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Going deeper



PRAYER TIME Youth and student leaders pray during the "Deeper" conference, Aug. 10 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Nearly 750 teenagers and leaders attended the conference, one of two sponsored this month by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth evangelism strategies team.

Teens urged to strengthen commitment to Christ

By David Winfrey
 News Director

LEXINGTON—Salvation is God's free gift, but a holy life takes time and discipline, according to Christian youth speaker David Nasser.

"You get your position in Christ for free when you get saved, but sanctification is a lot of work," Nasser told approximately 750 teenagers and youth leaders during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual youth evangelism conference, Aug. 10 in Lexington. "And we are the laziest people on the planet."

Nasser lamented the spiritual shallowness of many Christians in America while outlining four keys for the teens to deepen their relationship with God.

The daylong event, which will be repeated this Saturday in Bowling Green, culminated in a commitment service in which many students promised to spend 40 days fasting from TV, the Internet or some other major distraction in order to better focus on their Christian commitment.

The theme is a new one for the annual youth evangelism conference, according to Randy Record, youth evangelism specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He said the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board reported that 88 percent of all teenagers in Southern Baptist churches quit their church involvement after

high school graduation.

"When I heard that statistic, it just breaks your heart that there's something wrong with our churches," Record said. "Now, we know that they may come back, but that's not very indicative of a disciple."

Enter David Nasser, a youth speaker for more than 10 years and author of "A Call to Die," a devotional journal that leads readers on a 40-day emphasis on prayer and Bible study.

Nasser told the teens that too often American Christians "ask Jesus into my heart" but fail to give Him access to their entire lives. Describing the heart as the "front

door" to one's life, Nasser said many Christians leave Jesus in the foyer where they can visit Him when they're ready.

"Some of you think you did God a big fat favor when you gave your lives to Him," he said. "The Christian life is not so much you trying to live for Jesus but exchanging the old you for Christ living through you. ... It's not He hangs out with me, but He lives in me."

Trying to live for God results in defeated lives because humans will fail in their own strength, Nasser said. But Christians who die to self and let Christ live through them

□ See Conference calls ..., page 6

Discipleship is essential task, Super Saturday leader affirms

By Ken Walker
 State Correspondent

ERLANGER—Churches that make disciples not only build stronger congregations but also prevent new Christians from drifting away from church, according to a conference speaker at last weekend's Super Saturday training workshop.

Jesus' last recorded words were to go and make disciples, noted Betty Hassler, an editor for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. But too few churches pay attention to this important teaching, she added.

"In the Baptist church we think if they are just coming enough, they will become disciples," said Hassler, an editor in LifeWay's adult publishing division. "But if we don't work with people, after a few weeks they say, 'Is this all there is—just coming to meetings?'"

"If we would do more one-on-one with people who are fragile, we would see less (converts) going out the back door."

Hassler was among a host of speakers leading more than 50 Super Saturday workshops Aug. 10 at Erlanger Baptist Church. A similar conference was held simultaneously at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, and other conferences will be held on upcoming Saturdays in Elizabethtown, Lexington, Paducah and Somerset.

Addressing discipleship leaders whose churches have a Sunday school attendance of fewer than 100 people, Hassler said discipleship is not a matter of church size. Historically, most spiritual awakenings have originated with small prayer groups, she added.

Noting that discipleship is vital to producing mature Christians, she said Sunday school and Sunday morning worship services aren't enough because of a lack of time for in-depth Bible study.

New Testament teachings point to members caring for each other and being involved in each other's lives, she added.

Unfortunately, Hassler said, dedicated members haven't gotten that message across to the masses who approach church with a consumer mentality.

"They know they like the Sunday school or the children's activities, but they know nothing about commitment," she said. "We are in covenant with each other." New member training can be an effective tool to teach new Christians about the power they have in Christ and the relationship they need to develop with God, she added.

Hassler said her congregation uses "Beginning Steps," a study
 □ See Discipleship is ..., page 3

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, August 14

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **The Southern Baptist Convention's 2003 Kingdom Family Rally** has been moved from the day after the SBC annual meeting to the night before the convention. Mac Brunson, president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, invited rally leaders to present the event during the Monday evening Pastors' Conference session June 16 in Phoenix. Organizers said the change will reduce convention participants' costs by eliminating the need for an extra night's stay in Phoenix.

■ **LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention** has acquired Serendipity House, a Colorado publisher of small-group resources. The acquisition fills a void at LifeWay, said President Jimmy Draper. "LifeWay is trying to adopt the concept that if we find a company doing something we could use, we form an alliance with them rather than reinventing the wheel," he explained. Serendipity will continue to operate as a separate organization, Draper said.

IMB trustees appoint 79 missionaries; 53 others resign

RIDGECREST, N.C.—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board appointed 79 missionaries and accepted the resignations of 53 others during an Aug. 1-3 meeting at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

Twelve of the resigning missionaries cited a Jan. 31 request by IMB President Jerry Rankin to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as a factor in their decision to resign, said Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president of overseas operations. Ten other missionaries previously had resigned over the request.

An annual study of changes in missionary deployment prior to Rankin's January letter to missionaries showed long-term personnel numbers continued a pattern of growth while losses by attrition remained within the range typical of the past decade, trustees were told.

The total number of missionaries continued to increase in 2001 with a year-end total of 5,057 (a net gain of 152), the report said. A net increase of 108 among long-term personnel (career, associate, apprentice) represented a one-year growth rate of 2.9 percent, the largest percentage increase in the category in a decade. A net increase of 44 among short-term personnel (ISC, journeyman, LifeWay, masters) represented a one-year growth rate of 3.6 percent, the lowest percentage increase in the category in a decade.

The 10-year average annual growth rate for the combined categories was 2.6 percent. A total of 5,364 IMB missionaries currently are serving overseas.

In 2001, the board lost 270 missionaries by attrition, a rate of 5.1 percent, the report noted. Since 1990, attrition rates have fluctuated between 3.6 percent and 5.3 percent. The average rate for the period is 4.4 percent.

'God is moving,' IMB leaders report

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Despite opposition on many fronts, God is moving in dramatic ways to draw lost souls to Himself, International Mission Board trustees were told during an Aug. 1-3 meeting at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

For the first time in history, the people of Bosnia have a New Testament in their own language, reported Rodney Hammer, who leads IMB work in Central and Eastern Europe.

"In the last three months, your missionaries in Bosnia, along with volunteers, distributed 6,000 copies of that New Testament to Bosnian families, even amidst threats that they must cease and desist," Hammer said. "And the amazing thing is that, because of prayers and the mighty moving of God, they are seeing 85 percent of the families accepting it and placing it in their homes. We praise God for that."

On the financial front, with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering falling \$6.3 million short of its 2001 goal, the board must reduce spending and manage its finances prudently, Rankin told trustees.

The shortfall will be made up by canceling \$3 million designated for overseas capital needs and cutting the remainder from the board's operating budget, Rankin said. Those cuts will not affect missionary support or strategic needs overseas, he added.

"Yes, the stock market is in decline. Yes, charitable giving is diminishing," Rankin said. "But last year Southern Baptists took \$8.9 billion into their offering plates. Less than 2.5 percent of that found its way to international missions.

"God has blessed Southern Bap-

God also is at work among Colombians who have fled the civil war that is ravaging their country, said Dickie Nelson, leader of IMB work in the Caribbean Basin.

"These people have no hope in their lives," Nelson said, "but in the past two years, teams of missionaries have trained 65 new church leaders to start congregations. One of those leaders, a man named Gabriel, in turn trained others, and 110 new churches have been started in a seven- or eight-state area since May 2001."

In Brazil, Southern Baptist missionaries have been discipling their church-planting teams with a vision for multiplying congregations throughout the country, said Robin Hadaway, leader of IMB work in Eastern South America.

In the past year, using these techniques, "more than 300 home Bible

studies have been started in Fortaleza, Brazil, each one with a view of becoming a church," Hadaway said. "This is the method by which we believe a church-planting movement will emerge in this coastal city in northeast Brazil."

Even in Japan, where people are slow to respond to the gospel, missionaries are seeing exciting signs that God is moving in a new way, said Tom Williams, leader of IMB work in the Western Pacific.

New missions strategies developed in 1997 helped missionaries and their Japanese Baptist co-workers develop eight congregations in a 10-year period—a marked improvement, Williams said. However, 20 churches have been planted in the past two years alone.

"For Japan, that's tremendous," Williams said. "We praise the Lord for what He's doing in Japan!"

tists, and the resources are there. But our churches must realign their priorities, create a passion for reaching a lost world and join God on mission.

"As we pray that the Lord of the harvest would continue to thrust out laborers into the harvest, let us also pray that the financial support will follow," he said. "We must not be distracted, but keep our eyes on Him and be obedient to our calling."

Trustees also received a report of \$1.04 million disbursed for 36 hunger, relief and development projects in 12 of the board's 15 regions.

During the appointment service for the new missionaries, Rankin told them that a passion for God is the only thing that will enable them to cope with the difficulties and discouragement they will face.

