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Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, August 7

Conflicts grow over public display of Ten Commandments

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WEST UNION, Ohio (RNS)—Amid the rolling hills of rural southwest Ohio, four high schools feature identical sets of five monuments placed neatly in front of their new buildings.

Each of the tombstone-like monuments highlights a different legal code, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Magna Carta. But the monument in the center, with the Ten Commandments etched in granite, is the one that has sparked controversy.

School officials contend the monuments—donated by a private group of ministers and laypeople—belong there and have appealed a June district court decision declaring them unconstitutional.

"Our belief is that the monuments are there, not primarily as a religious statement, but as a historical reminder of our system of law and government in the United States and to show that it has very deep-seated roots in biblical times," said Roy Hill, outgoing superintendent of the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District.

The Ohio chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union disagrees, and filed a suit on behalf of a community activist who lives in the area and is offended by the monuments.

"They're undeniably religious," said Raymond Vasvari, legal director of the ACLU of Ohio. "They are sacred texts to believing Christians and believing Jews. They are not theological 'Hints from Heloise.' They are supposed to be the revealed word of God."

Two years ago, there were about a dozen legal cases working their way through the courts regarding the posting of Ten Commandments on public property—from schools to parks to city halls. Now, the number has risen to about 20, legal experts say.

"It may be that both sides are getting more aggressive about litigation," said Douglas Laycock, a law professor at the University of Texas in Austin. "You're not going to get a national consensus on this."

Legal uncertainty lingers, Laycock said, because the one Supreme Court decision addressing the matter, *Stone vs. Graham* in 1980, dealt specifically with public schools, declaring a Kentucky law requiring they be posted in classrooms unconstitutional.

Another catalyst for the suits, said Laycock, was the publicity about Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, who first became famous for putting the Ten Commandments in his courtroom when he was a circuit court judge. More recently, Moore has drawn headlines—and a

□ See 10 Commandment ..., page 7

Amazon woman



SONG LEADER Amy Chavers, a summer missionary from Pensacola, Fla., leads children in a song during the "Amazon Outfitters" vacation Bible school last week at the Pikeville YMCA. Chavers worked at 12 vacation Bible schools throughout Pike County this summer, seeing 142 children and teenagers make professions of faith. (Photos by David Winfrey)

Pike County summer worker sees 142 professions of faith

By David Winfrey
News Director

PIKEVILLE—Amy Chavers said that when she asked God to use her this summer she never could have imagined what He had in mind.

The graduate student from Pensacola, Fla., just wrapped up 10 weeks as a summer missionary in Pike County, mostly leading the "Amazon Outfitters" vacation Bible schools at 12 churches throughout the area.

But her greatest Amazon adventure has been leading 142 children and teenagers to faith in Jesus as their personal Savior.

The experience has been unprecedented for a summer missionary in Kentucky, according to her supervisors.

"I have never heard of a summer missionary that has been used of God in the harvest like Amy has," said Carl Boyd, director of missions for Pike County Baptist Association.

"I've just sort of sat back and watched the Lord at work," he said. "I don't like to put it this way, but this might be a record."

"I've never seen anything like it," added Ralph Hopkins, student summer missions coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Chavers credits the numerous professions of faith to a work of God and a willingness to break from tradition, but she's quick to shun any personal credit.

"This has definitely been an incredible summer of watching God



work," said Chavers, 22. "My prayer each day is, 'God, shut me up and speak through me.'"

"I'm just so paranoid that people are going to think I had anything to do with it," she added. "What I want people to understand is it has been God doing it."

Chavers said God began teaching her lessons the moment she arrived, but she nearly didn't come to Kentucky.

"I really wanted to go to Canada," she admitted. But her parents urged her not to go outside the country after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

So she started looking stateside for a summer missions assignment. The Pikeville job is part of a five-student exchange between the college student ministries of Kentucky and Florida Baptists.

The Pike County summer mis-

sionary works with day camps, World Changers construction crews and a girls lock-in. But the primary duty is leading 12 vacation Bible schools in churches throughout the county.

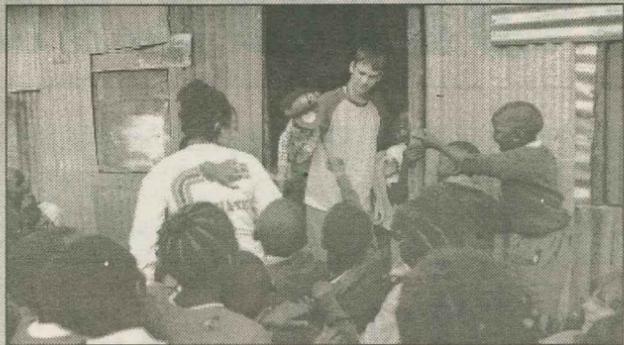
Chavers said that seemed a match for her spiritual gifts of discipleship and encouragement. "My prayer was, 'Let me sow seeds and let me be used, but let me see at least one harvest.'"

Once in Kentucky, she had to adjust to the mountain culture, learning what a hollow is and handling a different pace.

As she spoke in churches, people sometimes interrupted her in the middle of her talk. "They'll raise their hand and say, 'You have got to slow down.'"

It was during her first week of teaching vacation Bible schools □ See Pikeville summer ..., page 6

BAPTISTS



PUPPET TALK Children flock around Josh McLin to talk with and touch a puppet. For some of the children at Spring Valley Baptist Church in Nairobi, Kenya, it was the first time they had seen a puppet up close. (IMB photo by Roy Burroughs)

World Changers team learns life lessons on trip to Kenya

By Sue Sprenkle
SBC International Mission Board

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—More than 50 high school and college students hit the streets of Nairobi, Kenya, this summer with plans to change the world through various mission projects. What they didn't realize was that their world was the one about to change.

Experiences ranged from eating with their hands to waking up at 4 a.m. to feed street children. The students also toured a Hindu temple, worked in the second-largest slum on the continent and visited with African students who put their faith in everything from Islam to witch doctor magic.

"My world's never going to be the same. I've done so much and seen so much," said Leah Barrier of Decatur, Ala. "I'm taking in way more than I can ever give to the people here."

Students from seven states merged as one International World Changers group for 10 days. The youth organization introduces students to missions and uses projects to demonstrate how they can make a difference in the world through Christ's love.

Kenya IWC project director Rob Cain said the event was unique in that students were involved in so many different ways.

"This project has many ministries to choose from and every participant gets involved in no less than five different projects," Cain said. "We had ministries such as the traditional construction projects to prayerwalks and puppet shows. The wide variety of projects has really affected the kids. Their eyes have been opened to the world."

Dimonah Jackson's world changed when a 6-year-old girl who lives in the slums gave her a hug. That one hug was a real turning point in her life, the Clifton Forge, Va., student said.

"She hugged me so tight. I didn't expect it to happen. Then the rest of the day she held my hand and wouldn't let go," Jackson said. "That impacted my life by showing me you need to have joy even if you don't have very much to be joyful about. I could see God in that girl."

One church the World Changers worked with was robbed just a few days before their arrival. The students painted the building and built benches to replace those that had been stolen.

Stephanie Wong of Sacramento, Calif., said that day at the church taught her what it means to be a servant.

"This church was robbed before we got here. When we met the pastor and he was telling us about it, he wasn't angry or upset. He was very calm and at peace," Wong said. "He didn't want to get back at the thieves, but wanted to pray for their salvation."

Josh McLin of Baton Rouge, La., said the poverty he saw each day broke his heart. "I'll never forget the poverty, but mainly I'll never forget how happy people are here," he said. "They are so happy for what they have."

"I pray that I always remember the lessons I have learned here about being joyful in the Lord."

Prof: Don't want kids? Don't get married

By Michael Foust
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Pastors should think twice before marrying couples intent on not having children, a Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor said recently on the nationally syndicated radio program "FamilyLife Today."

William Cutrer, professor of Christian ministry at the Louisville seminary and a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist, was a guest on the program July 15-19 during a week-long discussion about "a biblical approach to family planning." Joining Cutrer on the program were hosts Dennis Rainey and Bob Lepine; Mark Povich, a doctor who practices medicine in Michigan; and authors Sam and Bethany Torode.

Cutrer said that Christian couples too often have an attitude reflecting the culture's self-centered approach toward children.

"We tend to be selfish individuals and unfortunately, we live in a culture

that has made children more of a burden and interfering with what our normal plans would be as we view our lives," he said. "We see marriages fulfilling us when in fact I'm not certain at all that's what God had intended in the (marriage) covenant."

"The (marital) relationship is one of sacrifice and other-seeking, a relationship with God first and then a beautiful covenant intimate relationship—husband and wife—where you grow to know one another in very deep sorts of ways over time," he said. "And children are often—and I think naturally, if I may use that term—the outpouring or the fruit of such a relationship. For some that means quite a number of children. For others, because of genetic or medical problems, they may not be able to have children at all."

Lepine then asked the panel their thoughts about marrying couples opposed to childbearing. He told of one Christian couple who had decided not to have children because they believed kids would inhibit their opportunity

for ministry.

Cutrer said while he would not superimpose his understanding of God's calling on someone else, "I would be very reluctant to marry a couple who had decided up front not to have children."

Povich, who has nine children, agreed.

"In my experience, children are a huge ministry," he said, "I think the primary ministry that a wife and a husband have together is to raise godly children. And I think other ministries come secondary to that. And I agree with Bill that if a Christian couple is not wanting children, I would question whether they really ought to be getting married—understanding that God's purpose for marriage is to raise children, if He so blesses them."

Rainey argued that Genesis 1:28—where God tells people to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth"—is a command.

"He commanded us to multiply, and not just multiply children but multiply a godly legacy," he said.

Former 'missionary kid' convicted of fraud

DALLAS (ABP)—A former "missionary kid" convicted of using his Baptist connections to scam friends and businesses out of more than \$2 million awaits sentencing this week.

Steve Solesbee, son of veteran Southern Baptist missionaries, and president of Missionary Kids International Fellowship, was found guilty in U.S. District Court on 12 counts of bank fraud, wire fraud and bankruptcy fraud.

A parade of 50 witnesses during eight days of trial portrayed Solesbee as a con artist who used friendship with Baptist missionaries and pastors to bilk people out of their life savings.

His once-opulent lifestyle included expensive clothes, cars and furniture to give an impression of business success as he wooed prospective

investors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Groves said Solesbee bought businesses with worthless promissory notes, looted the assets, stiffed creditors, paid workers with hot checks, and then took bankruptcy to prevent repossession.

Solesbee, 51, grew up in the Philippines where his parents served as Baptist missionaries. As president of MKIF, he promoted a 1996 gathering of MKs in Hawaii. He sold more than \$500,000 in airline tickets and hotel accommodations through his Bonaventure Travel Agency in Dallas to hundreds of people, and allegedly put the money in his pocket instead of paying the airlines.

Solesbee has taken bankruptcy nine times since 1982 and has operat-

ed businesses from Florida to Hawaii. Most went out of business leaving unpaid employees and creditors.

FBI Special Agent Randy Horton testified that he had been investigating Solesbee since 1997. His findings led to charges of bankruptcy fraud, wire fraud and bank fraud.

Solesbee was convicted of fraud for supplying a false financial statement to qualify to buy luxurious residential property in Dallas in 1995, then declaring bankruptcy to prevent foreclosure, intentionally omitting five other debts from his bankruptcy filing, and lying about it under oath.

Another count was bank fraud for writing a no-account check for more than \$7,000 to the City of Dallas for property taxes while knowing the bank account had been closed.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ BWA aids India flood victims.

Heavy rains and flooding once again have brought devastation to parts of the Indian sub-continent. In Bangladesh, an estimated 2 million people have been affected. More than 750,000 from 830 villages in the Indian state of Assam also have been impacted. Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of Baptist World Alliance, already has sent \$10,000 to Bangladesh where Bangladesh Baptist Aid is coordinating major relief efforts. Relief worker Nripen Baidya said workers are providing emergency shelters, food and medical supplies in an effort to "do something first on an emergency basis and later on rehabilitation."

■ Southern to host women's event.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will host "Virtuous Reality," a two-day conference for women. The event will be Sept. 13-14 on the school's Louisville campus. Vicki Courtney, author of two Bible studies, "Virtuous Reality: Becoming the

Ideal Woman" and "The Virtuous Woman: Shattering the Superwoman," will be the featured speaker. The conference will include workshops on dating, marriage and raising godly children. To register, call Katy Giles at (512) 527-9500 or email info@virtuousreality.com.

■ Event explores crisis planning.

Al Meredith, pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, will be a featured speaker at a "Crisis Communication for Ministers Conference" Sept. 20-21 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. Wedgwood was the site of a 1999 shooting spree that killed seven people. Other speakers include Larry Ross, a spokesman for evangelist Billy Graham; Gary Ledbetter of Southern Baptists of Texas Convention; and Becky Bridges of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. For information, contact Southwestern's Center for Leadership Development at (877) 474-4769.

■ CBF partners with Habitat.

Leaders of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have announced plans to partner with World Vision and Habitat for Humanity International. Gary Baldrige, co-coordinator for CBF's global missions, said the partnerships will help maximize the impact of CBF missionaries. Citing CBF efforts "to address the needs of the whole person," Baldrige added, "Doing so, we partner with all groups out there that are doing effective ministry with the whole spectrum of human need."

■ NAMB earns Emmy nomination.

