

July 23, 2002  
Vol. 176, No. 28

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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, July 24

## Like father, like son

*Former 'rebel' now has life & schedule like legendary dad's*

By David Briggs  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

"My child arrived just the other day, he came to the world in the usual way. But there were planes to catch and bills to pay. He learned to walk while I was away. And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew, he'd say, 'I'm gonna be like you, Dad. You know I'm gonna be like you.'"

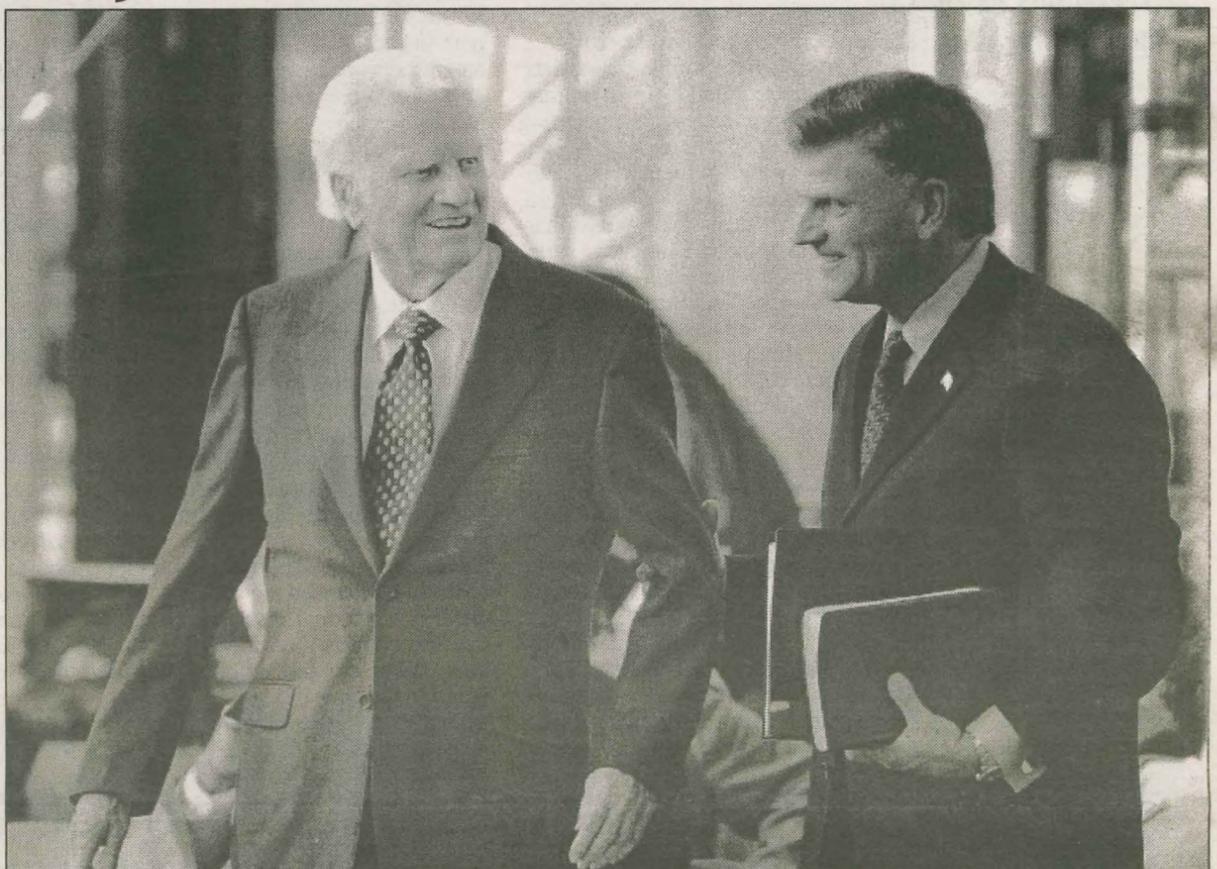
"Cat's in the Cradle," Harry Chapin

MONTREAT, N.C. (RNS)—Billy Graham tried to save the world, traveling for months at a time to more than 170 countries to preach the gospel to tens of millions of souls he considered lost.

After one extended trip, it took him a while to recognize one of his sons when he returned home.

When the ambitious son of this ambitious father grew up, he would carve out his own place in the evangelical world, leaving his children behind while he repaired homes in the Bosnian village of Hadzicido and drove around mined potholes in Angola to bring medicine to a remote hospital. Eventually, he would take the crusade stage dominated by his father for more than half a century.

Billy Graham. Franklin Graham. America's preacher and the rebellious son who would defy all odds to take his place at the head of the world's most powerful evangelism



**HELPING HAND** Billy Graham is helped to the podium by his son, Franklin Graham, during the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Billy Graham Mission at Paul Brown Stadium June 28. Franklin, who as a teenager would skip church to ride his motorcycle, now leads a ministry with demands similar to those his father has had. (Cincinnati Enquirer photo by Jeff Swinger)

organization.

Two men more alike than either ever realized. Until now.

The prodigal son has returned home. This year, Franklin became president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. When his father dies, he will try to do what no modern-day evangelist's son has done before him and take his father's place on the public stage.

Until then, the two men who made tremendous personal sacrifices for their ministries will spend as

much time together as possible. The fiery preacher who once was certain the end was near and the son who was a teen rebel now have more modest goals: to love each other as best they can in the time they have left.

And let God worry about the rest. "Life is short," says Franklin Graham.

"Cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the moon. 'When you comin'

home, Dad?' 'I don't know when, but we'll get together then, son. You know we'll have a good time then.'"

Billy Graham has preached to kings and presidents, standing alone in national polls for more than four decades on the list of America's most admired men. He has been at the vanguard of technological revolutions allowing evangelists to reach hundreds of millions of people, and his integrity guided TV evangelism

□ See Former 'rebel' ..., page 8

## Lively 'open theism' debate addresses basic character of God

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—What does God know, and when does God know it?

The question has of late heated up in conservative evangelical circles with the rise of a group of scholars who describe themselves as "open" theists. They say God doesn't know exact details of the future, because it will be shaped by human decisions. Thus the future is "open" rather than predetermined.

That flies in the face of traditional theology, particularly among disciples of a resurgent Calvinism, which emphasizes God's sovereignty, foreknowledge and predestination.

Christian teaching describes God as "omniscient"—having perfect knowledge of all things. But it also says humans have free will, setting up the classic paradox: If God already knows what I'm going to decide to do

tomorrow, do I really have freedom of choice?

The debate bubbled to the surface in the Southern Baptist Convention with revisions to the "Baptist Faith and Message" adopted in 2000. A sentence added to the 1963 version's article on God says: "God is all-powerful and all-knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things past, present and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures."

More recently, the Evangelical Theological Society voted overwhelmingly to reject open theism. The society of theologians and scholars last fall approved a resolution that states: "We believe the Bible clearly teaches that God has complete, accurate and infallible knowledge of all events past, present and future, including all future decisions and actions of free moral agents."

That prompted a counter-statement by a group of evangelical scholars deploring what they viewed as a ten-

dency to "define the boundaries of evangelical faith and life too narrowly."

Stanley Grenz of Carey Theological College and Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia; Roger Olson of Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University; and Jonathan Wilson of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, Calif., said evangelicals shouldn't be so hasty to close the door on debate about open theism.

Advocates of open theism say it provides answers to serious questions such as what happens to God when people pray. They point to various Scripture passages referring to God changing His mind and being grieved by human actions.

Detractors say it departs from classic Christian understandings of God's all-knowing and unchangeable nature. They say some problems, such as evil and suffering, are divine paradoxes that can't be grasped by finite minds. Open theism, they argue, reduces a

transcendent God to a human scale.

Like most "-isms," both sides have trouble narrowing their arguments into a tidy package.

"There is no single, universally agreed-on definition of open theism," said Olson, professor of theology at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas. Olson says he is not an open theist but takes the approach seriously.

"Generally speaking, however, it is the belief that God is truly personal and interactive with people, such that the 'effectual, fervent prayers' of God's people can make a genuine difference in the way God acts," Olson said. "Scripture portrays God as changing His mind in response to such prayers."

"Open theism says that God has freely chosen to limit Himself so that He does not foreordain or cause all that happens. The future is partly open because it depends on what human persons decide to do."

□ See 'Open theism' ..., page 6

# BAPTISTS

**Southern Baptist hunger and relief gifts in 2001 totaled \$8.1 million, nearly \$1.5 million below the previous year.**

## 'BEAT Hunger' effort targets global needs

NASHVILLE (BP)—A dire report issued recently by the United Nations underscores the problem of hunger still looming large for many people around the world. And a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study noted that about 10 million U.S. households did not have enough food to meet their families' basic needs.

Yet giving to Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund is down dramatically from previous years, according to Steve Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. He said that leaves many missionaries unable to start or sustain relief projects for the hungry.

"Gifts to the fund were down more than 15 percent last year," he explained. Hunger and relief gifts in 2001 totaled \$8.1 million, nearly \$1.5 million below the previous year. Giving this year is more than 5 percent below last year's pace, Nelson added.

Because of the drop in giving and the impact on ministry initiatives, Nelson and the SBC's Inter-Agency Hunger Council, decided to challenge churches to hold a BEAT Hunger Weekend.

BEAT Hunger, which stands for Believers Everywhere ATtack Hunger, was launched three years ago as a program for youth groups to dedicate 24 hours to gaining an awareness

of hunger issues and then devising a hands-on plan to attack the hunger problem in their community. Nelson said BEAT Hunger Weekend is an extension of the original emphasis and is designed to include the entire church.

Nelson said churches that participate in the BEAT Hunger Weekend are asked to address hunger needs by hosting a canned food drive, serving at a local shelter or raising money to support the SBC World Hunger Fund.

Registration for the event, with a suggested date of Oct. 11-13, 2002, is available at [www.beathungerweekend.com](http://www.beathungerweekend.com). Resources are available to aid churches in the emphasis. Information is available by contacting Nelson at [www.worldhungerfund@erlc.com](mailto:www.worldhungerfund@erlc.com).

While Southern Baptist missionaries are working with many volunteers to feed the hungry and help locals provide for themselves, the needs on the field are far greater than what Southern Baptists currently are doing, Nelson said.

Government officials in Zambia recently announced the nation's food crisis is a national disaster, warning that the country's corn crop for this year will be completely gone by August. On the same day, United Nations officials said about 10 million people were on the brink of starvation in

Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Swaziland, the result of a severe drought gripping the region.

"Without the compassionate giving of Southern Baptists and others to the World Hunger Fund, many in our world would go without the most basic of food necessities that we take for granted every day," said Jim Brown, the IMB's human needs consultant.

In the United States, 31 million Americans, or 11.3 percent of the population, live at or below the federal poverty level, according to a 2000 U.S. Census Bureau report. USDA surveys reveal that 33 million Americans live in households that are food-insecure, meaning they are either hungry or at risk of hunger.

"Southern Baptists are more than able to make a real dent in the number of families who are starving or malnourished," Nelson said.

The BEAT Hunger event is designed not only to raise funds for SBC hunger and relief ministries, but also to reap a spiritual harvest, he added.

"When someone gets an introduction to hunger ministry, they will be prompted to get involved in caring for the hungry and needy," Nelson said. "In church after church I visit, I see those who involve themselves in this type of ministry experience revival and spiritual growth like never before."

## SBC's VBS enrollment jumps 400,000 in 2001

NASHVILLE (BP)—Southern Baptist vacation Bible school enrollment for 2001 increased more than 400,000 from the previous year, according to statistics from the Annual Church Profile.

Last summer's total VBS enrollment was 3,230,493, reported Becky Martin, VBS ministry specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We were thrilled to learn that

109,045 people made decisions to accept Christ as Savior because of vacation Bible school," Martin added. That total is up nearly 18,000 from the previous year.

VBS traditionally adds thousands of names to churches' prospect lists. In 2001, participating churches added 289,679 to their lists of prospective members. Of those prospects, almost 50,000 were added to the Sunday school rolls in churches.

Martin noted that another growing trend is the number of churches holding evening VBS. She said 63 percent of churches having VBS last summer conducted the programs during the evening, making it easier to reach entire families.

Statistics for LifeWay's 2002 vacation Bible school emphasis—"Amazon Outfitters, On Expedition with the One True God"—will be available in July 2003.

## Free resources available to aid budget process

By Jerilyn Armstrong  
SBC Annuity Board

DALLAS (BP)—It's that time of year again. Members of many church budget committees are beginning to meet and plan for next church year's budget.

Reviewing and preparing a church budget is a time-consuming project, but the process and decisions can affect the ministries and staff of a local church for months and years to come.

The first step in the process usually is reviewing the compensation and benefits for ministers and church staff, according to Southern Baptist Annuity Board officials.

A critical decision churches must make in reviewing compensation is how to pay the minister. "Unfortunately, many churches still use the 'package approach' which means they pay the minister a lump sum and then the minister can divide it any way he chooses," said Bob Henry, Annuity Board church marketing director. "The lump sum approach is not a good option and usually causes a minister to pay more taxes than may be legally owed."

A better option is the salary and benefits approach, he added. This includes a three-part budgeting model for ministry-related expenses, protection benefits and personal income.

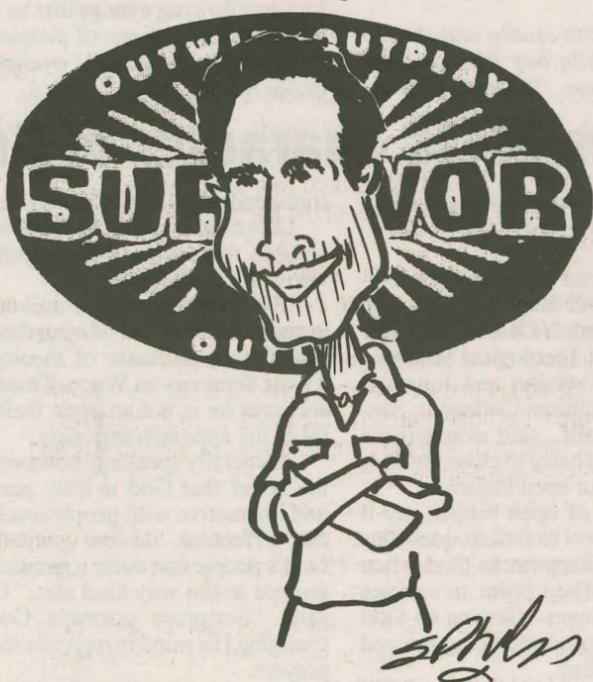
**Ministry-related expenses.** Just as the church has to budget for its utility expenses, a minister has similar "utility" expenses that should not come out of a package amount, Henry noted. Ministry-related expenses can include the use of a personal vehicle for church business; workshops and conferences that are essential to a pastor's growth; books and periodicals; continuing education; and hospitality expenses.