"It's not sufficient just to respond to the needs of a world that's lost," Rankin said. "It's not sufficient for you to be going out of a sense of obligation that Christ said go and make disciples of all the nations."

"There's only one thing that will fulfill your call and allow God to empower you and use you, only one thing that will keep you there to persevere through the trials and discouragement, and that's the passion God places in your heart."

"I pray that a passion for a lost world, a passion to be obedient to the call of Christ, a passion for God and the world that will know Him will be what takes you to the mission field."

Based on reporting by Mark Kelly of the SBC International Mission Board

Christian Women's Job Corps celebrates 5 years

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Melissa Motley dropped out of high school when she became pregnant with her first child. She married and had two more children, but within a few years her marriage dissolved.

"I just felt like nobody cared about me," Motley said, even though she pulled her life together enough to earn her GED. Then a friend suggested she visit the Christian Women's Job Corps site in Marshall County, Ala.

"I needed some computer skills but didn't know where to get them," Motley said. "But I got more than just computer skills at CWJC."

"I realized that I am more than nothing. God put me here for a reason, and I will be somebody someday by the grace of God."

"Things have gotten easier since I've learned that I can look up and get my strength," she said. "I'm going to finish school, and I'm going to be a nurse in four years."

Motley's story mirrors those of hundreds of women throughout the country who have been aided by Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union celebrating its fifth anniversary.

"This is ministry evangelism at its

best," said Debbie Snyder, church and community ministries director of Shelby Baptist Association in Birmingham, Ala., where the first CWJC site was launched in 1997.

Exemplifying CWJC's growth in scope, the Shelby County outreach has expanded to a partnership with the county Department of Human Resources and Central Alabama Skills Center for GED classes and job training and placement.

"We didn't reinvent the wheel with our program," Snyder said. "We use the resources around us, and we all work together."

CWJC was founded by WMU with the purpose of providing a Christian missions context in which women help women in need become equipped for life and employment. Participants in a typical CWJC program, in addition to training in life skills and job readiness, are involved in Bible study and are matched with a trained Christian woman who serves as a mentor.

Other CWJC volunteers help in preparing meals, teaching classes, ministering to family members, providing transportation or child care and basic office duties.

About 135 CWJC sites have been

established in 36 states, and coordinators are now in place in more than 40 states. Information about CWJC—including how to launch a CWJC site—can be accessed at the Web site www.wmu.com/ministry/cwjc.

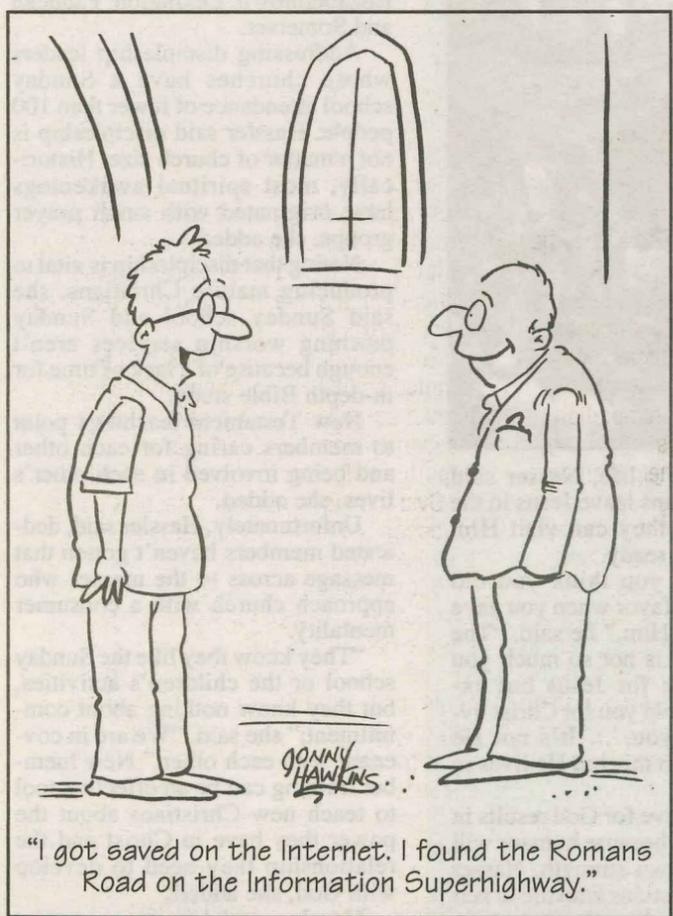
Little River Baptist Association in Cadiz is among groups in Kentucky sponsoring CWJC programs. Site coordinator Sue Rich said the program has assisted 16 area women since opening its doors three year ago.

"We provide job skills classes, computer classes and different things on budgeting and how to shop for groceries," said Rich, a member of Cadiz Baptist Church. "We also have a Bible study on Monday nights."

CWJC volunteers work closely with the Trigg County Adult Education Center to help participants earn their GEDs, Rich added. "We had two who got their GEDs last summer," she said.

The program "really has helped the women to see that they can accomplish some things in their lives," Rich noted. "It's really a family thing. When they have a problem, we try to help them through it."

With additional reporting by Editor Trennis Henderson



Super Saturday urges Christians to bear spiritual fruit

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

ERLANGER—It takes more to grow a healthy church than evangelism, Super Saturday leaders declared. It also requires effective discipleship.

That message flows throughout the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2002 Super Saturday church leadership conferences. Exploring the theme, "Fruitbearing: Becoming Like Jesus," the first two conferences were held Aug. 10 at Erlanger Baptist Church and Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

The one-day training events, coordinated by the KBC church growth team, also are scheduled for Aug. 17 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Aug. 24 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; and Sept. 7 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah and First Baptist Church of Somersett.

Congregations committed to effective New Testament ministry must be involved in "not only bringing people to know the Lord, but growing them in leadership, growing them in faith," said KBC church leadership consultant Chip Miller. "We're to become fruit-bearing Christians."

Citing the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23—love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, goodness, faith, patience and self-control—Miller said Christians must be sensitive to the power and leadership of the Holy Spirit or "we lose the ability to grow fruit as we should."

In addition to challenging Super Saturday participants to bear spiritual fruit, Miller led a pair of small-group workshops for pastors, church staff members and directors of missions.

Disciple Christians so they can mentor others, speaker says

Continued from page 1

published by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, as well as "Survival Kit," a six-week study for new believers.

Churches also need to design a discipleship program that will address the particular needs for growth among longtime Christians, she added.

"The best way to train a disciple leader is to disciple them," she suggested. "In classes, you should always be mentoring and training people who will be your discipleship leaders."

Current leaders also need to undergo a transformation process if they expect to lead others through life changes, she said.

Transformed leaders won't spend their time belittling people for their lack of growth, Hassler said, recalling one discipleship class that left her depressed because the teacher took such a condemning stance.

"There has to be a bonding of love," she said. "Too many Christians preach hell and damnation as a motive for doing good. The motive to do good has to be love. Obedience is a byproduct of love and trust."



SUPER SESSION Chip Miller, KBC church leadership consultant, leads a Super Saturday workshop for ministers. The Aug. 10 conference in Erlanger was one of six Super Saturday events scheduled across the state in August and September.

A major concern in Southern Baptist life is that when individuals make professions of faith in Christ, "we dip 'em and drop 'em" without providing a strong emphasis on discipleship, Miller told church leaders. "We're so busy working on the new, we're losing out on the old."

Warning that many Baptist churches merely "give lip service to discipleship," he added, "If you take the Great Commission seriously, it is not only a commission of evangelism, but a commission of discipleship."

"We have a lot of pew-sitters" in the typical Baptist church, Miller acknowledged. "Is the Christian lifestyle in conflict with our basic human nature?" he asked. "Sure it is. The growing of a disciple is a lifelong journey."

The three key words in helping produce "spiritual, life-changing attitudinal changes in a person's life" are "practice, practice, practice," Miller

emphasized.

The best way for church leaders to help other people cultivate a desire to grow spiritually is to serve as role models, he added. "If we preach submission to the Lord, we've got to be models. If they don't see us being surrendered persons, their lives are never going to change as our flock."

Four dimensions of personal spiritual growth include solitude in private prayer and study, an attitude of love and joy, missions and ministry service and local church involvement, he noted.

"My hunch is most of our leaders don't spend enough time alone with God," Miller said. "What are you doing about the Kingdom? What are you doing about the lost world?"

In addition to workshops for ministers, Super Saturday features a number of sessions addressing such areas as Sunday school, church music, stew-

ardship, singles ministry, church libraries, Woman's Missionary Union and others.

Stacey Stephens, a member of North Fork Baptist Church in Frankfort, was among seven members of her congregation who attended Super Saturday in Erlanger.

"We're a real small church trying to build with our younger generation," Stephens said. Her Super Saturday experience was "eye-opening to what is there for our children that we are not currently doing," she added. "The resources are very handy where we can center it around our church and benefit from it."

Sam Owens, pastor of Long Ridge Baptist Church in Owenton, agreed that Super Saturday "is a neat tool for small country churches."

"For a small church like we are, we can't provide this type and quality of training," he said. "When you have more qualified and trained people," he added, "we become a more well-rounded body."

