



# WESTERN RECORDER

October 15, 2002  
Vol. 176, No. 40

## FOR THE RECORD

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## Poll: Many in U.S. see Bible, Book of Mormon, Koran as equals

VENTURA, Calif. (ABP)—A large percentage of Americans believe the Bible, Koran and Book of Mormon are equal expressions of the same spiritual truth, according to a recent poll. Forty-four percent of polled adults agreed with a statement that "the Bible, Koran and the Book of Mormon are just different expressions of the same spiritual truths." Thirty-eight percent rejected the idea.

Among evangelicals, 10 percent agreed with the statement and 84 percent disagreed, according to Barna Research Group, which conducted the poll.

George Barna, head of the research group, said the survey's results reflect a nation with theological views that are increasingly inclusive of other faiths.

"Over the past 20 years we have seen the nation's theological views become less aligned with the Bible," he said.

Barna said Christians increasingly are adopting spiritual views from Islam, Wicca, secular humanism, Eastern religions and other sources. His evidence includes the following results from previous polls:

■ While most Americans are aligned with a Catholic or Protestant church, 42 percent said they believe Jesus committed sins while on earth. Half agreed with church teachings that Jesus did not sin.

■ Half believe people who go to heaven get there by doing good works, and three-fourths said people are neither good nor evil when they're born, a rejection of the doctrine of original sin.

## The heart of worship



**CHURCH HEALTH SUMMIT** More than 500 Kentucky Baptists attended the Church Health Summit, Oct. 11-12 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. ■ Above: A choir performs during a traditional-style worship service. ■ Below: Calvin Miller mixes creativity into his sermon during a worship service.

## Conference highlights worship's focus, not style

BOWLING GREEN—Encountering God, not enjoying a performance, should be the focus of worship, according to organizers for last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention Church Health Summit.

"Worship wars" have pitted Christians against one another as musicians and church leaders have asked whether people can worship best in a traditional, contemporary, blended or "convergent" service.

But "we're asking the wrong questions," said Jim Cordell, director of the KBC church music department. "Worship is to focus people on God, not what kind of music we use."

Vernon Cole, head of the KBC church growth team, agreed, noting that Christians too often interpret the word "worship" to mean a perfor-

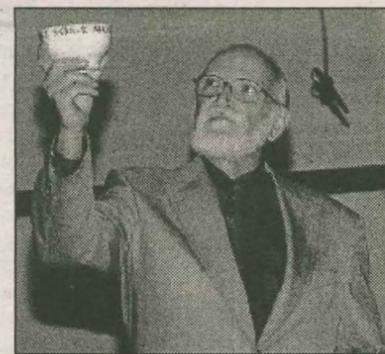
mance or one-hour event rather than an experience with God.

The Church Health Summit, Oct. 11-12 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, offered workshops and conferences on a variety of worship-related topics. It also featured four worship services that modeled different worship expressions.

By modeling a diversity of expressions, pastors, music ministers and other church leaders could see that all such services can help bring people closer to God, Cordell said.

"I wanted the leaders who lead in worship to experience worship," he added. "What makes worship worship is the content, not the style. But all the dialogue is about the style."

Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Imman-



uel Baptist Church in Lexington, said, "Southern Baptists do not have a strong theology of worship."

A former professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Loscalzo noted that the seminary didn't require pastors to take a class in worship until 1982. "No  
□ See Conference ..., page 3

## Lexington women's ministry to host Anne Graham Lotz next April



**KICKOFF EVENT** Anne Graham Lotz (right) visits with women after a kickoff celebration last week in Lexington. Lotz will lead a weekend "Just Give Me Jesus" women's revival next April 25-26 at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LEXINGTON—A grassroots women's ministry emphasis in Lexington is gaining rapid momentum.

Started three years ago on the local church level, it will feature a weekend rally next spring with Anne Graham Lotz. The April 25-26 "Just Give Me Jesus" women's revival in Lexington's Rupp Arena is expected to attract thousands of women from several states.

Sue McGee, revival co-chairperson, coordinates women's ministries at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. Her efforts began modestly three years ago when she felt a burden to offer a ministry event for women in the community.

The local program grew as she teamed up with Rosz Akins, whose husband is pastor of First Baptist Church of Bracktown.

Working together to coordinate an expanded interracial, interdenominational women's conference last year, McGee said the two women "sensed that God was not finished; that there was something else for us to do."

McGee responded a year ago by contacting Lotz' AnGeL Ministries in Raleigh, N.C., to find out about the possibility of Lotz speaking at a women's event in Lexington.

The ministry staff explained that the first step was to "pray and pray and pray some more," McGee recalled.