**Protection benefits.** Businesses pay for benefits that protect their employees. While a church is a ministry and not a business, sound business principles should still apply, Henry said. A benefits plan protects the church as well as the minister, and if paid directly by the church, it can provide significant tax savings for the minister. Protection benefits include medical, life and disability coverage as well as retirement plan contributions and Social Security assistance.

**Personal income.** This is the actual salary the minister receives. It may also include a housing allowance or a parsonage.

To help in the budgeting process, the Annuity Board offers churches a free workbook, "Planning Financial Support." It is available on the Annuity Board's Web site at [www.absbc.org](http://www.absbc.org) or churches can order it by calling (800) 262-0511.

The Next Reality TV Show



"Survive 30 days at Junior High Church Camp and win \$1 million!"

## BAPTIST DIGEST

### Editor resigns under fire.

Michael Leathers won awards for both design and writing during his 19 months as editor of the Illinois Baptist. But he recently resigned after controversy from running a front-page story about a former Illinois pastor being charged with criminal sex assault for allegedly molesting two teenage girls. The story, which previously had been reported in secular news media, prompted a barrage of letters to the editor both critical and supportive of Leathers' editorial judgment.

**Accreditation reaffirmed.** The Southeastern Association of Colleges and Schools has reaffirmed the accreditation of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and its affiliate Southeastern College at Wake Forest, N.C. Schools accredited by the association are examined every 10 years by a visiting committee that reviews all aspects of a school's ability to deliver quality education.

### Baptist evangelism leader dies.

Longtime Southern Baptist evangelist Jack Stanton died July 14 after a lengthy illness. Stanton, 82, was associate professor emeritus of evangelism at Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo. He also was former director of the school's International Institute of Evangelism. Stanton previously served 15 years as associate director of evangelism for the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He served two terms as Southern Baptist Convention first vice president.

### Program marks centennial.

LifeWay Christian Resources' Christian Growth Study Plan, begun in 1902 as the Church Study Course, marks its 100th anniversary this year. The program offers local church training for ministers and laypeople in such areas as leadership, skill development and Christian growth. Last year, more than 620,000 people participated in the program, and 42,843 earned certificates.

# KENTUCKY



**CATCHING UP** Joe Leonhardt (left), a retired pilot, and farmer Joe Dutton are volunteers for God's Garden. The harvest will help feed families in the Somerset area. Dutton plows the two-acre field with his 1954 tractor. (Lexington Herald-Leader photos by David Stephenson)

## God's little acres

### Somerset churches help needy while cultivating friends

By Brian Gomez  
Lexington Herald-Leader

SOMERSET—What once was just a deserted field has become a vision of bounty along a stretch of highway in Pulaski County.

Thick stalks of corn, juicy tomatoes and other vegetables have transformed the field into a garden that feeds hundreds of needy families in Somerset. At the same time, the two-acre garden on Ky. 39 also nurtures memories to last a lifetime.

About a dozen members of Buena Vista Baptist and Science Hill Nazarene churches in the Somerset area meet every Tuesday at 6 p.m. to work in what they call "God's Garden."

It's there that they grow vegetables for those who could not otherwise afford them, while cultivating relationships with each other.

"It has turned into a social thing," said Joe Leonhardt, a retired pilot who volunteers in the garden. "It has made me more cognizant of the people who don't have anything or don't have very much that you can help. It doesn't take that much labor to reap rewards."

The garden's founder, who has remained anonymous, came up with the idea more than a year ago when participating in "Dream Sunday," a session in which Buena Vista church members were told to think about their dreams. The vision became reality after Somerset businessman Ralph Cundiff donated a portion of his land.

Last year, workers in God's Garden provided truckloads of food—potatoes, onions, carrots and green beans—to 60 families, every week for about two months. Farmer Joe Dut-



**WEEDING** David Colvin (front), Wanda Oney (center) and Rosemary Colvin (right) joined other volunteers last month tending God's Garden.

ton, who has regularly plowed the garden with a 1954 tractor since breaking ground last spring, plans to reach even more people this year.

"We've fed a lot of families," he said. "It has been a blessing. Some of these people in the church, I would have never known."

The garden, which has grown by half an acre since last fall, is expected to begin sprouting with vegetables soon. Workers remain optimistic, despite imposing weeds and packs of relentless potato bugs.

"The elderly, a lot of times, can't grow their own vegetables. It's a good project for the community and for our church," said Buena Vista member Wanda Oney, one of several avid gardeners who have been involved from

the very beginning. "We really look forward to coming out here and fellowshiping. You're by yourself at home. There's nobody to talk to."

Nearly all the financing for God's Garden is provided by churches and local organizations, but some of it comes out of workers' own pockets. Debbie Dutton, a medical-lab technician at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital, says she'll expand the garden if more people are willing to help.

"I hope more denominations would get involved instead of being so separated out," she said. "If we have people to work, we're happy to have expansion to feed as many people as possible."

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## Lexington CrossOver event helps reach area Hispanics

By Victoria Moon  
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—Kentucky Baptist volunteers shared the gospel with hundreds of Hispanic families in Lexington last month and opened possibilities for new ministries, according to a local church starting specialist.

"Over 35 Spanish-speaking people from across the commonwealth came together for this CrossOver event," said Ray Van de Kamp, director of church development for Elkhorn Baptist Association.

"They spent the morning being trained on how to go door-to-door and share their faith," Van de Kamp said. "In the afternoon they went to Cardinal Valley, a heavily Hispanic community in Lexington, and talked with the residents there."

Volunteers also gave out more than 300 Spanish New Testaments and 100 Spanish-version "Jesus" videos, he added. Volunteers invited neighborhood residents to a Spanish worship service held that evening at Gardenside Baptist Church.

"There were 13 professions of faith during the day," he said, "and at the evening service there were five more professions of faith." More than 260 families attended the evening service, Van de Kamp said.

CrossOver Lexington resulted from leaders in the Hispanic Advisory Council for the Kentucky Baptist Convention noting a need for more outreach to the growing Hispanic population in the commonwealth, said Van de Kamp.

"The Lexington area has a huge Hispanic population, and we realized we weren't exploring all the possibilities of witnessing to this large group," he said.

More than 25,000 Spanish-speaking people live in the Lexington area according to Grundy Janes, a church starting consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, a co-sponsor of the event with Elkhorn association. Only one Southern Baptist church has a ministry to Hispanics.

"It was obvious we needed to do something, because one church can't minister to all those needs," Janes said.

He said that Hispanic volunteers and missionaries for the CrossOver event was important because of trust issues in the area's Hispanic community.

"Due to immigration issues and many illegal immigrants in the Hispanic community, (Hispanics) tend to be more reluctant to talk to an Anglo than they would be a Hispanic person," he said. "And the results brought about by these missionaries and volunteers was very good."

So good, in fact, that Janes said he plans to try more events like this throughout Kentucky.

"We're planning two more so far, one in the fall in Western Kentucky and one more in the spring," he said, adding that the spring CrossOver event location has not been determined.

Carlos de la Barra, a missionary with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board who works with Hispanics in the Danville area, was one of the leaders of CrossOver Lexington.

"We have such a good reception, and so many people opened their door to us and immediately welcomed us in," he said. "And it was wonderful to see volunteers from all over Kentucky come together for an event like this one."

He added that the worship service held at Gardenside church, the host church for the event, brought together several churches in the Louisville and Lexington areas and introduced members of those churches to ministry opportunities in their communities.

"The music at the worship service was led by two different church worship teams, and the preaching was led by Jesus Pacheco, one of our missionaries," he said.

"It is important for us in the Hispanic community to be trained to evangelize and go out into the communities to share the gospel," he said.

"And it is important, too, that our American friends see the large number of Hispanics ready to receive the gospel if the churches are ready to start a ministry there."

## WESTERN RECORDER

P. O. Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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## Calvinism concerns

A letter writer in the July 2 issue indicated that in his "four-year indoctrination" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary he never heard a sermon propagating Calvinism, and that his theology professor was not even a five-point Calvinist.

Five-point Calvinism is easily remarked by the acrostic TULIP: Total depravity of mankind; Unconditional election—God arbitrarily chose some for glory, some for damnation, before the Creation; Limited atonement—Christ died for those whom God gave Him to save (the elect), but did not die for all; Irresistible grace—all whom God has elected will be unable to resist salvation; and Perseverance of the saints—Christ will perfectly fulfill the will of the Father in saving all the elect.

The exact wording of the article entitled "Election" in the Abstract of Principles, to which every professor at Southern Seminary must subscribe in writing in order to teach states: "Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ—in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified." This article theologically renders the entire document to inculcate five-point Calvinism.

Seminary President Al Mohler is a self-proclaimed five-point Calvinist, and each professor, by his acquiescence to the Abstract, must be one, any protestations to the contrary notwithstanding; otherwise, the teacher is being dishonest. To verify these statements about Calvinism, one has only to go to an online search engine and simply type in "five-point Calvinism," where there is a plethora of materials by theologians.

Spurgeon said, "Calvinism is the gospel, and nothing else." He was dead wrong, no matter how great his reputation. Calvinism and traditional evangelism (spreading the gospel) are mutually exclusive, notwithstanding the theological red herring of "God's sovereignty."

James L. Clark  
Lexington

## Keep focus on Jesus

Thank you for the fine article in the July 2 issue about George Beverly Shea. I heard him sing as early as 1945.

I have never listened to a message in song from him that didn't make me think of the Lord Jesus. I wish the same could be said about most microphone-in-the-face vocalists these days who are quite successful in drawing attention to themselves.

I am reminded of something said years ago: "You cannot, at the same time, make people think you are clever and Christ is wonderful." Even the Holy Spirit does not draw attention to Himself, but attracts people to Jesus (John 16:13-14).

Donald MacDonald  
Middletown

## A new pledge

I pledge allegiance to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—the one true God and Creator—and to His Son, Jesus Christ—the only Lord and Savior. I surrender my heart and life to be filled and controlled by His Holy Spirit, and with His help I promise to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. So help me, God.

Steve Crumpler  
Oneida

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Connecting people to Christ

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).*

People are being connected to Christ in all size churches across the commonwealth through Bible study, worship, evangelism and caring ministries. Let me tell you about two I visited recently.

Union Baptist Church, located five miles north of Cynthiana, has seen its membership double to more than 100 people during the past four years. The church's pastor is Arnold Kiser who was a lay speaker who had taught Sunday school most of his life.

For 14 years Arnold led a nursing home ministry in Lexington where he lived and worked. Then through contact with Elkhorn Baptist Association, he was enlisted to supply preach at the church. The church wanted to call him as pastor but Arnold resisted at first, stating that he was not ordained. The

church said it would request ordination. Arnold became the pastor and was encouraged both to continue the nursing home ministry and living in Lexington where most of the church's members go for medical care.

Several things stood out to me when I spoke recently at Union Church:

- The people conveyed the joy of the Lord.
- The facilities were attractive and inviting.
- The pastor introduced ministry leaders.
- The pastor was excited about his preaching/teaching plans for Sundays and Wednesday nights.

■ Plans were being made to expand facilities in order to accommodate growth.

■ Friends were being invited from the workplace; people unknown to the pastor were present.

■ The congregation read in unison a statement of faith.

■ The strong pastor/leader readily consulted with key leaders on major decisions.

## Care aids healing

This is a letter of thanks to the Southern Baptist Convention for its ministry in leadership care through LifeWay Christian Resources.

I am a United Methodist minister and after a difficult appointment for a year, I am moving to a new church. It has been very difficult and there is a tendency for some churches and denominations to "shoot their wounded." I was wounded.

In the meantime, I had formed a prayer partnership with two very fine Baptist pastors and when this occurred, they supported and encouraged me and were part of God's work in my life.

They also recommended that I attend the "Wounded Ministers Retreat" sponsored by LifeWay, and they volunteered to provide the resources to make that happen. The resources were not necessary but their love and support were.

Because of these two very fine pastors, because of the ministry of LeaderCare and the Wounded Ministers Retreat, God has set me on the path of healing and wholeness. I close with deep respect and appreciation.

Quentin Scholtz  
Hopkinsville

## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Make sure your life insurance meets life needs

By Don Spencer

Having adequate life insurance is a critical piece of a person's total financial planning. Without adequate insurance, you're betting your life savings that nothing bad will happen.

In the area of life insurance, there are several mistakes that frequently are made. Many of these mistakes can have serious consequences, and all of them can easily be avoided. Mistakes to avoid include:

■ **Having inadequate insurance.** Life insurance agents can help you determine if your coverage would provide adequately for your survivors. Do you have enough to provide life's necessities for your family? What about education expense for your children? What about burial expenses, medical expenses and other debts? Could your survivors continue living in the same lifestyle if you died?

■ **Naming your estate as beneficiary.** You should name individuals. This avoids the delay of probate, can reduce expenses and may avoid other people having access to some of those funds.

■ **Naming only one beneficiary.** If your beneficiary dies before you do, even if only minutes before, the proceeds will be paid to your estate. Be sure secondary beneficiaries are named.

■ **Failing to regularly review policies.** Life insurance needs change. Beneficiary information often needs to be updated. Check your policy at least every three or four years. Does the type of policy still meet your needs? Is the coverage still adequate, or too much? Are beneficiaries up to date?