Robert Golden, pastor of Greenview Baptist Church in Florence, said this year's training for ministers about spiritual growth was especially meaningful.

Local church leaders "can come here and get some of the best training in the state," Golden added. "It affirms what they're doing and gives them new direction."

Miller said one of his goals is for Super Saturday participants to "gain a vision of maturing disciples rather than just methodology and the traditional 'nickels and noses.'"

As workshop participants focus on fruitbearing, he added, "I would like for them to get in touch with the 'why' of church life, not just the 'how'."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Louisville's Long Run Baptist Association** needs volunteers to staff "The Great Big Gospel Music Tent" at the Kentucky State Fair, Aug. 15-25. For more information or to volunteer, contact Todd Robertson at the association's office, (502) 635-2601.

■ **Ministers' wives** retreats will be held Sept. 14 in Prestonsburg and Sept. 21 in Madisonville. The one-day events, sponsored by the leadership development team of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, are designed to encourage, challenge and assist ministers' wives. Kay Mackey, wife of KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, will be featured as keynote speaker. The \$10 registration cost includes the conference fee and lunch. For more information, contact the KBC leadership development team toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5702 or (502) 254-4733 or visit www.kybaptist.org/ministerswives.

Youth specialist: Adults should help teens defeat temptation

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

ERLANGER—Teenagers face so much temptation today, Rick Morton said, that he sometimes wishes he could spray them with a magical substance to immunize them from it.

Since that isn't possible, he added, adults need to help young people understand that being tempted isn't the same as sinning, and that facing trials ultimately can strengthen their faith.

"Teens have a hard time drawing a line between sin and temptation, or think they shouldn't even be tempted," said Morton, a veteran youth pastor who now teaches at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Addressing the topic "Standing Tall When Tempted" during an Aug. 10 Super Saturday workshop, Morton said adults need to help young people understand "it's not because they're doing something wrong that they are tempted. If we address it with God's power in our lives, we can grow stronger in Christ."

The workshop was based on a six-week study course for youth leaders available from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Five "danger zones" of temptation take

place after a spiritual victory, or when a teen is alone, physically drained, waiting on God to move or about to start a ministry, Morton explained.

One reason teens are so susceptible to temptation today is that many of them have more resources—such as their own cell phones, computers and TVs—than they have close relationships, he said.

"A lot of kids have a lot of stuff, but they have a dearth of relationships with people around them who care about them consistently," Morton noted.

"A lot of kids struggle with temptation. Intellectually, they know things are wrong, but there's no one around to help them with it," he added.

Enabling students to deal with temptation begins with teaching them to understand why they are tempted, Morton said.

God allows temptations for several reasons, Morton suggested, including refining teens' Christian commitment, making them aware of their sin nature and providing them opportunities to become more like Christ.

Young people also must learn to recognize temptation, since many don't realize they are being tempted until they've already made a bad choice, Morton added.

"I tell students when they're alone with their boyfriend or girlfriend, it's not a good

time to make a decision about purity," he said.

Morton said the account of Satan tempting Jesus in Luke 4:1-13 provides a pattern for dealing with temptation.

While there could be a theological debate over whether Jesus had a choice of doing wrong, His human nature means He was tempted, Morton said. Since Jesus lived without sin, that means being tempted is not a sin, he explained.

God the Father allowed Christ to be tempted so that He could empathize with human struggles, Morton said. When teens face temptation, he added, it is an opportunity for them to grow spiritually.

Overcoming temptations enables people to recognize that God's power is working in their lives, he noted.

But students also need to learn to use Scripture as a weapon in this struggle, Morton said. He recalled a popular youth speaker asking a crowd of young people who could recite five Bible verses from memory and only a third of the group stood.

Why did Jesus use Scripture in His encounter with Satan, Morton asked. "You're talking about something that has power. Jesus could have used His own words; He was God. Maybe He used Scripture because that was the example we're to have."

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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Don't limit God

Our Southern Baptist "scholars" go all out to prove God knows all things past, present and future and that God cannot change His mind. I'd like to see their "holey" Bible where they cut out passages which clearly state that God did change His mind.

In Exodus 32:9-14 God told Moses He was going to destroy the Israelites because of their idolatry but Moses interceded for the children of Israel and God decided to spare them.

In II Kings 20:1-6 God sent Isaiah to Hezekiah to tell him that God said he would die. After Hezekiah prayed, God sent Isaiah back to tell the king he would live 15 more years.

There are many other stories which clearly state that God changed His mind because of man's actions. In all these cases, the Scripture is wrong, God lied or God changed His mind. I believe the Scriptures to be true and that God does not lie; therefore God did change His mind because of man's action.

The very nature of the plan of salvation is that if man repents of his sins and believes on Jesus Christ, he will be saved. If he does not, he will be condemned to everlasting damnation. According to this plan of salvation, man has a choice and that choice determines his future.

God is not threatened by man's free choice because He is all-powerful and can step in at any time to counteract the decisions of man.

We cannot publish a little book with a few passages of scripture proclaiming our faith and message and say that this is what God has to be. We cannot tell God what He is and what He is not. It is our responsibility to study the Bible, pray, submit to God and let Him use us to glorify Him.

*Ken Massey
Ghent*

God knows everything

I am a sister in Christ who has come to a point of righteous anger.

How come most of our Western Recorder comes forth in hard-core coverage like a regular newspaper? I prefer the wonderful contrast of Recorder articles that tell us about mission accomplishments of willing Christians and some of the positive delights in being a Christian.

The final blow came in the July 23 issue that carried the headline, "Lively 'open theism' debate addresses basic character of God." You see, I am a born-again Christian to whom my Lord gave an invitation and I accepted. His omniscient presence has never failed me.

I am one of those little people like our Savior called to be fishers of men. Yet these highly educated people have come forth like the up-front Methodist theologian who stated it would be better if Americans did not have a Bible of their own so they could be taught rightly by people like him. Well, you could take my life but not my Bible.

As for open theism, the God I serve is over all, even those who feel they know so much more than God. His ways are so much higher than our ways and He even created us.

With these scholars, there seems to be one thing missing: the acceptance in their hearts of the love and saving grace of our God that runs over in us so much that we must tell others. Without that, how could one possibly become a scholar or theologian? In all their studies and learning, they seem to have forgotten the main character.

It's awfully late so why waste any more time on something so man-controlled? Our God knows everything about us—even the hidden things.

*Rosa Lee Robinson
Greenville*

Strengthen separation

Due to an oversight perhaps, we have missed articles in the Western Recorder that addressed the subject of separation of church and state, thus we have seen very little in print from the leaders of our great convention's pastors and laypeople defending these principles that we Southern Baptists have stood tall and defended for many decades.

When the Bill of Rights, our Constitution and the First Amendment were pinned, our forefathers wisely recognized the dire need to prevent big government from intrusion into religious matters.

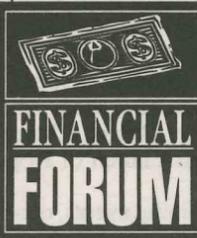
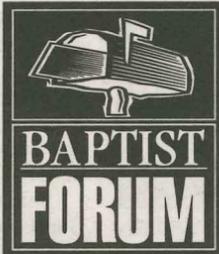
Well there is no doubt that the present leadership in Washington is ignoring the wisdom embedded in these sacred documents and the will of the people as they vigorously strive to completely dismantle the separation of church and state by using billions of our tax dollars for vouchers for parochial and private schools and perhaps numerous undesirable cult schools, etc.

The U.S. House of Representatives also passed the Community Solutions Act (HR 7). The bill simply grants a vast amount of our tax dollars into religious organizations. Hopefully the Senate will vote no.

The wall of separation of church and state ought to be strengthened, not dismantled by the use of our tax dollars by religious, private organizations for schools and social/charity services that entwine promotion of their religious beliefs. This is simply a political scheme and is wrong for our nation.

Rather than allocate our tax dollars to these two unwise and very likely unconstitutional initiatives, why not allocate like funds for desperately needed public school initiatives, namely infrastructure and teacher benefits?

*Robert and Roberta Ball
Worthville*



GIVING

Make sure your will accomplishes intended purpose

By Laurie Valentine

A will that "works" is one that achieves the purposes for making

a will—smooth estate administration (probate), distribution of assets as you desire, provision for special needs of

beneficiaries and death tax savings.

Smooth estate administration is achieved by naming an executor who can handle the tasks of determining what you own at death, paying your final debts and probate expenses, managing the assets in your estate, preparing all required tax returns and distributing your assets as your will directs. To ensure that someone of your choosing handles these important duties, you should name not only a first choice, but also at least one alternate executor.

Your will should contain provisions that make clear your desires regarding who is to receive your assets and how they are to be received at your death. A will controls only assets titled in your individual name and assets that are payable to "my estate" or "my executor." Jointly-owned with rights of survivorship and beneficiary-designated (life insurance, retirement accounts) assets don't pass under the terms of your will.