Bernie Hargis, a producer/director for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, has been nominated for a national Emmy Award for the documentary "We Shall Not Be Moved." The program highlights the role African-American churches played in the civil rights movement. It aired within the past year on ABC affiliates, FamilyNet and the Hallmark Channel.

100 days of prayer

Daily prayer guide to promote spiritual renewal starting Sept. 8

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

LOUISVILLE—"What would result if every believer in Kentucky took time to pray for 100 consecutive days?"

That's the question posed by promotional material inviting Kentucky Baptists to commit to 100 days of prayer from Sept. 8 through Dec. 16.

The idea of a statewide prayer emphasis has been discussed off and on by convention leaders for the past few years. It is an effort to help undergird a grassroots prayer focus that leaders say is spreading rapidly throughout the commonwealth.

"There is evidence God is moving His people to pray," Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey wrote in a recent letter to Kentucky Baptist pastors.

A convention staff group assigned the responsibility of exploring and encouraging "authentic spirituality" has identified more than 400 church prayer coordinators across the state, Mackey wrote. Citing examples of area prayer meetings, seminars and related activities, he added, "There is a growing awareness that we need to turn to God in a very special way to see what God might do with us and through us."

In response to that need, KBC leaders are launching "If My People ... 100 Days of Prayer" as a focused prayer emphasis for Kentucky Baptists.

The emphasis features a daily prayer guide that includes a Scripture and two or three prayer requests for each day. The 100 days will begin with Kentucky Baptists' annual week of prayer for state missions and conclude with the Southern Baptist week of prayer for international missions. Other major dates include the first anniversary of Sept. 11 and the 2002 KBC annual meeting in November.

"With God's timing, a grassroots effort has brought us to this point," said Larry Martin, leader of the KBC missions growth team. Affirming the decision to begin and end the emphasis during traditional weeks of prayer, Martin said the prayer guide will encourage participants to "pray for a specific move of God here in Kentucky as well as throughout the world."

Key goals of the emphasis include encouraging participants to deepen their prayer lives, urging prayer groups to "be concerted in their praying for revival and awakening" and calling on churches to "really commit to being houses of prayer," he added.

Eric Allen, director of the KBC's Missions Service Corps long-term



PRAYER MEETING Baptists from throughout the state have been holding quarterly prayer meetings (pictured here) sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They are among a variety of prayer emphases available to Kentucky Baptists in the coming months. (File photo)

volunteer program, is helping Martin coordinate the prayer emphasis. Citing the impact of Sept. 11, corporate scandal "and the struggle of people finding hope in anything," Allen said he believes "the timing is so right" for a statewide prayer focus.

"We really see prayer as a viable tool for us as believers," he said. "One of our goals is that people would really be brought back to the realization that prayer is the power behind everything we do."

LaRaine Dail, youth/college consultant for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, worked with a group of high school Acteen Activators to help compile portions of the prayer guide.

"A lot of the prayer requests are based on the related Scriptures," she explained. For example, 2 Chronicles 7:14 is the Scripture passage selected for Sept. 11. In addition to expressing thanks to God "for His compassion toward those who lost loved ones in the tragedy of Sept. 11," the day's prayer requests also encourage participants to praise God because "He hears us and heals us when we seek Him, turn from our wickedness and repent."

Writing specific prayer requests for the emphasis "was very intense," Dail said. "This whole project is very significant because people are going to be in an attitude of prayer, especially marking the anniversary of Sept. 11."

"If thousands of our churches and church members are praying together in concerted prayer, we can only begin to imagine what God can do," she added. "There are no limits."

Copies of the prayer guide will be mailed this month to pastors and church prayer coordinators who can order additional copies for their churches. The guide also is available on the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org/100days.

For more information or to order prayer guides, contact Allen at (502) 245-4101, ext. 397 or toll-free at (800) 266-6477.

KBC leader: 'Grassroots prayer movement' sweeping Kentucky

Kentucky Baptists' "100 Days of Prayer" isn't the only major prayer emphasis being conducted across the state.

Larry Martin, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention missions growth team, said he knows of more than 20 groups throughout the commonwealth that meet regularly for prayer. Add that to more than 400 local church prayer coordinators as well as several prayer-related seminars scheduled this fall and Martin is excited about the convention's expanding focus on prayer.

"There simply has been this grassroots movement of the Holy Spirit setting people praying," he said. "It is not something being programmed; it is God working from the grassroots."

Martin traces much of the current prayer fervor to the annual Mountain Missions Conference six years ago. Explaining that many of the conference participants were discouraged about ministry efforts in Eastern Kentucky, he added, "God simply took over that meeting."

A spontaneous prayer service broke out during the meeting's final session, Martin recalled. "People were crying out in agony to God for about three hours. People were simply begging God to do something new in the mountains."

That gathering led to a series of regional prayer meetings throughout Eastern Kentucky, Martin said. In the past four years, he added, the number of ministry centers in the area has mushroomed from four to 38, resulting in expanded ministry opportunities and increased baptisms.

"There has been a building of a new movement of God from that

point," he said. "Everywhere we go, we hear people telling what God is doing."

The renewed zeal for prayer isn't limited to Eastern Kentucky. Larry Baker, director of missions in Christian County Association, is helping coordinate a monthly prayer meeting in Hopkinsville for ministers in the area.

Baker, a former missionary to Ecuador and Peru, said the prayer group focuses specifically on prayer for spiritual awakening.

"Prayer meetings tend to degenerate into a hospital list," Baker pointed out. While affirming the need to pray for the physically ill, he added, "Sometimes we can get so sidetracked with the physical that we forget the spiritual."

Up to 20 participants gather each month to pray, Baker noted. "We're seeing some things happen in churches that I haven't seen in the 10 years I've been here," he said, including an increase in baptisms.

"We may not see today the final results of our praying," Baker said. "But when we pray faithfully, it's amazing what can happen."

In addition to prayer groups across the state, Martin said prayer seminars are scheduled Aug. 9-10 at First Baptist Church of Danville; Oct. 20-23 at Greater Salem Baptist Church in Louisville; and Oct. 27-30 at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

Martin also has been coordinating quarterly prayer meetings for spiritual awakening the past four years. The next quarterly meeting will be Oct. 24-25 at First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon. A church prayer coordinators' event will be held Sept. 24 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

New seminary announces first full-time professor

LEXINGTON—

Trustees of Baptist Seminary of Kentucky have elected Dalen Jackson as the school's first full-time faculty member.

Jackson, who was named associate professor of biblical studies, has taught since 1994 at Truett-McConnell College, a Baptist-affiliated school in Cleveland, Ga. He previously was an associate professor of religion at Judson College in Marion, Ala.

Jackson is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He served two years at Southern as a New Testament Greek instructor.

BSK President Greg Earwood said Jackson's election indicates that the moderate seminary is "going to be offering quality theological education this year and in the years ahead."

Part-time and adjunct professors scheduled to teach this fall include Glenn Hinson, senior professor of church history and spirituality; Les Hill, part-time professor of evangelism and missions; and Rick Landon, adjunct professor of spiritual formation.

Earwood, elected seminary president last summer, said he anticipates enrolling 25 to 30 students by the time inaugural classes begin Aug. 26 at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Varied views valued

Well, here we go again! Does James L. Clark (Baptist Forum, July 23 issue) really mean to accuse so many people of dishonesty?

He suggests that anyone who signs Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Abstract of Principles (or presumably any doctrinal statement) with reservations "is being dishonest." Yet the Recorder has carried clear statements from and concerning seminary professors over several decades who "signed with their fingers crossed." They may have expressed their differences in classes or conversations, but they weren't even allowed to file a written statement of them.

In fact, as far back as the days of Boyce and Broadus, some of the seminary faculty expressed their views of Calvinism differently from others; yet they chose to stand and work together because they all believed the Bible. But they couldn't keep their beloved young Crawford Toy when he no longer believed the Bible, brilliant though he was. The story of Toy and Lottie Moon does not need to be retold in this letter.

Instead of arguing over things none of us fully understand, might we be better off to follow their example? Could we not cry out with the Psalmist, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it" (Psalm 139:6) and get on about enduring "all things for the elect's sake, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory"?

Charles Blair
Clinton

Religious indoctrination

In a recent Western Recorder article concerning the favorable Supreme Court ruling on vouchers to religious schools, Barry Lynn, director of

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

Secular humanism has for some time been ruled a religion by the Supreme Court. The curriculum in the public schools is based on secular humanism. As secular humanism is the only religion allowed in the schools, the state has indeed established a religion.

Christians are taxpayers too. As it is, our children are forced captives being indoctrinated into the religion of secular humanism. In public schools they are subjected to the normless ideals of multiculturalism, political correctness, moral relativism, historical revisionism and evolution being taught as if it were proven scientific fact. If Christians want to send their children to schools that don't preach this claptrap, they must pay double. Such a deal for the secular humanists. They proselytize our children, and we pay for it.

This deplorable situation foisted upon the Christian community is done in the name of a false assumption referred to as the separation of church and state—a term found neither in the Constitution nor in the hearts of the Founding Fathers.

Lord, when will Christians find the courage of their convictions and cry "enough"?

Chuck Estridge
Williamstown

Music makes impact

My congratulations to Jim Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention church music department, for organizing the July 8-19 Kentucky European Choir Tour. I hope that all Kentucky Baptists ap-

preciate what a great music leader he is.

From July 8-19 more than 55 members of the Kentucky Baptist men's and women's chorales presented eight outstanding concerts in four countries: Switzerland, Germany, Holland and Belgium. A few more spouses, like myself, went along toting baggage and lending support.

Carl "Chip" Stam directed the men's and the combined choirs, while Roxanne Nanney directed the women. David Dale and Nevalyn Moore accompanied with aplomb. The musicianship of the conductors and singers was wonderful. I was blessed and impressed every time I heard these women and men sing.

More important was the outpouring of the spirit when these Kentucky Baptists performed. All the audiences reacted enthusiastically and stayed for conversations and fellowship afterward.

Ranging from spirituals to classical to old-fashioned hymns, the directors and choirs demonstrated their hard work and dedication to the gospel. Like all Baptists, we ate well and often, had a lot of fun in fellowship and made lasting friendships.

There were so many highlights I could go on forever. When the chorale sang "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Grant Us Peace), a cappella and impromptu in a centuries-old German church, all I can say is "Wow!"

After one service I told native Kentuckian Doyle Searcy, pastor of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfurt, Germany, that now I know what heaven will look like. Many of us come from mostly white churches, don't we? I thought of the line from the old children's chorus, "Red and yellow, black and white; They are precious in His sight."

Again, my congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Jim Cordell and the church music department for this wonderful experience.

William E. Ellis
Richmond

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

'If My People ... 100 Days of Prayer'

I am pleased to join with Charles Barnes, chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board's administrative committee, and KBC President Harold Greenfield in calling for 100 days of prayer by Kentucky Baptists.

Using the theme "If My People" from 2 Chronicles 7:14, we are calling on all Kentucky Baptists to commit to praying intensely for renewal and revival.

We feel that the time is right for this call as we are seeing an important grassroots movement of prayer among believers in many areas of Kentucky. Let me note just a few of the special moments that have brought us to this call:

■ At the Mountain Missions Conference at Oneida in July 1997, a two-hour prayer meeting grew out of the sense of discouragement that seemed to prevail at the conference. One participant, the late Ray Cooper, director of missions for Three Forks Associa-

tion, requested quarterly prayer meetings as a follow up. These have been conducted faithfully since 1998 (including some at the historical sites of the Great Awakening in Kentucky).

■ A group of pastors prayed most of the night during the November 1997 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington, citing an unusual movement of God among them. In 1999 this group launched a prayer meeting in Elizabethtown that has continued on the first Thursday of each month.

■ In January 1999, the KBC staff established "authentic spirituality" as a priority concern. The staff cluster group formed out of the process continues to promote prayer in a variety of effective ways. This group has identified 402 church prayer coordinators in KBC churches.

■ In 2001, Randy Record, our KBC youth evangelism strategist, launched an emphasis to help youth leaders and

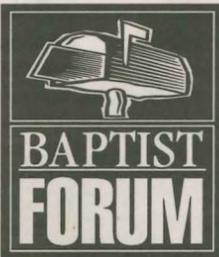
youth grow deeper in their faith. At rallies on Aug. 10 and 17, Kentucky youth and collegians will begin 40 days of prayer and fasting from something that interferes with their devotion to God through Christ.

Add to these grassroots movements the current spiritual condition and insecurity in our nation, the corporate and personal greed we've seen manifested, and the sins of God's people, and I believe we have compelling reasons for 100 days of prayer and repentance.

The prayer guide is being mailed this month to every Kentucky Baptist pastor. The prayer guide contains a printed Scripture passage for each day and two or three suggestions for prayer. I encourage pastors to make copies for church members as needed. Electronic copies of the prayer guide can be downloaded from the KBC Web site at www.kybaptist.org/100days.

Let's join in a concert of prayer that will cover the commonwealth and see what God will do with us!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



FAMILY

Evaluate major financial goals for mid-life years

By Jeremy White

In my previous column, we examined financial priorities for people in their 20s and 30s. Those priorities include beginning good habits of tithing and savings, having life insurance,

selecting the right career and paying off student loan debt.

Many of these same priorities remain in the middle years. Additional challenges arise for this "sandwich generation" as they take care of their older children (and sometimes grandchildren) while also assisting their aging parents.

People in their 40s and 50s represent both the highest earning years and the highest spending years. Studies have shown spending peaks among most Americans at age 43 or 44.