■ **Having the wrong kind of insurance product.** Term life or whole life? Level term or decreasing term? Whole life or universal life? What about variable life? Make sure you have the right policy for your needs.

■ **Making a policy payable to minor children or grandchildren.** A trust or other settlement option appropriate for minor children should be used.

■ **Forgetting that term insurance "runs out" and/or becomes prohibitively expensive to carry.** Remember that term insurance is, by definition, for a specific period of time. If it is designed to continue into your later years, it can become quite costly.

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



Bill Mackey

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## Balance giving 'roots & wings' to first-year college students

**Q: My 18-year-old son leaves for college this fall, and I'm not ready to let him go. What can I do to help get me ready for his departure?**

Since you did not refer to your son's readiness, I assume that you believe he possesses a reasonable degree of maturity to make this transition. "Launching" a young person from the home is a predictable event in the family life cycle that brings with it a considerable amount of grief. Let me suggest that you prepare for this launch through consideration of the following questions:

- What do I lose as my son leaves home? What do I gain?
- How can God use this transition to draw me closer to Him?
- In what ways does sending my son off to college challenge me to find new areas in which to channel my God-given gifts, talents and passions?
- What adjustments will our marriage and/or family have to make as a result of our son leaving home?
- How can I strategize with my son concerning regular communication between us? How might we use e-mail, "snail mail" and phone calls on a regular and consistent basis?
- How can prayer and journaling be a part of preparing my heart and mind for this transition?
- Are there any distorted thoughts I'm entertaining about his leaving that need to be taken captive so that Christ can renew my mind? (such as: "Once he leaves, we won't be close anymore.")

Roots and wings are two invaluable gifts we give our children. Give yourself permission to grieve as your son leaves. It's OK to weep, to laugh, to talk and to feel. It's also OK to let him fly.—*Scott Wigginton*

**Q: How can I make travel with my children more enjoyable?**

With summer in full swing, many families are departing on vacations and other trips. Consider the following ideas to help make traveling with children a better experience:

- Take advantage of the night. Do as much driving as possible while children sleep. Have the car packed and "bed ready" the night before; then leave early the next morning. Although you'll have to rouse your children and carry them to the car, the gentle humming of the engine and the road should put them right back to sleep. As you help your children bed down in the car, make sure seat belts stay fastened.
- Stop occasionally at a rest area where there is room to get out, move around and work off some energy. Toss a ball. Play a quick game of tag.
- Hand-held video games are great for helping the miles go by. However, it might be more fun to play a game together. Number to 50 on a piece of paper. Then try to name all 50 states. Too easy? Try naming the capitals as well. Check local stores for travel games, such as Travel Bingo.
- "Adventures in Odyssey" radio shows and other kid-friendly Christian resources are available on tapes and CDs. Many of the stories are terrific and make great listening for the entire family. Check your church library or a Christian bookstore.
- Be sure to pack your child's favorite snacks and drinks and don't forget books and other reading materials. You might even want to choose a book to read aloud as a family.—*David Garrard*

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



## Can CBF and SBC find common ground?

Will the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's pending application for membership in the Baptist World Alliance finally provide the vehicle for leaders of CBF and the Southern Baptist Convention to set aside years of animosity and seek common ground as part of the global Baptist family?

Frankly, probably not—unless both groups sincerely seek to discover and respond to God's leadership and direction.

The current conflict predates CBF's official establishment in 1991. Both sides spent much of the '80s seeking to gain political control of the denomination. After current SBC leaders gained firm control, marginalized moderates opted to establish their own ministry structure.

More than a decade later, conservative SBC leaders view CBF as a shadow denomination competing for Southern Baptist mission dollars. CBF organizers feel they were forced out by SBC leaders who refused to share leadership or representation with those in the minority.

The debate shifted to the international level this month after CBF applied for membership in BWA. The BWA membership committee reported that discussions with CBF leaders left the committee "with very positive views of the CBF as an organization." The report added that CBF likely will be recommended next year for full BWA membership if it meets specific membership criteria.

That announcement riled up SBC leaders who apparently have no interest in seeing the CBF treated as a peer on the global Baptist stage. After the committee's report, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman warned that the "valued relationship" between the SBC and the BWA "may have been dam-

aged beyond repair."

Yet diversity in BWA life is nothing new. BWA leaders have worked to bring understanding and cooperation among Baptists in such challenging settings as Bangladesh, Croatia, Cuba and South Africa.

While the SBC "historically has existed alongside Baptists who have differences," Chapman insisted the SBC-CBF conflict is "totally different."

What will it take to bridge the gap? The membership committee called on CBF leaders to publicly affirm they "have a clear identity of their own and they are not an integral part of the SBC." If CBF officials merely parrot those words in a narrow, legalistic way, they will continue to give SBC leaders reasons to be suspicious of CBF's long-term goals and intent.

If, however, CBF uses this opportunity to clearly define what it is and where it is headed as an organization, it can take a significant step toward encouraging trust and cooperation.

On the SBC side, leaders have the opportunity to acknowledge the SBC's role in the ongoing conflict and to exercise grace toward CBF. If SBC leaders will accept CBF as a legitimate member of the global Baptist family—and perhaps even endorse CBF's membership application—such action will go a long way toward promoting God-honoring healing and harmony in Southern Baptist life.

"If we are brothers and sisters in Jesus, we ought to be able to accept one another and accept differences," declared BWA membership chairman Ian Hawley.

With a world of people in desperate need of the gospel, it's past time for all Baptists to put aside political posturing and seek common ground for the cause of Christ.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Plagiarism hurts CBF, women ministers

By Marv Knox

A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leader's pulpits plagiarism packed a powerful punch, delivering black eyes to her organization and to the cause of women ministers.

Reba Cobb, the CBF's resources coordinator, preached a sermon titled "The Bent-Over Woman," based on Luke 13:10-17, at the recent Baptist Women in Ministry annual meeting.

Unfortunately, the words were not her own. A sermon by the same name covering the same Scripture text, identical almost word-for-word, was written by David Owen in 1979. The sermon was published last year in an anthology, "Wisdom of Daughters: Two Decades of the Voice of Christian Feminism."

Confronted by a Baptist Press reporter who discovered the plagiarism, Cobb utilized two defensive tactics. She tried to diminish the degree of the deception and blamed someone else.

In a prepared statement, she told BP that "portions" of her sermon "had earlier been presented by another minister." However, the definition of "portions" would have to be stretched beyond recognition to cover the duplication. The Baptist Press report detailed that the sermons begin identically and continue in tight parallel, through to the concluding paragraphs. The news report showed that Cobb said she had polled some women re-

garding their responses to the Scripture passage, exactly as Owen had done. Later, a CBF official acknowledged to the Standard that Cobb's sermon repeated Owen almost word for word, with only very few personal anecdotes thrown in.

Cobb also said she was unaware of the duplication of Owen's sermon, claiming she had hired a freelance "research assistant" to "gather content materials for me" and believed the material to be original. However, she has declined to name the researcher, so her story could not be corroborated.

Even if Cobb hired an assistant who deceived her, her story is embarrassing beyond just being duped.

First, sermon material taken from others—particularly quotes, illustrations, statistics and significant biblical interpretations—should be attributed to the original author. Cobb should have asked for documentation from any assistant who provided such material. And she never should have implied she "polled" people for the sermon when she did not.

Second, Cobb's attempt to diminish the scope of the indiscretion is in itself misleading. Confronted, she should have owned up to the fact the sermon was not her own.

Third, pilfering sermons denigrates the sacredness of the preaching act. Baptists historically have held the sermon in high esteem. We are a "peo-

ple of the book," and proclamation from the Bible is one our most sacred moments. We expect those who preach to us to have prayed and studied and searched their souls for God's word, not shelled out a few dollars to buy a sermon.

The lingering taint of this lapse pertains to the damage inflicted upon the CBF and upon the vast majority of upright and ethical women in ministry serving in Baptist churches.

Because of the political climate in which it was born, the CBF has legions of detractors. Baptist Press has attacked the 11-year-old organization almost without ceasing, seeking to discredit it through guilt by association. CBF leaders talk a lot about justice and integrity; now opponents may wonder about the CBF's ethical administrative core.

An incident like this just gives non-fundamentalist Baptists reason to be wary of the CBF. Cobb's plagiarism and the CBF leadership's silence only compound other Baptists' concerns.

Moreover, we can expect this episode to be used as an argument against women in ministry, particularly women who feel called to preach the gospel. Never mind that, like male clergy, women who minister are overwhelmingly responsible, ethical and sincere in their calling. Detractors will cite "that woman who preached a man's sermon out of a book," and women who come behind will face even more difficult struggles.

*Marv Knox, editor of the Texas Baptist Standard, is former editor of the Western Recorder*

## 'Open theism' debate addresses basic character of God

Appraisals of open theism by opponents range from "it is inadequate" to "it is heresy."

Continued from page 1

Wallace Roark, professor of Christian studies at Howard, Texas, said it is also a pragmatic approach.

"Open theism is an effort to bring our doctrine and our practice into harmony," Roark said.

"We live believing the good news that the future is open," he said. "It is dependent on how we decide to relate to God. We are free to repent of our sinful ways and turn to God, whose arms are 'open wide.' Our future is open."

Appraisals of open theism by opponents range from "it is inadequate" to "it is heresy."

At the Evangelical Theological Society meeting last fall, Bruce Ware, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said open theism undermines the deity of both God and Jesus.

Some of the harshest criticism of open theism has come from bastions of Calvinism. Calvinism, based on the 16th century reformer John Calvin, strongly emphasizes God's sovereignty. Open theism offends Calvinists' belief that God has predestined human history and already chosen or "elected" people who will become Christians.

Ware said substitutionary atonement—the belief that Jesus' death on the cross substituted for the eternal punishment that all humans deserve—is invalidated by open theism. That's because Jesus could not have known who would be conceived and later sin in the future, he said.

A.J. Conyers, professor of theology at Truett Seminary, also faults open theism, saying it oversimplifies some vital but complex ideas about the nature of God.

"It obscures the fact that Christianity begins in a paradox, namely the incarnation of God in Christ," Conyers said.

Although humanly illogical, God

could have exhaustive, definite foreknowledge of events and be never changing, even while giving humans freedom, and experiencing a loving, personal relationship with them, he insisted.

Proper handling of divine paradox—Jesus being fully human yet fully divine; God being all-knowing and unchanging yet interactive with humanity—is the key to Christian theology, and open theism fails at this point, Conyers said.

Nevertheless, open theists say they still believe God is completely sovereign over all creation and deny that their view diminishes God's power or knowledge.

John Sanders, professor of religion and philosophy at Huntington College in Huntington, Ind., author of a best-selling book, "The God Who Risks," summarized open theism with five principles:

■ Sovereign God freely determined to create humans capable of experiencing God's love.

■ Although totally free and sovereign, God's love for people led God to base some actions on what people do.

■ In divine wisdom, God exercises "general" rather than "meticulous" providence, or control, over the future.

■ God has given people the freedom necessary to establish "a truly personal relationship of love" with God.

■ God, who indeed is omniscient, "knows all that can be known or all He wants to know."

Like other conservative Christians, open theists cite both biblical and theological reasons for their beliefs.

Sanders said that at least three dozen biblical texts report God changing His mind.

The Old Testament repeatedly says God changed His mind in response to His people, Roark added. "Love is always open and dynamic and thus open to change its course in its genuine in-

volvement and interaction with the loved one."

Olson said the main thing going for open theism is that "Scripture portrays God as loving and personal, and to be both loving and personal is to interact."

"A being who cannot be acted upon, who cannot be affected by other persons, is neither truly personal nor loving," Olson said. "The God of the Bible is a God Who goes on a journey through history with His people. He remains superior to them in His omnipotence, but He condescends to allow them to affect His smaller plans and ways."

Open theists contend that if God is immutable, or cannot be changed, as traditional Christian belief asserts, there is no reason for intercessory prayer. Why pray for people and causes if the future is determined and God will not change it?

"After 25 years of digging into Scripture, researching theology and philosophy, and reflecting on our spiritual lives, especially prayer, I've concluded that we actually can affect God," Sanders said.

"Hence, what most evangelicals live out in piety is correct," he added. "Christians pray as if their prayers can make a real difference in the way God

acts."

Open theists also say their approach helps explain evil and suffering. Since freedom is a necessary component for reciprocating divine love, they contend it can be misused to do evil. That is the price humanity pays for the opportunity to experience God's love.

Conyers faults open theism as being "off target" in trying to simplify paradoxes of the Christian faith. "It leads ... to a less mature and satisfactory Christianity," Conyers said, "but not to heresy per se."

Ware, on the other hand, has called open theism "unacceptable as a viable, acceptable model within evangelicalism."

But Olson said evangelicals and traditional Baptists should make room for dialogue with open theists.

"The open theists are not arguing against Scripture; they are arguing against a traditional interpretation of Scripture," he said.

"Open theism will always remain at most a 'minority report' within evangelical Christian and Baptist circles," Olson said. "Rather than get all worked up about it and go on a witch hunt to root out open theists, let's keep discussion about it open, civil and constructive."

## School vouchers face tough challenge in states

WASHINGTON (ABP)—School vouchers won a major decision last month at the U.S. Supreme Court, but now the issue is expected to move to state voting booths where it might face a tougher battle.

The Supreme Court ruled in June that vouchers—in which governments give scholarship grants to students in low-performing public schools that can be redeemed at private schools, including religious ones—don't necessarily violate the separation of church and state.

But voucher plans haven't fared well when removed from the realm of constitutional theory and put before the public in ballot referenda.

Since 1972, voters in seven states have been presented with voucher ballot initiatives on eight different occasions. On all eight occasions, vouchers have lost, by wide majorities. In Michigan, they lost twice.

The two most recent statewide voucher referenda took place in 2000. California voters defeated a voucher program by a 71 percent-to-29 percent margin. Michigan voted down its voucher proposal by a more than 2-1 margin.

Voucher proponents say their research

indicates that support for such programs is growing, particularly among African-Americans. Opponents, however, cite their own research, which they claim indicates the opposite is true.