You may have specific possessions, assets or amounts that you want to direct to particular beneficiaries. Specific bequests of designated assets ("my antique walnut dresser"; "Blackacre, the family farm"; "my AT&T stock") and general bequests of cash amounts allow you to fine tune your distribution plan. Specific and general bequests provide the opportunity to make a final gift to those Baptist causes, including your church, you have supported during your lifetime.

Special needs of family can be met with trust provisions for young children or adult beneficiaries who will need financial management assistance. Parents with children under age 18 also should include a provision naming someone to serve as guardian if both parents die before the children are 18.

Tax evasion is illegal, but tax avoidance is good stewardship. You can create a plan of distribution that will defer and reduce death tax liabilities.

For more information and a set of estate planning worksheets, contact the Kentucky Baptist Foundation toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5701.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Good news about KBC giving

At a time when we read bad news about the economy just about every day, I'm very pleased to be able to share some good news about Kentucky Baptist giving. Kentucky Baptist Convention budget receipts were very good for July and if we have a good end to the budget year in August, we should exceed the amount received last year.

There still is an opportunity for us to reach this year's budget goal of \$24.7 million as well. We currently are on a pace to fall short of the budget goal by about \$350,000. However, if some of our churches were to catch up on their giving and even if only 400 of our convention's 2,400 churches were to give an additional \$500 this month, our goal easily would be met.

It is my prayer that we will reach this goal, not for the sake of reaching some bookkeeping milestone, but because each dollar has an important role in our convention's efforts to reach our state for Christ. The KBC budget

directly impacts:

■ Numerous state, community and associational missionaries.

■ Some 100 partnership mission projects in New England, Poland and with the European Baptist Convention.

■ More than 5,000 youth in summer camps at Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.

■ More than 75 new work projects.

■ Training and coordination for 2,100 disaster relief workers.

■ Super Saturday training for 3,000 lay leaders from about 500 churches.

■ The State Evangelism Conference for 1,700 pastors and church leaders.

■ Student witnessing strategies on 150 high school and middle school campuses.

■ Collegiate ministries to 35,100 students.

■ Twenty-two lay-led ministries coordinated by the Brotherhood department.

■ Thirty-seven ministries in East-

ern Kentucky including food and clothing distribution, construction and economic development.

■ Enlistment, training and coordination for more than 100 Mission Service Corp volunteers.

■ Care for children and families through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

■ Christian education for 5,600 young adults at KBC colleges.

■ Support of a myriad of ministries through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

■ And much more!

In addition, the KBC budget helps make possible:

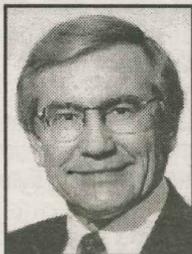
■ The 400,000 annual baptisms that occur through the work of 5,200 international missionaries.

■ The 400,000 annual baptisms in Baptist churches in North America that are supported by 5,000 North American missionaries.

■ The training of 12,000 seminary students.

On behalf of all these life-transforming ministries, it is my privilege under God to say, "Thank you, Kentucky Baptists!"

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

Corporate greed and scandal: What do we tell the children?

Q: What should I say to my grandson when he asks about Enron and other corporate scandals, especially when he asks what a Christian should do?

The losers after the scandals at Enron, WorldCom and elsewhere are not the fat cats who ran these companies in their own interests, but honest, hard-working employees and retirees whose money is tied up in pension funds run by 30-year-old millionaires who get paid no matter how much they lose.

There is something very rotten in the world when people who have worked hard for 30 or 40 years find their retirement dreams blown out of the water by a crooked system and crooked people.

How can we tell our grandchildren to work hard and be honest when they may think it truly does not pay? It seems that in today's business world, it is not what you do that counts but what you get away with.

Assure your grandson that there are principles and laws that must be followed. Those who are guilty of fraud need to go to prison for what has happened. The guys who cooked the books at these big corporations and those who knew and didn't say anything have to be held accountable if those who come after them are to be deterred from wrongdoing.

It sounds harsh, but lasting lessons can only be learned when there are visible consequences. The Christian community should take the lead in upholding valued principles that need to be taught and shown by example.

Will any of this happen if left to the powers that be? Not likely. But there are elections and maybe older adults need to make a point for the sake of our grandchildren. If they are going to live in an honest world, then we need honest companies and that means honest politicians who are committed to real reforms in business accounting and regulation.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q: My husband and I met at a small Baptist college. We shared common beliefs and did everything together. Now after three years of marriage, I can't believe that we ever got married. We have totally different ideas about family. In fact, I keep putting off having children because of the difference. It's hard to believe that our religious beliefs aren't making up for the difference in our family values. What should I do?

In a mobile society like ours, it is common to meet your life partner at college. During one's college years, however, basic values about family often seem secondary to the excitement of the learning environment and the social scene.

Add to that mixture the typical assumption that most families are similar to our own. There also is the naivete that if we have the same religious values, everything else must be the same. Is it any wonder that you and your husband are experiencing difficulty?

Resolving this dilemma may take time. Talk with your husband about your concerns. Find out more about the family life you both experienced in your families of origin. Be open to the validity of each other's perspectives on family life.

It may be helpful to read some marriage and family books. Discussing a book with ideas outside your thinking may cut down on the emotional impact of your discussions.

Consider the possibility of attending a marriage retreat after you discover some common ground. A competent marriage and family therapist or pastoral counselor could support you as you work out a shared plan for your family.—*Suzanne Coyle*

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.



Will gambling fix state's fiscal woes? No

Surely Gov. Paul Patton knows better. Assessing the commonwealth's current budget shortfall, Patton said last week that one option is to consider "seriously the subject of expanded gambling."

Gov. Patton's words are reminiscent of his suggestion three years ago calling for "experts to study the economic and social impact of expanded gaming (gambling) in Kentucky."

While Patton insisted in 1999 that he was "not endorsing the issue one way or another," gambling opponents described his proposal as "a thinly disguised effort to introduce casino gambling throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

Despite the governor's action, gambling advocates failed to push expanded gambling measures through the state legislature in 2000. During this year's session, efforts to legalize slot machines at Kentucky race-tracks didn't even reach the floor of the House for a vote.

This time around, Patton isn't even trying to disguise his willingness to consider gambling expansion as an answer to the state's financial woes. The problem is that statistics clearly indicate gambling is the wrong answer.

While Kentucky Baptists and other groups consistently oppose gambling on moral grounds, there also are significant social and economic reasons to stand against expanded gambling.

For starters, state-sponsored gambling frequently is described as "a tax on the mathematically challenged." The simple fact is that people on the lower end of the educational and socioeconomic scale typically spend more on gambling in the futile pursuit of get-rich-quick dreams.

Consider the following statistics gleaned from the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling Web site (www.ncalg.org) and related sources:

■ People earning \$10,000 per year gamble more than twice as much money as people earning \$30,000

to \$40,000 per year and four times as much as those making \$80,000 or more annually (American Journal of Economics and Sociology).

■ For every \$1 that gambling revenue brings into a state, it will cost residents between \$3 and \$7 in hidden social costs (Professor John Kindt, University of Illinois).

■ When gambling was legalized in Missouri, studies projected an increase of up to 60,000 compulsive gamblers could cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion for expanded justice and social services (Valerie Lorenz, executive director of the Compulsive Gambling Center, Inc.).

■ A study in South Dakota found that retail and service businesses in the state suffered a net loss of approximately \$60 million in anticipated sales the year after legalized gambling was introduced (Michael Madden, University of South Dakota).

■ The number of crimes within a 30-mile radius of Atlantic City, N.J., increased by more than 100 percent in the first decade after casinos opened (Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency).

■ Statistics indicate that 15 to 25 percent of all compulsive gamblers have attempted suicide, which is five to 10 times higher than the percentage for the general population (Community & Environmental Defense Services report).

Such examples are multiplied hundreds of times in study after study. Yet Gov. Patton and other politicians continue to trot out expanded gambling as a possible solution to the state's economic challenges.

"We realize the economy is bad and revenues are down and they're looking for a quick fix," said Howard Beauman, executive director of the Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems.

Rather than relying on an ineffective plan that "is just going to be a drain on the economy of Kentucky," Beauman added, "Our state leaders need to lead."

Surely Gov. Patton knows that.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Five commitments central to EKG

NASHVILLE (BP)—In his latest book, "The State of the Church 2002," researcher George Barna reports three small but statistically significant increases in religious activities among adults in the past seven years.

Church attendance, Sunday school attendance and Bible reading have increased slightly, but these increases generally represent returns to the figures of the late 1980s and early 1990s. The 10 religious beliefs and attitudes tracked annually by the Barna organization have remained stable.

While we can be glad for any gains, however small, the reality is that if we are content to hold our own in religious activities and convictions, we will not impact this world for Jesus Christ.

I am grateful for a new vision cast by Southern Baptist Convention leaders called Empowering Kingdom Growth. While it has been initiated by Southern Baptists, the five commitments it calls on us to make can be adopted by other individuals and groups as well.

These commitments are:

■ To make the Kingdom of God the priority of our own personal lives.

■ To dedicate the energies and resources of the ministries we lead to seeking first the King and His Kingdom.

■ To cooperate with each other and the family of Southern Baptists as we pursue Kingdom principles and practices.