For those in their 40s and 50s, key financial priorities include:

■ **Maximizing retirement plan savings.** This is the last period to significantly add to retirement plans. Set aside as much as you can during the peak earning years.

■ **Saving for major purchases.** Planning ahead for braces, house additions, additional cars and vacations will keep you free from debt burdens.

■ **Having a college plan for your children.** I don't mean to say that parents should pay for all of college for their children. Parents should have a plan, decide what portion they will pay and communicate the plan to their children.

■ **Paying off your home mortgage.** After many years of home ownership, you should pay off your mortgage before retirement.

■ **Beginning estate plans and making a will.** Name guardians for your children in a will and review beneficiaries of insurance policies and retirement plans.

■ **Maintaining adequate health insurance.**

■ **Keeping adequate emergency savings.** Be prepared for the unexpected items—from roofs leaking to repairing transmissions—to avoid credit card debt.

■ **Continuing the lifelong habit of tithing.**

■ **Teaching your children about managing money.**

Although life situations are more complex in the middle years, the basic advice of save more, spend less, give more and invest some remains applicable. *Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.*



Children victimized by abuse need protection, reassurance

Q: How can I help a child who has been sexually abused?

A child who has been abused may have difficulty trusting other people. Be especially consistent in your relationship with the child and dependable in every way.

An abused child may have trouble seeing the world as anything other than a dangerous place. Casually but intentionally point out the good, both in things and people. Reassure the child of your protection and of God's presence.

Affirm the courage the child demonstrates in dealing with what has happened. Help the child know that what happened to him or her is wrong, but that good conquers evil when people have the courage to speak up as he or she did.

A child who has been abused might have trouble sleeping, might be fearful of certain people and places, and might even have trouble with bowel functions or eating. Show patience and understanding in dealing with these difficulties, and see them as a great opportunity to show unconditional love.

Be alert for opportunities to talk, and when those opportunities arise, be a good, active listener. As you talk, reassure the child that what happened was not his or her fault and that he or she did nothing wrong.

Children who have been sexually abused have had their spirits violated as much as their bodies. Most children who experience such an ordeal will need some kind of professional counseling to fully sort out feelings and fears. A minister may be helpful in finding a competent Christian counselor to walk alongside the child and his or her family.—David Garrard

Q: What can I do to help my daughter who is worried about moving from middle school to high school this fall?

Ask your daughter what worries her the most about this transition. Encourage her to be specific rather than general. For example, if she says, "Well it's just all so different," ask her to name specific differences that concern her the most. Listen carefully to help her feel heard and understood. Avoid the tendency to immediately try to console or "fix" her concerns.

Once she has expressed her concerns, help her look at options for addressing them. Remind her that while some anxiety is normal, God desires that anxiety not become overwhelming or debilitating. Teach her to evaluate the ways she is thinking in order to ensure that she is not fueling anxiety through irrational or illogical thought patterns. Paul reminded us in 2 Corinthians 10:5, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ."

An excellent book on this subject is "The Lies We Believe" by Chris Thurman. Examples of some of these "lies" include:

- I must have everyone's love and approval.
- I am only as good as what I do.
- I must be perfect.
- I can't be happy unless things go my way.

Encourage your daughter to take advantage of opportunities to "connect" with other students both at school and other settings. Suggest that she interact with other Christian teenagers through groups like Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Youth for Christ. Remind her that simple daily disciplines such as greeting others with a smile, and learning and using their names will draw others to her.

—Scott Wigginton

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



100 days of prayer: Do you have the time?

Spend a little time with state convention leaders Bill Mackey, Larry Martin and Eric Allen, and their enthusiasm for a growing grassroots prayer emphasis in Kentucky will quickly shine through.

Mackey, who has served since 1998 as Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director, has long been burdened about the need to call all Kentucky Baptists to concerted prayer.

"I would like to have called for prayer at the beginning of the millennium but the time wasn't right," he explained. "Things were going too good in this country financially at that time."

Citing recent tragedy and turmoil ranging from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and stock market woes to scandals in the corporate world and the Roman Catholic Church, Mackey said, "Historically there has been a sense of desperation that God has used to set His people to prayer. I hope that we can learn from history."

With that goal in mind, Mackey has worked with Martin, leader of the KBC missions growth team; Allen, director of the convention's Mission Service Corps volunteer program; and other KBC leaders to promote "100 Days of Prayer" beginning Sept. 8.

The threefold purpose of the prayer emphasis is to call individuals to improve the quality and amount of their personal prayer times, to challenge groups of believers to pray together and to encourage churches to make a commitment to be "houses of prayer."

Martin has helped coordinate a series of quarterly prayer meetings throughout the state in recent years. He said one of his hopes for the statewide prayer focus is that Kentucky Baptist churches will "not just see prayer as the foundation of their work but as the

power and strength of the church itself."

Allen is serving as the coordinator for the 100-day emphasis which will continue through Dec. 16. Convention leaders working on the project "really believe that prayer makes a difference," Allen emphasized. "I believe Kentucky Baptists can make a difference in our world and our state through unified prayer."

Mackey, Martin, Allen and others have identified numerous prayer ministries under way throughout the state as well as prayer coordinators in several hundred congregations.

The challenge, however, is seeking to make an impact in churches and individual Christians who currently don't have strong, effective prayer lives. But that's part of the beauty of the 100 days of prayer.

The simple, easy-to-follow prayer guide available from the KBC offers a Scripture passage and two or three specific prayer requests and praises for each of the 100 days. Even for individuals unaccustomed to the discipline of daily, focused prayer, the prayer guides are a convenient tool to help make prayer an ongoing part of any believer's life.

The prayer guide's Nov. 15 entry, for example, includes the words of Jesus from Mark 11:17, "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?" Prayer suggestions for the day include praying "that churches will become 'houses of prayer' as Christ intended." Participants also are challenged to "pray that the prayer ministry of your church will be strengthened and that your congregation will have a praying heart."

Do you have time in your list of daily priorities to pause for a few moments of focused, faithful prayer for 100 days in a row? It could be a life-changing spiritual experience.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Dressing up for God

By Tony Campolo

Modesty is a biblical value, but it seems to have gotten lost in the way young people dress these days.

Britney Spears has modeled styles for teenagers that feature naked bellies. Thongs are replacing bathing suits at the beach. And teenage boys are not excused from dressing suggestively.

Consider the fact that such immodest dress is rejected by many of our Muslim neighbors who contend that the way young people dress is dishonoring to themselves, to those around them, and most importantly, to God.

Contrary to what the rest of us think, surveys show that a large portion of those women in the Muslim world who are highly educated and who hold rather progressive views on gender issues believe their Islamic dress, which requires head covering and even veils, is a way of declaring that the body is oriented toward God and is not meant for the enticement of men. Their modest dress is a way of defying the Western compulsion to reveal as much as is legal.

These Muslim women find that the uniformity of dress prescribed by their religion also abolishes class differences and keeps the less affluent from feelings of inferiority. It is not that these women are rejecting moderni-

ty; it's just that they want to come to it on their own terms.

The Apostle Paul once wrote that the people of God do not behave themselves unseemly. Perhaps our Muslim brothers and sisters understand what that means better than some of the rest of us do.

I belong to an African-American church where people dress up for Sunday worship. The boys all wear suits and ties and the girls all come in their best dresses.

Once a group of young people from a white suburban church came into the neighborhood to serve it as a mission project and decided to come to our church. They were dressed in T-shirts, shorts and grubby trousers. Some of them were wearing sandals and a couple of them were even barefooted. It was their idea of looking "cool." They were more than surprised when the deacons of our church met them at the door and said, "You can't come in dressed like that."

The outraged teenagers shouted back, "What kind of church is this? Do you turn away people who don't have good clothes? Do you close your doors to poor people?"

One of the deacons answered, "We have no problems with poor people dressed in rags, but you are not poor people. When you come into the house of God you ought to be dressed in your best. If you were having an

audience with the Queen of England, how would you dress? If you were invited to dinner at the White House, how would you dress?"

"Well this place is where you come into the presence of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and you ought to wear your best! If you were poor and those clothes were the best you had, you would be welcomed here. But you are not poor, and you are not wearing your best and we do not welcome those who, by the way they dress, have little respect for God." That deacon may have grasped a truth that the rest of us ignore.

Dress styles are important for other reasons. They highly influence behavior. A principal of an inner-city school who transformed a blackboard jungle into a place of order and superior learning once told me that having a dress code was a major part of his program of reform. He had bought at thrift shops an array of white shirts and ties for the boys who didn't have any, and forbade the girls to wear tight-fitting pants. He said vulgar dress results in vulgar behavior. His views might seem extreme to some, but not to the parents of those teenagers who cheered the changes in their children's behavior.

The Bible says that whatever we do we should do unto the Lord, and that includes the way we dress.

Tony Campolo, founder of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, is professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa.

Pikeville summer missionary sees 142 professions of faith

"My prayer each day is, 'God, shut me up and speak through me.'"

Summer missionary
Amy Chavers

Continued from page 1

that she said God led her to break from the traditional format.

Usually, vacation Bible School teachers tell students how to become a Christian on Thursday. But Chavers said God impressed on her during her devotion time Wednesday morning that she should share the plan of salvation that day at both schools she was leading.

"God was telling me, 'I want you to do an invitation every day starting today.'"

Though reluctant, she said, she explained to the children at both VBS sessions that day how to become a Christian and asked if anyone wanted to respond.

That morning at Grace Baptist Church in Pikeville, one boy said he wanted to become a Christian, and that evening at Faith First Baptist Church in Dorton, three girls made professions of faith.

Afterward, Chavers said, she learned two of those girls weren't planning to return to the VBS. "They had plans for the rest of the week."

She said God used that experience to show her that many of the children wouldn't hear the gospel if churches stuck with their tradition of offering an invitation to become a Christian only on Thursday.

Later, she learned many kids come from split families, often leaving on Thursday or Friday to go visit the other parent.

Chavers said she's careful to keep the explanation about Christianity and the invitation simple and age-appropriate.

The daily lessons from the "Amazon Outfitters" materials teach how God is Creator, Provider and Healer.

During a recent vacation Bible school, Chavers used those themes when inviting children to become Christians.

"What's the biggest sickness that every one of us deals with?" Chavers asked a group of 9- to 13-year-olds.

"Sin," they responded.

"What's the cure?" she asked.

"Jesus."



GAME TIME Amy Chavers plays games with children during vacation Bible school last week in Pikeville. Chavers, a summer missionary from Florida, said a willingness to break with tradition allowed Pike County churches to see 142 professions of faith at vacation Bible schools where she worked. (Photos by David Winfrey)

She also uses an ABC outline: Admit you're a sinner; Believe Jesus died for your sins; Confess your sins to God and ask Jesus to come into your life.

"How many of you know right from wrong?" she asked the same group of students as she made sure they understood what sin is.

"Is sin all of the right things that I do? Is sin all of the wrong things that I do?" she asked. "How many lies does it take to make a liar? How many sins to make a sinner?"

Boyd said: "Amy knows how to talk to children and youth at their level. She's outstanding at it. She knows their language."

In addition to crediting God for the summer results, Chavers said she thinks God must have been working in Pike County for some time to prepare it for the harvest of new Christians.

"We're a big team working together, and sometimes we don't get to see the other teammates," she said. "The seeds have been planted and they've been growing and now it was harvest time. ... I don't know why God has chosen to use me, but I'm glad He did."

Boyd noted that the association has seen a record level of baptisms in the past three years. In addition, last year the association hosted a "mountain crusade" in which 450 people made professions of faith.

And for the past eight years the association has hosted a Kentucky Changers or Southern Baptist World Changers week, Boyd said. Both events bring Baptists together to renovate area homes.

Larry Martin said he also sees signs that the area was ready for an outpouring of new Christians.

Martin, missions growth team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, noted that Boyd has been a leader in quarterly prayer meetings for revival in the state.

In addition, several area churches without pastors have called deacons as pastors who felt called into the gospel ministry, he said. "I think it's just the emerging of all those grassroots principles of God moving in that region."

Chavers said this summer has taught her that God wants His followers to be bolder in sharing their faith.

"God's saying, 'Would you please just talk about Me? I'll do the work,'" she said. "I've just learned a lot about don't delay and don't get caught up in what's expected."

One thing she didn't expect was the job offer she got to teach school in Pike County. But for now, she said, she feels led to continue her graduate studies to be a teacher. "It's just not what God's telling me to do

right now."

So late last week she flew home to be with her family for a brief stay in Niceville, Fla., before returning to her studies at West Florida University in Pensacola.

There, she said, she hopes to maintain the boldness to share her faith that she gained this summer.

"I can't see myself going back (home) and being a quiet mouse," she said. "I don't see how I could possibly be after what I've seen this summer."

She also is praying that what happened in Pike County this summer will continue. "My greatest fear is going back home and God stopping His work."

Boyd said he'll be working with local churches to follow up with discipleship for the students who made professions of faith.

But Boyd said he's not sure the conversions will continue at this high volume after she leaves. "I'm not sure I've ever run across a young lady her age with as deep a commitment and understanding of what God's doing as I have Amy."

Chavers said she found many church members respected her because she was the summer missionary. But she wants them to realize there's no difference between her and anyone else who is a Christian.

"Who's going to be the fall missionary? Who's going to be the summer missionary?" she asked.

Chavers said the two lessons that anyone should learn from this summer is that they shouldn't be bound by tradition and "Listen to God, no matter how bizarre it sounds."