While a handful of state legislatures have successfully instituted vouchers in recent years, voucher programs have been defeated in 26 state assemblies.

On the federal level, President Bush hastily abandoned a voucher proposal in the early stages of debate over his education bill last year, in response to strong opposition in Congress.

A spokesperson for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which opposes vouchers for religious schools, said she doubts pro-voucher forces will find much immediate success in the wake of the Cleveland ruling.

"It's not clear that the court's decision will result in any outbreak of voucher programs throughout the country," said Holly Hollman, legislative liaison for the church-state watchdog group in Washington. One problem facing voucher proponents is that many state constitutions are even more specific in prohibiting funding to parochial schools than the U.S. Constitution, she added.

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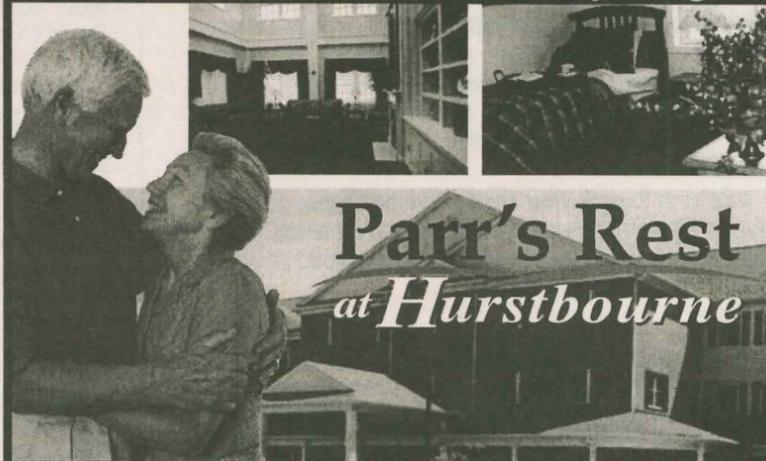
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# BAPTISTS

## Remember the boycott?

### Has Southern Baptists' 5-year Disney protest had any impact?

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

ST. LOUIS (RNS)—As outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President James Merritt took one of his last turns at the podium, he made a crack about how he responds when asked what he planned to do when he concludes his presidency.

"I'm going to Disney World—just a joke," he told Southern Baptists gathered at the America's Center on June 12.

But for the last five years, such a thought was not a joking matter for some Southern Baptists. In 1997, messengers of the nation's largest Protestant denomination voted overwhelmingly to boycott the Walt Disney Co.

"I think there are hundreds of thousands of Southern Baptists who are continuing the boycott very conscientiously," said Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, an agency whose activities include monitoring the boycott.

"We define the boycott as you don't take money out of your pocket and put it in Disney's pocket, which enables Disney to take that money to then subsidize the money-losing projects that they do that attack our values and our beliefs."

While there are no hard numbers to show the boycott's impact one way or the other, Land gives partial credit for some financial challenges at Disney to the work of boycotters.

"The fact that they have closed down significant numbers of their

stores, Disney stores particularly in the Southwest and the Southeast, is not unrelated to the Baptist boycott effort," he said. "The fact that ABC and others are losing money and viewership is not unrelated to the boycott."

Disney spokesman Ken Green said any economic difficulties are related to the economy, not the boycott.

"I think if you look at the overall economy, things have been tough all over," he said. "We see no connection between their activities and our business."

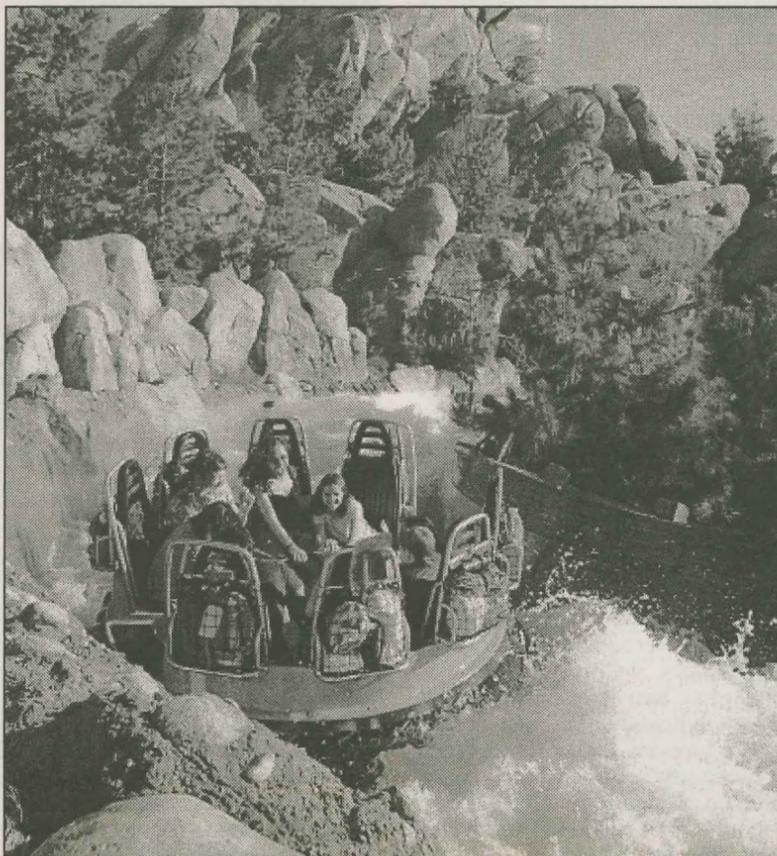
Green said during the first three years of the boycott, Disney's financial situation was "quite positive." He said the later years have been influenced by a recession and the Sept. 11 tragedy, which adversely affected advertising and travel.

Among the Disney policies that bothered Baptists was providing benefits to partners of gay employees and airing programs considered gay-friendly.

"A lot of the issues that they initially raised seem to have gone away," Green said. "One of their concerns was the show 'Ellen,' which is long gone."

He noted that many more companies have extended benefits to gay partners of employees.

"We have not sought to be in an adversarial situation with the Baptists or anyone else," Green said. "We have discussed their concerns, but it doesn't necessarily mean that we're going to allow them to set themselves (up) as censors of our films."



**NEW PARK** While the Disney Co. has closed some stores in the past five years, it also has expanded its television offerings and opened such ventures as the California Adventure theme park at Disneyland. (RNS photo)

He noted that with its purchase last year of the Fox Family Channel, now the ABC Family Channel, a Disney-owned property is carrying Pat Robertson's "700 Club" program, a show he expects many Baptists would appreciate.

Dwayne Hastings, a vice president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the boycott is not

as high a priority as it was five years ago for the commission. But the commission's Web site ([www.erc.com](http://www.erc.com)) includes information on the boycott, such as links to other organizations concerned about the topic.

"It is an important issue, particularly an important issue for families," he said.

But families at the annual meeting of the denomination have different points of view on the boycott.

"It really hasn't affected us," said Matthew Buerhaus, a Cullman, Ala., youth pastor. "We do think about it when we buy Disney movies."

Although his father keeps a "Boycott Disney" bumper sticker on his car, Buerhaus said he appreciates what Disney has to offer.

"Disney overall seems to be wholesome," he said, pushing his six-month-old son Micah in a stroller.

Daniel Flynn, a minister of pastoral care in Fayetteville, N.C., is pro-boycott.

"We support it 100 percent," he said. "We just boycott Disney, Disney stores, the amusement parks, everything, as a church."

His 10-year-old son and his 15-month-old daughter do without the products without complaint, he said.

"We feel just as strongly as when we did the boycott that Disney is not promoting the family," Flynn said. "However big or small it might be, we're sending a message to them that we don't appreciate it."

Land estimates that his family has kept about \$10,500 from Disney over the five-year period by not traveling to its amusement parks or going to any of its movies.

"And trust me, for a movie buff like me, that's a significant financial factor," he said.

**"We just boycott Disney, Disney stores, the amusement parks, everything, as a church."**

North Carolina minister  
Daniel Flynn

#### Beliefs Conference Coming Up!

**MONDAY, August 12th**

7:00-9:15 (Eastern Time)

Rose Hill Baptist Church

1001 Winslow Road, Ashland

**TUESDAY, August 13th**

7:00-9:15 (Eastern Time)

Watts Chapel Baptist Church

11825 US Hwy. 150 E., Crab Orchard

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## Understanding Other Beliefs

Sharing the Biblical Jesus with People of Other Beliefs

Kentucky Baptists will be learning about a variety of other belief systems at an upcoming conference offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The conference will focus on the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses, Islam, occultists and those involved in the New Age movement.

All sessions are led by certified North American Mission Board trainers. Session leaders are **Joe Kreisle** of Hawesville; **Danny Zickefoose** of Fulton; and **Don Metcalf** and **Jack Oliver** of Louisville.

The conferences are free and attendees are not required to pre-register.



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"We are focusing awareness on the beliefs of major religious groups in America so that Kentucky Baptists will be informed witnesses (of their own faith)."

— Dan Garland, KBC Evangelism Growth Team leader

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## Former 'rebel' now has schedule like legendary dad's

**"When I stand up in the pulpit, am I scared? Yes, it's a lonely place."**

Franklin Graham

Continued from page 1

through one of its roughest periods in the late 1980s with the Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart scandals.

But like other Christian evangelists before him, going back to the early Christians Peter and Paul, that service has come at a great personal price. Ask Billy Graham what he regrets about his lifestyle, and his response has been consistent in his later years: the time away from his family.

He preached to others what he could not practice himself: the need for fathers to spend time with their children.

On one trip home in the summer of 1960, he writes in his autobiography, it took him several minutes to realize "that the beautiful little child wandering out to greet us" after a long trip was his younger son, Ned.

For his elder son, Franklin, expectations were great. Shortly after he was born, well-wishers sent letters urging him to "grow up fast" to follow in his father's footsteps.

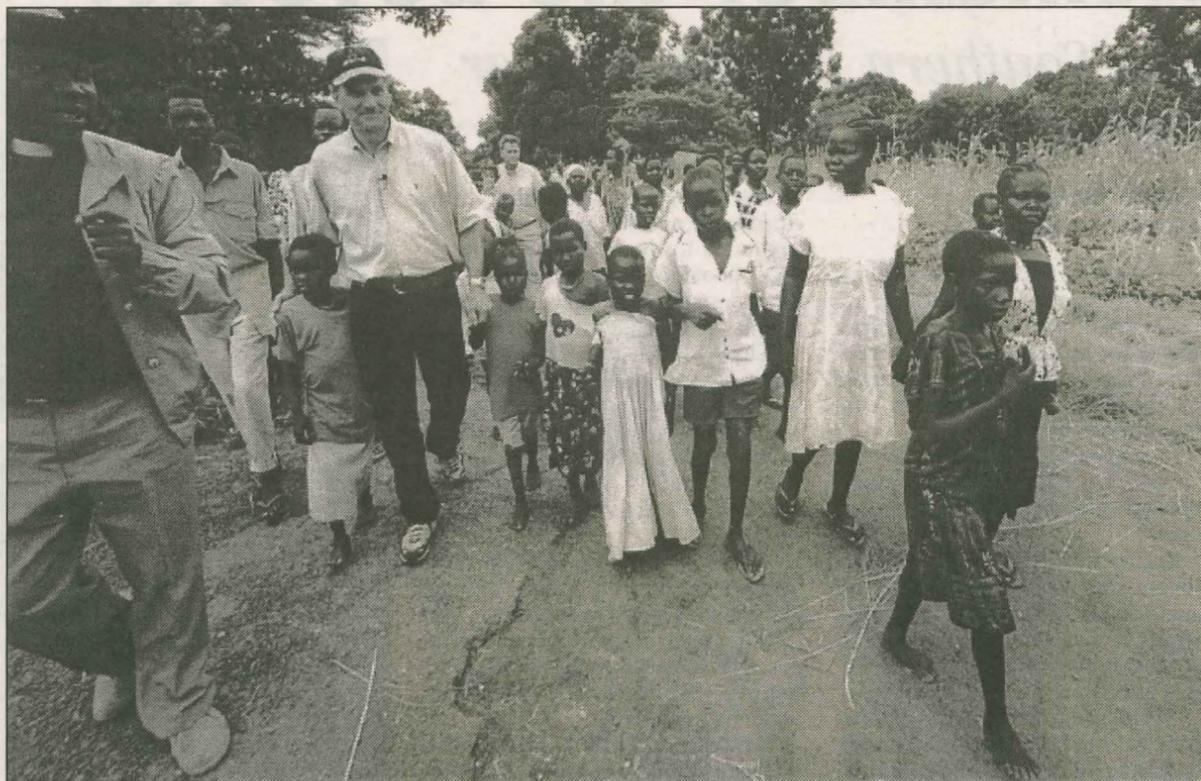
But growing up without a father at home much of his life, Franklin Graham chafed at the idea of being not only a preacher's kid, but America's Preacher's Kid.

He had other plans. He would sometimes skip church to ride his dirt bike when his father was away from home. As he got older, he became a teen rebel who smoked and drank and fought. He led police on high-speed chases and was kicked out of LeTourneau College in Longview, Texas, after his father had used his influence to get him in.

On Franklin Graham's 22nd birthday, Billy Graham confronted his son and told him to make a choice: Either accept or reject Jesus Christ. A resentful son left shortly afterward on a tour of the Holy Land.

Two weeks later, smoking a cigarette in a hotel room in Jerusalem, the younger Graham picked up a Bible, got on his knees and experienced a religious conversion. "The rebel had found the cause," Franklin wrote in his autobiography, "Rebel With a Cause: Finally Comfortable Being Graham."

"And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the moon. 'When you coming home, son?' 'I don't know



**SAMARITAN'S PURSE** In addition to being named president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Franklin Graham also still leads his own Christian relief ministry named Samaritan's Purse. This 1998 photo shows Franklin Graham in Lui, Sudan, where the ministry has helped a hospital and school (Samaritan's Purse photo)

when. But we'll get together then, Dad. You know we'll have a good time then."

Like his father, Franklin would set up home in North Carolina but often be away from his four children.

