differences which

still mark the relationship between the CBF and the SBC."

Citing key objectives in the BWA constitution "to promote understanding and cooperation among Baptists" and "to act as an agency of reconciliation," the report emphasized that BWA's failure to address those issues would "bring into question the integrity of the BWA."

The committee added, however, that it believes CBF's application can be recommended to the General Council next year if the CBF will "affirm publicly ... that they have separated themselves from the structures and organization of the SBC, and have a distinctly diverse understanding to the SBC of what it means to be an organized body of Baptist churches and individuals in covenant relationship."

The committee also called on Kim and BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz "to work with others toward enabling better understanding and respect between the CBF and the SBC."

Membership committee chairman Ian Hawley of Australia told General Council members, "We are dealing here with issues of great pain, hurt and sorrow for many people."

Noting that the committee "has sensed God's guidance in the process through which we have passed," he added, "We ask for your trust and acceptance of this report."

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, responded by noting that Southern Baptist leaders "disagree with some of the presuppositions that undergird the process being recommended by the committee."

CBF Coordinator Daniel Vestal expressed appreciation for the committee's consideration of CBF's application.

"We want to pledge to you our willingness to cooperate in all ways to fulfill the requests of the committee," Vestal said. "We deeply desire to be a full participating member of this world body in serving God and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Chapman told the Western Recorder his concerns include the committee's view of CBF's organizational status.

"I differed with the statement by the committee that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship had already with great clarity expressed its separation from the Southern Baptist Convention," he said. "That just has not happened."

He also expressed concern that the committee rejected SBC leaders' request that the committee's work not be made public until the group had reached its final recommendation on the issue.

Hawley said one of the reasons the committee released a report this year was because of widespread misinterpretations about last year's decision to defer action.

"There were wrong motives given for our decision," he explained. "We

wanted to give people the idea of our thinking. ... We're trying to fulfill not just the legal requirements of the constitution but the spirit."

In a statement issued to Baptist Press, Chapman labeled the committee's decision a "swift and needless action." He said the SBC's "valued relationship" with the BWA "may have been damaged beyond repair."

The SBC "historically has existed alongside Baptists who have differences, but this is totally different," Chapman emphasized. "It does not seem like there is a closing of a gap but a widening" between the SBC and CBF.

Despite Chapman's concerns, Vestal expressed hope for a positive outcome. "I would hope that the SBC

would accept us as brothers and sisters in Christ," he said. "We accept them as brothers and sisters in Christ and desire fellowship, partnership and serving God together in the Baptist World Alliance."

Citing the committee's criteria for membership, Vestal said, "They've asked us to declare ourselves as a Baptist body that is not an integral part of the Southern Baptist Convention. That's not a problem because we're not and we feel like we haven't been since the beginning."

While the CBF Coordinating Council, the group's governing body, will need to take formal action on the issue, Vestal added, "I'm comfortable that the Coordinating Council will draft a document that will satisfy the requests of the membership committee."

Hawley said the committee is "desperate to see brothers in Christ able to coexist with one another."

"If we are brothers and sisters in Jesus, we ought to be able to accept one another and accept differences," he emphasized. "We're not asking for reconciliation but for respect and understanding and agreeing to disagree on some of the big issues."

Prior to the vote to receive the report, BWA President Kim told council members, "I believe we are moving in a right direction but we don't want to hurry. We need to have a healing of some of those wounds."

During the council's closing session, Kim again addressed the issue.

"I leave this General Council with a heavy heart," he said. "I want to see peacemaking between the SBC and CBF."

Describing the SBC as "our big brother" among global Baptists, he noted, "I love the SBC. I do not want them to leave. ... We hope for one big step of reconciliation."

Announcing that he will resign the BWA presidency "if things do not resolve," Kim said BWA leaders will seek to work with both sides in the coming year to achieve a satisfactory solution.

"If we do our part, God will do His part," he affirmed. "There are a lot of wounded soldiers, but God has healing power."



BWA President Billy Kim

KENTUCKY

Kentucky church's mission trip mobilizes 350 members

Continued from page 1
and other ministry options.

"The people want to be involved in a way they know they can be used," Fuson said. Through Missioncation, he added, "they can come away and taste what God can do with them."

In addition to working Monday through Thursday on ministry projects, the "cation" part of Missioncation involves families and friends taking part in vacation-type activities each evening and all day Friday.

"It's appealing for people to come away on a family trip with their church family," Fuson noted. "This is a week where we experience a lot of family. People link their stories together because they're working and playing together."

"It 'sticky-fies' everything," he explained. "I believe it's been a huge catalyst in our church, giving people ownership of ministry."

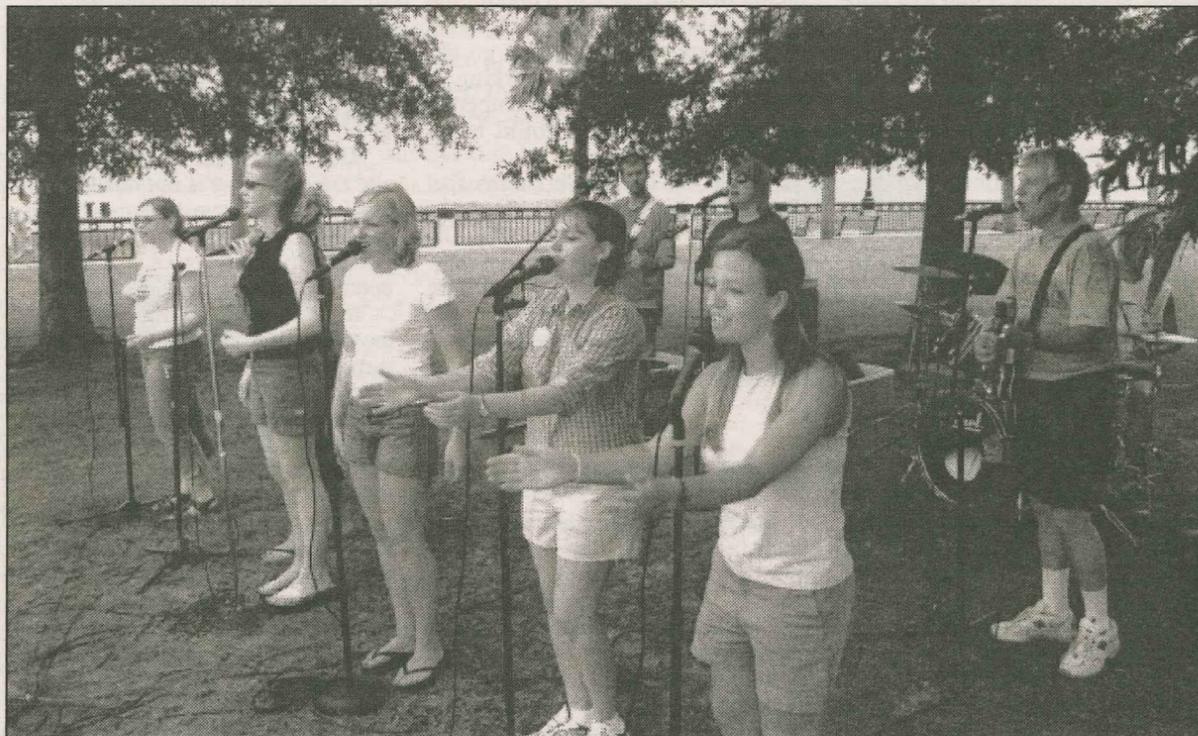
After the team rolled into Charleston Sunday evening, workers made last-minute preparations for the widespread ministry projects that began Monday morning.

Habitat volunteers worked with two area Habitat affiliates, doing extensive construction on one house at each site as well as smaller projects on four or five other houses.

Teams working at four community centers provided Bible stories, music, craft activities and recreation for neighborhood children. Several youngsters made professions of faith in Christ by the end of the week.

Beach and market ministries included distributing free bottled water and suntan lotion to vacationers, as well as offering evangelistic tracts and words of personal witness. The church's praise team and puppet team performed at several of the sites as other workers provided free face-painting and distributed witness bracelets.

"The goal was to provide enough opportunities for everyone to plug into their passion—an array of opportunities for different people," explained Steve McCarty who coordinated the Habitat and Repair Affair projects. "The secondary goal was to provide



OUTREACH IMPACT Approximately 350 mission volunteers participated in Crestwood Church's recent "Missioncation" trip to Charleston, S.C. ■ Above: Members of Crestwood's praise team perform at Charleston's Waterfront Park. ■ Right: Volunteer Randy Spiars distributes witness bracelets as part of a beach and market outreach project. (Photos by Trennis Henderson)

an atmosphere for people to enjoy their own families and to get to know their church family at a deeper level."

On the ministry side, he added, "the foundational goal of the whole trip is to provide hope for people at whatever their base need is. The goal of everything we did was to let people know Jesus loves them."

Greg Thomas, construction supervisor for East Cooper Habitat, said his organization typically receives up to 150 applications for the two to four houses the affiliate builds each year.

Noting that "this kind of group is a godsend," Thomas said the Crestwood team installed trusses, roofing, shingles, windows, doors, siding, porches and interior walls during the four-day project.

"What this group did for us in four days would take us four months," he

said. "This allows us to build four houses. Without this, I couldn't do it."

Such efforts "keep the whole spirit of Habitat alive," Thomas emphasized. "In addition to building a house, you're spreading a message. The people who live in this house will never forget the volunteers who came."

Betsy Inman, 16, was among 120 youth who took part in Missioncation.

Helping install windows and siding on her first Habitat project, the high school junior noted, "I could see the beginning of what I did, the end of what I did and the impact of what I did. I have a sense of accomplishment."

Gayle Cochran coordinated Missioncation efforts at one of the area community centers.

"Our role this week is to offer the plan of salvation to every child in the community centers and to reach out in friendship to the camp counselors," she explained.

Noting that "these kids need a break," she added, "I just love kids. I know if we don't reach kids, they're even harder to reach as adults."

Robert Webb, park commissioner at Pepperhill Community Center, said he was thrilled by the involvement of the Crestwood volunteers.

"This is great," he said. "Some of these kids don't know what love is. Some of them have never had this much attention."

Noting that many of the children as young as age 7 or 8 roam neighborhood streets unsupervised for hours at a time, Webb added, "I don't know how many even go to church. I'm hoping if 50 percent of them will learn something here, it would be a huge success."

Randy Spiars, who worked on the beach and market witnessing teams, spent much of his time striking up conversations with strangers as he gave away bottled water, witness



bracelets and tracts.

"We had countless conversations that went in all kinds of directions," he recalled. "The best conversations I had were in the market," a popular tourist area in Charleston's historic district.

"I got to lead three kids to the Lord in the market," he explained. "It's planting, watering, harvesting. So many people are unchurched that you're building a foundation."

Spiars said his Missioncation experience has rekindled his evangelistic fervor. Though "I've always been evangelistic," he added, "I'm taking away a renewed desire to witness, to take those opportunities that maybe I wasn't taking."

Such results are the bottom line, according to Crestwood Pastor Troy Dobbs.

"We've had the opportunity to utilize a lot of different gifts this week," he said. "I think it whets the appetite of folks to go."

"The plan is for this to be a springboard to do missions locally, statewide, nationally and internationally," Dobbs added. "Our whole strategy is for people to experience missions wherever that is, whether it's going across the street or around the world."



CRAFT PROJECT Pam Lunsford helps a youngster with a craft project as part of a community center ministry emphasis. Team members also shared Bible stories, games and music with area children.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ A benefit gospel sing for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will be held July 27 at 5 p.m. at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in Cythiana. For more information, call (800) 456-1386.

■ First Baptist Church of Russell and Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville were among the nationwide recipients of "LINKie Awards" for their use of Internet Web sites for ministry. The awards were presented by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, which assists churches and associations in creating and maintaining Web sites. First Baptist's site is www.fbcrossell.com, and Long Run's site is www.longrunbaptist.org.