"God's just been blowing me out of the water," she said. "I've learned what it means to fully rely on Him. ... When He says, 'You can do nothing without Me,' He wasn't kidding."

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Amy Graham (on couch), a member of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, leads a Bible lesson during vacation Bible school at the YMCA in Pikeville. She and Jerrica Haynes (right), a member of Lakeview Baptist Church in Gilbertsville, were among a team from Western Kentucky in Pike County last week to assist with vacation Bible schools and construction projects.



ISSUES

10 Commandment cases continue in Kentucky, elsewhere

Continued from page 1

lawsuit—for placing a 2 1/2-ton Ten Commandments monument in the lobby of the state judicial building.

Ken Johnson, who founded Adams County for the Ten Commandments, says of Moore: "He's my hero."

Johnson, along with other pro-commandments activists in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee, is forming a network to foster continued court action in support of posting the biblical laws in public places. In his county, he said, the monument sends a "signal" to students, teachers and community members at a time when schools have evolved from problems with chewing gum and paper wads to sex and violence.

Vasvari hails recent decisions against the monuments in cases in the same states where Johnson and other leaders are working to keep them up.

"It does say something when you have ... nine district courts in rapid succession in a variety of circumstances, handing down the same ruling," he said.

Recent defeats in some courts have not dissuaded supporters from their cause.

Frank Manion, senior counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice, is defending the Adams County school district and urged its leaders to add the four additional monuments to possibly bolster their case. He's also representing commandment supporters in eight other cases.

Manion said the ruling judges simultaneously are recognizing the biblical laws as "an important historical factor" while rejecting their particular placement in public venues.

"They all seem to say ... government can display the Ten Commandments in an appropriate context," Manion said. "The question is, how do you find out until you get sued and go through the whole legal process whether your context is appropriate?"

Adding to the confusion, he said, are conflicting decisions by appellate courts.

"The same monument is illegal in Elkhart (Ind.) and Indianapolis but it's legal in Denver and Salt Lake City under the same provision of the Constitution," said Manion.

Based on recent court decisions, some of the monuments have come down. At least one, in Chester County, Pa., which dated to the early 1900s, recently was covered up, pending appeals. In Elkhart, Ind., one of the cases the Supreme Court declined to hear, the wrangling continued in late July about where, or if, a monument at the city hall would have to be moved.

One of the newer court cases re-



HISTORICAL MARKERS? Displays like this at North Adams High School in southwestern Ohio, which includes the Ten Commandments in the center, have sparked church-state lawsuits across the country. (RNS photo by Joshua Johnson, courtesy Adams County for the Ten Commandments)

gards a La Crosse, Wis., monument donated by a fraternal organization in the 1960s to the city and located in a park.

A suit filed July 1 by the Freedom from Religion Foundation prompted the city council to vote about a week later to sell the property to the group that gave it to the city.

The first commandment alone—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"—prompted the suit, said Anne Gaylor, president of the Madison, Wis.-based foundation.

"In our country, we are free to have any god we like, as many as we like or none at all, if that's what we prefer," she said. "Government should be neutral in matters of religion and you are hardly neutral if you are telling the community to worship and which god to worship."

Mayor John Medinger, who has followed the recent court decisions, had argued before the suit was filed that it might be wise to move it to private property.

Now, with plans to fence it in at its present location and place signs explaining it is not city property, he thinks it could appear that the biblical laws have been corralled.

"Even though I supported this idea to sell the land in the park, I think people are not going to like it when it's done," he said. "They're going to be offended. ... It is a compromise that really didn't please either side."

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

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MUSIC



PRACTICE The men's and women's chorale practice together at a school in Interlaken, Switzerland, in preparation for their evening concert at the European Baptist Convention summer assembly on July 10. The chorales' European tour featured seven performances in six cities in four countries. (Photos by Cindy Henderson)

Kentucky Baptist chorales complete European tour

INTERLAKEN, Switzerland—The Kentucky Baptist men's chorale and women's chorale recently concluded a European tour that featured seven performances in six cities in four countries.

The tour kicked off July 10 with a joint performance at the European Baptist Convention summer assembly in Interlaken, Switzerland, followed by performances at the following locations:

- Stuttgart, Germany, International Baptist Church.
- Kaiserslautern, Germany, Faith Baptist Church.
- Frankfurt/Main, Germany, Bethel International Baptist Church.
- Hoensbroek, The Netherlands, Wezembeeck-Church.
- Wezembeeck-Oppem, Belgium, International Baptist Church.

The men's chorale also performed in Sandhausen, Germany, at Grace International Baptist Church.

The men's chorale performed under the direction of Carl Stam, associate professor of church music and director for the Institute for Christian Worship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. David Dale, music minister at Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington, served as accompanist and also arranged some of the music presented by the chorale.

The women's chorale performed under the direction of Roxanne Nanney, minister of music and senior adults at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg. Nevalyn Moore, who serves on the music faculty at Campbellsville University, served as accompanist.

Members of the men's chorale who went on the tour include:

- Kelly Beavis, First Baptist Church of Sturgis.
- Earl Bell, First Baptist Church of



PERFORMANCE The Kentucky Baptist women's chorale performed for the Chinese congregation of Bethel International Baptist Church in Frankfort, Germany, on July 14.

Frankfort.

- Tim Best, Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow.
- Bill Brown, First Baptist Church of Owenton.
- John Cashion, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
- Jim Cordell, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Ken Goforth, Scottsville Baptist Church.
- Dean Gray, First Baptist Church of Central City.
- Dick Ham, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Randy Holt, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah.
- Ty LoVette, Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.
- Gary Maynard, Red House Baptist Church in Richmond.
- Jim Moore, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- Eugene Quinn, Bashford Manor Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Virgil Ridings, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Eddie Russell, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

tist Church.

- Steven Skaggs, Valley View Baptist Church in Vine Grove.
 - Mike Stanley, Williamstown Baptist Church.
 - Lloyd Sutton, Glasgow Baptist Church.
 - Bill Williams, Fishers, Ind.
- Members of the women's chorale who went on the tour include:
- Elaine Ashley, Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church in Brownsville.
 - Linda Bell, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
 - Carolyn Best, Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow.
 - Cecilia Broadwater, Midway Baptist Church.
 - Joyce Cordell, Hurstbourne Baptist Church.
 - Vicki Cull, Dry Ridge Baptist Church.
 - Beverly Edmondson, Dry Ridge Baptist Church.
 - Charolotte Ellis, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
 - Joyce Eubank, Hurstbourne Baptist Church.

tist Church.

- Vivian Gentry, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.
- Mary Gentry, Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.
- Cindy Henderson, Gardenside Baptist Church in Nicholasville.
- Julie Hillen, Hurstbourne Baptist Church.
- Sharlie Hoskins, Hurstbourne Baptist Church.
- Clara Matthews, Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Jacquie Miller, Irvington Baptist Church.
- Diana Morgan, Dry Ridge Baptist Church.
- Marge Myers, Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Paula Oliver, Scottsville Baptist Church.
- Ann O'Neill, Dry Ridge Baptist Church.
- Phronsie Quinn, Lyndon Baptist Church.
- Gayle Raizor, Hurstbourne Baptist Church.
- Elizabeth Reese, First Baptist Church of Corbin.
- Barbara Ridings, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Emily Rucker, First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington.
- Carolyn Smith, First Baptist Church of Leitchfield.
- Brenda Stanley, Williamstown Baptist Church.
- Nancy Stevenson, Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.
- Myra Sutton, Glasgow Baptist Church.
- Nancy True, Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Mary Jo Wilcher, Scottsville Baptist Church.
- Rochelle Williams, Berea Baptist Church.
- Betty Woodson, Elizabethtown Baptist Church.

Ministry focusing on Dobson's successor

By Eric Gorski
Religion News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Focus on the Family marked its 25th anniversary last month with an eye toward the future.

The organization is preparing for two eventualities: the departure of founder James Dobson and the aging of its supporters.

Dobson, 66, reports he is in excellent health after suffering a heart attack and stroke in the past 12 years. He says he expects to continue leading Focus on the Family for another decade or longer.

Even so, the transition to the post-Dobson era has begun. The ministry is grooming two potential successors and developing products for young families. The results of these efforts likely will determine whether Focus on the Family remains influential as a conservative voice on social and political issues.

The question of who will ascend into visible leadership positions—most importantly, who will take over Dobson's daily half-hour radio show—is the greatest challenge.

"American evangelicalism is very personality-oriented," said Quentin Schultze, a professor of communica-

tions at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. "Media ministries need at least one person that represents the ministry."

Dobson, a child psychologist and former University of Southern California professor, came to prominence in 1970 for writing the child-rearing manual "Dare to Discipline." He founded Focus on the Family seven years later "to make a contribution to the family."

Today, Focus on the Family is a \$130 million-a-year enterprise with 14 broadcast programs and more than a dozen publications reaching 104 nations. Dobson's monthly newsletter goes to 2.5 million U.S. households.

Focus's board of directors began work on a succession plan after Dobson suffered a minor heart attack in 1990. Eight years later, Dobson had a mild stroke.

The succession plan acknowledges one person cannot replace Dobson. It calls for a chief executive officer to handle business matters and a "chief articulator" to be the voice of the ministry—jobs that Dobson does alone.

The articulator job, Dobson and others say, will be much harder to fill. There's an internal debate about whether one person can do it or if a team approach is best.

Ministry officials went looking for young talent. They found it in Walt Larimore, 50, a family doctor who's delivered 1,500 babies and hosted radio and cable TV shows in Florida, and Bill Maier, 44, a psychologist and radio host from Southern California whose resume resembles Dobson's.

Larimore and Maier are part of a program called "other voices," meant to introduce the ministry's audience to new personalities as guest hosts on Dobson's show and in other venues.

Focus on the Family's most important new venture, Dobson said, is the young families initiative. With 47 being the average age of a Focus consumer, ministry officials know they must reach the sons and daughters of those boomers, who now are raising children of their own.

By January, the ministry expects to introduce Focus on Your Child, a newsletter with editions geared toward different ages. In the next two to three years, Dobson plans to update a landmark parenting video series for young families and may begin a new radio program aimed at them.

Dobson always has said the ministry will continue as long as it has support. And he said he strongly endorses the succession plan. "We're not sitting around waiting for me to die."

House drops settlement payment to family of missionary killed in Peru

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A budget battle between Congress and the Department of State has its first casualty—the cash settlement earmarked for the family of missionary Veronica "Roni" Bowers and her infant daughter.

Last month, the U.S. House approved a \$28.9 billion supplemental budget bill to provide additional funding for this year's federal budget, but it did not include the \$8 million originally set aside for the Bowers family and pilot Kevin Donaldson. The measure was approved 397-32 and forwarded to the Senate.

The legislation orders the State Department to pay the settlement out of money in its 2002 budget. But congressional officials say the State Department claims it doesn't have the money and even if it did, it might not have the legal authority.

"The State Department is doing everything it can to delay the payment," said Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., who has lobbied for the settlement.

The Bowers family attorney said she was disappointed by the State Department's position, given that Congress has given it permission to pay the settlement.

In April 2001, a Peruvian air force jet shot down the missionary airplane carrying the Bowers family after they were misidentified as potential drug smugglers by a CIA-operated surveillance plane. Roni Bowers and 7-month-old Charity Bowers died in the attack, but Jim Bowers, Roni's husband, and their 6-year-old son, Cory, survived along with Donaldson.

Another Christian children's shelter sued for 'religious discrimination'

DECATUR, Ga. (RNS)—In a lawsuit similar to the one filed against Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, a Methodist shelter for Georgia foster children has been sued by gay rights activists who claim the agency uses state money to discriminate in hiring and fund religious indoctrination.

Seven Georgia taxpayers, including one lesbian counselor and one Jewish psychologist, filed suit July 31 against the United Methodist Children's Home in Decatur.

The suit is asking state authorities to stop funding the facility until it changes its policy. Currently, the shelter receives about 40 percent of its budget from local and state revenues.

According to the suit filed in Fulton County Superior Court, the lesbian counselor was fired when she

revealed her sexual orientation, and the Jewish psychologist was denied a job when he was told the home does not hire Jews.

"My sexual orientation has nothing to do with my ability to be a good counselor, and I proved that at the home," said Aimee Bellmore, the lead plaintiff.

The suit also alleges that children in the 70-bed facility are required to attend Methodist worship service, regardless of their faith, and that gay and lesbian youth are subjected to "potentially dangerous intervention therapy to undermine the youth's sexual orientation."

The center's Web site said services are provided "without regard to race, gender, creed or national origin." A spokesman for the shelter, Richard Puckett, declined comment until he can see a copy of the lawsuit.

"We're going to wait until we get it and let our lawyer take a look at it and see what the grounds are before we comment on it," he said. Officials at the church's North Georgia Annual Conference, which owns the facility, also declined to comment.

The case is similar to an ACLU suit filed three years ago against KBHC after children's homes officials fired a lesbian staff member.

In that case, which still is pending, ACLU officials accused KBHC of religious discrimination and claimed government funding of the children's homes is an unconstitutional establishment of religion.

U.S. District Judge Charles Simpson dismissed the religious discrimination charge last summer. ACLU leaders responded by filing an appeal. Both the appeal and the establishment of religion claim remain unresolved.

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Abstinence advocates seeing success with new strategy

By Mark O'Keefe
Religion News Service

BATON ROUGE, La. (RNS)—Dan Richey remembers a time not so long ago when abstinence was seen as hopelessly unrealistic, an old-fashioned value with no place in modern sex education.