After a few months of personal prayer, McGee invited a small group of women from Porter Memorial to join her in prayer. They soon expanded their prayer network with a February prayer meeting that attracted more than 40 women representing 20 churches from 10 denominations.

By March, they were seeking God's answer to the question: "Is it  
□ See Anne Graham Lotz ..., page 3

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, October 16

# BAPTISTS

## NAMB trustees amend proposed agreement with Texas

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist North American Mission have amended a proposed agreement with the Baptist General Convention of Texas in an effort to accommodate the concerns of Texas Baptist leaders, said Harry Lewis, NAMB's director of strategic coordination.

The proposal was among new cooperative agreements with 18 state Baptist conventions approved Oct. 9 by NAMB trustees. Most of the agreements still need to be approved by the state Baptist conventions, but each of the other 17 were approved as negotiated with state convention staff.

The new agreements marked the first time the documents had been renegotiated since NAMB's founding in 1997. The agreements define how NAMB works with individual state Baptist conventions in the joint funding of mission efforts.

The issue in Texas arose when the BGCT Executive Board amended a negotiated agreement that previously had been approved by the BGCT's state missions commission, missions review and initiatives committee and administrative committee. The BGCT

board deleted a sentence stating that jointly funded personnel "shall comply with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000," citing concerns that the sentence could leave the impression that the BGCT board approves of the Southern Baptist statement of faith.

Leaders of the BGCT have expressed disagreement with several of the revisions to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. The issue was addressed in the initial agreement with BGCT leaders stating that any missionaries uncomfortable with conforming to the Baptist Faith and Message as required by NAMB could be appointed as solely funded missionaries of the BGCT.

NAMB trustees responded by moving the references to the Baptist Faith and Message into a parenthetical phrase to clarify that it was NAMB's requirement only, said Lewis, the lead strategic coordinator for NAMB who helped negotiate the original agreement.

The amended section now reads: "Selection of jointly supported personnel shall conform to procedures and requirements of both entities (This includes NAMB's requirement for those personnel to conform to the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.)"

Lewis said that because the BGCT and NAMB have approved different agreements, the issue likely will have to go back to the BGCT Executive Board.

"What their board did was to change the negotiated agreement. We have not signed the agreement altered by the BGCT," Lewis said. "At this point we don't have a new cooperative agreement, because we've both signed differing versions. But we've made adjustments to try to accommodate their concerns."

The existing agreement will remain in effect pending further action, he added.

In other actions, trustees approved 28 new missionaries, endorsed 30 new chaplains and celebrated the fifth anniversary of NAMB's founding.

NAMB President Robert Reccord announced appointments to a committee that will examine how to address churches started with NAMB and other Southern Baptist financial assistance that later decide to discontinue being cooperating Southern Baptists. The committee will include three NAMB staff members, three trustees and three executive directors of state conventions.

Trustees adopted a 2003 budget of \$125,562,500, reflecting a reduction of \$2.65 million in revenue. Mike Day, NAMB's vice president for organizational development, said the new budget also reflects a reduction of nearly \$6 million in expenses resulting from the anticipated spinoff next year of the FamilyNet television network into a separate for-profit subsidiary. That change in FamilyNet's status is pending action by the SBC Executive Committee in February.

The economy also has been a factor in limiting budget growth, Day said, particularly with performance of NAMB's invested reserve funds prompting a corresponding decrease in the investment income projected for next year.

The meeting concluded with an anniversary celebration. NAMB officially began on June 16, 1997, as part of Southern Baptist Convention restructuring. The new entity combined the work of the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission.

*Based on reporting by James Dotson of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board*

## Baptist college president resigns

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. (ABP)—Embattled President Chris White resigned Oct. 11 as head of Gardner-Webb University, effective Oct. 25.

White had been under fire since Sept. 10 when news broke that he had told the school's registrar two years earlier to recalculate a star basketball player's grade point average.

The change made Carlos Webb eligible to play on the basketball team, which won the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association championship that year.

Some faculty members, trustees, alumni and students had called for White's resignation. The school's faculty gave White a 63-39 vote of no confidence the day his action was revealed in a local newspaper. The school's board of trustees, meanwhile, publicly affirmed his leadership while reportedly reprimanding him in private.

In his resignation letter, White called the move "the most wrenching decision" he has ever made.

"For reasons I find hard to understand and even more difficult to articulate, the situation has reached the point where the integrity of the institution and all that it represents is in jeopardy," he said. "I am sorry that what I did two years ago out of fairness to a student has led to such turmoil and controversy."

"All that we have built and all that is possible in the future is at risk unless we quickly come together and put the past behind us," he added. "I regret to say that doing so will be quicker and easier under new leadership."