■ Georgetown College's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society, was among 13 chapters nationally to receive the group's Circle of Distinction Award. The chapter was chosen from among the society's 279 circles.

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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Respect differences

As director of the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community and as a Baptist, I wish to respond to comments made by Jerry Vines concerning Islam. First, Vines' reference to Muhammad as a "demon-possessed pedophile" is inflammatory and seems designed to attack rather than shed light on legitimate differences between Islam and Christianity.

Second, Vines' comments regarding religious pluralism reflect confusion about the reality of religious diversity. Vines confuses religious diversity with a popular view known as "cultural relativism." Southern Baptist leaders who defend Vines claim his offense is "political incorrectness," and those who are critical are using tolerance to squelch discussion of religious differences.

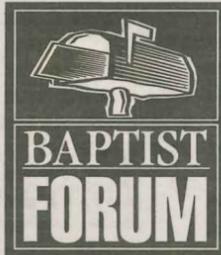
Only by discussing differences and commonalities can we hope to increase mutual understanding and respect. Raising questions about our responses to religious diversity is fair; elevating one's own faith at the expense of another with misleading and inaccurate statements is unfair.

Third, Vines' comments equating Islam and violence are inaccurate. To claim Allah wills that all Muslims become violent terrorists is slanderous. The question is not whether there are specific Muslim texts that advocate violence against others. Muslim scholars would note that these passages have specific contexts and multiple interpretations, concepts most Christians can appreciate.

Are there radical Muslims who use their religious traditions to justify and incite violence? Yes. To suggest, however, that such a stance is true of all Muslims or that Islam is an inherently violent tradition is

insulting to the millions of peace-loving Muslims around the world.

Fourth, the wisdom of such comments from a leader in a denomination that has missionaries in many Muslim contexts for people not go unchallenged. For those who work in Muslim countries, such intemperate statements could bring real danger.



Many Christians feel that bearing witness to one's faith is essential. To attack and inaccurately characterize another faith tradition is not in keeping with the message and actions of Jesus.

Roy Fuller
Louisville

Spiritual darkness

I recently finished a book—yet unpublished—on the Revelation. I too question the theology of the "Left Behind" novels. The pre-tribulation position is just plain wrong. But so are the other positions.

Interpretations of the Revelation based on an incorrect understanding of the millennium and the tribulation merely falsehood upon error. They actually evidence a rebellious heart and a spirit of unbelief, not taking the Word of God seriously.

Anyone who adds to or subtracts from the prophecy will suffer its plagues. If that warning is not true, then why bother about the prophecy? And if it is true, then the judgments of God surely will come upon all the false prophets.

The rapture, the mark of the beast, the millennium, the identity of the anti-Christ and the thousand other riddles of the Revelation are understandable. The Revelation was not meant to be sealed. The plagues are taking effect. Its prophetic finger points accusingly at the spiritually darkened mainstream churches and prophets of our own day, who cannot understand.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Billy Graham mission impact

The recent Billy Graham mission in Cincinnati was a great success with a record crowd for Paul Brown Stadium. More than 65,600 people gathered at the final service to hear Dr. Graham in person perhaps for the last time.

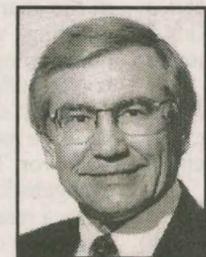
It was very special for me to hear his share about his near-death experiences during stays in the hospital on two occasions. He said his entire life flashed before him but it was not about being a preacher. It was about being a sinner and in need of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

This mission was a time of reconciliation. Dr. Graham met with and apologized to Jewish leaders for a statement made 30 years ago on a Nixon White House tape. "We need to do everything we can to be friends and neighbors to those chosen by God to be His people," he told the mission crowd.

Dr. Graham also met and prayed with Damon Lynch Jr., one of the local mission organizers, whose son has

organized boycotts in Cincinnati. "We will never be the same after this week," Lynch said.

It was a week of transformation with 11,212 people registering significant decisions for Jesus Christ. Of those, 6,696 were initial commitments in faith to Jesus Christ. Churches are following up with each person who registered a commitment.



Bill Mackey

Saturday was a special day of celebration for children on Saturday morning and youth on Saturday night. The Kidz Gig was great fun and the youth service was filled with energy and praise.

The closing service had high moments of exclamation. Dr. Graham thanked everyone who had provided leadership including Larry Davis, pastor of Cold Spring First Baptist Church, who had the original vision for the mission. Strong leadership came from a number of people in Northern Kentucky Baptist Association including Arnold Caddell, who served as treasurer, and Rick Robbins,

For those who really want to know the disturbing truth about the end-times and Christianity, it is now available. But it will not be popular.

John C'de Baca
Lexington

End-times confusion

The latest craze with Revelation and the end-times is not new and not original. We have had the "chart-preachers" all around us. One can only guess why there is such emphasis upon this topic.

Jesus said He did not know when the end was coming and we can assume that He meant it. Doctrinalists always push the envelope while trying to appear that they have some special knowledge that Jesus was denied. This type of preaching needs to be watched carefully.

The letter of Revelation was written to seven churches and we can presume that it was delivered. If the imagery made sense to those members, it is so as the result of social events of that time. Who among us can make sense of it? Did this John think this letter, written specifically to these particular churches, would become a part of what is today known as the Bible? Hardly. He wrote to them about local conditions and the manner in which he penned his remarks is lost upon us.

If, on the other hand, he wrote it for generations that would live hundreds of years later, then it would have made no sense to those to whom it was addressed. What do we do with this information? The safe assumption is that it was written at that time for those people and they knew what he was saying to them.

Revelation just barely made it into the Canon and it took many years to accomplish its admittance. One scholar was quoted as saying that his preference was to have wished it dropped into the sea.

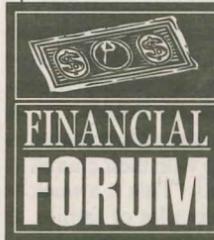
Edward Clark
Danville

GIVING

Gift annuities aid retirement and charitable goals

By Laurie Valentine

Would you like to accumulate more resources for your retirement years on a tax-favored basis than you currently are able to do through Keogh, 401(k) or other quali-



fied retirement plan contributions? What if you also could provide future financial support to one or more charitable causes? If you answered "yes," check out deferred charitable gift annuities.

A deferred charitable gift annuity is a simple contract between you and a charity under which the charity agrees to pay you, beginning at some future date, a fixed amount each year for the remainder of your lifetime in exchange for your gift of cash, appreciated stocks or real estate. Even though the payments to you don't begin immediately, you are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction in the year you make the gift.

Here's an example: Sue, age 45, wants to make a gift that ultimately will benefit international missions. She also is interested in setting aside additional funds for retirement. (She has maxed out the contributions she can make to her retirement plan and IRA.)

Sue can make a gift of \$10,000 to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for international missions in exchange for a deferred charitable gift annuity that will begin to make payments to her at age 65. Her charitable income tax deduction for the year she makes the gift will be approximately \$4,165 and the Foundation would agree to pay her \$2,020 each year for the remainder of her life, starting at age 65. After her death, there would be a significant amount available either for outright distribution to international missions or to fund an endowment fund to provide perpetual support to international missions.

For many people, retirement is many years away. Having to determine at the time you sign the contract when you will want to begin to receive the deferred gift annuity payments might not be appealing. Rather than choosing the annuity payment start date when the charitable gift is made, you can reserve the right to select in the future when those payments will start. The IRS has approved such a plan. This benefit makes deferred gift annuities an even more attractive retirement plan supplement option for charitably-inclined individuals.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

What role does faith in God play in medical treatments?

Q: My doctor seems more encouraging about my belief in God as part of my treatment process than he did in the past. I am wondering what changed his perspective.

While some physicians put little faith in spirituality and religion as therapeutic aids, a growing number are allowing these influences to enter their medical practice.

Recent studies indicate that individuals who regularly attend religious services are less likely to have high blood pressure than those who attend less frequently. Other findings reveal that spirituality aids in recovery from depression, elderly church attendees have healthier immune systems than those who stay at home and participation in a religious community is associated with lower use of hospital services by medically ill older adults. Studies also indicate that spirituality and religion can have a positive public health effect.

Psychiatrist David Larson, president of the National Institute for Healthcare Research in Rockville, Md., said physicians are ready to accept spirituality into their arsenal of treatment provided that good science backs it up. NIHR is a nonprofit organization (not affiliated with the National Institutes of Health) coordinating research on the relationship between spirituality and physical, mental and social health.

"Anyone who thinks (physicians) are stodgy or slow better think again," Larson said. "The link with spirituality and medicine is amazing. If there's published research, physicians look at it and proceed."—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: I am experiencing great frustration in my relationship with my fiancé. When we have a conflict I get disturbing feelings that I don't understand and can't explain. I read somewhere that when I am in conflict with someone, it is helpful to "self soothe." What is self soothing? Do you have any suggestions about how to do it?

A baby does self soothing when the parents leave the room and the baby clutches a blanket or teddy bear to calm down. For an adult, self soothing can help one function and grow in a vital relationship. Ways to self soothe include:

- **Breathe deeply.** This by itself can help you relax.
- **Recite a meaningful scripture such as Psalm 23 or the Lord's Prayer.** For centuries, people have prayed these classic passages to gain a sense of God's presence.
- **Ask yourself:** "What difference will this make five years from now?" Remind yourself, "This too shall pass."
- **Write your feelings in a journal.** This helps clarify deeper issues.
- **Think big.** Instead of "my" hurt, think about "the" hurt, frustration or misunderstanding. You are not alone in experiencing pain. The other person likely is experiencing the other side of your pain.
- **Call a trusted friend to gain an outside perspective.** Ask if he or she thinks your situation is normal.
- **Distract yourself.** Work with your plants, listen to music, rent a movie, read a novel, take a walk—anything to keep you from being self-absorbed.
- **Get counseling.** There is so much doctors and counselors know today about the brain and its relationship to emotions that wasn't known just a decade ago. Why continue to suffer when you can experience healing with the aid of good therapy and counseling?—*James Stillwell*

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



Mission trips build church relationships

When is a local church mission trip more than a mission trip? When it involves building relationships among volunteers that help strengthen the ongoing life and ministry of the church.

That was the case for my family and me and nearly 350 other members of Crestwood Baptist Church as we recently took part in a weeklong "Missioncation" trip to Charleston, S.C.

Most folks have heard mission volunteers say something like: "I went to serve others but I received the greater blessing." That's not merely church talk; it is reality for thousands of volunteers who serve each year on mission fields at home and around the world.

While the ministry impact on the field remains the top motivation, relationship-building is a significant byproduct of most mission trips.

Crestwood's Missioncation experience was no exception. With approximately one-third of our church's active members involved in the trip, participants had ample opportunities to strengthen existing friendships and get acquainted for the first time with other church members. Back home, hundreds of other members were involved through pre-trip planning, prayer and financial support.

"It really helps bring the church closer together," emphasized Missioncation volunteer Pam Walpole. "It's like a big family reunion."

Pastor Troy Dobbs described Missioncation as "the ultimate connector of generations."

Citing the experiences of adults and youth working side-by-side on such projects as Habitat for Humanity and Upward Basketball, he said, "If you want to bridge the generation gap, this is the way to do it."

Dobbs acknowledged that he initially underestimated

the value of the project enhancing relationships among church members. He quickly discovered, however, that "something as simple as putting a face with a name is huge. It builds community."

Noting that "you don't have to climb on a bus and travel across the country to do ministry," he added, "Any size church can do it. It absolutely sets the laity free."