"No civic groups would invite you over to give a speech about it, no TV stations would devote newscasts to it, no newspaper reporters would call you up to discuss it.

"But now," Richey recently said via cell phone as he drove to a television interview, "everyone is talking about abstinence."

The wait-until-marriage movement has broken out of its religious sanctuary.

It has happened not just in Louisiana, where Richey heads an abstinence-only program launched by the governor, but nationwide—thanks in large part to a six-year flow of federal money for abstinence-only programs.

But there also has been a shift in tone and strategy, downplaying the religious concept of chastity while hammering home the message that there is no such thing as "safe sex." In short, the case for abstinence has become more factual than spiritual, more medical than moral.

"We say, 'This is for your health,'" said Patricia Sulak of Temple, Texas, a gynecologist and medical school professor who helped develop an abstinence program for her son's school and can't keep up with speaking re-

Report: More teens say they're virgins

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than half of high school teens have reported that they are virgins, a new federal study has found.

The report, from data in the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, marks a reversal from about a decade ago when more than half of high schoolers said they had had sexual intercourse.

The report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked 13,601 teens about sexual behavior as well as other issues. The Washington Times newspaper reported.

In 1990 the report found that 54.3 percent of teens in grades 9-12 had had intercourse. But by 2001, 54.4 percent of high schoolers said they had not had sex.

Some experts attribute the statistical change to abstinence education while others credit "please just wait" messages that are often linked to HIV/AIDS education.

"The only thing that changed in that time frame is the amount of talk and programming for abstinence until marriage," said LeAnna Benn, director of Teen-Aid, an abstinence program in Spokane, Wash.

quests. "What the abstinence movement needed was some help from the health care profession."

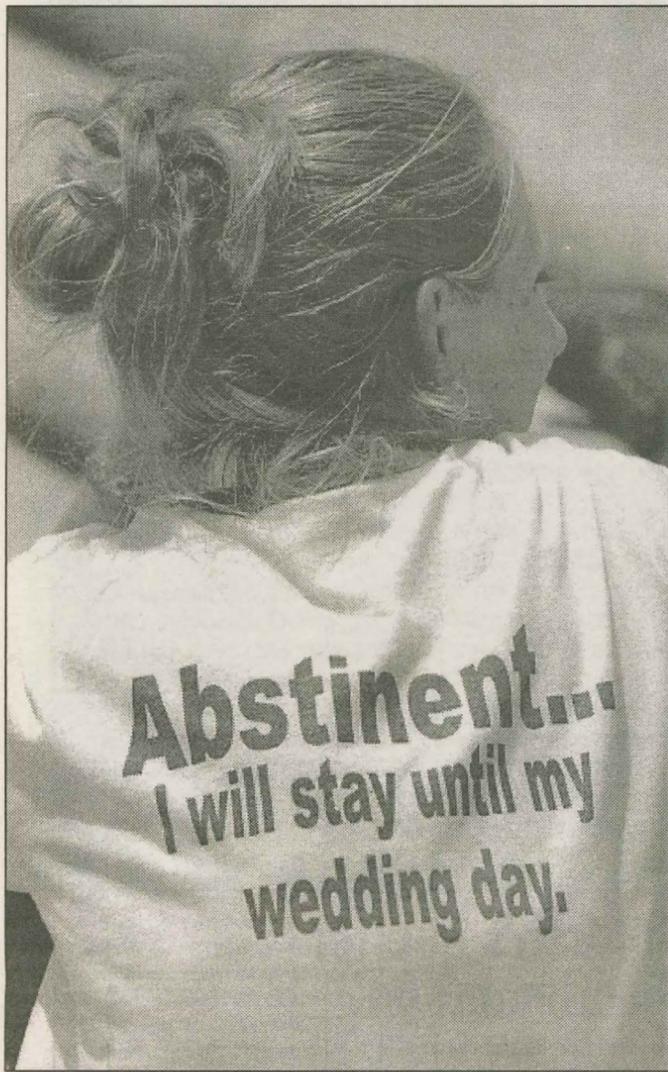
President Bush wants to help by boosting abstinence-only funding by \$33 million annually, to \$135 million a year. The House approved that request on May 16 as part of a package that reauthorizes the landmark 1996 legislation reforming welfare. But the Senate appears more skeptical of relying solely on abstinence to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Not until there was (federal) funding was the movement legitimized," said LeAnna Benn of Teen-Aid Inc., a nonprofit group that produces abstinence curricula from its base in Spokane, Wash. "Then you began to see it spread across the country."

That medical and family planning groups have stopped dismissing abstinence is evident in the many programs promoting birth control that advertise themselves as "abstinence plus" or "abstinence first." But the American Medical Association, Planned Parenthood and others say the pendulum has swung too far when government funding requires an "abstinence only" message, and when abstinence programs scare young people away from using birth control.

Abstinence advocates counter that promoting abstinence while teaching birth control is counterproductive.

"I don't want to tell kids, 'Don't have sex,' then spend two hours instructing them how to correctly put on a condom," Sulak said. "That's a mixed, confusing message."



ABSTINANCE RALLY
Claire Reynolds, 16, of Rayne, La., wears her intentions on her T-shirt during an abstinence rally this past fall on the steps of the Louisiana state Capitol in Baton Rouge. (RNS/Baton Rouge Advocate photo by Patrick Dennis)

Reflections on the flow of time

You can sit in a yard or under a tree and almost see the way time flows by. It doesn't fly or dawdle; it simply flows—sort of like the great cumulus clouds move across the summer sky.

You can feel it somehow, too, if you don't try too hard, in growing things—in the way a leaf turns to catch the sun, the way a bud opens and the petals uncurl into a rose, the way a bean blossom fades and the green bean forms.

Time isn't a tangible. And yet you can touch so many things that mean time. There is a kind of time in a seed, for instance. Plant a radish seed, and in a short time you can eat a radish. Plant an acorn, and an oak tree may grow for 100 years.

There is another kind of time in a creek, which carves its channel and yet is shaped by rock; yet in due time, it wears away the rocks. It floods and dries up, but as long as there are rains and the hills slope downward, the creeks will continue to run.

There are times when time is like the wind, howling at the corners and lashing at our human houses—troubled times. But personal crises and time, like the

wind, come back to normal.

And one can sit on the porch at evening tide and watch the grace of the swallows in the air and smell the fragrance of the wild roses and honeysuckle and hear the soft whisper of approaching night in the big sycamores.

Time passes then, as it should, not hour by hour but season by season and year by year. The long flow of time is there, and if one does not watch too closely or listen too intently, one will see and hear. There will be a time when "time will be no more."

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Harold Greenfield

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

The fabric of family

If the Lord is leading you to become involved in a worthy Christian cause that is essential to the future of our churches, our communities, our nation and our world, let me suggest Campbellsville University.

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ly woven together into a community each calls "home." Students are encouraged to advance in their own lives through continued learning, to advance in their perspective fields through ongoing scholarship and to advance their society through Christian service and leadership.

University President Mike Carter has stated: "It's a warm, caring

place. Our mission is to provide students with a quality education where Christian leadership and service are emphasized. We are helping students learn how to make a difference one student at a time. At Campbellsville, a student develops academically, spiritually and socially within a Christian atmosphere. We hope you join the Campbellsville family."

For more information about this "family," call toll-free president Carter or development vice president Alan Medders at (800) 264-6014, or visit their Web site at www.campbellsvil.edu.

To the extent the foundation can assist in determining the most effective charitable gift strategy for you, please give us that privilege.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

SMILE

'State kids'

During most of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's history, the local pastor served as more than a preacher. He was, to a degree, responsible for the welfare of the families in his congregation.

Pastors, school principals, law enforcement officials, physicians and others referred families to Glen Dale and Spring Meadows for decades. They did so because there was no one else in that role. When a pastor saw a family in crisis, there was no government agency to intervene or tax dollars to cover the cost of out-of-home care. Therefore, hundreds of children for every imaginable reason found themselves living either at Spring Meadows or Glen Dale Children's Homes.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Today, KBHC still serves children referred to us privately, by individual citizens. But someone else has taken on the biggest responsibility of intervening for a child's welfare: state government. Child protection laws have become stringent, sometimes to the detriment of children and their parents, but overall for the good of kids. Parenting isn't viewed as a "right" anymore; it is viewed as a "privilege," a privilege that can be taken away by the state if children

are abused or neglected. Today, if a teacher, physician, social worker, minister or any other professional who works in a helping role with children observes what is suspected as abuse or neglect, that professional must call child protective services. It is the law. Failure to fulfill the law could lead to criminal charges. For this reason, most children who come to KBHC are under the guardianship of the commonwealth.

Every week KBHC hears from concerned individuals, including pastors, calling on behalf of a child or family in need. Usually we can help the family without a disruptive out-of-home placement, thanks to counseling and assistance services in our communities.

If, however, we believe we are in a position to serve a child through residential or foster care, we will accept him or her as a private placement. So, think of the many state-placed children like this: They are the same children pastors and teachers referred to us in the past, except now they come to KBHC from a different route.

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

Ministering through camp

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College junior Casey Woods, the daughter of Wanda Messer of Cleveland, Tenn., and Ed Woods of Williamsburg, spent the summer of 2001 serving at a Christian camp in Orr, Minn., not far from the Canadian border.

Woods previously had attended the camp as a camper, a high school volunteer and a staff member.

Woods served as a Big Sister in one of the camp dormitories. Each dormitory had dorm parents, a counselor and a Big Sister or Big Brother.

Her job involved spending one-on-one time with each of the campers by tucking them in at night, praying with them and asking how their day had gone. She created a home away from home for the young people and regularly shared the gospel with them.

Each camp during the summer lasted two weeks. Many of the girls with whom she worked came from large cities, often from neighborhoods with gangs. Woods described some of the girls as being quite rough and tough.

One young girl named Ashley came from a terrible family situation in a gang-infested neighbor-

hood in Chicago. Ashley constantly complained about everything at camp.

One day after being confronted about her attitude, she broke down and talked about her family situation.

Throughout the remainder of Ashley's camping experience, Woods and the others noticed how God was changing Ashley's life.

Casey also worked with a team of staff members who taught sailing and windsurfing. She thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Woods, an elementary education major at Cumberland College, heard God's call to become a teacher when she

was a camper. She knows how God can work through a camp setting to touch lives and provide direction.

We appreciate her commitment and enthusiasm and know she will continue to influence young lives for Christ.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Kudzu



Doug Marlette

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Bible Crossword

Carole Stengel

Across

- 1 "He that loveth his ___ abideth in the light" (1 John 2:10)
- 6 "They ... spake ___ one to another" (Malachi 3:16)
- 10 Anger
- 12 When you'll get to your destination, more or less, abbr.
- 13 "The ___ of the Lord ... run to and fro" (Zechariah 4:10)
- 16 "Let ___ the rich man glory in his riches" (Jeremiah 9:23)
- 17 Classifies
- 18 "We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his ___" (Psalms 95:7)
- 20 Dormitory helper, abbr.
- 21 "___ is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10)
- 22 "Love worketh ___ ill to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10)
- 23 Plural suffix
- 25 Month, abbr.
- 26 "Good ___ from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25)
- 28 Article that precedes a vowel
- 29 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and ___" (John 21:12)
- 31 "Do not your ___ before men" (Matthew 6:1)
- 32 "The first covenant had ... a worldly ___" (Hebrews 9:1)
- 38 "For the wrath is come upon them to the ___" (1 Thessalonians 2:16)
- 41 Swine
- 42 Preposition
- 43 Noah's vessel
- 44 Assist
- 46 "He hath a great ___ for you" (Colossians 4:13)

1			2	3	4	5		6		7	8	9
				10				11			12	
13	14	15									16	
17						18		19				
		20			21						22	
23	24		25			26				27		28
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		32			33	34		35	36			
37		38									39	40
41								42			43	
			44	45				46				
47	48					49	50				51	52
53						54						55

- 47 Nathan, for short
- 49 Tell an untruth
- 51 "The light of the body is the ___" (Luke 11:34)
- 53 And, Lat.
- 54 "A woman hath a familiar spirit at ___" (1 Samuel 28:7)
- 55 Extraterrestrial, abbr.

Down

- 1 "___ are the meek" (Matthew 5:5)
- 2 "By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better ___" (Hebrews 7:22)
- 3 Head nurse, abbr.
- 4 Make a mistake
- 5 Radium, chem. symbol
- 6 Old English, abbr.
- 7 Number of commandments God gave to Moses
- 8 European Theater of Operations, abbr.
- 9 "The Lord is high above all ___" (Psalms 113:4)
- 11 "O ___, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)
- 14 Year old, abbr.
- 15 "Do not ___, my beloved brethren" (James 1:16)
- 18 "___ thy father and thy mother" (Exodus 20:12)
- 19 "A ___ commandment I give unto you" (John 13:34)
- 22 "Father, glorify thy ___" (John 12:28)
- 24 Sister, abbr.
- 27 Simon ___
- 30 Nothing
- 33 New England state, abbr.
- 34 "Ye are the ___ of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:16)
- 35 "They were all ___ at the mighty power of God" (Luke 9:43)
- 36 "I am the ___ of Sharon" (Song of Sol. 2:1)
- 37 Backbone
- 39 "We spend our years as a ___ that is told" (Psalms 90:9)
- 40 Trapshooting
- 45 Narrow fish
- 48 A unit of value in Laos
- 50 Not out
- 52 "___ shall be as gods" (Genesis 3:5)

Last week's solution

1	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	S	M	A	R	C				
11	R	E	R	A	N	I	N	E	T	A						
14	I	I	C		15	A	M		16	O	D	T				
17	M	G	K		18	A	M	O	R	I	T	E	S			
20	A	N	I	S	E		22	O		23	B	U	S	P		
24	T	E	N		25	I	O	N		27	O	M	E	G	A	
29	E	T			30	D	G		31	O	N		32	T	O	W
33	H	I	K	E		36	C	A	N		37	S	R			
38	S		39	F	O	R	S	A	K	E		41	E	G	O	
43	H	O		44	R	P	I	S		46	A		47	O	N	
48	E	L	E	A	Z	A	R		51	A	W	A	N	A		
53	I	D	A	H	O		54	O	R	D	E	R	N			
K		56	T	S	A	R		57	B	E	D		58	S	S	

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NATIONAL NOTES

■ Bible distribution plan launched.