In 1979, he became president of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian organization that ministers to victims of war, disease, natural disaster and poverty in more than 100 countries. His travels have taken him to places such as Bosnia, Rwanda, Angola, Honduras and Lebanon.

It was a way he could excel in a ministry separate from his father. But by the early 1980s, he was ready to try to become an evangelist on his own. His first effort, in 1983, was a bust. Hundreds and thousands typically respond to his father's invitations, but no one came forward that day in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to publicly accept Jesus.

But he did not give up. Honing his skills before larger and larger audiences, with a name and striking physical resemblance to his father that can draw crowds, he has become an accomplished evangelist on his own.

Since 1989, he has preached before millions throughout the world. In March, more than 150,000 attended his crusade in El Salvador.

Whom does he pattern himself after?

"I think my father has probably had the greatest influence, not that you consciously try to copy," he says.

He does have those piercing eyes, the famous expressive face and his father's unpretentious sincerity in greeting other people.

However, he is not as much of a natural evangelist.

"When I stand up in the pulpit, am I scared? Yes, it's a lonely place," Franklin said.

Still, as he gains confidence and polish as an evangelist, his star continues to rise. In 2001, he gave the prayer at the inauguration of another prodigal son, George W. Bush.

What he had not counted on, he said, was how meaningful the Harry Chapin song "Cat's in the Cradle" would be in his own life.

Like his father, he said during an interview at the organization's mission last month in Cincinnati, "I'm having those regrets, too."

When your kids are 5, 6, 7, 8, he said, it seems like they will be around forever. But now having just turned 50, when his own kids tell him they're busy when he calls them, he said he has come to a greater understanding of the sacrifices made by him and his father.

"It seems like you blink, and they're off to college," he said. "And you blink one more time and they're married."

"And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me. He'd grown up just like me. My boy was just like me."

The song "Cat's in the Cradle" ends with a father and son set apart by the paths they have chosen.

But that is not the ending the Grammys have chosen.

At age 83, and suffering from Parkinson's disease, Billy Graham finally appears ready to bow out of public ministry. Currently, his last scheduled crusade will be in October in Dallas, and his spokesman says he will spend time after that caring for his wife, Ruth, and himself.

His son, Franklin, who was named his successor in 1995, is taking much of the burden off his father. In 2000, he was named chief executive officer of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and earlier this year he was named its

president.

Not that having the title and assuming the mantle of America's preacher are quite the same.

"His son is fine, but I can't think of a great world leader whose son has even been able to fully follow in his father's footsteps," Lee Hopkins said as he sat in the stands during the recent Billy Graham mission in Cincinnati. "Someone else will rise up to meet the needs of that day. God knows who that is."

It is a legacy the son agrees can be passed on only by God.

Just as his father is finally realizing his mortality, so, too, has Franklin made the decision that he can never be the next Billy Graham.

"My father never applied for this job," Franklin said. "I can take the mantle of leadership for that organization. But to take and fill his shoes, I can't do that. No one can do that."

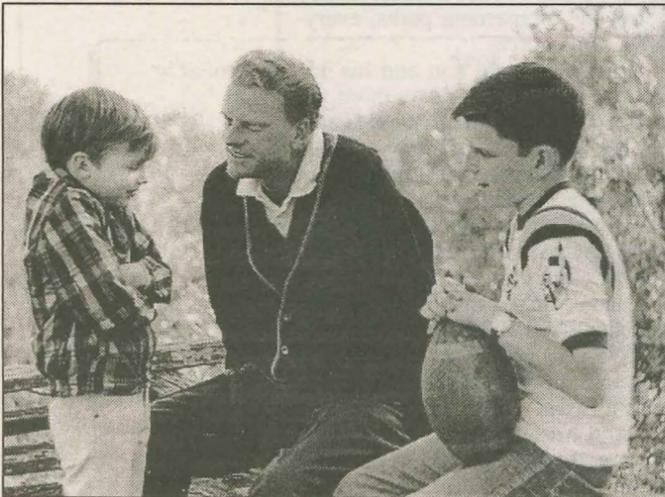
What he can do, in a way neither was able to during Franklin's growing-up years, is see that he and his father spend as much time together as possible.

Each week, when he is at his home in North Carolina, he has lunch with his father. In an interview during his father's recent crusade in Cincinnati, Franklin said he would like to spend even more time with him.

A family that has paid the price of sacrificing time together for ministry is determined this story will not end in the bittersweet refrain of the Chapin song, but will resemble that found in another famous work, the children's book "I Love You Forever." In the book, the parent cradling the baby in the beginning of the book is in the end held in the grown son's arms.

"Right now, my focus is on my father," the younger Graham said. "I want to help my father finish well."

**FAMILY TIME** Billy Graham traveled for months at a time to more than 170 countries to preach the gospel to tens of millions. In a rare moment at home in 1965, he spends time with sons Ned (left) and Franklin. (Photo from Graham collection published in his book, "Just As I Am")



## RECOGNITION OF DECEASED KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 2002 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, Sept. 1, 2001, through Aug. 31, 2002.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Date of death
4. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
5. Name of church where member, association, state where located
6. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before Sept. 3 to:

Executive Office  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
PO Box 43433  
Louisville KY 40253-0433  
ATTN: Wanda Karolyi  
e-mail address: Wanda\_Karolyi@KYBaptist.org

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2002 KBC annual meeting in Williamsburg. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

## Bible literacy campaign seeks to help more 'Read All About It'

NEW YORK (RNS)—The American Bible Society and CBA, a trade organization of the Christian retail industry, have joined forces to tackle illiteracy with a Bible-based learning program.

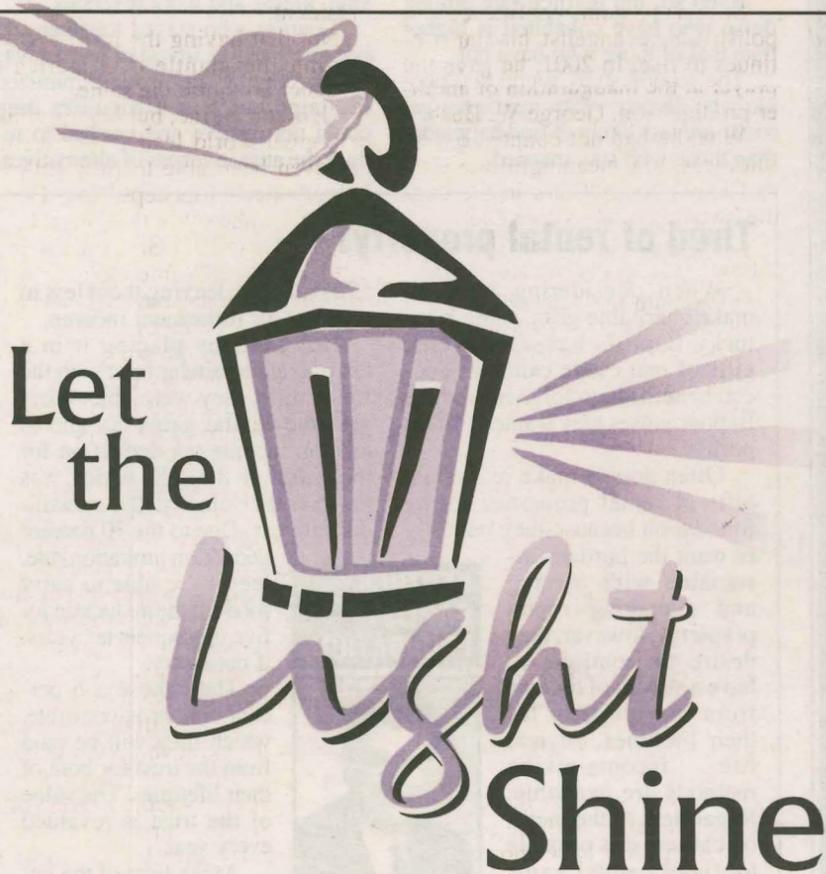
"With 70 percent of primary and middle school students not able to read at grade level, a huge chunk of the next generation is at risk of not being able to know God through reading the Bible," said Trevon Gross, senior vice president of programs at the society.

"Together we can put the tools of our literacy program in the hands of community groups and churches across the nation."

The literacy program, called "Read All About It," can be used in a classroom, in one-on-one tutoring and with groups teaching English as a second language. The program, developed by the society and the Bank Street College of Education in New York, includes student activity books, flashcards and tutors' guides. Designed for children and adults, it aims to allow volunteers with minimal training to successfully teach literacy.

Pilot programs in churches have advanced student literacy. The society hopes to start 1,500 new programs before the end of 2002, aided by Christian booksellers who can identify local groups that could run a literacy program.

"Providing churches and individuals with tools to teach people to read using the Bible is at the very heart of what Christian retail stores are all about," said Bill Anderson, president of CBA, in a statement.



Let  
the  
Light  
Shine

**2002 KBC Annual Meeting**  
November 12-13, 2002

Cumberland College  
Williamsburg, Kentucky



For more information, contact Denise Withers by phone: 502.254.4731 or 888.254.5713 or e-mail: Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org

## WILLIAMSBURG/CORBIN AREA ACCOMMODATIONS

Rates do not include tax. Taxes vary between 9.2%-10.25%. Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates. Most blocked rooms are non-smoking.

### Williamsburg

A few vacancies remain at each of the following facilities.  
The Cumberland Inn is full.

### Days Inn

I-75 and Highway 92  
**606.549.1500**  
\$44 (double & king/1-4 persons)  
Continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/25

### Super 8 Motel (nearly full)

(formerly Holiday Inn Express)  
30 Highway 92 West  
**606.549.3450**  
\$57.50 (1-4 persons)  
Children under 18 stay free  
Breakfast bar  
Reservation deadline: 10/25

### Williamsburg Motel

50 Balltown Road  
**606.549.2300**  
\$43.15 (1-4 persons)  
Coffee and donuts  
Reservation deadline: 11/1

### Williamsburg Restaurants

Wendy's Burger King Krystal's  
Sonic Pizza Hut McDonald's  
Arby's Hardee's Subway  
KFC Long John Silver's  
B&I Restaurant

### Corbin - Exit 25

(16 miles from Williamsburg)

### Best Western Corbin Inn

2360 Cumberland Falls Highway  
**606.528.2100**  
\$36 (1-4 persons)  
Continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/25

### Country Inn & Suites

1888 Cumberland Falls Highway  
**606.526.1400**  
\$59 (2 queen beds/1-4 persons)  
Breakfast bar  
Reservation deadline: 10/20

### Corbin - Exit 25, continued

### Days Inn

I-75 and U.S. Highway 25W  
**606.528.8150**  
\$35.98 (singles & doubles/1-4 persons)  
Continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/11

### Holiday Inn Express

1973 Cumberland Falls Highway  
**606.523.4000**  
\$64 (queens & kings/1-4 persons)  
Continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/31

### Regency Inn & Suites

2615 Cumberland Falls Highway  
**606.528.6301**  
\$29 (doubles)  
Continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 11/1

### Corbin Exit 25 Restaurants

Arby's Reno's  
McDonald's Jerry's  
Burger King

### Corbin - Exit 29

(19 miles from Williamsburg)

### Baymont Inn & Suites

174 Adams Road  
**606.523.9040**  
\$55 (1-2 beds)  
Continental breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/18

### Hampton Inn

125 Adams Road  
**606.523.5696**  
\$55 (1-4 people)  
Deluxe breakfast  
Reservation deadline: 10/11

### Corbin Exit 29 Restaurants

Cracker Barrel Sonny's Barbecue  
Western Sizzler Western Steer

### Cumberland Falls State Resort Park

(26 miles from campus)  
7351 Highway 90  
**606.528.4121**  
\$63 (1-4 persons/Cabins available)  
On-site restaurant  
Reservation deadline: 10/11



## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **'Evenhanded' Middle East plan requested.** Several dozen evangelical leaders have signed a letter to President Bush urging an "evenhanded U.S. policy toward Israelis and Palestinians" and saying the religious right's blanket support of Israel is not affirmed by all evangelicals. "An evenhanded U.S. policy towards Israelis and Palestinians does not give a blank check to either side," 43 leaders wrote in a July letter to the president. Signatories included Clive Calver, president of World Relief; David Neff, editor of Christianity Today magazine; and Ronald J. Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action.

■ **Senate approves protection for newborns.** Legislation providing legal protection to fully delivered babies cleared the U.S. Senate last week. President Bush is expected to sign the Born-alive Infants Protection Act. The Senate action followed by four months the House of Representatives' approval of the bill. The House approved the bill by a voice vote in mid-March. The bill clarifies that a newborn child fully outside his mother's womb is a person to be protected under federal law.

■ **Court: Theology student should get scholarship.** The state of Washington wrongly denied a scholarship to a college student who wanted to pursue a degree in theology, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled July 18. Joshua Davey was awarded a "Promise Scholarship" in 1999 but then was denied it after he declared a major in pastoral ministries at Northwest College, an Assemblies of God school in Kirkland, Wash. The state's Higher Education Coordinating Board said it denied the scholarship because state law barred funding of religious instruction.

■ **Radio Bible Class president dies.** Religious broadcasting pioneer Richard W. DeHaan, president of Radio Bible Class for more than 20 years, died July 16 at the age of 79. His father, Martin DeHaan, founded the Radio Bible Class program in 1938, and Richard DeHaan became president on his father's death in 1965. He retired in 1985. His son, Mart, now serves in that role. DeHaan launched the "Day of Discovery" television program in 1968, which is one of the longest continuously broadcast programs in the country. Radio Bible Class also publishes the popular "Our Daily Bread" devotional series, which is distributed free in hundreds of churches.

## Studies show some pitfalls from divorce, cohabitation

ARLINGTON, Va. (BP)—A pair of recent studies seem to strike a blow for cohabitation and encourage couples to stick with a marriage when problems arise.

The first study found that men who cohabit with the women they eventually marry are more reluctant to marry and, then, are less committed to their marriages.

Women who are cohabiting "should be very careful about how aligned they are with a particular man if he does not show any strong sense of marriage and a future together," said Scott Stanley, a researcher for the project sponsored by the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver.