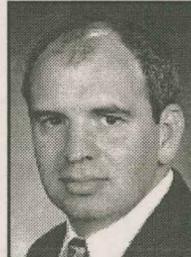
Anne Ruschival, a senior at South Oldham High School, led music at a community center each morning and performed with the church's praise band in the afternoons. "I think this was really what God wanted me to do," she said. "I feel like I can go out in my own community and tell people about the Lord. I have the strength to do that now."

Jatana Pifer, who worked with children at a Charleston-area community center, said it was a blessing to realize she was one small part of a much bigger picture. "Seeing it all work together with 350 people is amazing," she said. "God just works in wonderful ways."

Our family's experience was fairly typical. Emily, our 15-year-old daughter, and I worked together on a Habitat project while Pam taught Bible stories at a community center and 12-year-old Audrey performed with Crestwood's puppet team. We also spent quality time with friends and built several new relationships.

While Missioncation was a unique ministry experience, most churches have the resources to sponsor a mission project of some size, whether it's a neighborhood block party in your own church parking lot, a short-term overseas trip or something in between. It's a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel, strengthen relationships and mobilize your congregation for future ministry.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

The half-Christian syndrome

By David Gushee

JACKSON, Tenn. (RNS)—Polls reveal that nearly 90 percent of Americans say they believe in God. In the context of American history and culture, the God most of them believe in is some version of the Christian God.

Yet on any given Sunday, by generous estimates a mere 40 percent of Americans attend church. This compares favorably to another historically Christian region, Europe, where church attendance often runs in the single digits. Still, the gap between 90 and 40 percent is no small thing.

What accounts for it?

Jesus gave a fascinating lesson intended to explain the range of responses people of His own time had when receiving the word of God. Many Christians today assume there are only two possible responses—belief or disbelief—but in the parable of the sower and the seed Jesus outlined four.

Some people's hearts are impenetrable. They hear the word and it simply bounces off, never finding receptive soil. A second group responds joyfully, but only for a brief time. In them, roots do not grow very deep. When trouble or persecution come, their faith is quickly upended and falls away, like a seedling torn out by a storm.

A third group responds positively to the word and faith begins to grow

in them. However, worldly concerns ultimately choke out any possibility for mature and fruitful growth. Only the fourth group has the whole package. They respond positively to the word of God, the roots of faith grow deep within them, they succeed in avoiding the distraction of troubles and happier times, and they ultimately bear great fruit in the work of God's Kingdom.

In nearly 20 years of Christian ministry, I have experienced the truth of this parable countless times. Perhaps nowhere has this parable been confirmed for me more readily than where I now reside, in a small town in the Bible Belt.

The pervasiveness of organized Christianity in this region is extraordinary. You pass a church on every corner. Most folks profess to having been in church at some time in their lives, the vast majority unhesitatingly identify themselves as Christians, and the cultural influence of the churches extends deeply into public life.

But this pervasive cultural influence is a double-edge sword. For every deeply committed and fruitful Christian disciple it produces, it seems also to produce at least one post-Christian and members of a group I would call "half-Christian"—the one-time believers who haven't abandoned Christian faith "officially," but who seem to have done so in other ways.

Surely there are a variety of rea-

sons for disparities among "the faithful." Jesus' parable would lead us to the conclusion that it's always been this way. There have been and always will be four different kinds of responses to the word of God, not just two.

But there are factors peculiar to this region and time, while also reflective of Christianity throughout America. Many in the post-Christian, or at least post-churchgoing, camp have fallen prey to the error of misunderstanding Christianity as a one-time transaction intended to ensure eternal salvation.

Churches themselves bear primary blame for this. To reduce the message of the Bible to a quick "fire insurance" baptismal experience is a disastrous mistake. It produces a large number of dunked half-Christians who need the real Jesus Christ to direct their lives, not the illusory security of a hasty baptism.

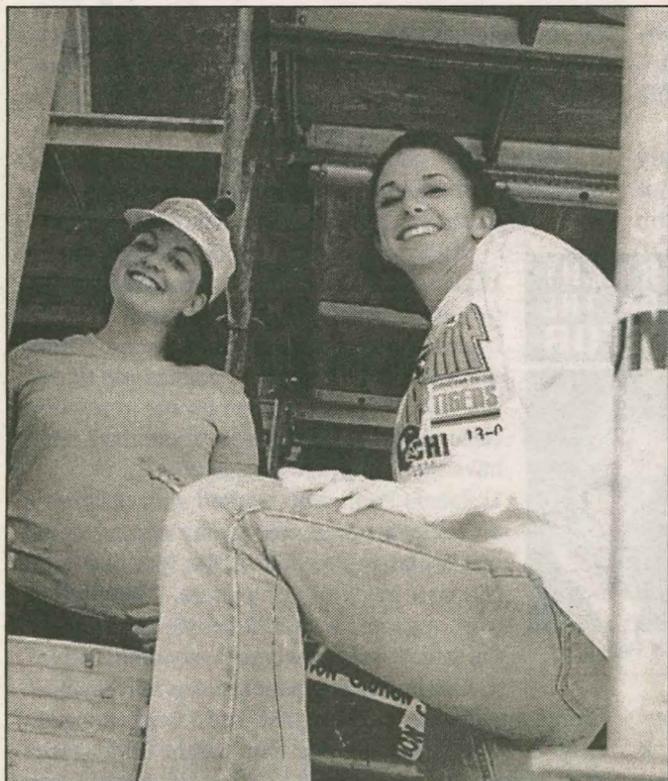
Others have been burned by lousy church experiences—hypocrisy, legalism, hyper-traditionalism, atrocious preaching, politicized faith, church splits. Many have given up on church, not on Jesus. But, unfortunately for them, there is no New Testament provision for privatized Christianity. Such "personal religion" tends to collapse in the long run.

The question remains, however, whether those leaving the church for such reasons, or the churchgoers convincing them to leave, are the actual half-Christians.

David Gushee is an associate professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

KENTUCKY

Leader cites Sept. 11 for Georgetown missionary decline



STUDENT MISSIONS Stephanie Collins, right, and Ashley Gill take a break from a mission trip in Washington, D.C., earlier this year. Georgetown's campus minister cites the Sept. 11 attack as the reason for a significant drop in summer missionaries from the school.

By Shemeka Gill
Georgetown College

GEORGETOWN—The aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks continues to affect many aspects of American life, including a drop in the number of Georgetown College summer missionaries, according to the school's campus minister.

"Many parents are hesitant and unwillingly to send their children overseas at this time," Sharon Felton said recently.

On average, 60-70 Georgetown students serve each summer as missions workers. This year, that number is down to 45, Felton said.

Despite any threats from terrorists or other dangers, Felton insists that missions work is a calling that still sounds loudly.

"Missions are what we've been called to do. We're called to love the world, to baptize and make disciples. It's a calling to all Christians," she said.

Lower numbers don't represent lessened enthusiasm on behalf of those students who are venturing out. Angie Blanton said she was even more eager after Sept. 11 to minister in South Africa this summer.

"I feel like now is the most impor-

tant time to go, because now people need a positive American image and a positive Christian image," said Blanton, a native of Mount Vernon who is serving as an interim music minister at a church in Johannesburg.

The growing AIDS epidemic on the African continent contributes to her sense of urgency, Blanton added. She said some of the people with whom she'll share the gospel might not be alive another year, making her mission all the more important.

Other students serving overseas this summer include Jerica Wallace of Georgetown, in Haiti; Andrea Davis of Georgetown and Daniel Harrison of Sadieville, in Bosnia; and others who will venture as far as Venezuela.

Other students will stay closer to home. Leslie Cashion, a member of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, will serve as a youth minister at Georgetown's Faith Baptist Church. Other students will serve needs in California, Arkansas, Alaska and across the nation with Passport, Crosspoint and other ministry-oriented organizations.

Although she previously has served in Taiwan and Kenya, Ashley Gill of Winchester decided to stay close to home this summer and serve a local church. She is working as a children's minister at Winchester's

Central Baptist Church.

Gill said her decision was motivated by an opportunity to serve children in her hometown, not fear. She noted that she participated in a college mission trip to Washington, D.C., last spring despite the threat of terrorism in the nation's capital.

"In a theology class at Georgetown, I learned that it's important to really live as a Christian," Gill said. "The trip was intriguing to me, despite the terrorist attacks. I was able to work with homeless people face-to-face, instead of sweeping the issue under the rug."

Gill, who is considering attending seminary after graduation, also said she'd seriously consider another overseas trip. "If anything, the attacks created more of a sense of urgency to help others," she said. "Terrorism has shown me that it's time for missionaries to take action."

Felton also emphasized the impact and purpose of summer missions.

"It changes people's lives—the people who go and the people they go to," she said. "It broadens their perspective, or image of God and worship. Students discover that people across the world or even across the street, worship the same God in a different way."

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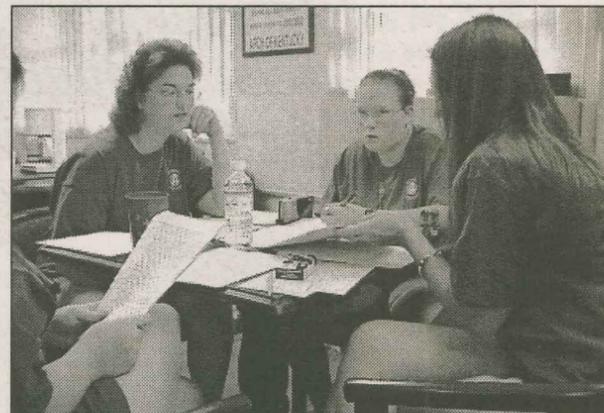
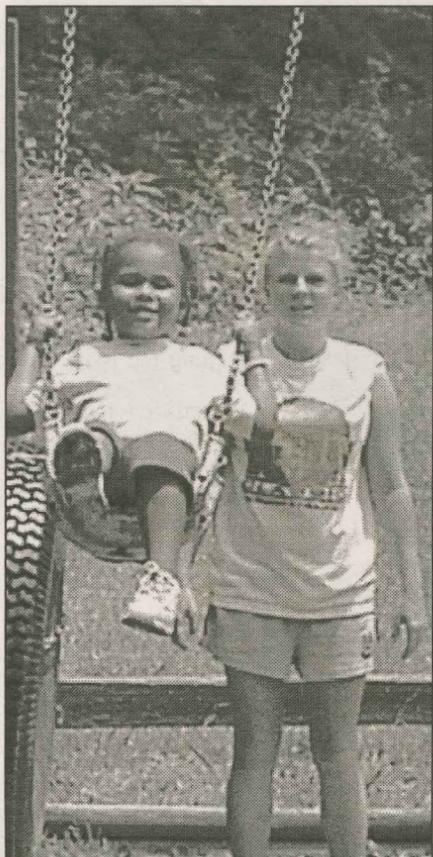
Cost for the study is \$10.00, which includes the evening meal on campus. For further information or to register contact Mrs. Betty Hatfield at 270.789.5029 or e-mail at jbhat2@campbellsvil.edu

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KENTUCKY

A week of ministry in Lynch



Acteen Activators from New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville and Squiresville Baptist Church recently spent a week in Eastern Kentucky performing a variety of ministries, including work with children and food and clothing distribution. ■ **Left:** Jaclyn Minch, an activator from Squiresville Baptist, gives a friend a push. ■ **Above:** Heather Elmore of New Salem Baptist (left) and Minch prepare food at the Covenant Kitchen food ministry in Harlan. ■ **Right Top:** Acteens and advisers from New Salem Baptist compile prayer requests for an upcoming prayer guide for Kentucky Baptists. ■ **Right bottom:** Jessica Smith (left) and Lisa Adams of New Salem box food for distribution at the Manna House, a food pantry in Lynch. (Kentucky WMU photos by LaRaine Dail)

Journey into Worship

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Kentucky Baptist leaders will gather to both experience and study worship through "Journey Into Worship," a Church Health Summit created to help church members experience a variety of worship styles, ideas and approaches to worship and return to their churches with fresh ideas to discuss as it relates to their church.