■ To give ourselves to servant leadership that will assist and enable local churches in their ministry.

■ To pray that a new passion for Jesus breaks out among our people, our families and our churches from which God can forge a spiritual movement marked by holy living, sacrificial service and global witness.

In nations around the world, more Christians today are being persecuted for their faith than ever before. These Christians are driven by their faith in Jesus Christ to tell others, despite the cost. Church-planting movements are breaking out in some of the poorest countries in the world among believ-

ers whose commitment to tell others about Jesus makes up for what they lack in tangible resources.

Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, recently preached on the kingdom that will not fail—the Kingdom of God. "We have an invitation to what people need and want most in life," he declared. "They want love. They want forgiveness. They want peace. They want joy. They want security. They want contentment. They want hope. You don't find those things in the kingdoms of man. You find those in the Kingdom of God."

We have what the world needs. We have a mandate from the Christ we serve to take it to every corner of our nation and the world.

Will you make the Kingdom of God the priority of your life? Will you pray for a passion that will not be quenched by threats and even persecution? Will you lead in serving others in Christ's name? Will you cooperate with others to pursue Kingdom principles and practices? Will you go next door, to the next community, to another state or a far corner of the world?

Jimmy Draper is president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

FIRST PERSON



Jimmy Draper

Conference calls students to take their faith deeper

Continued from page 1

experience both the joy of intimacy with God and the victory of seeing God's power at work in their lives, he added.

"Come to this event (and) change your behavior, you'll probably change back in a couple of weeks," he said. "(If) God changes your identity, you'll never be the same."

But that takes an intense period of time to commune with God and dwell on His message. With worship leader Joel Engle, Nasser described four disciplines he said would help Christians be more Christ-like:

■ **Sacrifice.** "To sacrifice is to imitate the heart of God."

Sacrifice is not designed to be self-imposed misery or "self hate," but brokenness before God. "Break my will so that the only will I have is Yours," he said.

But in a microwave oven world, few people are interested in "crock-pot" methods, he added. "We want everything now."

But sacrifice is required to develop a deeper relationship with God, Nasser said. "In a fast, God begins revealing more things to you in intimacy than He can ever reveal to you in a brush-by."

"The greatest irony is that in a fast, nothing is ever fast," Nasser added. "What's the motivation? Jesus. Because You first loved me, I want to love You."

Nasser told the audience that Christian book publishers told him they couldn't sell his book, titled "A

Call to Die." Not only was the title a turn-off, he said, but a fast-paced society supposedly didn't have time for six pages of daily devotional material and an outline asking readers to spend an hour in daily Bible study.

Instead, Nasser said he self-published the book and has sold 50,000 copies out of his garage.

■ **Bible study.** "To be desperate for Jesus means to be desperate for the Word," Nasser said. But many Christians in America know too little about the Bible, he added.

To illustrate this, Nasser asked Christians to stand who could say one Bible verse from memory for every year they were a Christian. Approximately 25 people stood in a group of 750. "We are miles wide and inches deep in our faith," Nasser said.

"Most of you don't need to make any decisions today for God. You would just do well to go deeper," he added. "God is calling us to deeper places and telling us to get away from the kiddie pool. ... He's not calling us to be louder. He's not calling us to be more emotional. He's calling us to be deeper."

Youth groups should be characterized more by intense Bible study than by entertainment or the personality of the youth minister, Nasser said. "The Word of God will never leave your youth group for a bigger church and bigger income. ... Godly people read their Bible"

■ **Prayer.** Worship leader Joel En-

gle said prayer isn't just talking to God. "Prayer is depending on God."

"God has established the vehicle of prayer as the means by which He impacts the world," he added. "Every significant movement of God in history was birthed out of prayer."

Prayer also is the method by which Christians get in touch with the will of God, Engle said. "We don't need good ideas. We need God's ideas."

"Prayer does not move God to us. God is the God of the universe. He does as He pleases" he said. "Prayer puts God in the center. It moves us to God and we align ourselves with God."

Nasser agreed. "Prayer is not about us changing God; it's about God changing us."

Prayer also is the means by which Christians deepen their relationship with God, he added.

"If Julia Roberts wanted to have a conversation, wouldn't that just be huge for you?" he asked.

"We're talking about the God of this universe Who doesn't want you to just brush by, but sit. And you've got His cell phone number."

■ **Meditation.** "Meditation is you taking everything that you did in prayer, everything that you did in

Bible study and allowing it to relish in your life," Nasser said.

Meditation calls on Christians to spend more time focusing on God's ways, learning more about God than they ever could during a brief Bible reading or fast prayer, he said.

"Some of you, you don't have anything to say about God because you don't spend time with Him," he said. "We live in a very quick, quick, quick world," he added, where Christians Jet Ski across the teachings of God. "To go deeper with God means to stop and to sink in."

Rick Long, youth minister at Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort, said he'll be working with his students in coming weeks to help keep their commitments to the 40-day fast and focus on God.

The same emphasis among college students at his church already has had an impact, he added. "It has brought a lot of consistency to their relationships with Christ."

King James 2000 Bible on CD. Powerful search program includes KJV and more. See www2.apex.net/users/couric. \$14.15 incl. shipping. (270) 247-5026

For more information

Another "Deeper" conference will be held Saturday at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.

To learn more about the focus of these meetings:

■ Visit www.davidnasser.com.

■ Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth evangelism strategies office at (502) 244-4737 or toll-free in Kentucky (888) 254-5722.

A global vision for camping

I have just returned from a whirlwind tour of Christian camps in Russia and Spain. What a blessing and privilege it was to see God work through youth camping in these countries.

I made the trip with five other men from Christian Camping International/USA in an effort to determine how camps in the United States can link up with and support camps around the world.

One of the most memorable experiences of the trip came at a camp about two hours north of St. Petersburg, Russia. Our group arrived at the camp to see tents set up among the pines. Many tents. Small tents, large tents, but no people!

We soon found out that a crowd of campers was down at the nearby lake, witnessing a baptismal service for the kids who had come to Christ.

The camp ministers to street children from St. Petersburg. For four weeks of camp, the children come to a safe place of refuge to experience the love of Christ and hear the good news. According to Vera, the camp director, the first two weeks with the kids are spent helping them clean out their systems from glue sniffing and other

bad habits practiced by the 50,000 street children living in St. Petersburg.

On the day of our arrival, down at the lake, there were 60 kids attending camp, and we were privileged to witness the baptism of 11 of these precious children who had come to know Jesus. I will never forget the joy and emotion as we stood there watching this celebration, realizing that the lives of 11 children (and 10 more the day before) had forever been changed. Through the ministry of a camp with no buildings, just tents!

Youth are youth and children are children, everywhere in the world I go. The camp sounds are the same whether I am at Cedarmore or

Jonathan Creek or a camp in Russia or Spain. I am genuinely blessed to be called to such a ministry as this, where we get to be right in the middle of God's wonderful work. In spite of the challenges we face at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, God continues to encourage us to press on in the months and years ahead.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Campbellsville University Louisville Center Studies St. Matthews Baptist Church Campus

FALL 2002 • UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

COURSE	COURSE TITLE	PROFESSOR	TIME	DAY
CHS 111-71	Intr. to Old Testament Study	Gutmann	5:30-8:20 p.m.	Tues.
CHS121-71	Intr. to New Testament Study	Fulton	10:30-11:45 a.m.	Tue.-Th.
CHS 230-71	Spiritual Formation	Wyndham	9:00-11:50 a.m.	Fri.
CHS 324-71	Studies in Paul	Fulton	5:30-8:20 p.m.	Mon.
CHS 352-71	Pastoral Ministries	Rowland	1:30-4:20 p.m.	Mon.
POL 110-71	American Government	Strange	5:30-8:20 p.m.	Thurs.

GRADUATE COURSES

CHS 520-71	New Testament Hist. and Interpr. I	Conver	6:00-8:30 p.m.	Mon.
CHS 552-71	Pastoral Ministries	Hollon	2:30-5:00 p.m.	Tues.
CHS 580-01	Selected Topics: Pastoral Letters/Leadership	Hurtgen/Ayers	1:00-3:30 p.m.	Mon.

(*An ITV course offered in Louisville at Jefferson Regional Center located at 727 W. Chestnut Street)

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NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Jury OKs Bible reading at homosexuality seminar.** A U.S. District Court jury has found that Minnesota officials violated the constitutional rights of two state employees when they were reprimanded for reading Bibles during state-mandated diversity training on homosexuality. The jury unanimously agreed that the Minnesota Department of Corrections had violated the free speech and equal protection rights of the employees and had discriminated against them on the basis of their religion. The jury awarded them damages totaling more than \$78,000. The employees contended the training was little more than state-sponsored indoctrination aimed at changing their religious beliefs about homosexuality.

■ **Judge: Abstinence program unconstitutional.** A federal judge has ruled that a Louisiana program designed to promote sexual abstinence unconstitutionally advanced religion. The state's Governor's Program on Abstinence was ordered to stop giving money to groups that offer religious messages in events that receive funds from the program. Examples cited included funding for a theater group that featured a "Bible Guy" character who said: "As Christians, our bodies belong to the Lord, not to us." The state's abstinence program director said court action was not necessary because funding already had halted for such groups.