More than 5 million unmarried American couples live together, according to USA Today, and between 50 percent and 60 percent of new marriages now involve couples who have lived together first.

Many cohabiting couples say they want to live together in order to get a sense of what it would be like to be married to a particular person without the obligation of staying in the relationship if it does not work favorably.

Even so, the divorce rate among those who have cohabited is higher than that of those who have not.

The second study found that people who divorce when marriages get rocky are less likely to find happiness than those who stay married.

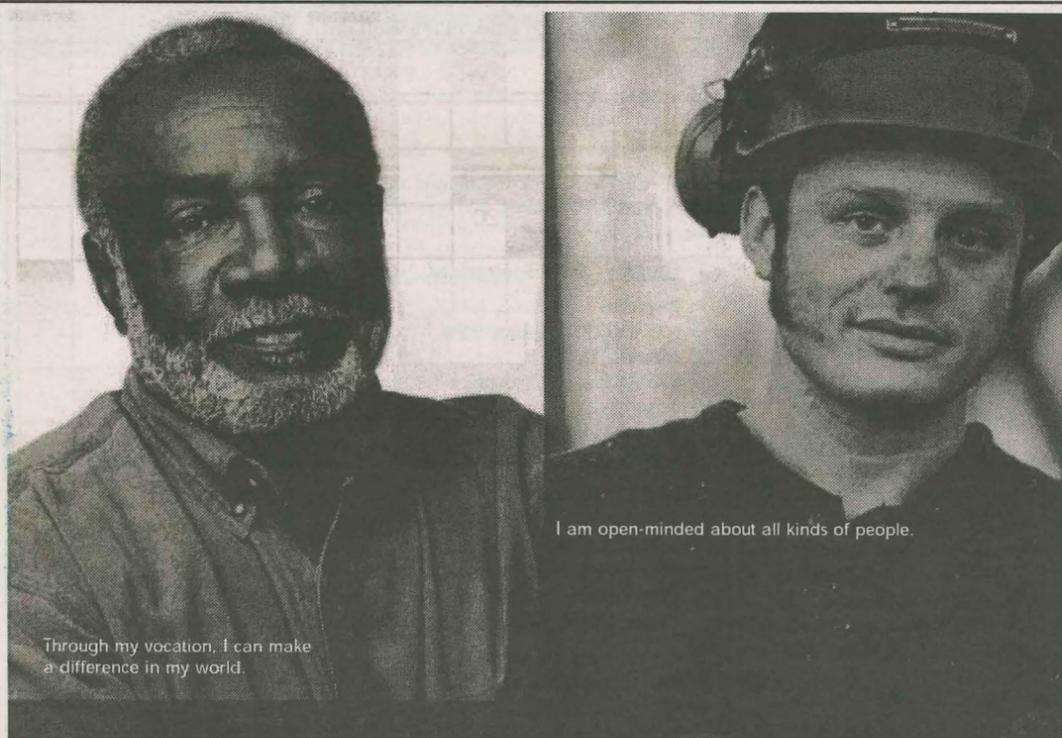
That study found no evidence that unhappily married adults who divorced were typically any happier than unhappily married people who stayed married. Researchers, led by University of Chicago sociologist Linda Waite, also determined that two-thirds of unhappily married spouses who stayed married reported their marriages were happy five years later.

Divorce typically did not reduce symptoms of depression or raise self-esteem, the study found. "Some divorce is necessary, but results like these suggest the benefits of divorce have been oversold," Waite said.

The study said divorce, while eliminating some stresses and sources of potential harm, may create other problems, including adverse reactions of children; issues in custody, child support and visitation orders; new financial or health situation of one or both parents; and the uncertainty of new relationships or marriages.

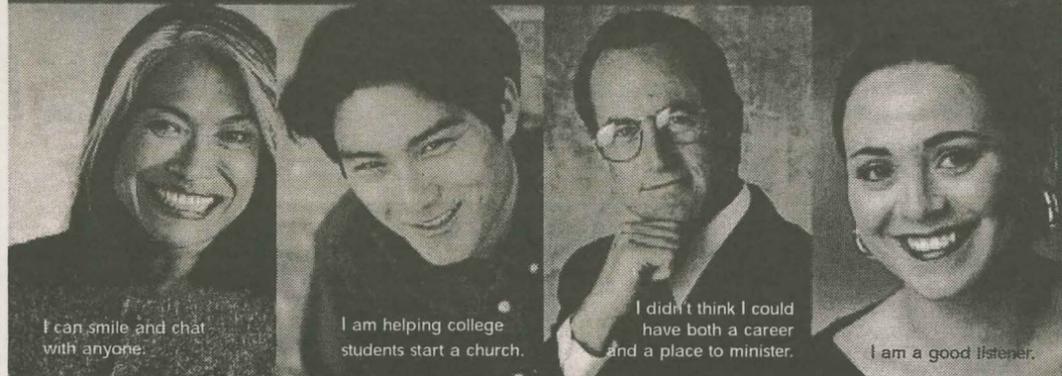
Researchers also concluded that many currently happily married spouses have had extended periods of marital unhappiness, often for reasons including alcoholism, infidelity, verbal abuse, emotional neglect, depression, illness and work reversals.

Couples who stayed together and became happier over time minimized the importance of difficulties they could not resolve and worked to reduce the attractiveness of alternatives.



Through my vocation, I can make a difference in my world.

I am open-minded about all kinds of people.



I can smile and chat with anyone.

I am helping college students start a church.

I didn't think I could have both a career and a place to minister.

I am a good listener.

## USE YOUR CAREER TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

Use your professional skills to make a difference in people's lives. Mission Service Corps (MSC) is a team of self-funded missionaries who serve an average of 20 hours per week for four months or more. MSC missionaries provide their own financial support or are supported by sponsors while on the mission field. Opportunities for service are available in Kentucky and North America.

[www.kybaptist.org/msc](http://www.kybaptist.org/msc)

1 800 266-6477, ext. 397



NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD, SBC

## Tired of rental property?

When considering ways to make charitable gifts, some Kentucky Baptists have discovered gifts of real estate can have special benefits both for them and the Baptist causes they wanted to support.

Often donors make real estate gifts of rental properties to the foundation because they no longer want the burdens associated with owning and managing rental property. However, they desire to continue to have a stream of income from the property for their lifetimes. Several life income-giving methods are available. Regardless of the method chosen, it is possible to avoid capital gains tax on the increase in value of the real estate at the time of the gift, as well as to enjoy a current income tax deduction.

Let me give you an example of a couple in their 60s, who owned two rental houses. They paid \$15,000 for each of them 30 years ago. According to a current appraisal, each was worth \$60,000. They wanted to retire and rid themselves of the ownership responsibilities. If they had sold the property, they first would have had to pay capital gains tax on the

\$90,000 gain, leaving them less to reinvest for retirement income.

However, by placing it in a charitable remainder trust with the foundation, they were able to bypass the capital gains tax and to take an income tax deduction for the value of the gift, which was the present value of the remainder interest. Due to the 30 percent deduction limitation rule, they were able to carry forward the deduction for five subsequent tax years, if necessary.

They chose a 6 percent annual payout rate, which they will be paid from the trust for both of their lifetimes. The value of the trust is revalued every year.

At the time of the latter trust will be placed in a permanent endowment fund, the income from which will be paid by the foundation to the two Baptist causes they designated in the trust agreement.

If you're tired of managing your rental property, call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free to assist you in evaluating a gift of that property.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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



## Michael W. speaks: Smith in state for 'Worship Again'

**"There's a real move of the Spirit of God sweeping across America, especially among young people."**

Michael W. Smith

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Churches must be willing to "pass the baton" of worship music to younger generations or risk dying, according to singer-songwriter Michael W. Smith.

Smith, in Louisville last week to record "Worship Again," a follow-up to his wildly successful "Worship" CD, took time out of his preparations to talk about worship, the impact of his recording and the state of contemporary Christian music.

While many churches have embraced contemporary worship songs, many others haven't, and Smith said some of those churches are simply afraid of change.

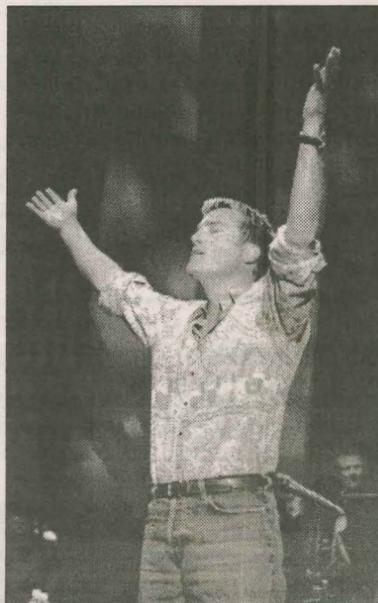
"It's old wineskins," he said. "I think a lot of people who are not embracing some of the songs that are being sung are just afraid of change, and I think it's unhealthy."

"When you see most of those churches that don't embrace those sorts of things, most of those churches are probably dying," he added. "They're stagnate, stale. I've seen them. I've walked into them."

Churches can't ignore younger people when it comes to worship music, he insisted. "I think you have got to pass the baton, and we've got to have a heart for kids and this next generation."

But Smith noted that such changes can't be forced from the outside.

"You can beat somebody over



**WORSHIP AGAIN** Michael W. Smith was in Louisville last week, recording "Worship Again" at Southeast Christian Church. The CD should be released in October.

the head for days. It doesn't do any good. Hopefully, you ultimately have a group of people within that church that absolutely are on their faces every day praying for God to break down the wall and that change will happen."

Smith said the expanding popularity of contemporary Christian worship songs is one example of God's work among younger Christians.

"There's a real move of the Spir-

it of God sweeping across America, especially among young people," he said. "You're seeing people really falling in love with God, and so they're dying to find something that they can sing, something that will express what they want to say."

Still, Smith said he never suspected "Worship" would be this successful. "That's why I never wanted to do this in the first place. ... I grew up on Elton John and the Beatles and Billy Joel and I just wanted to do pop music and share my faith through that."

Released Sept. 11 of last year, "Worship" has become Smith's fastest-selling recording, reaching gold record status (500,000 sales) in just 14 weeks. "Who would have known?" he asked.

Just as he initially hadn't intended to record the first album, "I said I never would do a follow-up to it because I didn't want to manufacture something, but I continue to find great, great, great, great worship songs."

Not that everything written these days is good, he added. "You get about 5 percent (of worship songs) that will really stand the test of time."

Smith said he looks for worship songs that will help listeners develop a deeper intimacy with God. "I think it's just trying to find something that we've said for 2,000 years and to say it in a fresh way."

"Like a rose trampled on the ground, you took the fall and thought of me above all." I mean, that's never

been said," he said, quoting a line from "Above All," a song on "Worship."

"How do you say that again, articulately? And how do you find that wonderful poet who can express something in a way and you go, 'Oh, man you took my breath away,'" he said. "I want to sing something that will, for the lack of a better word, kind of slay somebody ... and ultimately make people realize, 'Oh my gosh, the love of God, there are no words.'"

As the popularity of worship music expands, Smith admits he has some concerns about contemporary Christian artists.

"I think the biggest need that we have for our artists in our industry is accountability," Smith said. He added that he now finds that in his early 40s he's becoming a father figure and mentor to younger contemporary Christian performers.

"We get a lot of these artists, who are gone every weekend, they're not plugged into a church and they're falling off the cliff," he said. "The intent of their heart is fine," he said, but many don't have the proper support or guidelines to guard against temptations.

Smith fans have two recordings to look forward to. A DVD of music from the "Worship" recording is set to be released Aug. 20. "Worship Again" should be released in the latter half of October, but Smith didn't recall the exact date. "I know it's on a Tuesday. They all come out on a Tuesday."

### OBI champions at Laurel County livestock show

By Tamara Cochran  
Oneida Baptist Institute Publications

Four Oneida Baptist Institute students returned to campus with grand champion titles from the Laurel County Livestock Show held July 1-2, 2002, in London.

Since January 2001, the OBI farm has been strengthening its newest Future Farmers of America event. OBI Farm Manager Lynn Cole noted that students started the year with calves weighing from 330 to 535 pounds. The same seven steers when taken to contest ranged from 860 to 1,235 pounds.

Farm staff member Ron Covington has been in charge of the steer part of the show program from its inception. Daily training exercises include untying and leading an animal to water, feeding, bedding and grooming chores.

Ten students enrolled in summer school were also willing to give up the first half of their week-long July break in order to attend the show. Since the dorms were closed that week, the young people stayed at the farm. The girls stayed with Cole and his wife. The boys and Covington got to sleep on mattresses in the agriculture center next door. Cole said, "It's a challenge for the staff to pull it off."

Seven of our students showed both a steer and a hog at the Laurel County show. Three others showed a hog. As they did with the cattle, the young people had been involved in the daily hands-on care of the swine, which are raised from birth on the OBI farm.

Three of this year's calves were Red Limousine steers donated to OBI by Hugh Brock, owner of Brock Limousines in Corbin. Two of these

were shown at the contest.

Students competed with their animals in several different classes at the show. OBI students placed in every class. Carrissa Horne, a sophomore, went on to win the Grand Champion Beef Showmanship title. Sophomore Billy Ray Hunter's calf was named the Grand Champion Steer. Seniors Mark Helton and Cynthia Brown received the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Swine Showmanship titles respectively.

**THIS IS ONEIDA**



W.F. Underwood

Cole described some showing techniques, like tapping specific places on an animal's body to obtain desired responses, making eye contact with the judge, keeping the animal between the student and the judge and smiling. "That was one big reason Carrissa won," Cole said. "The judge told her every time he looked at her she had a big smile." After the contest, Cole reminded her, "I hope you learned the importance of a smile. ... It won the trophy for you."

Our students valued the experience of participating in the contest. They also enjoyed the money and numerous ribbons and trophies they earned, Cole noted. "Everybody got at least a ribbon and \$25 for participating," he added. He estimated that from the participants to the Grand Champions, Oneida students received more than \$1,000 in prize money.