Participants will experience **THREE** different styles of worship services during the course of the summit. Nationally recognized and respected Christian leaders, including best-selling author Calvin Miller, will lead each of the worship services, allowing participants to ask questions and leaders to explain elements of the service.

As many as 25 different workshop choices will be offered during each of the **FOUR** conference times, each designed especially for the different roles in corporate worship.



Homes for Children summer camp

Georgetown week includes 'goofy fun' and serious choices

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

GEORGETOWN—"Camp is cool," according to Alex, a 15-year-old resident of Spring Meadows Children's Home in Louisville.

What many Kentuckians might find even more cool is the fact that Alex shared his review of KBHC kids camp a day after accepting Jesus Christ as his personal savior.

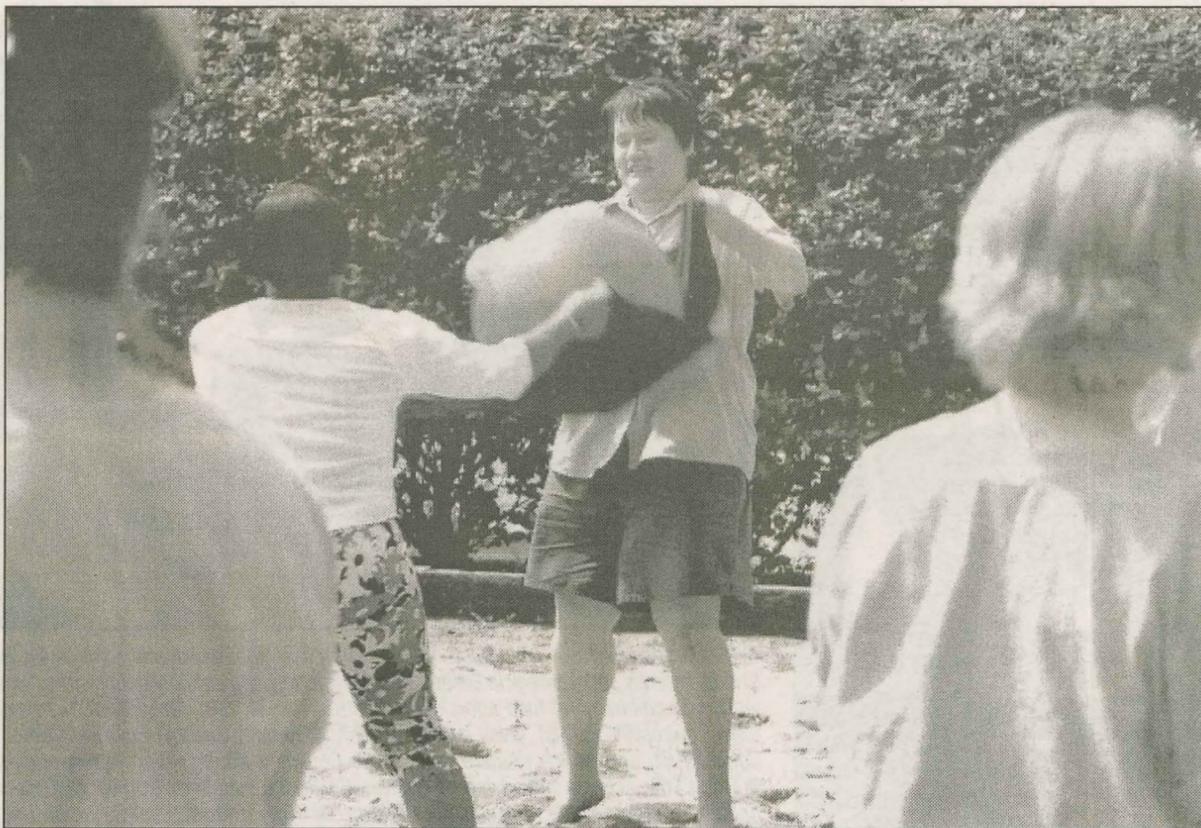
Recently Alex and 60 other youth in care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children participated in four days of recreation, worship and Bible study at Georgetown College.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's summer missions Son Celebration team coordinated the activities, including two daily worship services.

After one of those morning worship services, Alex prayed to receive Christ. At that evening's service, he made his decision public. "I knew it was time to accept God into my life," he said. "God was in my head, my heart, my soul, my mind, my body, my spirit, my life, my everything."

Alex said he believes his decision "will help me forget about my mom's death, to not worry about it as much and to not be afraid of Haist."

According to Gary Haist, a KBHC direct care counselor, "The best things about camp are the times where the kids can hear the gospel and when we have time to follow-up on that.



KIDS CAMP Approximately 60 youth in the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children participated in four days of recreation, worship and Bible study at Georgetown College recently. ■ **Above:** Tiffany (right), a resident of Genesis Home in Mayfield, works with a partner to vault a beach ball. Tiffany accepted Christ at last year's event. ■ **Right:** Five members of the Son Celebration team sing during worship. (KBHC photos by Dannah Prather)



"We've been able to take it a step further and talk to the kids about developing a relationship with God," added Haist, who serves at the agency's Wilderness Camping Treatment Program in Bronston.

Approximately 30 teens from six KBHC residential programs at this year's camp. Tiffany, 14, said this year's camp clarified the decision she made last year to accept Christ. "I've gotten to know the Lord better and I'm trying to have a closer relationship with Him," she said. "It's time to get real about it."

Son Celebration team member Heidi Westerman said she was a little overwhelmed when she learned about the backgrounds of the girls in her Bible study group.

"It seems everything is against these kids," Westerman said. "I can't tell them that everything is going to be OK just because they become a Christian."

Haist said he was impressed with Son Celebration's approach, noting that the KBHC children heard in messages and in Bible studies about the need to grow spiritually. Stay a baby Christian, team members taught, and you will backslide.

David, a resident of the Wilderness Program, said he learned important things about God at this year's camp. "I learned that God is perfect. Everybody says 'nobody's perfect,' but here we found out that Somebody is perfect." David said he made a decision for Jesus during camp, too. "God will

help me more now that He's in my heart."

In addition to Bible study and worship, youth took part in a variety of games, relay races, a scavenger hunt and other activities. Haist said that recreation is more than just activity for teenagers who come from backgrounds of abuse, neglect and crisis. "They're being taught how to have fun without doing negative things. What they do here is just goofy fun."

For David, part of the fun of camp included the worship services. He said Son Celebration's enthusiasm for praising God was contagious. "If they're having fun, then you get into it," he said.

Josh Scott of Son Celebration said KBHC camp was his first opportunity to work exclusively with children and teenagers. "I was overwhelmed by the need of these kids to be loved and accepted," Scott said. "What I wanted to let them know is that even if they feel like they can't trust anybody, they can trust God."

"These are the kids I least want to leave at the end of the week," said Ben Stewart, a former Son Celebration team member who has helped with KBHC's summer camp the last four years. He said he encouraged this year's Son Celebration team "to be

real. These kids are so special. The need love, more than most kids. They don't trust easily, but if you make a connection with them, it's going to be real."

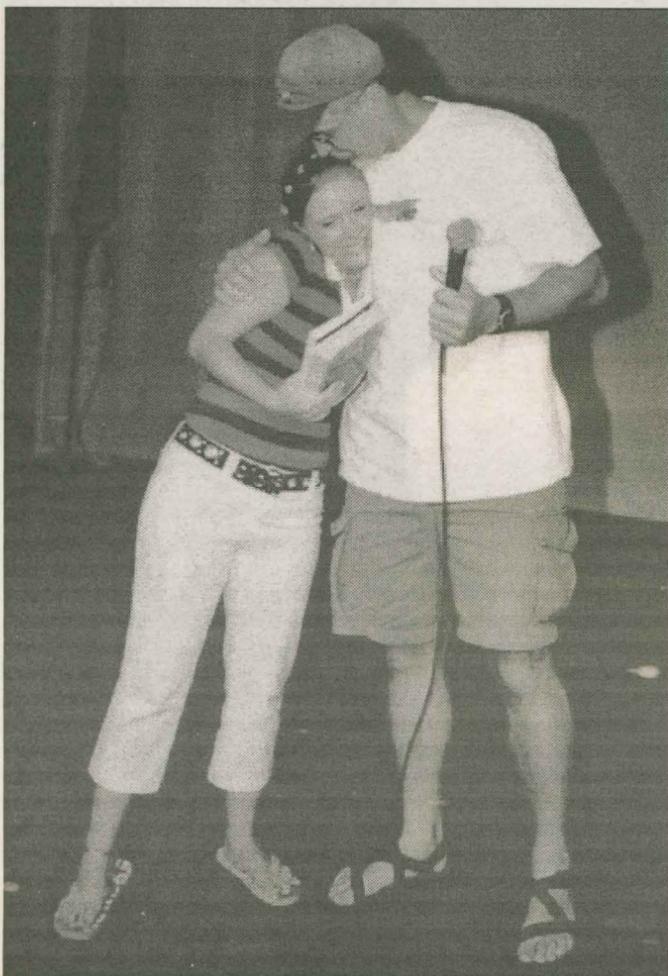
KBHC Vice President for Religious Life Mike Dixon said the KBHC kids camp experience is a true Baptist partnership from start to finish. "We've got Baptists giving money to the KBHC camp fund, we're here at a Baptist college that is helping us reduce costs and provide extras for us and we've got the BSU Son Team working with us," he said. "All this effort combines so our kids can have fun and meet Jesus. It's awesome."

Another camper named Cassie said this year's camp marked two milestones in her life. "When I found out I was going to be at camp on my 16th birthday, I was mad," said the resident of KBHC's Dixon Center. "I didn't want to be here."

But as the week progressed, Cassie said, she began to realize she was having fun and that the Bible study, praise songs, testimonies and worship messages were touching her heart and making sense to her.

"I accepted Christ while I was here," Cassie said, "and it was the best birthday present I could ever have."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Mike Dixon, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's vice president for religious life, wishes Cassie a happy 16th birthday at the closing celebration of camp. Cassie, a resident of KBHC's Dixon Center accepted Christ at this year's camp.



Don't snap

Health expert urges church leaders to buffer time obligations

By Terri Lackey
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Some people's lives resemble a rubber band stretched to its limit, a wellness specialist recently told ministers and other church leaders.

Add one more activity to an overloaded schedule and it can pop, said Tommy Yessick, minister wellness specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We in America tend to not realize that we can be stretched until we can't go anymore, so we add one more thing. And that's what leads to our mounting stress," Yessick said in a workshop on overload syndrome during a church leadership conference at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Yessick asked participants to consider their activities. "Think of all the things you do at church, for your kids, for your family, for the community. Now think of all the things you think you should be doing."