Zondervan, World Vision and the International Bible Society recently announced plans for "Share the Light," an effort this fall to distribute 1 million Bibles to needy children and families. They will work with participating Christian bookstores to donate a Bible in the name of consumers who purchase a Bible published by Zondervan between Oct. 8 and the end of the year. The Bibles will be donated to families in 21 countries. Consumers will be asked to write a personal note to be sent along with the Bible they help provide.

■ VA to accept chaplains from gay group.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the country's only predominantly gay denomination, has been approved to supply chaplains for the Veteran's Administration for use in hospitals and other VA facilities. Church spokesman Jim Birkitt said the application took about nine months and said the church encountered "no resistance whatsoever." The VA's National Chaplain Center currently accepts chaplains from about 225 registered religious groups, most of whom are also recognized by the armed forces. MCC officials say they now plan to apply to provide chaplains to the military.

■ Prof using Focus on Family magazine demoted.

A professor at a Family Methodism-affiliated school wants her job back after she was demoted, apparently for including

materials from Focus on the Family in her classroom. Janis Price, an elementary education professor at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind., filed suit, seeking to have her job and salary restored. According to United Methodist News Service, a student in her class complained after reading a copy of "Teachers in Focus," produced by Focus on the Family. The magazine contained tips for teachers to counter "the onslaught of gay activists in your school."

■ State court rules out same-sex unions.

The Georgia Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, has let stand a Georgia Court of Appeals ruling that a Vermont civil union is not the equivalent of marriage in Georgia. Additionally, the court ruled last month that even if a civil union is deemed to be a "marriage" in Vermont, it would not be recognized as such in Georgia. The decision also upheld the Georgia Defense of Marriage Act, which limits marriage to one man and one woman.

■ "Regular Baptists" pass child abuse resolution.

The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches has added its voice to other denominations that have recently expressed concern about child abuse. At their recent conference, messengers passed a "Resolution on Child Protection." In the statement, they resolved to "acknowledge the past, present and future reality of child abuse in this sin-infiltrated world" and "decry these acts against children

as evil and tragic." Church members also called for appropriate discipline and repentance for perpetrators and promotion of healing for victims.

■ Court: Theology student deserves state money.

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 was then 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.

■ Study: Religious moms more likely to marry.

Urban mothers who attend church often are much more likely to be married when their children are born, according to a study from the University of Pennsylvania. The study states that urban mothers who attend church several times a month or more are 100 percent more likely to be married when they give birth to their children, in comparison to urban mothers who are not frequent church attenders. It also found that single urban mothers are 90 percent more likely to marry within a year of the birth if they are frequent church attenders, compared to those who do not attend church frequently.

Ventura accidentally proclaims 'Christian Heritage Week'

ST. PAUL, Minn. (RNS)—Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, the former wrestler who in 1999 said that religion is a "sham and a crutch for weak-minded people," inadvertently has declared a week in October as "Christian Heritage Week."

Ventura's office submitted the proclamation, along with 16 others, to the Secretary of State's office. When staff members realized the error, they were told it was too late and that the proclamation already was official.

"Somehow it got in the wrong pile," spokesman John Wodele told Associated Press. "It would not have been approved."

Ventura deliberately has tried to avoid co-mingling church and state during his term as governor. Less than a month ago, he rankled Minnesotans by issuing a proclamation at the request of an atheist group.

Kent Kaiser, a spokesman for Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, said it was impossible to reverse the proclamation. "There is no deproclamating," he said. "Once it's filed, it's filed. It's not like every time they send something we call over and ask, 'Did you mean it?'"

Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council, was delighted by the proclamation. "Inadvertently, or providentially some might say, he's recognized the role of faith and religion in our society. We'll gladly accept that."

Let's have church outside

When was the last time you had church outside? Probably never, or at least not often. Well, we did on a recent Sunday morning. One of the first things a pastor and students learn at Oneida is to adjust, improvise and roll with the punches.

Until you have experienced being in a dormitory or classroom full of students when there are no lights, you can't quite get a true idea of what it is like. I am sure two Sundays ago that several new students were thinking that because the lights were out we would not have to go to church. Right? Wrong! We simply decided to have our worship hour on the porch of the campus ministry center.

When there is no electricity, the girls are the first to complain. It is difficult to get a shower. Even if you take a shower, the next problem is drying your hair in time for church. I am sure some girls thought briefly about just not going to church if they could not get showers and blow dry their hair.

Well everyone did make it to church, but not everyone had taken a shower. Some, especially the younger boys, did not make too much of an effort to comb their hair, either. But since we were out in the open, hopefully no one noticed those who had not showered.

On Sundays, new and prospective students come for a tour and interview. It was going to be difficult to show the usual videos without electricity, so a generator was put in place outside the library window. Our guests had a difficult time using the restrooms, but a few flashlights solved that problem.

Our maintenance staff brought generators to the kitchen. The cooks already had served breakfast, but they were preparing the noon meal when

the power went off. We have several portable generators that can be set up quickly to provide lights and some other basic electric needs. Since we cook with gas, we are not totally incapacitated. Of course, as soon as we got everything up and running, the power came back on. Apparently a bird, now deceased, had landed on the wrong wires just outside the campus ministry center. The power company removed the charred remains just as our students ended their worship service.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Some of my orientation guests are a little amused at our ability to improvise so quickly. They were equally impressed with our students' ability to take the whole situation in stride. I realized that we have had much worse situations in the past. One was similar to this one. You can only imagine what it is like to have a dormitory full of students and no electricity, especially on the first day of school. The 75 to 100 new students were sure there would not be school that day, or at least not until the electricity came back on. Our veteran students had no such illusions and quickly got about the business of getting ready for school.

Then there was the first day of school about 10 years ago when we had no water. Think about that. What do you do when 300 or so students get up in the morning and need to use the toilets? We ran fire hoses from our indoor pool to each of the dorms. After a good flushing, we would step outside, let the next group go in, and then flush the toilets all over again. We repeated the process several times. Fortunately, shortly after school began the water was restored.

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

Improving campus family health

After 15 years in Florida, Bonnie and Joel Young moved to North Carolina. "We loved the mountains, and it was a dream of mine to live in the mountains," Bonnie said. "I never thought it would happen by attending college." Joel soon begins his second year at Clear Creek, and Bonnie is director of the campus medical center.

After college she practiced medical-surgical and geriatric nursing. In Florida, Bonnie worked in hospice and home health care.

"The setting of death and dying was quite different, but a place of great need," Young said. "The campus clinic focuses on preventive care, non-acute and non-chronic illnesses. The dental clinic does cleanings, fillings, extractions and bridge-work. We also work to increase awareness of preventive health issues. I am impressed and pleased with the level of care the campus family receives from volunteer physicians and dentists." The medical center includes a reception room, two dental rooms, two physician examination rooms and a sterilization lab. Three rooms with a separate entrance contain the Cornerstone Counseling Center, a joint venture with Kentucky Baptist

Homes for Children.

Young praises the volunteer medical team. "Dr. Massey, Dr. Mays and Dr. Snowden are all retired and have many years of experience. I have learned so much from them. They also have great stories of mission involvement. Dr. Mays first came to Clear Creek as a boy for summer camp. Our newest volunteer is Dr. Joanne Corum, with a specialty in women's health," Young said. "Our students face special challenges of stress. The clinic medical team observes so many ways that God encourages them, and we see growth in their lives."

Clear Creek also developed her interest in writing. "My husband spoke to the English professor and got us together. I've maintained a personal journal for many years, and during the past two years experienced God's leading me to write," Young noted. "Writing is a way to use our talents to glorify God and encourage others." Her interest helped start the Clear Creek Writers' Guild with seven participants. Most of them have published articles in area newspapers.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS/VIDEO

Who Is My Enemy? Welcoming People the Church Rejects. Rich Nathan. Zondervan, 2002. 288 pages. \$16.99. ♦♦♦♦ (Out of five)

If Rich Nathan is typical of the pastoral leadership among the Vineyard Churches, then it is no wonder that movement is growing rapidly.

While affirming that "people need and deserve straight talk from Christians," he seems genuinely disturbed at the obsession, particularly among evangelical Christians, to draw hard lines and make quick judgments about who is "in" and who isn't.

Rather than seeing life in either/or categories, Nathan advocates seeing people in process. Rather than trying to determine who is friend and who is enemy, he contends we should meet people where they are, appreciate what we can but share with them the good news as good news in their situation.

Nathan takes on five hot topics among evangelicals: postmodernism, feminism, homosexuality, new agers and liberalism. He asks: Are the advocates and practitioners of each of these really the enemies of the cause of Christ? Though obviously on the conservative side of the Christian continuum, Nathan nevertheless argues that going on the attack and confronting these folks is counterproductive. In fact, he writes that helping people deal with their sin is like doing eye surgery, delicate work on an extremely sensitive part of the body.

Nathan's treatment of each of the five topics is fair, honest, sometimes surprising but never harsh. Often he points out that those who are not Christians are not the greatest enemy of the cause of Christ. That distinction is reserved for Christians who do not live out of the Spirit of Christ. The biggest challenge for the church is not to crush its perceived enemies but to

live toward them with the honesty and compassion of Christ. *Jim Holladay*

Timeless Virtues: Lessons in Character for Women. Dellanna O'Brien. New Hope Publishers, 2002. 237 pages. \$9.99. ♦♦♦♦

"Timeless Virtues: Lessons in Character for Women" reads like a manifesto for Woman's Missionary Union. This makes sense, considering it was written by WMU's former executive director, and is a good thing, since many younger women might not have an idea what WMU really does or what its members stand for.

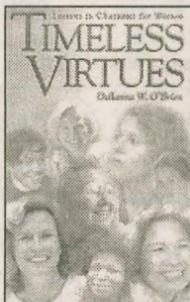
In this book, Dellanna O'Brien makes a passionate call for women to take more of a role in the world around them and look at what they can do using their unique gifts in areas like racial reconciliation, unwanted pregnancies, social justice and loving the unlovable.

O'Brien has done her homework, and the book abounds with impressive statistical evidence to back up her claims of a world in desperate need of Christian women to influence it.

It also is refreshing to read a book that suggests women might be able to do more to help the church than be a good wife and serve tea and cookies.

In O'Brien's world, women have the strength and opportunity, no matter how old they are, to turn the world upside down for Christ and make a permanent difference in the communities around them.

In recent years, WMU has gotten the reputation of being an organization for older women and of being less relevant than it once was. Women of any age who read "Timeless Virtues" will find much to learn and might realize that WMU and its members have much to offer. *Victoria Moon*



Teaching That Bears Fruit. George Yates. Guardian Books, 2001. 158 pages. \$11.95, self-published (available through amazon.com). ♦♦♦♦

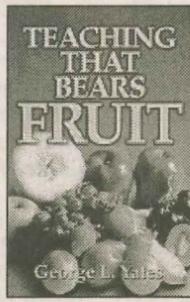
Several times, George Yates reiterates, "We do not teach the Bible, we teach people." Though the validity of that statement might depend on how one chooses to deal with its semantics, he wants us to understand that Christian education is not about dumping a truckload of Bible facts, doctrines and other things on students.

Education is not about imparting knowledge and learning facts. It is about transforming lives. The proof of successful teaching is not the number of verses memorized or the number of Bible stories one can recall. Success is measured by the changes taking place in the lives of students.

In this brief overview of the purpose and methods of teaching, Yates offers a brutally honest assessment of the state of Christian education in most of our churches. Not only does the lecture method of teaching take it on the chin, but he is none too fond of Bible crossword puzzles, word scrambles and fill-in-the-blank manuals. All of them, he believes, waste time, contribute nothing to the real task of teaching and often send an unintended message to the learner.

Yates advocates a method of teaching that takes the learner seriously, recognizing that in any given group, the teacher likely encounters several learning styles. He identifies four major styles and give examples of how to teach to them. Throughout, he argues that teaching that does not engage the whole person and challenge a person's deeper, critical thinking skills falls short of the goal. Change only occurs when we are challenged.

"Teaching that Bears Fruit" would be an excellent primer for training Sunday school teachers. *Jim Holladay*



The Last Things: Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Eschatology. Editors Carl Braaten and Robert Jensen. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002. 169 pages. \$16. ♦♦♦♦

One view of Christian eschatology (the doctrine of the "last things") is seen in the popular "Left Behind" book series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. I tell people who ask me about the series, "It may be good fiction, but it is poor biblical theology."