Another busy week over, eight FFA members and two chaperones packed for the annual FFA leadership training camp, which started July 8 in Hardinsburg.

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

### Oklahoma bride helps equip the jobless

This summer several Clear Creek students have opportunities for mission trips to Russia and Brazil. These are always life-changing experiences. Just ask senior student Moses Mivedor how the mission to Oklahoma in June 2000 changed his life.

New Testament professor Roy Lucas, a native of Oklahoma, organized the trip. Moses was assigned to help First Baptist Church of Cole, just outside Oklahoma City. The church took the children to camp at Falls Creek Baptist Assembly. The leader of a group in a nearby cabin told Moses, "You've got a lot in common with a girl who works for me."

The leader called his work colleague, Beth, and invited her to camp for dinner the next day. Beth had served as a missionary journeyman in Senegal. Moses, a native of Togo, also had worked in Senegal. "We met for dinner and the rest is history," Beth said with a smile. They married in July 2001.

How's the adjustment been from a large city to a small town? "The first month was the hardest, finding my niche," Beth said. "Everyone was very friendly, helpful and encouraging. Now with a church and a job, I feel more at home. I'm a

thousand miles from my family, but my parents helped us move and stayed a week. It's been good for us to rely on each other."

A master of arts graduate in adult education from Oklahoma Baptist University, Beth works with Project LIFE (Learning Independence From Employment) at Sister Margery Adult Learning Center in Pineville. "We work on communication skills, stress and conflict management, time issues and self-esteem," Beth said. "The eight-week program has a high success rate. I recently saw one of my first students. She now works for a community service agency. She has much greater confidence and improved posture and eye contact."

Moses and Beth plan to return to Senegal as church planters among a nomadic tribe in the northern sub-Saharan desert. Moses will complete his degree in December, and they will move to Fort Worth, Texas, where Moses will enroll at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and work toward the master of divinity degree.

**CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE**



Bill Whittaker

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

# BOOKS/MUSIC

## 'Prayer of Jabez' named Christian book of the year for second time

ANAHEIM, Calif. (RNS)—"The Prayer of Jabez," the best-selling book by Bruce Wilkinson, has been named the Christian Book of the Year for an unprecedented second year in a row by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

The 93-page volume published by Multnomah Publishers is the first book in the history of the association's Jordon Christian Book of the Year Award to receive the top designation twice. It focuses on a prayer in the book of 1 Chronicles in the Bible.

The award was announced July 13 during the 25th annual Gold Medallion Book Awards banquet at the CBA International, the annual convention of the Christian retail industry.

During the same ceremony, author Warren Wiersbe was honored with a lifetime achievement award. Wiersbe has authored more than 125 books, compiled the "Be Series" Bible studies, and served in a variety of positions for Christian organizations.

Gold Medallion Awards were presented to winners in 20 categories. Winners included:

■ **Bible Study:** "Ephesians" by Lenya Heitzig and Penny Rose.

■ **Biography/Autobiography:** "Footprints of a Pilgrim" by Ruth Bell Graham.

■ **Christian Education:** "Jesus Among Other Gods EZ Lesson Plan" by Ravi Zacharias.

■ **Christian Living:** "Traveling Light" by Max Lucado.

■ **Christian Ministry:** "Ministering to Twenty-First Century Families" by Dennis Rainey.

■ **Christianity and Society:** "Eyes Wide Open" by William Romanowski.

■ **Devotional:** "I Will Follow You, O God" by Jerry Bridges.

■ **Elementary Children:** "Window on the World" by Daphne Spraggett.

■ **Family and Parenting:** "Bringing Up Boys" by James Dobson.

■ **Fiction:** "Safely Home" by Randy Alcorn.

■ **Inspirational:** "Wild at Heart" by John Eldredge.

■ **Marriage:** "The Power of a Praying Husband" by Stormie Omartian.

■ **Missions/Evangelism:** "Operation World 21st Century Edition" by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk.

■ **Preschool Children:** "Blessings Every Day" by Carla Barnhill.

■ **Reference Works/Commentaries:** "Genesis—A Commentary" by Bruce Waltke.

■ **Theology/Doctrine:** "Faith Has Its Reasons" by Kenneth Boa and Robert Bowman Jr.

■ **Youth:** "The Narrow Road" by Brother Andrew.

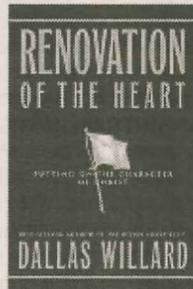
**Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ.** Dallas Willard. Navpress, 2002. 268 pages. \$24.99. ◆◆◆◆ (Out of five)

Dallas Willard is at it again. In "The Divine Conspiracy," he challenged us to re-examine the heart of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. "Renovation of the Heart" ties into the post-modern passion for spirituality and confronts us with the reality of Christian spiritual formation. Willard observes that authentic spiritual formation in the pattern of Christ is hard work.

"Spiritual formation for the Christian basically refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ Himself. ... Christian spiritual formation is focused entirely on Jesus. Its goal is an obedience or conformity to Christ that arises out of an inner transformation accomplished through purposive interaction with the grace of God in Christ."

Eschewing the evangelical tendency to define the operative grace of God only in terms of forgiveness of sin, redemption from hell and preparation for heaven, Willard reclaims the ancient notion of the cooperative grace of God by means of which we work with the Spirit of God to grow daily toward the character of Christ. Willard observes that most evangelical churches spend more time trying to get people into heaven, with precious little focus on trying to get heaven into people. This has resulted in many modern Christians who are indistinguishable in attitudes and behaviors from their non-Christian neighbors.

In "Renovation," Willard lays out a vision for authentic Christian spiritual formation. His descriptions of the basic human condition and the work of God in Christ to address it are some of the best I have read. *Jim Holladay*



**The Church You've Always Wanted: Where Safe Pasture Begins.** Glenn Wagner with Steve Halliday. Zondervan, 2002. 254 pages. \$16.99. ◆◆◆◆

The image that drives Glenn Wagner's work is "safe pasture." This, he believes, is what God intends for His sheep.

Safe pasture is a place where "relationships with fellow believers are deep and restorative; worship flows not from techniques but from hearts communing with God; ... Jesus, the Great Shepherd, shows up in transforming ways that the corporation-CEO approach to church just can't produce." Wagner's goal is to move the reader from an idea of church being a place that focuses on doing to seeing the church as a place that emphasizes being.

What Wagner has experienced as a pastor (at Calvary Church in Charlotte, N.C.) is that putting into place all the latest church growth techniques produces a church of doers who soon are burned out and might even turn away from the church.

Wagner's explanation of this is that being a "doing" church does not necessarily produce a place where people can feel grace, growth and community. The solution is to create an environment in the church where people can get out of the religious fast lane and feel true, rich Christian community. The results will be a church that is even more effective at reaching the world for Christ, but for the right reasons: a true experience with God and each other.

This is one of a number of books reacting to the mega-church effects on American Christianity. Wagner says that if a church grows to be a mega-church, it should be because of what the church "is," not what it "does." Amen and amen. *Wayne Hager*

**The New Mormon Challenge: Responding to the Latest Defenses of a Fast-Growing Movement.** Zondervan Publishing, 2002. General editors Francis Beckwith, Carl Mosser and Paul Owen. 535 pages. \$21.99. ◆◆◆◆

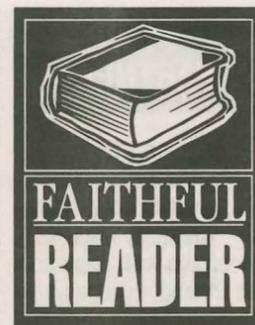
Time was when Mormons were contained largely to Utah, and the most contact any of us had with Mormons was through the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the occasional missionary pair who showed up at our door. Now Mormons are everywhere, with churches in our neighborhoods and temples in our larger cities.

How much does the average Christian really know about the history, theology and development of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints? The editors of "The New Mormon Challenge" would reply, "Not much." And what we do know is based on stereotypes, polemics or outdated information. One purpose of this book is to present a fair and up-to-date picture of Mormon history and thought.

How capable is the average Christian to dialogue with a Mormon neighbor about the differences between Mormon theology and orthodox Christianity? Again, the editors of this book would reply, "Not well."

The sad truth is that most Christians are fairly ignorant of their own theology. In a time when spirituality seems to be defined mostly by feelings, the possibility of being led astray increases.

The authors of "The New Mormon Challenge" have given us a reasoned and fair look into Mormon history and thought; and they offer countering positions from Christian theology. This book is a valuable resource for those who desire to enter into a non-polemical, charitable dialogue with Mormons. It also will challenge most of us to look deeply into our own faith and theology. *Jim Holladay*



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

## Contemporary Christian, gospel outpace overall music industry

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Contemporary Christian and gospel music sales grew by 18 percent in the first six months of 2002, an outcome that far exceeded the overall music industry, which reported a decline.

SoundScan reported that Christian music album unit sales from Jan. 1 to June 30 totaled 23.4 million compared to 19.8 million for the same period last year, the Christian Music Trade Association announced. SoundScan is the computerized network that collects sales data from retailers and compiles the results for industry reports.

The overall music industry reported a decline of 9 percent in the same period.

"The Christian and gospel music industry's success so far this year is extraordinary in light of a soft economy and disappointing results in the overall music industry," said Frank Breeden, president of the association.

General market retailers increased their sales of Christian and gospel music, accounting for 55 percent of the total sales. Christian retailers sold 44 percent of the genre's albums in

the first half of 2002.

CMTA credited marketing initiatives by such retailers as Target and Wal-Mart stores for contributing to the growth of sales in mainstream stores.

Each of the top 10 albums of Christian music have sold more than 200,000 units during 2002, compared to last year's top 10 list, in which only half the albums sold that much in the same time period.

- The top albums are:
- 1 "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" by various artists.
  - 2 "Satellite" by P.O.D.
  - 3 "Rebirth of Kirk Franklin" by Kirk Franklin.
  - 4 "Worship" by Michael W. Smith.
  - 5 "Almost There" by MercyMe.
  - 6 "Believe" by Yolanda Adams.
  - 7 "Songs 4 Worship: Shout to the Lord" by various artists.
  - 8 "WoW Gospel 2002" by various artists.
  - 9 "WoW Hits 2002" by various artists.
  - 10 "Come Together" by Third Day.

## iBelieve.com set to return to the Internet under new management

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (RNS)—The Christian Web site iBelieve.com is returning to cyberspace with a new owner after shutting down in 2000.

Jabez Networks of Brentwood, Tenn., announced July 15 that it has acquired the assets of the site from Family Christian Stores, a Christian retailer, for undisclosed terms. The retailer will remain affiliated with the site as a marketing and e-commerce partner.

Jabez Networks intends to offer free content and community features on the site and create a network of subscription-based Christian Web sites.

The company has previous experience in subscription-based Internet content, including its Rivals.com, a popular sports site. It also manages FaithSite.com, which provides content management and hosting services for ministries and other organizations.

"We have a tremendous asset in the iBelieve.com name and I think that by applying our proven business model, we can create a compelling and viable Christian network," said Greg Gough, co-founder of Jabez Networks and president of iBelieve.com.

The previous version of the site launched in January 2000 and closed by the following October. It had 550,000 members and 2 million visitors, but it shut down due to lack of funding.

# 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:

- The need for fellowship and Bible studies among Christian Basques of France and Spain. Wisdom for Baptist representatives Ferran and Lynda Bertrand as they encourage Basque believers to begin Bible studies in their homes.

- Christians in Belgium as they deal with new government regulations concerning religious groups. Missionaries write, "The building the Brussels (mission) team was planning to rent has been sold. Two other evangelism points will be shut down by September. The police have told one group they are too loud. The owner of the other building no longer wants to rent to a religious group."

- Give thanks for the work of a Baptist Student Union group from Tennessee that recently distributed invitations to view the "Jesus" film in Bombarral, Portugal. Pray for those who will see the film.

- Missionaries Steven and Deborah Reece as they develop a strategy for planting churches across Warsaw, Poland.

- Collegians across the nation and around the world who are getting ready to move to Boston to attend colleges and universities there this fall.

- Collegiate ministers in Boston who are preparing to present the gospel to the thousands of collegians who will descend on Boston in the next few weeks.

## 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](http://www.sanibelcondo.net). Call Pat, (502) 895-8752.

**FOR SALE:** Buses and easy-access shuttle vans with center aisles (no CDL required). Call American Bus & Accessories, Inc., (800) 582-7118.

**FOR SALE:** 1974 GMC church bus, model 4905, in great condition. Reclining seats, 47-passenger, excellent AC, restroom and large luggage bays. The coach is very well maintained and inexpensive to operate, has new paint, is serviced and ready to drive anywhere. Price is only \$12,500. Call (859) 277-7391 (ask for Dale Hanson or David Dale).

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

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

**NEEDED:** Transportation for growing church. We are saving Campbell's Soup labels to get a van. Please send labels to: East Bend Baptist Church, 12246 Lower River Road, Union, KY 41091, Attn: Janet Fugate. God bless you; we appreciate your help.

**RETREAT:** Detoxifying anger in personal and church relationships. Led by Dr. Walter Jackson, dean, Campbellsville University, Aug. 9-10 at cleftRock Retreat Center. Interested? Call (800) 719-0600.

**SEEKING:** Teachers for Bluegrass Baptist School in Lexington: Middle school (7th and 8th) English and math teacher; high school English teacher; keyboarding and computer literacy teacher. Call: (859) 272-1217.