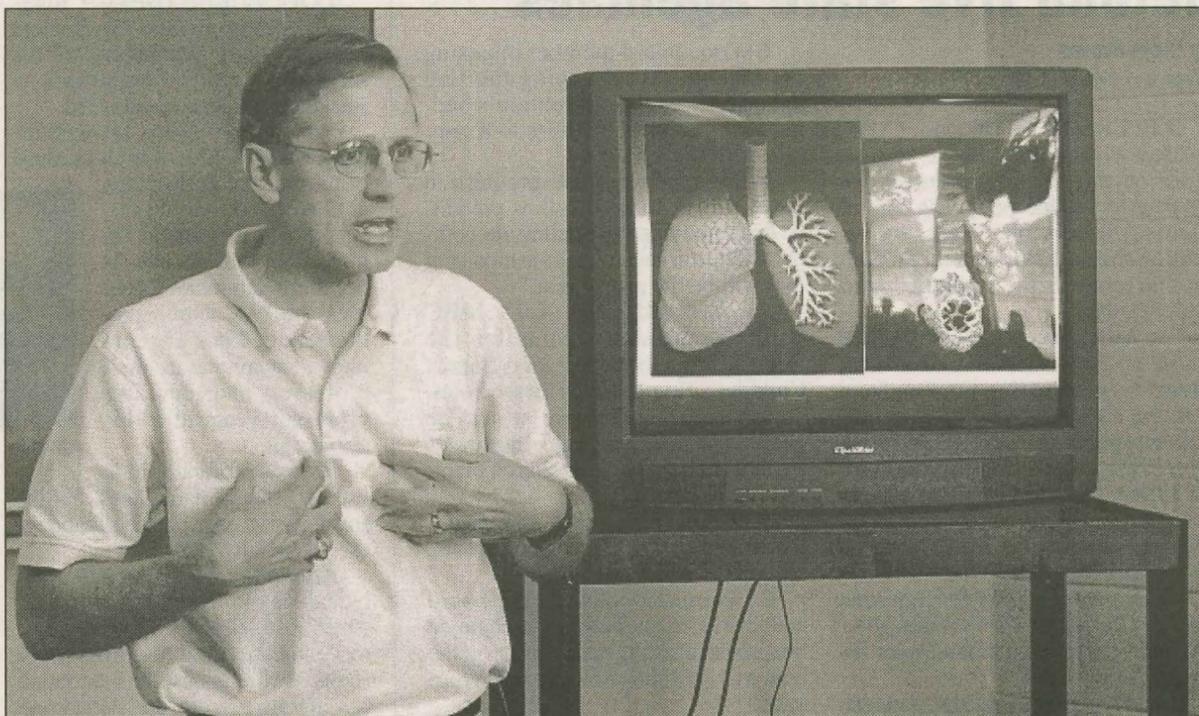
He then asked them to consider their attitudes toward their daily activities.

"What type of attitude do you have as you approach all of your tasks? If you dread many of them, that can add stress to your life too."

People should establish a margin between their load and their limit, Yessick added. "A margin is the space between what you are currently involved in and the limit you can take. The limit is absolutely as far as you can go."

When no buffer exists between load and limit, "exhaustion is the result."

"People need a buffer between, 'I'm doing it, and I feel good about it, and everything is OK' and ex-



ASSESSING OVERLOAD LifeWay Christian Resources' minister wellness specialist Tommy Yessick explains the "overload syndrome" during a workshop at the National Conference for Church Leadership, June 24-28, at LifeWay Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

haustion," he said. "The margin or buffer is the space between vitality and exhaustion."

Overloading on activities not only impacts the individual, it affects his or her families and friends, Yessick said.

"Your joy dries up when you step over the line and stay over the line, and that affects the joy of those around you," he said. "You can step over for a little bit, but you can't stay there."

Americans spend 10 percent more than they have in time, energy and money, he suggested.

"We work hard, play hard and crash hard. You will have to repay the money or somebody will come and get you. But who holds the mortgage on you? Who is the monitor of your time and energy?"

Christians must regulate the activities in their own lives, he said, or they won't be any use to God. To do that takes spiritual discipline, he added, which includes creating a space in which God can work, preventing activities from pushing the limit and finding a place where one is neither

occupied nor preoccupied.

Yessick suggested several tactics for creating a margin between load and limit and increasing the chances of spiritual discipline:

■ **Disconnect from accessibility.** "One of the great ways to take care of overload syndrome is to turn off your cell phone, take your phone off the hook at home or allow the answering machine to pick it up. Don't let anything interrupt your slack time."

■ **Prune activities.** "Quit doing so much; if you add an activity to your schedule, take one away."

■ **Learn to laugh.** "One of the great ways to help overload syndrome is take some time to snicker and laugh. I call it internal jogging."

■ **Minimize time with negative people.** "They pull you down. You find yourself starting to think like them."

■ **Stay with "good enough."** "Do you really need a new car or refrigerator? Sometimes what you have is good enough. You have to make all kinds of decisions when in the market

for something new, and that adds stress. Sometimes learn to say, 'What I have is good enough.'"

■ **Repent from the pride of busyness.** "Some people think if they are doing a lot, they'll look busy, and if they look busy, they'll be valuable. Don't stay busy just for busyness' sake."

■ **Take a break from media and electronics.** "Turn off your TV and keep it off for a day or a week. Don't let the kids play with any electronics for a while. Shut down the computer."

■ **Establish routines.** "This can be very important to help with overload syndrome. Schedule Saturday morning breakfast with your family every week."

■ **Adjust your expectations of yourself.** "You're not a superman or a superwoman."

■ **Ruthlessly eliminate hurry.** "Slow down, enjoy the moment." Yessick said. "The opposite of overload syndrome is learning to take some time to be still."

Burnout is not part of God's plan, speaker tells women's leaders

Continued from page 1

night. Do the tasks that need the most cognitive skills when you are most alert."

■ **Learn to say 'No.'** "This is one of the hardest lessons for us as women, especially leaders, because we are susceptible to the Messiah complex. If we are not in charge of everything, we at least need to be on hand."

Leaders often take pride that they are in great demand, Kennedy noted. "Our calendars are brimming, and we wear that busyness as a badge. But healthy leaders graciously and regularly say 'No' to opportunities presented to them."

■ **Create space for the new things in your life.** "When you get rid of the clutter in your life, you will usually be amazed at the space it leaves,"

Kennedy said. "To find time for a new thing, you have to reduce or eliminate an old thing."

God sometimes narrows a person's life so He can broaden it, she said. "You can trust God in the broadening and narrowing of your life."

■ **Learn to delegate.** "This is a biblical principal. Moses did it. That was the only way in the world he could survive, and it's the best way to train up leaders—by allowing them the freedom to learn and make mistakes."

■ **Make meetings productive.** "Don't ever meet without an agenda, and a numbered agenda is best. People need to know there is a purpose for the meeting, and that there will be an end to it."

■ **Employ time-saving systems.** "If you are going to use the new and

improved electronic calendar, make sure it saves you time. Find out what works for you. Technology can be a time saver or a time waster."

■ **Destroy the paper monster.** "Find out how long you should keep some papers, then after that, don't keep them any more. When you look at paper, determine once where you should keep it. Handle mail now."

She suggested culling out old resources, especially ones that haven't been looked at in two years. "Experts estimate we could throw out 40 to 50 percent of the paper we store up."

■ **Establish a place for everything.** "We have too much stuff. Determine to de-clutter your house."

■ **Establish a quick pick-up plan.** "Get your family to help. Say, 'OK, it's quick clean up time.'"

■ **Do not discount small fragments of time.** "Use the time you spend waiting for appointments to read or write letters. Always keep a book handy."

Kennedy said her son sends red-light prayers to God. "When he stops at a red light, he asks God to bring someone to his mind, and he prays for them."

■ **Assess often and adjust where needed.** "When you find you are not succeeding in this area of redeeming your time, then just back up and ask God what adjustments you need to make."

Every day, each person wakes up with 86,400 seconds of time to spend, Kennedy noted. "We have no balances, overdrafts or carryovers. Try to get the utmost out of each day."

"Your joy dries up when you step over the line and stay over the line."

Tommy Yessick,
minister wellness
specialist for LifeWay
Christian Resources of
the Southern Baptist
Convention

"Sometimes, the most godly thing a wife or mom can do is take a 30-minute nap."

Margaret Kennedy,
founder of Threads of
Hope ministry

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BRIEFS

■ **Texas floods have** activated seven Baptist disaster relief teams from the Lone Star State. Five units have been deployed in south-central Texas, where 13 counties have been declared federal disaster areas. Two other units have been activated after flooding in West Texas.

At least eight people have been killed and 48,000 homes have been affected by flooding from downpours in Texas since July 1.

■ **The District of Columbia Baptist Convention's top official** says he anticipates formation of a new convention loyal to the Southern Baptist Convention in the nation's capital. Jeffrey Haggray, executive director of the D.C. convention, made the prediction after receiving official word that the SBC North American Mission Board is cutting off about \$500,000 a year in funding starting in 2003. NAMB spokesman Marty King said NAMB wouldn't be opposed to working with a new convention, but he speculated that churches leaving the DCBC over the dispute might instead migrate to conventions in nearby Maryland or Virginia.

■ **Alliance of Baptists** leader Stan Hastey addressed an interfaith gathering sponsored by an Islamic organization to state that not all Baptists share Jerry Vines' view of the Muslim faith. Vines, a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, made headlines in June when he preached a sermon describing Muhammad as a "demon-possessed pedophile." In greetings to an interfaith dinner July 5 in Baltimore sponsored by the Islamic Circle of North America, Hastey labeled Vines' comments "vile" and said they "demean you and disgrace us."

Next Missouri budget might defund five state agencies

By Vicki Brown
Missouri Word & Way

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—After voting last year to escrow funds to punish five agencies for moving to self-perpetuating trustee boards, the Missouri Baptist Convention this fall will consider a budget that removes the embattled entities entirely.

The MBC executive board voted 30-16 on July 9 to amend a draft budget by eliminating funding from both the Cooperative Program unified budget and a supplementary state missions offering for The Baptist Home, Missouri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist College, Windermere conference center and the newspaper Word & Way.

Kevin Smith, pastor of Highview Baptist Church of Chillicothe, Mo., said he proposed the amendment for three reasons.

One was to address the concern over escrowed funds. "Churches want the money they give to be put to work in ministry," he said.

Second, he said, reallocating the escrowed funds would "reward" other agencies that have stayed under convention control.

Finally, he said, transferring money earmarked for Word & Way would help The Pathway, a new "official" journal of the MBC approved by the executive board in April, to get off the ground.

But one board member opposing the change said dropping the five agencies from the convention's budget will undermine efforts to reconcile with the agencies.

While reporting little progress in those efforts, Robert Collins predicted that removing the funding altogether "will sever those relationships, and that will be the end of that."

As amended, next year's MBC budget would shift funding for The Baptist Home to the Missouri Baptist Children's Home. Funds for the Foundation and Windermere would be channeled to a Strategic Initiatives Fund and earmarked for church planting.

With the amendment, the executive board voted 31-15 to adopt the budget.

By common consent, the board added an asterisk beside the changed line items referring to a notation at the bottom "until such time as they return to us."

Collins, a director of missions in West Central Baptist Association, said removing allocations for The Baptist Home and Missouri Baptist College from the Rheubin L. South Missouri Mission Offering would send "mixed signals" in promoting state missions.

Kenny Qualls, first vice president of the convention, responded, "It sent mixed signals when the five institutions chose to become self-perpetuating." He said the board was "not acting, just reacting" to those actions.

An evening of celebration

On the first full night of Crossings camp two weeks ago at Jonathan Creek, nearly 300 youth assembled for evening worship that wraps up each busy day of camp.

Night after night, hundreds of youth worship our Lord with praise music that surely causes the angels to rejoice as the voices of the students sing out loudly!

On this particular night, our camp pastor was Randy Record. Many of you know Randy. For those of you who do not know this "young" man, Randy works with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and passionately encourages churches across this state (and now around the world) to do whatever it takes and use their resources to reach this young generation.

Randy boldly proclaimed God's Word, led in a somewhat different invitation and when the time for response came, eight students stood boldly to proclaim that they had accepted Jesus Christ as Savior!

Wow! I just stood back, prayed and watched God work. It was a remarkable moment as applause broke out after each student stood for Jesus. The evening was one of those memorable camp moments that one never forgets, a defining

moment of sorts. It was a very emotional time for me. I grabbed Randy and hugged him and all I can remember saying was, "That's why we built this place! This is the reason we do what we do!"