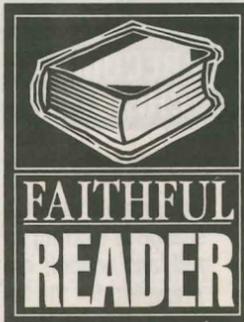
In this book, Carl Braaten and Robert Jensen have collected some fine articles on various aspects of eschatology that go behind an accepted popularization of the last things.

The primary reason for the popularity of the "Left Behind" series is that it successfully sets its particular eschatological perspective in a setting to which contemporary people can relate.

"The Last Things" contributors, likewise, have a mind to show the significance of eschatology for the faith and theology of the contemporary church. The essays in the book show that eschatology has been a source of major differences in the Christian community as radically different views of eschatology have led to divisions within Christian groups all along the theological spectrum.

Each of the contributors works to convince the reader that even though eschatology has been a source of division, the contemporary church cannot afford to ignore the hope that the biblical vision of the future brings.

The contributors include Braaten, Jensen, Paul Hanson and Wolfhart Pannenberg. This is an ecumenical approach which largely succeeds at its purpose of bringing eschatology back into the mainstream of the contemporary church by considering more than order of events, possible dates and who is the anti-Christ. *Wayne Hager*



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

Christian yoga video creator: Don't get bent out of shape by topic

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—A few years ago, Susan Bordenkircher wasn't comfortable doing yoga.

It wasn't that she got bent out of shape by any of the asanas—downward facing dog, half lotus forward fold or the scorpion, to name but three yoga positions.

She just wasn't sure if it was an appropriate activity for a Christian.

Long associated with mysticism and Eastern religions in particular, yoga is denounced by some who claim it promotes pantheism and worship of self.

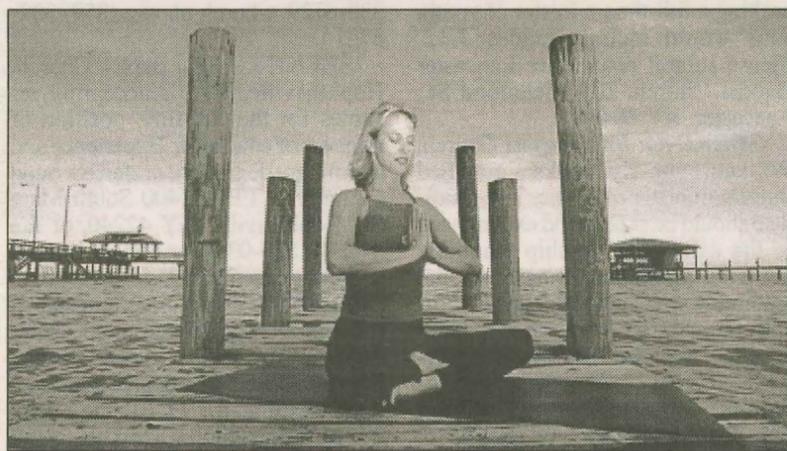
So when leaders at the Moorer YMCA in Mobile asked Bordenkircher if she'd be willing to teach yoga, the United Methodist mom reluctantly agreed to attend a seminar.

The practice, she said, changed her body and soul.

Often inclined to move at a rapid pace, Bordenkircher said yoga has helped her to breathe more slowly and deeply. That, in turn, has enhanced her prayer life; yoga can help believers be still and to listen for God, she said.

"I think that my spirituality personally has increased," she said.

She hopes to share some of yoga's more ethereal benefits through two



YOGA VIDEO Susan Bordenkircher is a yoga instructor who has created a video in which practitioners meditate to Christian themes while stretching. (RNS photo by Bill Starling)

new videos, both titled, "Outstretched in Worship: A Christian Approach to Yoga."

The videos show Bordenkircher teaching classes—one for beginners, one for more advanced students—through the traditional stretches that constitute hatha yoga.

As her students hold various postures, she leads them in asking God to "help us keep our lives centered through prayer."

Bordenkircher seeks to link the physical with the spiritual when she can; as students stretch to release tension in their muscles, Bordenkircher encourages them to "come to God with no baggage." Mental clutter, she said, "keeps us separated from God, so let's just let it go."

Where other exercise instructors might encourage students to "feel the burn," Bordenkircher urges her pupils to "find joy in the difficult" and to

"feel so thankful." As they inhale, they're encouraged to think about "breathing in the Holy Spirit," and to "let Him fill you head to toe."

In recent years, yoga's popularity has boomed as many have searched for a few minutes of stillness and for low-impact exercise that fosters flexibility and strength.

With the ancient exercises' contemporary resurgence, Bordenkircher urges those interested in practicing yoga to choose their instructors carefully.

"It can be very destructive. I've really literally sat there and just prayed for discernment" at some seminars, she said, noting that she feels uncomfortable with those who suggest that humans possess divine power.

Cecil Taylor, dean of the School of Religion at the University of Mobile, said he would advise those interested in taking a Christian approach to yoga to "make sure it's thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Christ."

"You'd be able to judge a lot by checking your spirit," Taylor said. "Sometimes people just instinctively know, 'This is just not what I ought to be doing.' They don't know why. It may be theological perceptivity."

For more information

"Outstretched in Worship" costs \$12 plus tax. For information, contact Susan Bordenkircher at gsbordenkircher@msn.com or call (251) 621-6733.

All proceeds will support ministries at Jubilee Shores United Methodist Church and fund future Christian yoga videos.

PEOPLE

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Mike Carter

The summer vacation season is nearing an end, and schools are preparing for the fall semester. It is a time to renew friendships and make new acquaintances.

Christians also will have numerous opportunities to meet individuals with whom we may share Christ. Regardless of where we serve, opportunities abound to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

While living an exemplary life and letting our light shine (Matthew 5:16) is an essential part of the Christian faith, there also are times when we are called to be bold and prepared to share the plan of salvation with a person who has never experienced new birth in Christ.

I pray that the following simple plan of salvation will be of benefit to you in the days ahead as you share it with another person, or as you consider your own relationship with Jesus Christ:

■ Admit to God that you are a sinner (Romans 3:23, 6:23).

■ Repent and turn away from your sin (Acts 3:19).

■ Believe that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent Jesus to save people from their sins (John 3:16, Romans 5:18).

■ Commit your life to Jesus. Trust Him to be your Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

■ Once you have accepted Jesus Christ, be baptized into a local congregation (Mark 1:8).

■ "Let your light shine" so that others might come to know the saving power of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Mike Carter is president of Campbellsville University

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ ALLEN—Pleasant Home Church called Randy Polk as associate pastor June 30.

■ BURLINGTON—First Church honored Terry Wilder July 28 for 10 years as pastor.

■ CADIZ—Phillip Salmon resigned as pastor of Cadiz Church effective July 28 to become pastor of Cullendale First Church in Camden, Ark.

Second Church called Jerry

Gray as pastor.

■ CENTRAL CITY—Nelson Creek Church called Donnie Wilkins as pastor.

■ CLINTON—Green Valley Missionary Church ordained Derrick Fitts to the gospel ministry.

■ CUMBERLAND—Dione Church honored Luke Day for 10 years as pastor.

■ GREENVILLE—Carter Creek

Church called Kevin Burden of Hopkinsville as pastor.

Roland Memorial Church called L.C. Gray as interim pastor.

■ LANGLEY—Maytown Church recently celebrated its 30th anniversary.

■ SEBREE—First Church ordained Mann Davenport and Jeff Newman as deacons July 28. Bob Hardison as pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR SALE: 1994 Pontiac Bonneville (4-door). Not quite the car the little old lady drove only to church, but excellent condition, one-owner, never been wrecked or flooded. 100k miles. \$3,950. Louisville area; (502) 228-1274.

FOR SALE: Church pews. Curved oak with padded burgandy seat and back. Possibly 16 or more eight to 14-foot lengths. Clay City Baptist Church, PO Box 544, Clay City, KY 40312, or call (606) 663-2091 or 663-2793.

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

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.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister/children's director. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Kelly Baptist Church, 7775 Madisonville Road, Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Phone: (270) 886-7399.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky., is receiving resúmes for the position of full-time minister of music and outreach. A master's degree from an accredited graduate school or seminary is preferred. Salary will be based on education and experience. First Baptist Church is affiliated with CBF, SBC and ABC. Submit resúmes to: Dr. Chuck Summers, First Baptist Church, PO Box 839, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor with emphasis in the areas of youth and children for First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky. Candidate should have at least a bachelor's degree. Salary will be based on education and experience. First Baptist Church is affiliated with CBF, SBC and ABC. Submit resúmes to: Dr. Chuck Summers, First Baptist Church, PO Box 839, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Qualified interim minister of youth and college students for First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. The candidate should be skilled in the calling of student ministry. Interim will work closely with the pastor and should be able to dedicate himself/herself to relationship ministry. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, FBC, 230 South 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769, or call the church office: (606) 549-0280.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is seeking a minister to college students and young single adults. Applicants with secondary training and ministry experience with students and young adults are desired for this full-time position. Calvary is a growing faith community located in downtown Lexington, two blocks from the University of Kentucky. Our search committee hopes to begin reviewing resúmes Sept. 3, 2002. Resúmes may be sent to: Associate Pastor Hank Ellington, Calvary Baptist Church, 150 E High Street, Lexington, KY 40507.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students (first grade through college) If interested, please send resumé to: Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 East Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724. For a job description, please call (270) 862-4228.

SEEKING: Signal Mountain Baptist Church (SBC, CBF) is seeking a minister of youth to provide creative leadership to a comprehensive youth ministry. Send resumé to: Chair, Search Committee, Signal Mountain Baptist Church, 939 Ridgeway Ave., Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

SEEKING: Full-time youth and music director. Responsibilities will be primarily with youth; music responsibilities will include Sunday morning and evening worship, Wednesday evening hymn service and one cantata a year. Pay and benefits commensurate with position. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 302 North Magnolia St., Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

SEEKING: We are prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of youth. This would include grades 7-12. Please submit resumé to: Lancaster Baptist Church, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky., seeks a qualified interim minister of music. The candidate should be skilled and experienced in the calling of worship planning, choir direction and congregational leading. Using a chorally based worship service, our intention is to offer excellent and creative worship opportunities for our congregation and community, ultimately glorifying and praising God. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, FBC, 230 South 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769, or call the church office: (606) 549-0280.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for High Street Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Search Committee, High Street Baptist Church, 102 Bourne Ave., Somerset, KY 42501.

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: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. We are seeking the minister of music to lead our church in church music for all age groups. The candidate will be responsible for the overall music ministry of the church, along with the development and promotion of music ministries. The candidate must be able to plan and lead multiple worship services incorporating traditional and contemporary music selections. Submit resúmes to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 6380 Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for small church in rural area. Send resumé and references to: Pulpit Committee, Welfare Baptist Church, 476 W Cumberland Ave., Jamestown, KY 42629.

SEEKING: The Youth Ministry Search Committee of First Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., is broadening its search for a youth minister (grade 7-university) to include individuals with a minimum of an undergraduate degree and 3-5 years experience in youth church work. Please submit a resumé to: First Baptist Church, 621 E 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Steve Snodgrass.

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: First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky., is accepting resúmes for the full-time position of minister of education. Experience and a seminary degree are preferred. Send resúmes to: FBC, 1400 South Main St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240, or fax to (270) 889-0324, or e-mail: bferrell@fbchopkinsville.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of preschool/child development center director for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Bachelor's degree required. Send resumé to: FCBC, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Search Committee.

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 and youth for Calvary Baptist Church in Greenwood, Ind. We are a growing church in one of the fastest growing suburban areas of Indianapolis. Send resumé by Oct. 1, 2002, to: Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, 200 Sunset Blvd., Greenwood, IN 46142.

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

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

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

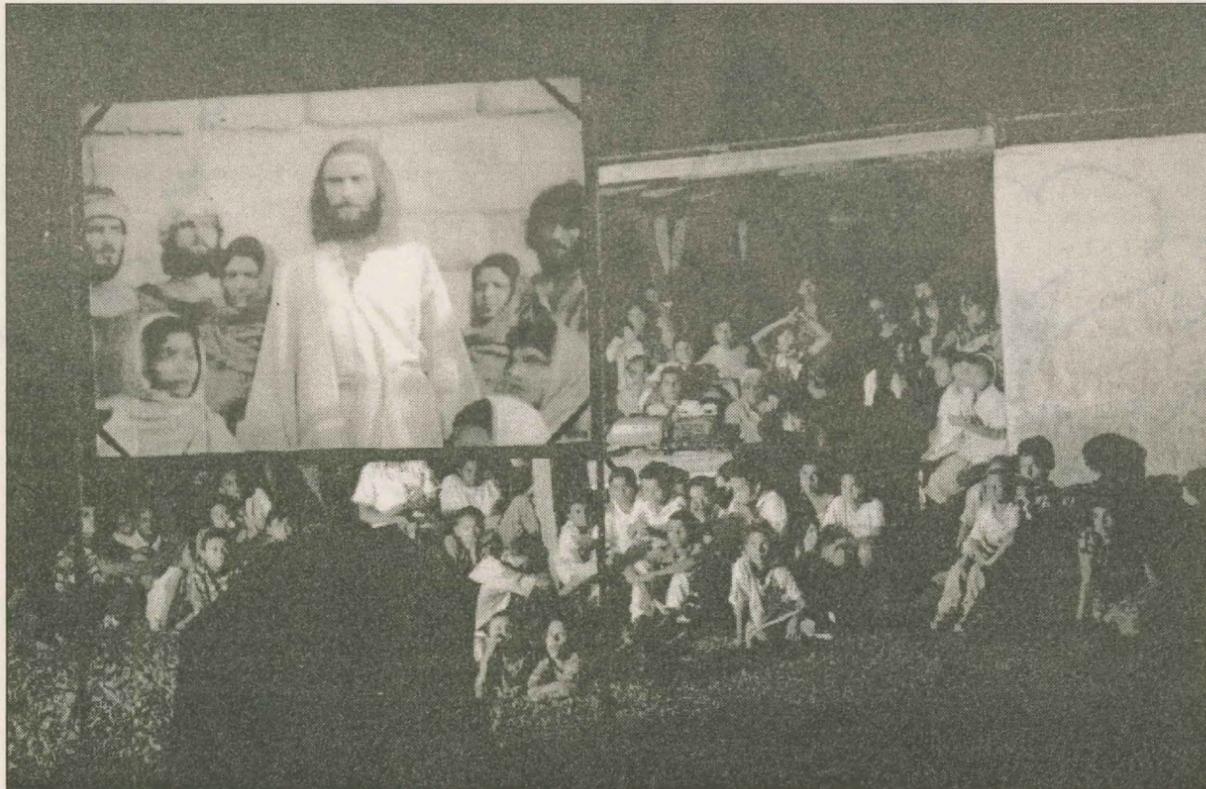
SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Northside Baptist Church in Science Hill, Ky. The church averages 85 in Sunday school and 120 in worship. If interested, send resumé to PO Box 129, Science Hill, KY 42553.