**SEEKING:** Mature Christian for full-time administrative assistant position at fast-growing, suburban church. Candidate must be proficient with office equipment and Microsoft Office suite, and be able to manage multiple projects while meeting deadlines. Hours for position are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Send resumé with salary requirements to: Personnel Committee, West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40299, or fax to (502) 499-9882.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for Huber Heights First Baptist Church in Dayton, Ohio. Candidates for this position should have a master's degree in music and be committed to leading a blended style of worship. The church currently is in a building program developing a second campus which will require multiple worship services. Resumés should be sent to: Personnel Committee, Huber Heights Baptist Church, 5310 Packard Drive, Huber Heights, OH 45424.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor (SBC affiliation). Please send resumés and/or recommendations to: Pastor Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 96 Calvary Church Road, Corbin, KY 40701.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for an American Indian ministry on the Navajo Reservation. Work involves outreach to a government (BIA) boarding school serving several tribes. Send resumé: Search Committee, Wingate Baptist Church, PO Box 295, Fort Wingate, NM 87316-0295. Deadline: Aug. 15, 2002.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown, Ohio. We are an SBC church located in a small town about 35 miles east of Cincinnati, Ohio. Average attendance: 100 worship; 65 Sunday school. Send resumés to: Georgetown Baptist Search Committee, 513 Fulton Ave., Georgetown, OH 45121, or e-mail to [philipashcraft@hotmail.com](mailto:philipashcraft@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time activities assistant. Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Seeking a person who enjoys working with elderly residents in nursing home programs. Meadowview Health & Rehab Center, 9701 Whipps Mill Road, Louisville. Glory Erbele, (502) 426-2778.

**SEEKING:** Perryville Baptist Church is eagerly seeking God's man for the position of full-time pastor. Membership 540. Church has begun a building program. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 26, Perryville, KY 40468, or fax to (859) 332-8729. Church phone: (859) 332-8721.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Meta Baptist Church in Pikeville, Ky. Please send resumé to 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Trenton Baptist Church, located near Hopkinsville and Clarksville, Tenn., seeks a part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Music Committee, Trenton Baptist Church, PO Box 191, Trenton, KY 42286.

**SEEKING:** Columbia Baptist Fellowship (CBF) which is intentional in its racial, cultural and theological diversity, seeks a biblically-grounded senior pastor who will facilitate the 400 members of this congregation in ministry and study. CBF worships in an interfaith center in the planned community of Columbia, Md. Candidates should send resumés no later than Oct. 15, 2002, to: Search Committee, Columbia Baptist Fellowship, 5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Eastern Heights Baptist Church. Please send resumés to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Eastern Heights Baptist Church, 3733 Highway 62, Jeffersonville, IN 47130. For more information, you may contact the pastor at (812) 283-6998, or e-mail [gustafson@iolky.com](mailto:gustafson@iolky.com).

**SEEKING:** Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky., is accepting resumés for full-time minister of youth with additional ministry area of music or children (dependent on candidate's experience, interest and skills). Interested candidates should contact Mike Russelburg at [jmr702@aol.com](mailto:jmr702@aol.com), or Rev. Kenneth A. Stone at [ktstone@owensboro.net](mailto:ktstone@owensboro.net). Mail resumé to: Search Committee, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 5664 Highway 56, Owensboro, KY 42301.

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for First Baptist Church of Walton, Ky. If interested in this position, please send resumé to 47 S Main St., Walton, KY 41094, or e-mail us at [FBCWalton@juno.com](mailto:FBCWalton@juno.com). Our Web site is [www.FirstBaptistWalton.com](http://www.FirstBaptistWalton.com).

**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](mailto:westside@kih.net).

**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 resumés to: Search Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

**SEEKING:** Post Oak Baptist Church is currently accepting resumés 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 applicant and wind instruments sufficient for directing an instrumental ensemble. Resumés should be sent to: Search Committee, Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276.

**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](mailto:fbcashla@fbcashlandky.com), or fax: (606) 324-4344.

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

**SEEKING:** Elizabethtown Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time minister of youth. Responsibilities include planning, promoting and conducting an attractive and wholesome program for youth (grades 7-12). Send resumé to: Elizabethtown Baptist Church, PO Box 338, Elizabethtown, KY 42702-0338.

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

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

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

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

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

# PEOPLE

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ALBANY**—Stony Point Church called **Larry Brown** as interim pastor.

■ **ANNVILLE**—Bond Church recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. **Denny McCowan** is pastor.

■ **BEDFORD**—Bedford Church called **Vicky Wilkes** as youth director.

■ **BENTON**—New Zion Church called **William Castleberry** as youth director.

■ **BURGIN**—Beech Grove Church called **Daniel Wilson** as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry June 2 by First Church, Danville.

■ **CADIZ**—**Harold Franklin Skaggs**, pastor emeritus of First Church of Oak Grove, died July 5 at age 70. In addition to Oak Grove, he had been pastor of churches in Benton, Fisherville, Calhoun and Cadiz. He also had been president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference and first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Funeral services were held July 8 at Cadiz Church. Skaggs is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons and two granddaughters.

New Hope Church called **Gary Snyder** as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Green River Memorial Church called **Gary Durham** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Round Top Church, Elizabethtown.

■ **COVINGTON**—Oak Ridge Church recently called **Mark Bissonnette** as associate pastor and minister of youth.

■ **COX'S CREEK**—River View Church called **Terry Leap** as pastor. He previously was pastor of West Covington Church.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—**Tim Menser** resigned as pastor of Centerfield Church.

**Thame Fuller** resigned as pastor of Harrods Creek Church effective July 21.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church celebrated its 185th anniversary July 21 with special worship services. **Willie Ailstock** is pastor.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Mount Zion Church called **Donald Farmer** as pastor.

■ **FALMOUTH**—Union Association called **Norman Workman** as director of missions effective Aug. 1. He previously was pastor of Turner Ridge Church.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Great Crossing

Church called **Ray Roach** as pastor effective July 21. He previously was pastor of First Church in Tolland, Conn.

■ **GILBERTSVILLE**—Bethel Church called **Mark Lilly** as pastor effective June 30. He previously was pastor of Barren Run Church in Sonora.

■ **HEBRON**—Sand Run Church recently called **Steve Cable** as pastor.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—**John Routh** resigned as pastor of Welfare Church.

■ **LA GRANGE**—Buckner Church called **John Park** as consultant to singles ministry.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Midlane Park Church called **Chris Callebs** as youth minister. **Gary Bozarth** is pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Pond River Church will celebrate homecoming July 28. **Ronnie Cullen** will be guest speaker.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church will host the **Dreamland Quartet** of Lexington in concert July 28, 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 245-7889.

■ **MONTICELLO**—Mount Zion Church called **Mike Watts** as interim pastor.

Parmleys Grove Church called **Rick Catron** as pastor. He recently was ordained to the gospel ministry by Rectors Flat Church.

**Kendall Hatton** recently resigned as pastor of Rectors Flat Church.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First



Church called **Kevin Griggs** as full-time youth minister. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—**Ronnie Hooks** resigned as pastor of Beulah Hill Church.

**Richie McKinney** resigned as pastor of Pleasant Grove Church.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will celebrate its 19th anniversary July 26-28, 7 p.m. **LaVerne Butler** will be guest evangelist. **D.L. Brewer** is pastor.

■ **SLAUGHTERS**—Slaughters Church called **Billy Crabtree** as pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—**Kevin Coulter** resigned as pastor of New Hope Church effective Aug. 4.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Hillsboro Church called **Robert Belen** as pastor.

■ **WESTPORT**—Covington Church called **Tommy Rucker** as pastor.

**MUSICAL SALUTE**  
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union consultant **Anna Mary Byrdwell** recently was honored for 35 years of service on the state WMU staff. A reception at the Baptist Building in her honor included a KBC Executive Board staff quartet serenading Byrdwell.

## Former missionary hostage plans to settle in Kansas

**ROSE HILL, Kan. (RNS)**—Former hostage **Gracia Burnham**, who served as a missionary with New Tribes Mission in the Philippines, has decided to settle down in Rose Hill, Kan., with the help of community supporters.

Burnham and her husband, **Martin**, were held captive for more than a year. He was killed June 7 when she and another hostage were rescued during a shoot-out between Filipino troops and rebel kidnapers.

Since the kidnappings, the couple's three children have lived with **Martin Burnham's** parents in Rose Hill.

"We're not trying to build her a mansion—she doesn't want one," said **Steve McRae**, the organizer of contractors and other volunteers who plan to build her a house by Christmas. "We just want to give her a home where she can feel comfortable raising her kids."

New Tribes Mission is circulating a list of prayer requests for **Burnham** as she adjusts to life without her husband. The prayer requests include:

- **Burnham's** health. Her leg wound is slow to heal; pray that it will mend completely. Pray also for emotional healing for her and her children.
- Telling the story. What is the best way for **Burnham** to relate the story of her experience and God's faithfulness?
- **Burnham's** parents, **Norvin** and **Betty Jo Jones**, and in-laws, **Paul** and **Oreta Burnham**.
- The family of **Deborah Yap**, the **Burnhams'** slain co-hostage.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

## Boat trip up African river connects volunteers, villagers

By **Sue Sprenkle**  
SBC International Mission Board

**SENEGAL RIVER, Senegal (BP)**—Off in the distance, a dark speck slowly moves up the river. As it gets closer, children working along the shore drop their tools and run through the brush, yelling and waving wildly at the nine men sitting in the boat.

As the men pile out of the boat, a small crowd gathers to greet the visitors. They believe their village will be greatly blessed today because Allah sent these guests.

As Southern Baptist missionaries **Brad Thompson** and **Ben Sustar** talk with village elders, four missions volunteers from Arkansas stand in the background, praying.

What started out as a simple prayer partnership for New Hearts Church of Harrison, Ark., turned into a not-so-ordinary boat trip up the Senegal River.

The church adopted the Toucouleur (pronounced TOO-kuh-lor) people group of West Africa through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board a few years ago. The IMB PRAYERplus and PeopleLink programs help Southern Baptist churches take the gospel to unreached people groups, the 2,161 tribes around the world—1.68 billion people—who have no access to the Christian gospel.

"The concept is great. If you are a small church you can get directly involved with world missions through prayer," said New Hearts Pastor **Wayne Kelly**. "An unreached people group is a wonderful opportunity to see what God can do through praying saints for people who are but a few faces on a profile card."

The congregation educated itself about the Toucouleur and corresponded with IMB missionaries. They learned that 1.7 million

Toucouleur live in West Africa and 98 percent follow Islam. The Toucouleur call themselves the "defenders of Islam" because they were among the first to be converted when Islam came across the desert from Arabia in the 11th century.

As the partnership between the missionaries and New Hearts Church grew, the church felt the need to visit the Toucouleur. In the second volunteer trip to Senegal in two years, **Kelly** and church members **Pat Thompson**, **Billy Jack Burns** and **Todd Hunter** saw firsthand how many of the rural Toucouleur live.

Traveling by boat during the day and sleeping under the stars at night, the volunteers and missionaries scouted out Toucouleur villages in northern Senegal and prayed for the people.

"Four days on the river, six villages, thousands of people, hundreds of camels, a few monkeys and even one crocodile: all because we wanted to pray for an unreached people group," **Kelly** said. "What an adventure! These people are now our family."

The unusual "prayer-boating" experience was a way to find villages that might be open to the gospel, **Sustar** said.

"We felt that traveling by boat would be somewhat similar to the people's way of travel along the river," he said. "We visited six villages. It seems like God opened the door into three of the six we visited."

One village, called **Ouacetake**, welcomed the group with open arms. The name of the village literally means "to lack nothing."

According to village tradition, the people in that village migrated to the Senegal River in order to have an adequate water supply. The men from Arkansas prayed that villagers would receive Christ and never thirst again.

The team could see God working through their prayers as the villagers invited the missionaries to return, **Kelly** said.

"The greatest thing I saw is that the task is huge and I do not believe traditional methods will work. It will take a supernatural movement of God to accomplish salvation among the Toucouleur," he added. "That's why we were there, to pray for that supernatural movement."

An old Toucouleur proverb says, "What you see being done is better than what you hear being said." The volunteers prayed that the Toucouleur would see God doing great things.

"They need to see God's love in action, not in words only," **Sustar** emphasized.

The team saw why prayer support is so important when residents of the next village were not welcoming or open to discussing religious matters. Though they saw no one come to Christ, the volunteers did prepare the unreached area for the gospel through their prayers.

"After preaching almost 25 years, I have found that prayer is the most tangible thing we can do," **Kelly** said. "We can do a lot of tangible things on a mission trip, but prayer asks God to do the unimaginable. Prayer takes you down roads not on your map and to people not on your list."

"Prayer may mean you are a voice in the desert," he continued. "Look at the world map and realize that there are hundreds, if not thousands of unreached people groups all over the world, representing hundreds of millions of people who are totally unreached for the Lord."

"The only way to attempt such a task as this is to pray," **Kelly** said. "Will you pray for the Toucouleur? Will you ask Jesus for an unreached people group?"

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## Master of Arts in Education

leads to areas of specialization in curriculum and instruction for teachers. The program is a 30-semester hour, two year-program. The Master of Arts in Education is designed to meet the challenges of today's classrooms and the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990.

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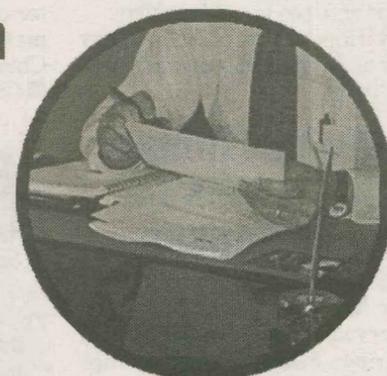


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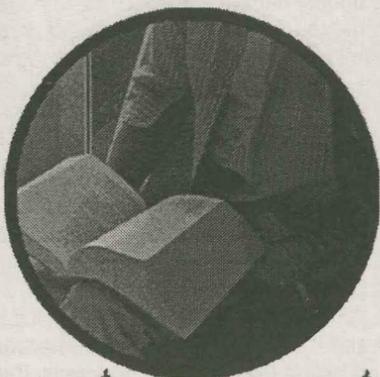
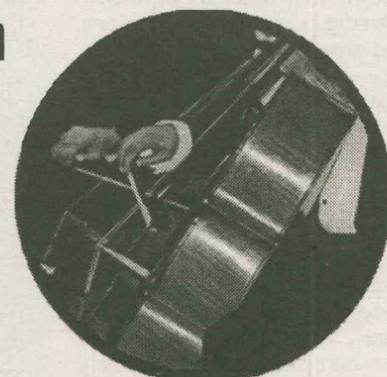


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