A similar scene takes place many nights at Cedarmore, as the Discovery camps host students there. Night after night, students

make life-changing decisions. Many are rededications, but I have heard countless testimonies of lives that were forever changed in a camp environment. Two weeks ago, when we add the total students at Cedarmore, the Mission/Adventure Camps at RABRO and Cedar Crest, and the campers at Jonathan Creek, we had 873 kids at our camps.

So celebrate God's work with us. Pray for our staffs at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. As we move into the dog days of summer, camp life goes on under increasingly challenging conditions. Pray that God will protect and work in the lives of our campers and that He will give strength to the staffers that give so much of themselves, that others might know Him as Savior.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Former Southern professor Owens dies

LOUISVILLE (BP)—A longtime Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor known for his mastery of biblical languages as well as his nickname has died.

John Joseph Owens, known simply as "Red Top" to friends because of his hair color, died July 8. Owens, 83, was professor of Old Testament for more than four decades at Southern Seminary, teaching from 1942 until his retirement in 1984. He continued teaching as a senior professor and emeritus professor years after his retirement.



Owens

He was proficient in at least 10 foreign languages, but his specialty was the Semitic languages—especially Hebrew.

After retirement he wrote "Analytical Key to the Old Testament," which is still used by Southern Seminary students. In it he parses every Hebrew word in the Old Testament. Owens also wrote the Broadman Bible Commentaries on Numbers, Daniel and Job.

"He was our No. 1 linguist in Hebrew, Aramaic and all the related Semitic languages for 40 years,"

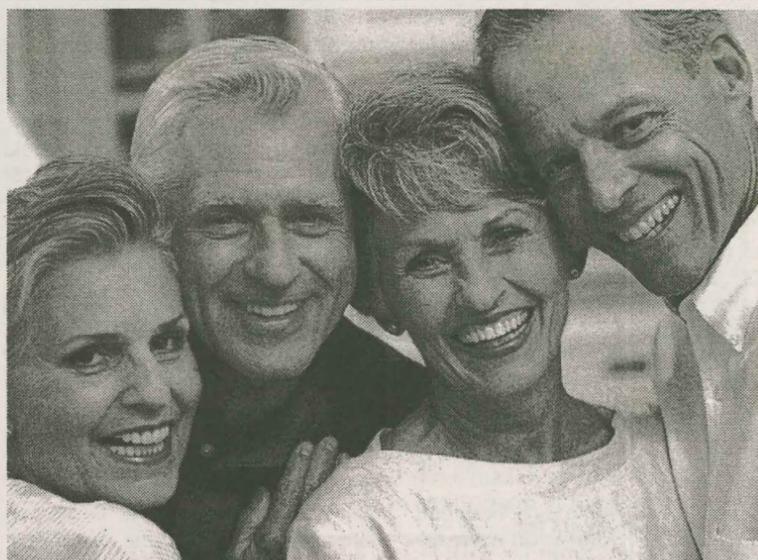
said Wayne Ward, a former Southern Seminary professor who taught alongside Owens. "When he retired, he (was still) our No. 1 linguist."

Owens wanted seminary students to keep their linguistic skills for life. In a 1990 issue of the Southern Seminary publication "The Tie," he told why he was spending so much of his retirement working on "Analytical Key to the Old Testament."

"It's to help the person who has had a little Hebrew and needs the undergirding of an analytical key," he said.

Owens received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and his master's and doctorate degrees from Southern Seminary. Owens' friends knew at an early age he was a brilliant man. He entered OBU at age 13 and Southern at age 18. He earned his doctor of theology at age 24.

The funeral was held July 11 at Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church where he was a member. He is survived by his wife, Mary Frances Owens, two daughters and a son.



Join us this October for Chautauquas at Ridgecrest

In October your senior adults can be part of an enrichment event designed especially for them—Chautauquas. This year's Chautauquas are scheduled for the weeks of October 7-11, October 14-18, and October 21-25 at the LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

The popular fall event for senior adults promises to be a great week of Bible study, worship, and life-enriching conferences—plus, good food and fellowship! In addition, senior adults can enjoy afternoon tours that include the Biltmore Estate and other sites of interest.

Don't delay! Your senior adults will experience "Joy...For the Journey" through this inspiring and fun event. To register for the October Chautauquas at Ridgecrest, call 1-800-588-7222, fax 1-828-669-9721, or write: LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770

For more information, visit www.lifeway.com/events



NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Afghan religious rights monitor requested.** The United States should appoint an official in the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan to monitor religious and human rights abuses in the country, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said in its first report on the country since the United States and its Afghan allies drove the Taliban from power. "If they do not, we will send someone," said Felice Gaer, a member of the commission, adding that the United States needs to do more to ensure a religious freedom focus when Afghanistan starts its reconstruction.

■ **"Brownsville Revival" church recovers from lightning.** The Pensacola, Fla., church known for starting the "Brownsville revival" caught on fire July 4 after being struck by lightning and its sanctuary will need months of repair. Fire marshals determined that a lightning strike to the sanctuary roof caused the fire at Brownsville Assembly of God, the Pensacola News Journal reported. The sanctuary was unoccupied at the time, and firefighters took almost six hours to extinguish the fire. Church officials hope services can resume in the sanctuary by October.

■ **Court: No religious memorials at Columbine High.** A federal appeals court recently backed Columbine High School administrators for barring religious-theme ceramic tiles from a display in the school's hallways. The decision by the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a ruling by a lower court that would have permitted relatives of school shooting victims to hang tiles painted with religious symbols. The tiles were part of a project begun in 1996 by Columbine art students to decorate school halls. After the April 1999 school shooting that claimed 15 lives, administrators invited victims' relatives to decorate 4-inch tiles in memory of those lost. But the school banned tiles with religious content, citing the separation of church and state.

Court OKs church's restraining order against former member

By Ted Parks
Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—In a case that addresses a church's right to define its membership, a California appeals court has supported one congregation's temporary restraining order against a former member.

The California Second District Court of Appeals decision backs the Hollywood Church of Christ in its actions against a former member who church leaders say disrupts activities and vandalizes property.

The church had sought the restraining orders from the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in February and April. But Judge David Yaffe refused, fearing the request would interfere with the free speech rights of member Lady Cage-Barile and entangle the court in internal church affairs.

The recent decision by the appeals court overturns Yaffe's decision, issued in May.

The appeals court ruled that "Cage-Barile's right of free speech does not trump the church's right to prohibit her disruptive conduct on its property." Defining the core issue in the case as trespassing, the appeals court said the dispute did not involve the civil courts in internal church doctrine.

The Hollywood church terminated Cage-Barile's membership last December, when, following what it considered biblical teaching, the congregation "withdrew fellowship" from

Cage-Barile.

Church leaders explained in a letter to the congregation that the church was severing its relationship with Cage-Barile because of her disruptive actions and refusal to honor the requests of the congregation's leadership to change her conduct.

The church's pastor, Dan Rodriguez, painted an alarming portrait of the former member's actions. Cage-Barile, he said, called fellow members "demon-sinners," frequently walked out of services, berated churchgoers who did not agree with her and ripped postings she didn't like from church bulletin boards.

Pastor Rodriguez explained that Cage-Barile believes Hollywood church leaders are violating the Bible by allowing divorced and remarried members to participate in church activities. According to court documents, she also disagreed with the church's Easter celebrations, believing there "is no Easter in the Bible."

The church canceled Wednesday evening services and held other events secretly to avoid confrontation with Cage-Barile, Rodriguez said.

"I've never, ever been in a situation like this," Rodriguez said, noting that some church members have left because of the ongoing feud. "It has been really hard and very discouraging to have members say, 'We love this church, but ... we're not coming back. We can't be here. It's too frustrating.'"

Barna: More people exposed to Christian media than churches

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—The percentage of American adults who spend time with Christian radio, television or books exceeds the percentage of those who attend churches, a Barna Research Group survey shows.

Sixty-seven percent of adults surveyed said they had been exposed to one of those three kinds of religious media in the last month compared to 63 percent who said they had attended a church service in that same time frame.

A total of 52 percent of adults said they tuned into a Christian radio program in the past month.

Researchers for the Ventura, Calif.-based research firm found that 43 percent of adults watched some Christian television programming in the past month. Thirty-three percent of adults said they had read a Christian book other than the Bible in the past month.

Researchers also found that 42 percent of unchurched adults—those who had not attended a service in the past six months other than for a holiday or special event such as a wedding or funeral—also had connected with Christian content in radio, television or books.

Churches,

Have you recently purchased new hymnals for your congregation and now you don't know what to do with your old ones?

Or perhaps you've been wanting to buy new hymnals and have been just waiting for the right time. The time is now! You can purchase new hymnals for your church and pass your used ones on to Oneida Baptist Institute.

The hymnals we use in our daily chapel services are quite worn. We would love to have a donation of Baptist hymnals, either the 1976 edition or a more recent version.



If you would be interested in donating your used hymnals to OBI, please contact:
Dr. W. F. Underwood, 606-847-4111, ext. 202

As always, thank you for your prayerful support of our ministry.

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



Hooked on missions

May graduate Sam Dickenson has returned home to Abingdon, Va., to serve Highlands Fellowship as missions minister. The church, led by Clear Creek graduates Jimmie and Lori Davidson, has an average weekly attendance of 2,000 people. Dickenson expects to involve many of those people in regional, national and international mission experiences. This world outreach vision is the result of Highlands Fellowship reaching out to his family.

A native of Wyoming, Dickenson grew up in Abingdon. After 14 years of work in Montana the family moved back to their roots. "My children starting attending church and convinced their mom to go. She convinced me to attend. During the singing, something hit

me that this was where I needed to be. The children became inquisitive about baptism, and folks from the church told us about Christ. The four of us were baptized at the same service," Dickenson said. "I soon went on a church construction team to Nicaragua. It got me hooked on missions. I talked with my pastor about the desire to help the church do more in missions but recognized my limitations and Bible ignorance. He told me about Clear Creek."

While in school, Sam's wife, Paula, worked at Wal-Mart and Sam was a physical plant employee as backhoe operator and carpenter. His last project involved making wooden panels inscribed with Scripture reflecting the seven days of creation. These are around the top of our 1100-gallon aquarium.

Dickenson will be in Manaus, Brazil, with a Clear Creek team July 12-25. They will do evangelistic outreach in villages along the Amazon River and crusade follow-up and discipleship in Manaus. Team leaders are James and Dorothy Ditty, former missionaries to South Africa. The trustees recently appointed Dr. Ditty as the D.M. Aldridge Distinguished Professor of Missions.

The Lord has provided nearly \$22,000 for team expenses!

The Dickensons also have applied for an associate missionary appointment with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. "We want to go where the Lord directs. If the door opens for overseas service, we will still have the opportunity to involve members of Highlands Fellowship," Sam said.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Navy chaplain's bias suit thrown out, class-action case pending

SAN DIEGO (RNS)—A Navy chaplain who sued the military service charging religious discrimination plans to appeal the case after a San Diego judge ruled in the Navy's favor.

Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Sturm, an evangelical Christian chaplain, filed suit after being denied promotion three years in a row, questioning whether the service's promotional procedures indicated religious discrimination.

After filing the suit in 1999, Sturm was promoted retroactively, but the judge decided still to consider the chaplain's claims that the selection boards within the Navy were "unfairly stacked" in favor of liturgical Protestant chaplains.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Whelan wrote that the Navy has changed the composition of its Chaplaincy Corps selection board so that only two of the seven members are chaplains. In addition, the Navy has removed codes from board materials about the chaplains that would identify their denominational affiliation. "Any form of institutionalized discrimination is not only improbable, but for all practical purposes, impossible," Whelan wrote.

Sturm's lawyer could not be reached for comment, but his office said the attorney has appealed the decision.

Navy officials declined to comment on the case.

"The court finds that the Constitution does not require the Navy to establish a direct proportionality in the faith groups of the Chaplain Corps as the best or only way to meet the Navy's religious needs," Whelan ruled.