■ **Religious groups unite to fight prison rape.** Religious groups from across the political spectrum are joining to support legislation aimed at the problem of prison rape. A bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., would direct the Justice Department to study the problem and spend \$40 million to "enhance the prevention and punishment" on the state and local level. The bill has attracted support from Southern Baptists and the Salvation Army on the right and Reform Judaism and Human Rights Watch on the left. Wolf noted estimates that at least 10 percent of the nation's 2 million prisoners have been sexually assaulted.

Franklin Graham angers Muslims again

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Evangelist Franklin Graham again has drawn criticism from a Muslim organization after saying the Koran "speaks of violence" against other religious groups and Muslim clerics should apologize for Sept. 11 terrorism.

Graham, who created controversy with similar remarks just months after the terrorist attacks, reiterated his views in interviews and in a new book, "The Name," released last week by Thomas Nelson Publishers.

"The Koran speaks of violence against Christians and Jews," he told Religion News Service in an interview. "I didn't write the Koran. Read it for yourself. It's there. So you make up your own mind whether

you think it's evil or not."

In the book and the interview, he said the God of Christianity is not the same as Allah in Islam.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Washington-based Muslim advocacy group, called portions of the book "defamatory" and asked religious leaders to denounce such comments.

"Mainstream political leaders and religious figures must speak out against the growing demonization of Islam by extremist right-wing commentators and by representatives of the evangelical Christian community," said Ibrahim Hooper, communications director for CAIR.

"Defamatory attacks on other faiths can only lead to a spiral of dis-

trust and intolerance that will divide our society along religious lines."

Graham, the son of evangelist Billy Graham and the president and CEO of his father's evangelistic association, said he hopes others will be tolerant and permit him to express his views.

"The problem I have with Islam is the silence from the clerics around the world," he said. "These so-called Islamic groups that try to challenge my statements, I don't care about these guys. Who are these guys? Where are the clerics? ... I would like to see an apology from the clerics. I would like for the chief clerics of Saudi Arabia to come to this country, go to Ground Zero and say to America, 'We are sorry.'"

'Religious harrassment' earns fine for employer

AVON, Ind. (RNS)—An Indiana home health care company was fined \$270,000 after six Catholic employees said they were harassed and a Unitarian said she was refused a job because they refused to accept the owner's evangelical Christian beliefs.

A nine-person jury fined Preferred Home Health Care \$270,000 in damages on July 25 for trying to impose religion on its employees. The jury, however, said the employees were not discriminated against by being disciplined, fired or forced to resign because of their beliefs.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed suit against the company in 1998, and said the jury

verdict proves that the company's religious practices "were its standard operating procedure and constituted religious harassment to those who did not conform to the company's prevailing religious beliefs and practices."

Preferred Home Health Care founder, Jackie Steuerwald, said she started the company in 1988 after receiving a message from God. Steuerwald made employees sign an agreement to abide by the company's faith-based principles.

A Unitarian woman said she was denied a job when she revealed her faith during an interview. Theresa Raloff testified that Steuerwald said to her, "You ... humanists are ruining

the world." Raloff also said Steuerwald said she would pray for her as she burned in hell.

One of the Catholic employees, Mary Mulder, said she repeatedly was harassed for her faith and when she complained, she was told by the company's human resources director that "you're the hardest kind to break."

Joy Pentz, a supervisory investigator for the EEOC, said the company created a "hostile work environment" through "religious indoctrination."

"This is an important verdict because it sends a message to employers that they cannot impose their religious beliefs and practices upon their employees," Pentz said.

54th Mountain Missions Conference

It is our privilege each year to host the annual Mountain Missions Conference for pastors, pastors' wives and laypeople of Eastern Kentucky. The conference normally is held on the Monday through Wednesday after our summer school session ends the last Friday in July. It is a challenge to get all the rooms ready for about 100 overnight guests, but with the help of our students, all the work is completed before guests arrive.

Each year, the state missions department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention arranges conference speakers and musicians. Most years, Bible teachers are brought in to share from God's Word. This year, several breakout sessions gave everyone an opportunity to sit in on discussions of interest.

In the evenings, the day concludes with worship at Oneida Baptist Church. The singing is always a blessing, and the messages are challenging. After the Monday night service, the church provides cookies, chips and other treats on the porch of the campus ministry center. After the Tuesday service, Oneida Baptist Institute hosts an ice cream social in the school's dining rooms. Guests are treated to all the ice cream and toppings they want.

At the Monday evening worship service, our own A.B. Colvin was honored for having attended 52 of the 54 Mountain Missions Conferences. Our campus is quite different now from 1948, when we hosted the first such conference. Of the 16 major buildings on our main campus, only one, Anderson Hall—also known as "the White House"—was here for that first conference.

In fact, I reminded conference participants that five years ago there was no air conditioning in the dorms, where many of our guests stay. On the list

of things to bring in those days was a fan. It was almost comical to watch everyone carrying in fans, often one for him and one for her. It was difficult to get any rest, much less sleep, when the rooms were often 85-90 degrees, even in the middle of the night. We installed central air conditioning four years ago in all our dorms. It is a difficult task to retrofit a building to cool all rooms equally. However, no one complained about one room being a few degrees warmer than another.

Mealtime is one of the highlights of the conference. Our guests are most appreciative of our efforts to provide tasty and plentiful meals. I am always amused at some of the discussions going on in the serving line. I frequently hear a wife reminding her husband of his diet. He should not take too much of this or any of that. When they exit the main serving line they are faced with the dessert bar. Some of those pastors should have no problem preaching the next Sunday about "temptations" and how easily we can succumb.

The meetings are over at noon Wednesday. It has been our privilege each year to share some of our bounty with our guests as they are leaving. They are encouraged to take home as much as possible to share with the needy in their ministry area. Honeybuns, cakes, fruit juice, cereal, pies, syrup and diet drinks were among the items offered this year. One year we were given seven tons of bananas just in time to give them out at the conference. Some years clothing and other items also are available.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Alumni return for annual conference

More than 200 alumni and friends returned to campus Aug. 5-6 for their annual conference. The program included a golf scramble, dedication of renovated Kelly Hall, and two sessions with testimonies, preaching, singing and alumni association business decisions.

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.,

was the keynote speaker. His two sermons, based on texts from 1 Peter, were filled with application for ministry leaders. Alumni especially appreciated Hunt's personal fellowship at meal times and after the sessions. "One of the things God has laid on my heart to do the rest of my life is to be an encourager of pastors," Hunt said.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation sponsored the Monday morning golf scramble. It was the first time for most of the group to play the new Wasiooto Winds Course at Pine Mountain State Park. Registrar Jay Barnett noted several golf balls found their way into the water. Foundation President Barry Allen spoke to the Monday evening alumni session on current stewardship challenges and the services offered by the foundation.

Ted Wilson, Oklahoma City Fire

Department chaplain, spoke on the theme, "Ministering in the Midst of Crisis." He shared some of his experiences from the Murrah Federal Building bombing and from New York after Sept. 11.

Former professor LeRoy Peterson told of two crises during his student days at Clear Creek in 1946. He recalled the flooding of Pineville that left the campus

without electricity and heat. One spring was unaffected and the only source of drinking water. "Dr. Kelly made a big concession and let us cut some trees to burn wood in the Kelly Hall fireplaces," Peterson remembered. "We also had a student house catch fire and classes dismissed to form a bucket brigade from the creek to the fire."

Peterson also reminded alumni about theological crisis. "I've been exposed to modernism, liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, crisis revelation, relativism, moderateism and open theism. I've survived it all because as a student at Clear Creek I was inoculated with conservative theology. And it took."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Good clean fun

'Discovery' for summer campers includes games & faith at Cedarmore

By Clarissa Hutcherson
Staff Writer

CEDARMORE—More than 2,100 youth from throughout the commonwealth attended the eight weeks of "Discovery" camps at Cedarmore Conference Center this summer.

Total summer attendance was similar to last year's, according to Tom Smoot, coordinator for the Cedarmore camps and director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's creative ministries department.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Discovery camps are designed to share Christ with young people in a creative and exciting way, Smoot said. Bible study, testimonies, music, dramas and worship are tools used to usher youth into a spiritual growth experience.

The camps are led by "Son Teams," five teams of college students serving as summer missionaries for the KBC who use sports, music, drama and other creative ministries to share the gospel.

Throughout the summer, 266 campers made spiritual decisions at the eight Discovery camps, including 85 youth who made first-time professions of faith.

Son Teams kicked off each morning with "Amens in the A.M.," a series of dances, skits, sports tricks and more to get campers excited about the day.

Throughout the day, campers attended workshops teaching creative ministries such as puppetry, clowning and interpretive movement and sports such as soccer, hiking and basketball.

"The workshops teach kids stuff they can do in their own church when they get back home," said Donna Millard, camp counselor and student at Berea College serving on Son Burst.