SEEKING: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., is receiving resúmes 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 resúmes 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: (866) 587-8346. www.covenantphoneservice.com. Agent opportunity available.

WANTED: Used portable baptistry to purchase for new church start. Contact Larry Frisby, Freedom Church, (270) 789-2000.

Over 5 billion served



JESUS FILM Villagers in Honduras are among the 5 billion people worldwide who have watched the "Jesus" film. The film is used extensively by Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide. (IMB photo by Roy Burroughs)

Milestone shows impact of worldwide ministry tool

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (BP)—Long the most translated film in history, the "Jesus" film has passed a new milestone with viewership exceeding 5 billion people.

Translated and distributed internationally by the Jesus Film Project, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, it has been viewed in every country of the world. As of July 1, the viewing audience numbered 5,164,836,643.

The job, however, is not yet done, said Paul Eshleman, director of the Jesus Film Project.

"We fully realize," he said, "that while some may have viewed the 'Jesus' film more than once, others still have not had the opportunity. Or, they have not yet seen it in a language version that communicates clearly to them. Because of this, we are continuing to work with many denominations and mission agencies to make sure the film is shown in every geographic area. We also will continue to translate the film, so that people can encounter the life and message of Jesus Christ in the language they know and relate to best."

Since its release in late 1979, the "Jesus" film has been translated into 743 languages and shown in 236 countries, territories and protectorates. In addition, an audio version of the film, "The Story of Jesus," is available in 226 of the 743 languages and 15 others. Through the years, 1,529 mission agencies and denominations have used the film, along with the current 2,756 "Jesus" film teams.

Southern Baptists continue to be the largest global distributors of the film through International Mission Board teams. In fact, their distribution efforts are so widespread that the mission agency can't keep track of the number of showings or the creative



SETTING THE STAGE Sam and Rosalie Jones, aided by volunteer Jeff Williams, right, set up a screen for a "Jesus" film showing in a village in Honduras. The film has become an integral part of the Joneses' ministry.

ways it is used, according to Mark Snowden, IMB overseas communications director.

"In many places we widely distribute the movie in the marketplace, tourist destinations or to seamen in strategic ports," Snowden said. "In other places, a multiple-language DVD is quietly handed to a seeker who encounters a believer. We also have distributed the 'Jesus' film in a special audio format on radio and cassette."

The International Mission Board has partnered with the Jesus Film Project to train six missionaries to dub new translations of the film. IMB strategists also have been working with project leaders to develop follow-up training, based on chronological Bible storying, to use among new believers who are non-literate.

The "Luke Partnership," a joint effort of the Jesus Film Project, Wycliffe Bible Translators and the IMB, seeks to use the Gospel of Luke in a non-written form to spur church planting among oral peoples who have yet to hear the gospel in their own lan-

guages.

The Jesus Film Project was spurred by Campus Crusade founder Bill Bright's vision for an appealing, biblically accurate film about the life of Christ. In the mid-1970s a team of 500 scholars and leaders from a variety of Christian and secular organizations began a five-year effort focusing on how best to portray Jesus on the motion picture screen.

The team agreed that the film must meet five key criteria:

- The film must be as archaeologically, historically and theologically accurate as humanly possible.

- The presentation must be unbiased, acceptable to all as a true depiction of Christ's life.

- The film story must appeal to all ages.

- The script must be easily translatable into virtually any language on earth.

- The film must be of theater-viewing quality and effective with both urban and rural audiences worldwide.

The film was produced at a cost of \$6 million, primarily funded by a businessman and longtime friend of Campus Crusade for Christ International.

John Heyman, a film producer and financier with more than 30 films to his credit, provided the driving force behind the production of the film, which premiered in U.S. theaters in late 1979. British Shakespearean actor Brian Deacon was selected to portray Jesus after a six-month search encompassing more than 260 screen tests.

"Every two seconds—sometimes in the midst of global chaos and conflict—someone indicates a decision to receive Christ as personal Savior as a result of seeing the 'Jesus' film," according to the project's Web site, www.jesusfilm.org.

Israeli, Palestinian areas see undercurrents of Christianity

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—It might not be a church-planting movement yet, but hundreds of Muslims across Israel and the Palestinian areas have come to Christ in the past year or so, according to Christians in that area.

The decisions have resulted in small groups of believers scattered in villages and cities across this troubled region, leaping tense borders as ex-Muslims share their newfound faith with others in their extended families of parents, uncles, aunts—and sometimes, multiple wives.

"I've been working among these people for 30 years, and I promise you I've never seen anything like this," marvels one Southern Baptist worker who is not identified for security reasons.

They gather behind closed doors to study the Bible despite the fact that professing belief in the Scriptures in Muslim areas can result in violent attacks or worse.

This is not the kind of movement Southern Baptists are likely to see covered on the 6 o'clock news. But Christian workers here are praying and carefully trying to fan the fragile flames of faith that seem near igniting into a mass movement.

As with most faith-related stories from the Middle East, neither the Christian workers involved nor the new believers want names or places publicized for fear of reprisals. Their fears are well-founded.

Radical Muslims have firebombed houses and cars of some Christian leaders, run down their children, destroyed their crops, dumped raw sewage on one and committed other acts of violence.

But these modern evangelists seem no more deterred by threats or suffering than did Christ's disciples in the first century here.

"Despite these problems, the Lord said, 'Keep going,'" said one new believer. "We may go to bed without supper for a week or a month, but (God) gave His own Son."

"In this Beloved Book," he continued, picking up an Arabic Bible, "it says the cross costs."

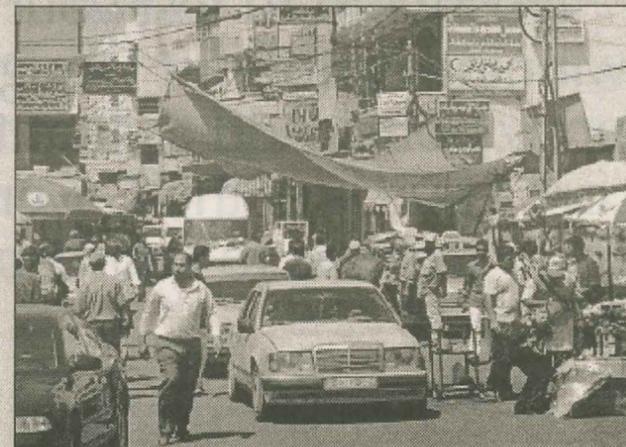
Distribution of the Bible and gospel tracts by Christian workers across this region for decades is among the factors leaders cite for the new movement.

One worker said Muslim responsiveness to the gospel increased noticeably after the Gulf War ended in 1991 and Christians worldwide began praying for the 10/40 Window, which includes most of the Muslim world.

Another factor has been the years of violence between Israel and the Palestinians, in which hundreds have died in the recent months of fighting. The almost daily violence has left many people seeking new answers.

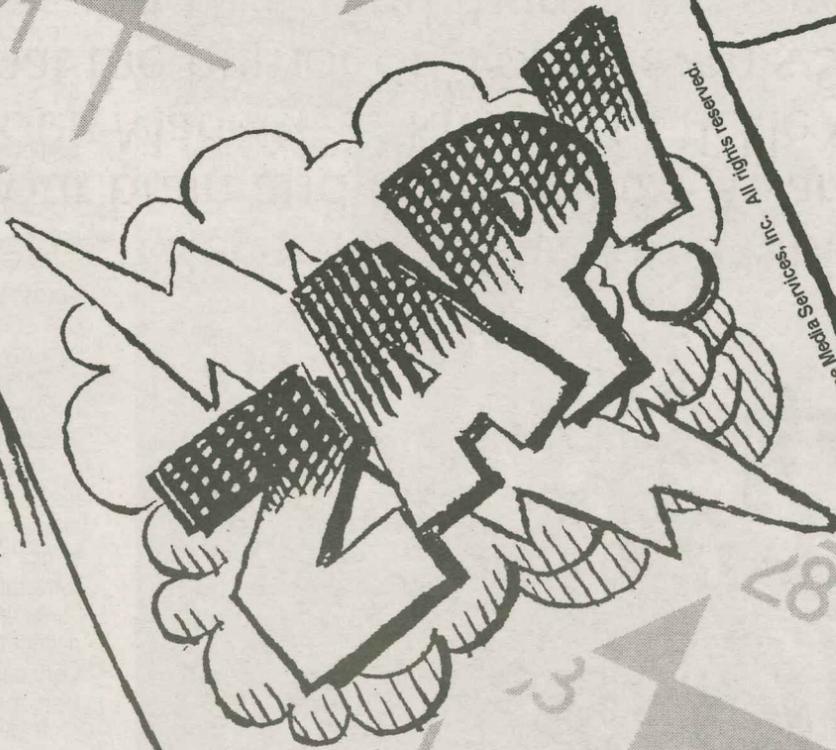
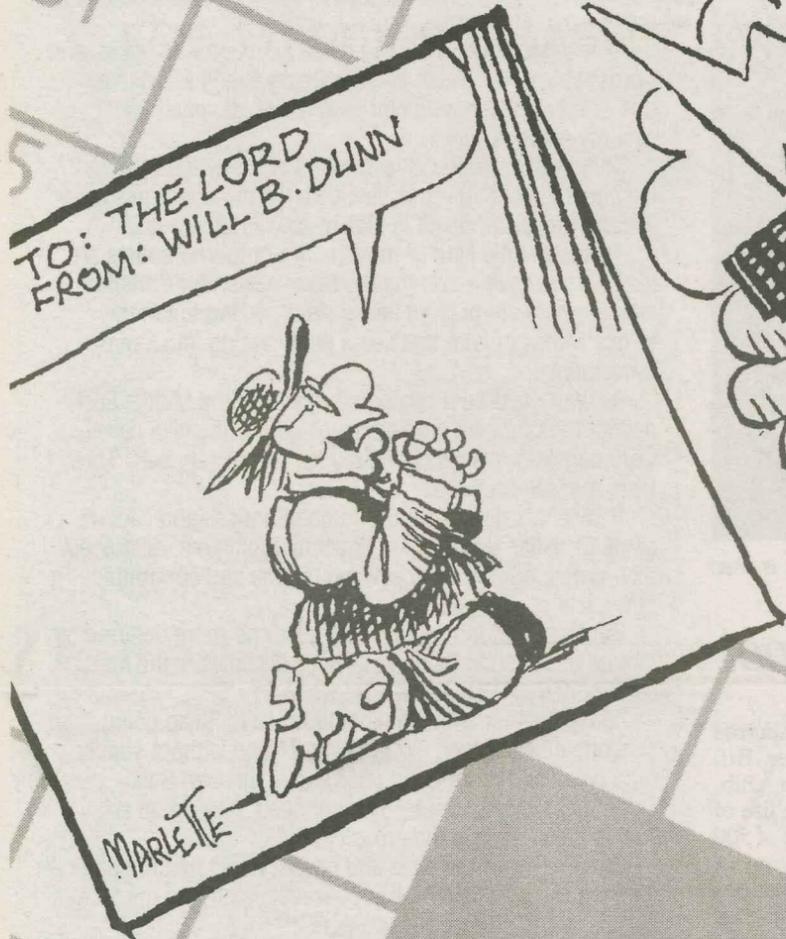
Among others who have responded to the gospel, most noticeable are the Messianic Jews—Israelis of Jewish background who now believe Jesus is the Messiah.

Christian workers in Israel plead for Southern Baptists and other Christians to pray for believers in the Middle East, whatever their background. True peace, they say, will come to the region only when people follow the Prince of Peace.



FAITH AFOOT Though unseen on the streets traversed by Palestinians each day, an undercurrent of faith in Jesus Christ has been reported among the people. (IMB photo by Roy Burroughs)

SMILE!



Every week the Western Recorder brings you a Bible crossword to test your brain and Pulitzer Prize Award-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette's "Kudzu" to tickle your funny bone. Add to that the humor of "For Heaven's Sake" or "Church of the Covered Dish" and there's three good reasons to subscribe to the Western Recorder.