The ruling does not settle the issue. In addition to Sturm's appeal, approximately 42 chaplains are named in a class-action suit against the Navy.

Art Schulz, a lawyer for dozens of former and current Navy chaplains in religious discrimination cases in a district court in Washington, D.C., disagreed with the Sturm ruling.

"The purpose of the chaplain is to provide for the free exercise needs of the sailor and the Marine," Schulz said. "If you're going to provide chaplains to meet these free exercise needs, there has to be a relationship between the number of chaplains you have and the number of adherents to the denominations or faith groups. Otherwise what you have is a federal jobs program for religious clergy, and the First Amendment says you can't do that."

Bush ethics panel offers cloning moratorium

WASHINGTON (RNS)—After six months of deliberation, the President's Council on Bioethics issued its long anticipated report on human cloning July 11 but remained divided on whether to ban the controversial procedure.

The panel unanimously recommended permanently banning cloning for reproductive purposes, but failed to reach a consensus on the controversial issue of cloning for biomedical research.

A slight majority of 10 of the council's 18 members called for a four-year moratorium on research cloning to allow time "for further democratic deliberation about ... a subject about which the nation is divided."

Seven members of the council recommended that therapeutic cloning for the treatment of diseases "proceed without substantial delay" with "regulatory protection to avoid abuses and misuses of cloned embryos." One council member abstained.

The panel's divided recommendations reflect a contentious battle

in the Senate over how far restrictions on cloning should go. The House passed a bill that bans all forms of cloning, but several senators want to allow cloning for research purposes.

Leon Kass, chairman of the council, said that the panel's aim hadn't been to "seek consensus" on the matter of research cloning. "We have tried to ground our reflections on the broader plane of human procreation and human healing."

Supporters say cloning research has the potential to cure or treat disabilities such as Parkinson's disease or spinal cord injury. Opponents of the cloning research, including many religious groups, argue that it is wrong to create embryos that will be destroyed.

Council members who support the moratorium were divided in their reasoning. "Some of us hold that cloning for biomedical research can never be ethically pursued, and endorse a moratorium to enable us to continue to make our case in a democratic way," the report said.

"Others support the moratorium

because it would provide the time and incentive required to develop a system of national regulation that might come into use if, at the end of the four-year period, the moratorium ... were not made permanent."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called the moratorium not what he had hoped for, "but it's the best we could expect given the composition of the council."

Land also said a moratorium is better than the current situation, in which there is no regulation of cloning, or one of the two proposed cloning bills in the U.S. Congress, which would have allowed therapeutic cloning.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if in the next four years there are such tremendous breakthroughs in research using adult stem cells that there will no longer be any temptation to create and kill human clones for their stem cells?"

With additional reporting by Tom Strode of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Baptist radio/TV pioneer helped take Christianity to airwaves

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Paul M. Stevens, the man credited with shaping the Baptist Radio and Television Commission into one of the most influential forces in religious broadcasting during his tenure as president from 1953 to 1977, died July 10.

Stevens, 86, recently had suffered a major heart attack while in surgery and never fully recovered, said David Clark, president of FamilyNet Inc., and vice president for broadcast communications of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Stevens, a former World War II Air Force chaplain, was an associate pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville before serving at the Southern Baptist commission.

Many of the RTVC's core strategies for reaching the nation through broadcasting were birthed by Stevens, Clark said.

Initially the commission's only offering was "The Baptist Hour," but Stevens was an innovator in developing programs designed to appeal to non-Christian audiences. Those programs—"Powerline," "CountryCrossroads" and "Master Control"—are still core offerings today, airing free of charge on more than 1,500 stations around the country.

"A lot of people talked about doing crossover programming, but Paul Stevens did it," Clark said. "The idea was to put something out there that has some general interest, but always being careful to bring it back to, 'Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ?' And Paul was the one who initiated that."

Stevens also raised the profile of

Southern Baptist broadcasting efforts in the broader culture to a point that they were unmatched by any other Christian group.

When television became popular, Stevens faced many challenges in convincing Southern Baptists to embrace the new medium, which Clark said was termed by some pastors at the time as "Hellivision."

"Frankly, the Radio and Television Commission always had tremendous challenges in getting support from the denomination, but Paul was bigger than life," Clark said. "He was a loquacious speaker at the convention. And he had many, many friends, and he raised millions of dollars on his own."

Clark recalled that Stevens got a personal meeting with "General" David Sarnoff, the president of RCA who became known as the "Father of Television."

"He goes to Sarnoff in New York and he said, 'I want you to go to the Southern Baptist Convention and tell our people that television is the wave of the future,'" Clark recounted. Sarnoff liked Stevens; he wound up attending the convention and doing just that.

Although Stevens will be missed, Clark said there is also cause for rejoicing as the broadcast pioneer greets those whose lives he has touched in heaven. "Paul is surrounded by people today who are saying, 'Dr. Stevens, you don't know me. But I heard the gospel on that program.'"

The funeral was held at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Survivors include his wife, Betty, three sons, a daughter and six grandchildren.



Stevens

Girl in pledge lawsuit doesn't mind 'under God,' mom says

ELK GROVE, Calif. (RNS)—The mother of the girl whose father sued to have the Pledge of Allegiance declared unconstitutional said July 11 her daughter does not object to reciting the pledge at school.

"I was concerned that the American public would be led to believe that my daughter is an atheist or that she has been harmed by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, including the words 'one nation under God,'" Sandra Banning said in a statement.

"We are practicing Christians and are active in our church," she added.

Banning's comments, reported by Associated Press, were her first public remarks since the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed June 26 with Michael Newdow that the words "under God" cause the pledge to unconstitutionally endorse religion. The two words were added by Congress in 1954.

Banning never married Newdow, the third-grader's father and the atheist who started the legal challenge. She has full custody of their daughter, which Newdow is fighting in court.

Banning has hired attorneys in part to consider intervention in the case. She said her daughter "expressed sadness" after the decision, which has been stayed in an unusual move by the appellate court.

Newdow argued in his suit that his daughter was "injured" by being forced to listen to others at the Elk Grove (Calif.) Unified School District recite the pledge.

"I have a right to send my child to a public school without the government inculcating any religious beliefs," he said.

He added that it doesn't matter what his daughter believes and that taking her to church doesn't mean she chooses to be religious.

"The main thrust of this case is not my daughter," he said. "It's me."

Some legal experts think the mother's declaration that the girl is not harmed by the pledge could make the case moot.

"The federal courts can't address anything unless it's a case of controversy," said Rory Little, a professor at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. "You have to have injury."

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Short-term and long-term volunteers needed in Poland to prayerwalk, teach English, work with students and children, work with the media, distribute Bibles and gospel tracts and share testimonies.

■ Give thanks for a Bible study among the deaf in Brno, Czech Republic. Group members are growing in their faith, missionaries report. Pray for "A," a national Christian who is preparing to assume full responsibility for the study this fall.

■ Follow-up for the work of a volunteer group from Kentucky who led vacation Bible school in the Tapada das Mercedes area of Portugal earlier this month. Pray that a new church will grow out of these efforts.

■ Open doors to meet new people and share the gospel for Baptist representatives Gordon and Amy Moore of the Canary Islands.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **AURORA**—Ferguson Springs Church will host homecoming activities July 28. Dinner will follow the 11 a.m. worship. After the meal, members will dedicate their new Katherine & Tommy Balentine Annex. A gospel music program will follow the dedication.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host homecoming Aug. 25. **Harold Greenfield**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will speak at the 11 a.m. worship service. Activities include a noon fellowship meal and a 1:30 p.m. service featuring the gospel group "Vision." For information, call (270) 789-0082.

■ **CANEYVILLE**—New Harvest Church will celebrate its 10th anniversary July 21 with 11 a.m. worship, lunch at 12:15 p.m. and a celebration service at 1:30 p.m.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Columbia Church called **Randy Johnson** as pastor effective July 1.

■ **DANVILLE**—**Dale Denton** resigned as pastor of Willow Grove Church to become full-time chaplain at Epharim-McDowell Medical Center in Danville.

■ **EUBANK**—Pulaski Church recently called **Mike New** as pastor.

■ **FULTON**—Mount Carmel Church called **Dale True** as pastor.

■ **HARLAN**—**Bill Melzoni** retired as pastor of Teetersville Church. A retirement reception was held June 23.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Nolynn Church will host revival services July 21-24, 6 p.m., with **John Smith** as evangelist.

■ **LANGLEY**—Maytown First Church celebrated its 30th anniversary June 21-23. **Robert Varney** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Cornerstone Church called **Paul Gibson** as youth minister.

Marilyn Huffman resigned as interim minister of youth at Grace Church due to illness. **Terrence Freeman** is pastor.

Victory Church called **Rich Cowan** as minister of worship and outreach. **Mike James** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church will host a "Women's Health and Home Fair" July 20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For information, call **Dee Warren** at (502) 499-4616. **Shawn Merithew** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will host "Fishers of Men" in concert July 28, 6:30 p.m.

Parkland Hills Mission called **Mark Swan** as pastor.

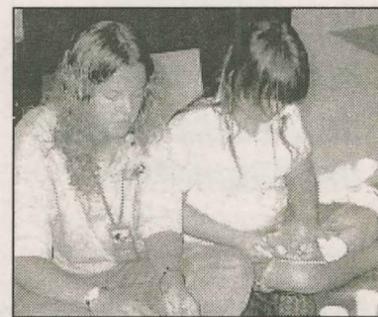
■ **NANCY**—Burnetta Church called **Maynard Head** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Rosebower Church honored pastor **Kenneth Puckett** June 9 for 25 years of ministry.

Trinity Church celebrated its 68th anniversary June 22. **Kenneth Brown** is pastor.

■ **SIMPSONVILLE**—Simpsonville Church called **Josh Waltz** as youth minister July 1.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Run



SUMMER MISSIONS Amy Davis (left), a student at Morehead State University, works on a crafts project with a girl during an inner-city vacation Bible school in Brunswick, Ga. Davis is among the scores of Kentucky Baptist college students participating in summer missions around the country and around the globe.

Church called **Glenn Toney** as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

■ **UNION CITY**—Poplar Grove Church called **Charles Blair** as pastor.

■ **WEST PADUCAH**—Mount Zion Church ordained **Tim Smith** to the gospel ministry. **Larry Davidson** is pastor.

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.

FOR SALE: Two cemetery lots in Resthaven Cemetery, section 3 (old section). \$3,600 for both. Call (270) 369-6363 after 6 p.m. or leave message.

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SEEKING: Communications assistant for the Communications/Media department. Position requires three to five years related experience. Responsibilities include clerical, technical and writing assistance in the areas of video/audio production, Web site maintenance and general media services. This full-time position offers competitive salary and benefits package. Contact the Administrative Services department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky., (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for Westside Baptist Church, Murray, Ky. College degree required; seminary training preferred. Westside averages 350 in Sunday school, 450 in worship, with 60 youth enrolled in a well-supported and thriving youth ministry. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, c/o Dan Butler, Westside Baptist Church, 207 Robertson Road South, Murray, KY 42071, or e-mail: westside@kih.net.

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: Minister of youth and education for Victory Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Bachelor's degree required; seminary degree desired. Full-time position in a growing church (350-400 in worship) in a fast-growing area of Lexington. Interested applicants send resumé to: Search Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

SEEKING: Post Oak Baptist Church currently is accepting resumé for the position of minister of music on a bivocational basis. Responsibilities include the entire music ministry, sanctuary choir, youth choir and children's choir. Applicant also must have knowledge of string and wind instruments sufficient for directing an instrumental ensemble. Resumé should be sent to: Search Committee, Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276.

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

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: 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: Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., is accepting resumé 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 resumé to: Sue Trautwein, chair, Minister of Music Search Committee, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301.

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

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

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.