Campers also attended a Bible study each day. The theme for the summer was "Driven," using Hebrews 12:1-2. Daily topics included "Heroes of Faith," "What is Sin?" "Surviving Hard Times" and "Making it to the End."

Camp pastors held nightly worship services. David Vaught, camp coun-



GREEN TEAM VICTORY Campers celebrate winning the Cedarmore 500 with a water fight. The 45-minute race consisted of 40 stations for activities. (Photo by David Babb)

selor and student at the University of Kentucky serving on Son Burst, said, "It was awesome to see camp pastors bringing the message each week. Each pastor was different, but the message was what God wanted for that week. We (Son Teams) are in awe of what God is doing. When you see half the kids go down to pray, you are flabbergasted."

This summer ended with something new. A DiscoverKids week was added, inviting fourth through sixth graders instead of the usual seventh through 12th graders who come for DiscoverYouth weeks.

"This was our first attempt at kids week. We definitely want to do it again next summer," Smoot said.

"These kids are a lot younger so they respond to things differently," Millard said during the DiscoverKids week. "They need more attention and love. They want you to talk to them and watch them. It is harder because you have to simplify Who God is and Who Jesus is, but at the same time you can see them start to understand."

Because the camp's Bible studies were designed for the seventh through 12th graders, Son Teams had to find a way to relate the lessons to the younger kids, Vaught explained.

"Faith is a big topic for this year, so we use Bible stories such as David and Goliath and Noah as examples," Vaught said during the final week of camp. "They respond very well. We act the stories out. The kids get into it; they are very receptive."

Camper Caity Masters said she learned a lot about God she never knew before.

"I learned that when you're trying to get to heaven, you can't jump over to heaven," said Masters, a member of Union City Baptist Church. "You're on one side and sin is in the middle. If you believe in God, He will make a bridge to get you to heaven."

Kevin Cheely, a camper from Immanuel Baptist Church in Glasgow, said, "I've learned that God loves us wherever we are."

Kids also make memories they will keep forever, camper Rebecca Jamison said.

"I'll always remember my interpretive dance teacher," said Jamison, a member of Jeffersonstown Baptist Church. "She was really nice and I could talk with her about things I needed to pray for."

For some kids, this was their first camp experience.

"It was kind of hard to leave my family, but it was a lot more fun than I thought it would be," said Taylor Covington, a camper from Union City Baptist Church.

DiscoverYouth weeks are a little different than the DiscoverKids week, Millard explained. Besides having to adapt the Bible study for a younger audience, youth also were allowed to stay up past the kids' 10 p.m. "lights out," and youth had access to more workshops.

But the main message remains the same for all ages, Vaught added.

"On the first day, we ask campers to think about where they are in their walk with Christ. It comes down to the fact that Christ died for us," he said.

"Once we have that foundation, we can build from that. Some campers can build more, but the foundation is the main point."

Nick Riley, a youth from Dallasburg Baptist Church, said he hadn't realized half his youth group had not made personal professions of faith in Jesus. But by the end of the week at Cedarmore, "everyone had made a commitment to Christ," he said.

Camp was "a good way to get in touch with yourself and to get in touch with God," Riley said. "I learned to pray constantly. Just walking down the road, I can pray. ... It helps me to get through the day."

Campers weren't the only ones who learned lessons this summer, said Drew Dukes, a camp counselor and student at Cumberland College serving on Son Share.

"I learned that it is just as important to be a seed planter as someone who sows and reaps. ... I learned more about myself. It helped me to gain confidence in myself and my Christian walk."

Son Teams also had new ministry experiences this summer, Millard said.

"I have done missions before, but working a camp is different. I never had the opportunity to lead people to salvation and now I do. I've had to really depend on God to speak through me."

"I've had to learn to rely on God," Vaught said. "I have faith that God called me here and He will show me where I need to be. He has shaped and molded me all summer."

"Before coming to camp, I heard people say, 'When you go to Cedarmore and walk under that arch, you can feel that you are on holy ground.' Now I understand why they say that."

"The quality of camp that Cedarmore has can be put up against the quality of any camp," Smoot said. "I don't think any young person has been sorry for coming."

"I've learned that God loves us wherever we are."

Kevin Cheely, a Cedarmore summer camper from Immanuel Baptist Church in Glasgow.



CAMPFIRE WORSHIP Cedarmore campers held a fireside worship service each Wednesday night during the summer. (Photo by David Babb)

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Accountants, bookkeepers and a lawyer are needed to serve in the Baptist offices in Moscow.

■ A Christian coffeehouse recently begun in the north district of Khabarovsk in Moscow.

■ Kentuckians Larry and Joy Lindsay as they work with Kentucky volunteers in Warsaw, Poland.

■ Answered prayer: A shop recently became available in Bombarral, Portugal, where Baptists can offer craft and English as Second Language classes. "Intercede with the Father to draw many who are not only interested in what is being taught in the classes, but who are open to what they can learn through His Word," missionaries write.

■ Two cell groups, one for children and one for teenagers, that meet each Tuesday in Play Blanca, Canary Islands. These home-based congregations are meeting a real need for ministry to children and teens, missionaries write.

■ Laborers to work in the District of Srod miescie in the heart of Warsaw, Poland. There are two Baptist churches there, but both are met with indifference and suspicion by many of their neighbors, missionaries report.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR SALE: Church pews for church or funeral home use. Very nice condition; seven 21-foot pews; three 18-foot pews. Call Philip or Ken at (502) 266-9655.

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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.

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SEEKING: Pastor for Beechmont Baptist Church—established in 1911 and located in the south side of Louisville, Ky. Resumes accepted through Sept. 30, 2002. Send your resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 4574 South Third Street, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Associate pastor for students and young adults. Theologically moderate church in Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati metro area seeks an innovative, evangelistic, egalitarian team-builder. Church has potential to reach urban kids in Covington and suburban kids nearby. Full support of the church and a dynamic new pastor to try whatever works. Prefer seminary graduate. Contact Latonia Baptist Church, Box 15103, Covington, KY 41015. Fax: (859) 431-1208. E-mail: StHollaway@aol.com.

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

SEEKING: Baptist Life Communities is accepting applications and resumes for director of Bullittsburg Camp and Retreat Center. The director would be responsible for overseeing the facilities and groups that use the camp. The camp averages more than 100 group visits per year. This is a full-time position with benefits available. Mail resumes to: Baptist Towers, 800 Highland Ave., Covington, KY 41011, Attn: Human Resources, or call (859) 491-3800 for more information.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for small church in Pike County. Send resume to: Pulpit Committee, PO Box 83, Regina, KY 41559.

SEEKING: Lynn Camp Baptist is prayerfully seeking a part-time worship leader and a part-time youth leader. Anyone interested, please send resume to: Search Committee, LCBC, PO Box 306, Gray, KY 40734.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, Ky., is receiving resumes 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 resumes 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 resumes to: Dr. Chuck Summers, First Baptist Church, PO Box 839, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., is seeking a minister to college students and young single adults. Applicants with seminary 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 resumes Sept. 3, 2002. Resumes 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 resume to: Cecilia Baptist Church, 416 East Main St., Cecilia, KY 42724. For a job description, please call (270) 862-4228.

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 resume to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 302 North Magnolia St., Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

SEEKING: Part-time director of music, Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Stanford, Ky. For more information, call (606) 365-7584, or submit resume to: PO Box 482, Stanford, KY 40484.

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

SEEKING: Full-time youth and recreation minister. Minimum: college; experienced; spiritually mature; good people skills. Send resume to: Mill Creek Baptist Church, 1182 South Jones, Radcliff, KY 40160, Attn: Youth and Recreation Search Committee chairman.

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 resume to: Personnel Committee, FBC, 230 South 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769, or call the church office: (606) 549-0280.

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 resume with salary requirements to: Personnel Committee, West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40299, or fax to (502) 499-9882.

SEEKING: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. We are seeking the person God wants 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 resumes 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 resume 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 resume to: First Baptist Church, 621 E 12th Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Steve Snodgrass.

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

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

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 resume to: Personnel Committee, FBC, 230 South 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769, or call the church office: (606) 549-0280.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor (SBC affiliation). Please send resumes 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 resume to 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., is accepting resumes through Aug. 31 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 resumes 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 resume to PO Box 129, Science Hill, KY 42553.

SEEKING: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., is receiving resumes 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 resumes to: Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, 2120 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216.

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

PEOPLE

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church called **Josh Lawson** as interim minister of children and youth. **Edwin Talley** is pastor.

■ **BEDFORD**—Union Grove Church celebrated its 110th anniversary Aug. 18.

■ **BEREA**—Emmanuel Church licensed **Allen Livingood** to the gospel ministry.

John Dodson resigned July 7 as pastor of Fellowship Church.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church called **Vicky Donelson** as children and family minister.

■ **BRONSTON**—Quinton Church recently called **Eddie West** as minister of youth.

■ **COVINGTON**—Ashland Avenue Church will host **Buddy Liles** in concert Aug. 23, 7 p.m.