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

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Bach's Bible

Margin notes show composer didn't just think about music

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

ST. LOUIS (RNS)—Tucked away in a rare books room of a Lutheran seminary sit three historic volumes that reveal the religious interests of one of the world's most famous composers.

Known simply as "The Bach Bible," the volumes feature the biblical text, a commentary by Lutheran theologian Abraham Calov and notations and underlinings by Johann Sebastian Bach.

"Bach was a theologian," said David Berger, director of library services at Concordia Seminary and a bass soloist. "His vocal works and choral works show that he was very text-oriented. He knew the literature."

Thomas Rossin, a Minnesota conductor who did his dissertation on the volumes that feature Bach's signature and the date 1733—which could be the year the musician acquired the Bible commentary—said they verify that Bach's interest in church music was more than just a function of his job as an organist and choir director in Germany.

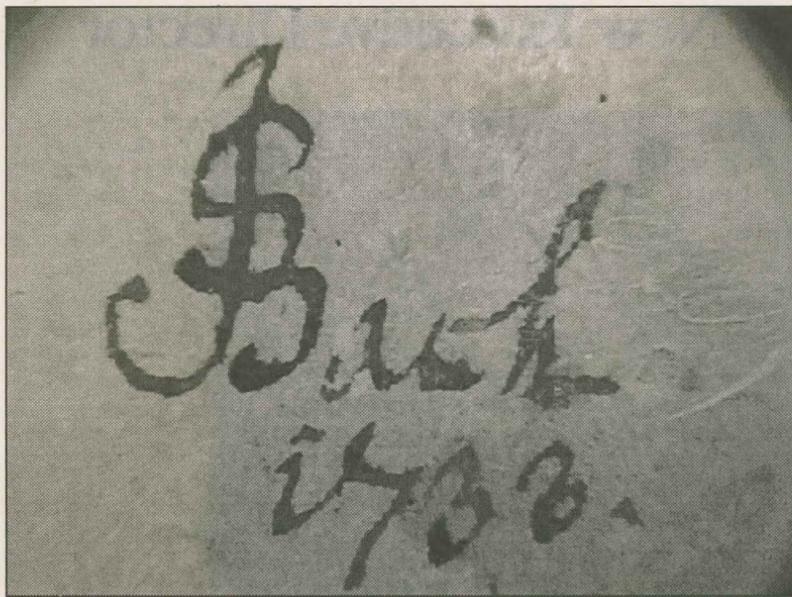
"Finally we have proof in his own hand, not meant for anyone else to see, saying things like 'This chapter is the true foundation of all God-pleasing church music,'" Rossin said.

That note in Bach's handwriting was next to the 25th chapter of 1 Chronicles, which, in the 6th verse, speaks of "song in the house of the Lord, with cymbals, psalteries and harps for the service of the house of God" (King James Version).

Rossin's dissertation categorized the notations in the volumes as definitely Bach's, possibly Bach's and definitely not Bach's. He determined that most of the markings were Bach's, but only 3 percent of them related to music.

"It was clear that we were looking at his faith, not his music," said Rossin, who conducts a professional musical group in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. "The two obviously connected. He really was writing this stuff because he believed in it and not just because he was made to do so."

The pages, browned with age but quite well-preserved, feature Bible verses in large, bold letters in the common Fraktur type, followed immediately by Calov's commentary in



smaller and lighter type. Stacked atop one another, the editions dating to the 1680s are more than a foot high.

The passage in 2 Chronicles 5:12-13 about cymbals, trumpets and singers drew this comment from the Lutheran composer: "In devotional music, God is always present with His Grace."

Rossin said many of the markings related to the word "authority," which he thinks was due to Bach's trouble with the church and city councils that oversaw the music in Leipzig, Germany, where he was a church's musical director. Rossin suspects that around the time of the date placed in the commentary Bible, Bach decided to continue his job but began to write secular orchestral music due to disputes over his church compositions.

"We have at least 200 ... church cantatas," he said. "How many more would we have, had that not occurred?"

Other aspects of Bach's personality, including his precision and his fascination with numbers, are clear in the margins of the Bible. Berger pointed out one of his favorite pages in the third volume, in the fifth chapter of Mark. There, Bach noticed a printer's error where several words were dropped. In his own hand, Bach added them in the margin.

Next to Exodus 38, the composer added up the amount of gold used to build the Tabernacle—almost eight tons—and recorded its sum. Rossin said study of Bach's Bible has prompted him to encourage performing the musician's work in new ways.

"It should be done in churches and not in concert halls and not by huge, massive orchestras," he said. "It should be done more intimately and from a faith perspective."

In March, when his chamber choir

and orchestra performed portions of Bach's "B Minor Mass," Rossin treated concertgoers to an exhibit of the first volume of Bach's Bible, a related lecture and a performance aimed at revealing the theology in the composition.

The historic volume traveled from the St. Louis seminary to Minnesota by way of special security measures, with Berger meeting Rossin at the St. Louis airport and Rossin keeping it under glass for the exhibit.

"Standard carriers will not handle it because it's not replaceable," Berger said.

That trip away from the seminary did more than edify audiences at Rossin's three concerts.

The conductor discovered something new about Volume I, the section that includes the most notations by Bach. Sealed, for perhaps hundreds of years, inside the front cover was an object that turns out to be a portrait of Calov. Revealed by a conservator's delicate work, a bit more of Bach's handwriting, including the words "PS 4," is now exposed, perhaps the composer's reference to the fourth Psalm, he said.

It's easier to trace the current travels of the Bible than its initial voyage to the United States. No one seems to know how it reached American shores.

A man named Ludwig Reichle purchased the volumes from a Philadelphia bookseller around the 1830s, scholars say, apparently not knowing the find he had.

About a century later, at the time of a 1934 meeting of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Frankenthum, Mich., Reichle's son Leonard showed the third volume to a pastor attending the meeting in the rural town now known for its annual Bavarian festival.

"What the Reichle family had overlooked was discovered by this visiting pastor—signatures in Bach's own handwriting," Berger said.

With Hitler coming to power in Germany, the farmer decided he did not want to send the volumes to Bach's native land.

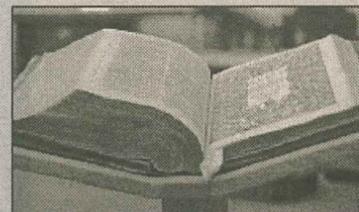
"This conservative Missouri-Synod Lutheran said, 'There's no way I'm going to give it to the Nazis,'" Rossin said.

Remote congregation votes to keep rare King James Bible

By Douglas Todd
Religion News Service

INVERMERE, British Columbia (RNS)—After a long and passionate debate, members of a remote church in the Canadian Rockies have voted to hang on to a rare four-century-old King James Bible that one congregant calls a "spiritual legacy."

For almost a year, controversy had stirred among church members and people far and wide over whether to keep the Bible, donate it to a university or sell it for a sizable chunk of cash to help those in need.



DORT BIBLE This rare second-edition of the Authorized King James Bible, was published in 1613. (RNS photo by Pablo Richard Fernandez)

"It's been a contentious issue for some time," said Art Keith, describing how members of the joint Anglican-United (Church of Canada) congregation in Invermere, as well as people from across the country, aired their often-strong views.

Keith chaired the committee that came up with the idea of the congregation's roughly 125 members conducting a secret ballot to decide what would happen to the large Bible, often called the Dort Bible, after the Dutch city where it found a home during the 1700s.

On June 9, 67 percent of the members decided the Bible should remain in Invermere, 500 miles northeast of Vancouver, as part of its heritage and be put on display in the church.

The rest thought the Bible, valued by antiquarians at \$30,000-\$100,000 U.S., should be donated to a scholarly institution or sold to the highest bidder to expand the church's ministry.

"The good news is that it's no longer going to be stuffed in a box anymore," said Michael Rice, pastor of Christ Church Trinity, after the vote on the future of the Bible. Currently the Bible is kept in a vault in a town museum for preservation.

He said it will cost up to \$7,000 to properly display the Bible in a temperature-controlled case in the sanctuary, where it could be used to educate people about church history and draw tourists to worship.

The Dort Bible traveled a long journey to arrive at the Invermere church. It survived a religious crackdown by British ruler Oliver Cromwell, a secret escape to Holland, a church demolition, an Atlantic voyage, absent-minded church custodians and a close call with a fire.

It originally was published in 1613, which makes it a second-edition Authorized King James Bible. It is rare but not one-of-a-kind and is named after King James I, who authorized 50 scholars to produce what turned into the world's most famous Bible translation.

An English clergyman named Giles originally bought the Dort Bible. He was a priest in what is now known as the Church of England, or the Anglican Church.

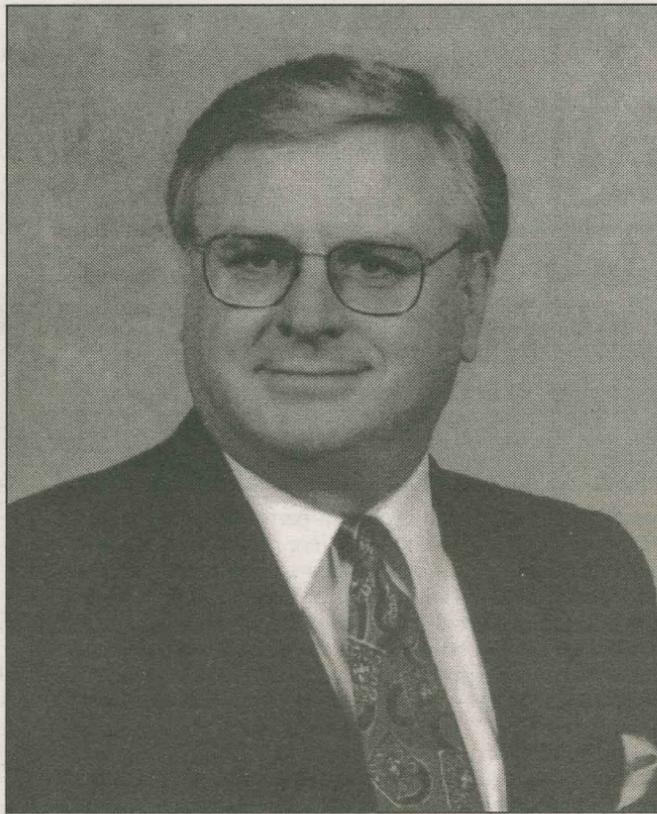
But Oliver Cromwell, a strict Puritan, banished nonconformists like Giles from the British Isles. So Giles fled, with his Bible, to the Dutch town of Dort, where he set up a Presbyterian congregation.

A century later, when the Dort church was being torn down, the old King James Bible was discovered in one of its secret desks. By then, its cover had been embossed with the word "Dort." The Bible later got into the hands of a man named Galbraith, who brought it by sea in the mid-1800s to Hamilton, Ontario.

In 1900 the Bible was willed to Harold Forster, who lived in the tiny town of Wilmer, north of Invermere. In 1923, Forster gave it to the Anglican church in Invermere—a fortunate event. Not long after, Forster's house burned to the ground and all his other books went up in flames.

The Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems

Welcomes New Executive Director



Dr. Howard F. Beauman

Beauman brings 28 years of pastoral experience to this position. He has served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board on numerous occasions, chaired the KBC finance committee and served on the administrative committee.

Dr. Beauman pledges to:

- ◆ Be a strong advocate in Frankfort.
- ◆ Initiate pro-active legislation.
- ◆ Help communities in their wet/dry votes.
- ◆ Help identify alcohol enforcement problems.
- ◆ Help strengthen alcohol and gambling educational programs.
- ◆ Keep churches informed through speakers, Web page and newsletter.
- ◆ Help to be a resource for churches with questions about alcohol or gambling issues.

The Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems, Inc.
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(502) 635-0002 ◆ FAX: 635-1008