Grace Church called **Mike Smith** as pastor Aug. 4. He previously was associate pastor and minister of mu-

sic at Southside Church.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Harrods Creek Church called **Les Wesley** as minister of youth and children.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church called **Dan Francis** of Franklin, Tenn., as pastor effective Sept. 1.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Immanuel Church called **Travis Vaughan Jr.** as youth pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Hillcrest Church called **Vernon Carpenter** as associate pastor for outreach and evangelism. **Tom Troth** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—**Joe Hopkins** resigned as minister of music at Immanuel Church to become dean of the school of music at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church children's choir will present the musical "Father Knows Best" Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m. The music ministry will host **Country Fair** in con-

cert Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Harold Vallins, a Jewish rabbi who converted to Christianity in 1998, will speak at Beechwood Church Aug. 18, 10:45 a.m. **Robert Blackburn** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host the **Heartland Boys** in a gospel musical concert Aug. 17, 7 p.m. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Deer Park Church ordained **Bern Kiser** to the gospel ministry Aug. 4. He is pastor of Cove Hill Church in Carrollton.

First Haitian Church was constituted July 21. **Joseph Gaston** is pastor.

Louisville Deaf Church will celebrate its 10th anniversary Aug. 18 with worship at 11 a.m., a noon luncheon and a celebration and rejoicing service at 2:15 p.m.

Parkland Hills Mission ordained **Mark Swan** to the gospel ministry Aug. 11.

Kim Mattingly resigned as minister to children at Rockford Lane Church.

■ **MARION**—Emmanuel Church

ordained **Marty Asbridge**, **Randy Belt**, **Jack Berry** and **Craig Gil-land** as deacons Aug. 11.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church ordained **Chuck Abney**, **Doug Hamm** and **Derrick Singleton** as deacons July 21.

Valley Church recently called **Greg Lakes** as pastor.

■ **NEBO**—Johnson Island Church called **Bob Bridges** as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

■ **PUTNEY**—Coxton Church called **Donny Adkisson** as pastor. He will be ordained Aug. 18 at Di-one Church in Cumberland.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—Southern Heights Church recently called **Jan-ice Goley** as youth director.

■ **WESTPORT**—Westport Church called **Debbie Gorbandt** as minister of music and worship. She previously was at Fern Creek Church in Louisville. **Lynn Traylor** is pastor of Westport Church.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Aaron Austin** has resigned as minister to youth and college students at First Church.

Pike County changers

Teenagers arrive each summer to repair and renovate houses in Eastern Kentucky

By David Winfrey
News Director

PIKEVILLE—As regular as cloudbursts in the mountains, Christian teenage construction workers have become an annual summer tradition in Pike County, according to Carl Boyd.

Armed with hammers, strong backs and a willingness to work, the teenagers have been coming since 1995 to help renovate houses in the mountains, said Boyd, director of missions for Pike County Baptist Association.

"They enjoy doing something for others in Jesus' name," Boyd said.

For the past eight years, the students have come each summer from one of two sources.

For five summers, including this past June, students have come from throughout the United States to work with World Changers, a volunteer ministry organized by the Southern Baptist North American

Mission Board.

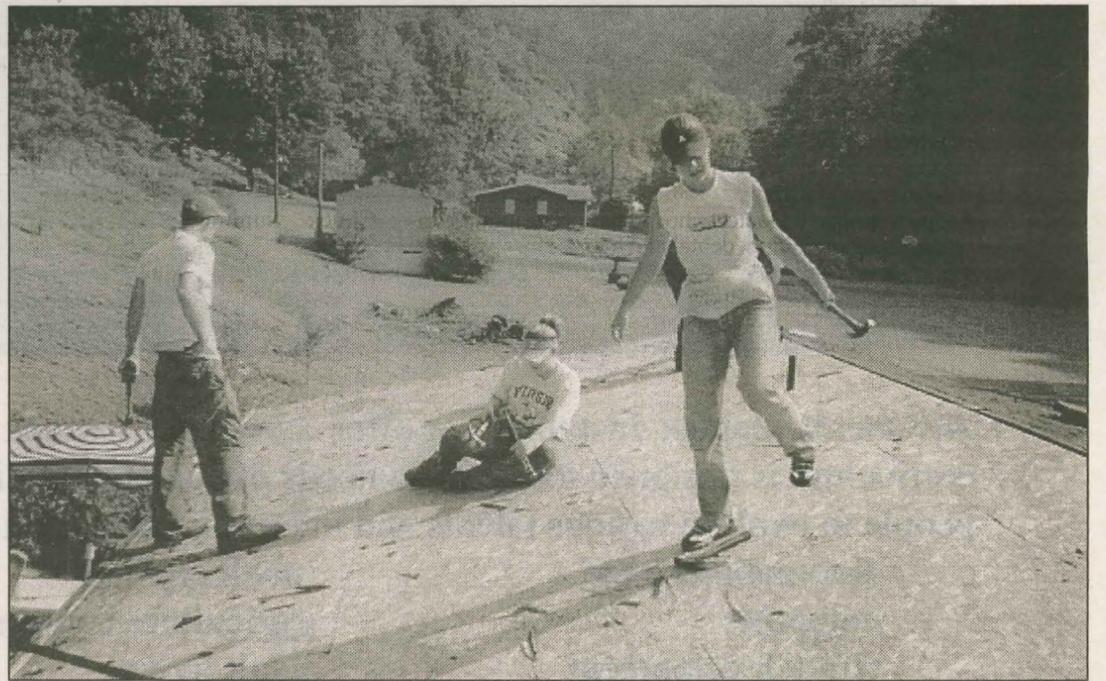
Three other times, the teenagers came from around the commonwealth to work with Kentucky Changers, a Kentucky Baptist Convention program modeled after World Changers.

Approximately 280 World Changers volunteers were in Pike County July 20-26 for 25 construction projects, Boyd said.

Boyd works with the Pike County Housing Authority to provide the materials for the teens to re-roof and paint homes or build or rebuild house porches and handicap ramps.

Housing authority assistance is vital for the program to return each year, Boyd said, noting that the average housing project requires \$2,000 worth of materials. "It helps our county housing (authority) catch up a whole lot on a backlog of people needing help."

Nationally, NAMB's World Changers program has grown to involve more than 23,000 junior high,



high school and college students for 98 sites, ranging from Alabama to Alaska in the United States and including nine international projects in Europe, South America and Africa.

In Pikeville, World Changer volunteers pay \$300 to sleep at a local school while they work during the day and hold worship events in the evening. Charlie Higgins, director of music and youth at Meta Baptist Church, was this year's worship speaker. The money pays for the use of the school and two meals each day.

Boyd said the students "get a great deal of feeling of personal accomplishment in helping others, especially those who cannot help themselves like the handicapped, the widows. And, of course, they get a big boost knowing they're doing something in Jesus' name."

While the labor comes from outside the county, local churches adopt teams, hosting them for Sunday worship, feeding them Sunday lunch and taking lunches to the work sites

throughout the work week.

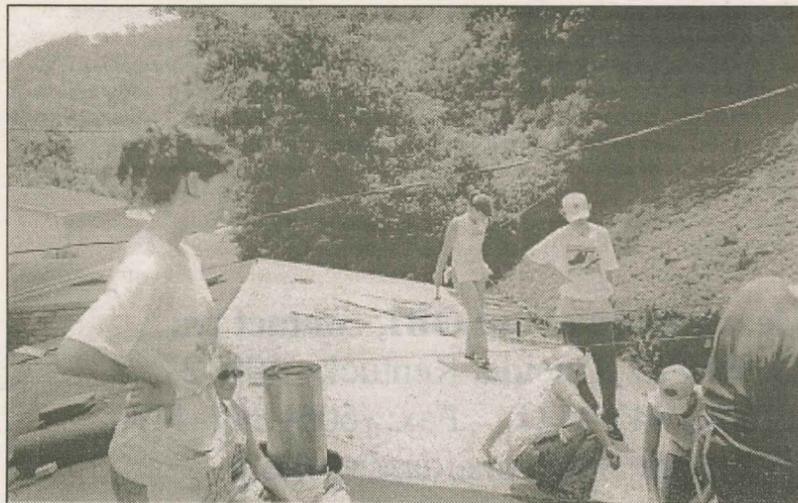
Boyd said the home improvement jobs help local churches develop closer relationships with the homeowners receiving the help and with others in those neighborhoods. "It's a very positive thing for our churches and for the name of Christ."

This summer, eight Pike County residents reported making professions of faith and rededicating themselves to Christ as a result of the work.

Through the years, Boyd added, local churches have taken more responsibility for the ministry, providing crew chiefs and other leadership. "A lot of our local people have served as supervisors and crew chiefs," he said. "The main leadership is local leadership every year now."

Boyd said he already has scheduled another work week with the local housing authority for 2003. "I see it as an ongoing ministry for years to come."

ROOF WORK Teenagers re-roof a house in Pike County during World Changers, a volunteer ministry July 20-26 sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Approximately 280 teens from throughout the country were in Pike County for what has become an annual event. (Photos by Shane and Elizabeth Parsons)



COSTLY WORK World Changers volunteers painted, re-roofed or fixed other items at 25 Pike County homes last month. Local Director of Missions Carl Boyd estimates each project costs \$2,000 in materials, which is provided by the local housing authority.

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