Trustee chairman Tommy Hardin said White chose to step aside so the unrest on campus would end. White, a former pastor in Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina, had been president of GWU since 1986.

**WORLD CHANGERS** Tanya Weaver of Corcoran, Calif., works on a doorway during a World Changers project in Beaumont, Calif. Nationally, more than 23,000 individuals participated in World Changers during the summer of 2002, an increase of more than 3,800 volunteers from the previous summer.



### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **MacArthur at Southern.** Author and pastor John MacArthur will deliver Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual Mullins Lectures Oct. 22-24. The lectures will be 10 a.m. each day in Alumni Memorial Chapel on the seminary's Louisville campus. MacArthur, the host of the "Grace to You" radio program, is the author of "Rediscovering Expository Preaching" and "The Gospel According to Jesus."

■ **WMU to host internationals.** Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union will host more than 100 teenage young women from around the world as part of WMU's 2003 "SyncroNations" National Acteens Convention in Nashville. The event, set for July 29-Aug. 1, is expected to attract more than 8,000 participants from across the nation. For information about SyncroNations, contact Evelyn Tully at (205) 408-5518 or by e-mail at etully@wmu.org.

■ **Ethics center names associate.** Jan Turrentine, a book editor who has worked for Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union since 1983, has joined the staff of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville. Turrentine, managing editor for products at WMU, was elected associate director of BCE. She will be responsible for educational resources, including developing online materials for adults.

■ **Worker sentenced to 10 years.** A former volunteer youth worker at a Baptist church in North Carolina was sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to 33 counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor. Marty Eugene Meadows, 34, was arrested in June on charges he had sexual activity with seven girls, ages 12-15, between May 2001 and May 2002. He allegedly met his victims through a youth praise team at Sunset Lane Baptist Church in Bessemer City, N.C., where he was a volunteer.



"Choose your weapon—King James, New International Version or New American Standard."

## Anne Graham Lotz coming to Lexington in April

Continued from page 1

God's will for us to host this revival at this time?"

AnGeL Ministries leaders said the next step was for the women to gather several letters of support for the event from community leaders.



Lotz

Carole Inman, AnGeL Ministries' revival director, said revival invitations typically average about 50 letters from church and community leaders. The Lexington group, however, collected more than 400 letters of support.

As her ministry organization evaluated the invitation, Lotz said, "The thing that stood out to all of us was that God was stirring. You don't have that many letters from that many people in that short a time. What people were longing for in letter after letter was a fresh touch from God, an awakening within the church. ... God confirmed in our hearts that this is where He is moving."

After Lotz accepted the Lexington group's invitation, momentum continued to grow last week with a pair of kickoff events that attracted approximately 1,500 people. Lotz spoke at a women's leadership meeting Oct. 8 at Porter Memorial attended by 1,300 women from as far away as Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville and throughout Eastern Kentucky. A pastors' rally the next morning at Centenary United Methodist Church featured messages by Lotz and Henry Blackaby, author of "Experiencing God."

"Humanly speaking, they should go to a much larger city but they saw God at work here," McGee noted. "God has been confirming every step of the way that He is in it and leading it."

Lotz told the pastors the April event will include messages about salvation, surrender and service as well as sessions on prayer and how to study the Bible. She invited pastors to give their blessing to the event, asking them to pray and promote it in their congregations.

"I believe God has shown me that my part in bringing revival to the hearts of God's people is to target women," Lotz said. "They can have influence that goes way beyond that one person."

"Our purpose of Just Give Me Jesus is that people will be revived in their hearts in their relationship to God," she added.

For more information, contact the Just Give Me Jesus Lexington office by phone at (859) 278-2552, by e-mail at Jesuslexky@aol.com or visit the Web site, www.AnneGrahamLotz.com.

## Conference focuses on purpose of worship

Continued from page 1

wonder we're having trouble understanding worship."

Martin Theilen, the author of "Ancient-Modern Worship" and pastor of First United Methodist Church in Lebanon, Tenn., cited Isaiah 6:1-9 as explaining the biblical priority, purpose, possibilities and process of worship.

Worship, he said, includes the elements of adoration, confession, forgiveness, proclamation, dedication and commission.

Early Christian worship "emerged from the synagogue worship of ancient Judaism and the Upper Room experience" of the Lord's Supper, Theilen added. The early church gradually added other worship elements until the basic worship service included five movements: gathering, Word, response, table and dismissal.

Noting that the biblical-historical model of worship continues to be used in many churches today, he said typical elements of a modern five-movement worship service include:

- We gather to worship God.
- We listen to the Word of God.
- We respond to the call of God.
- We celebrate at the table of God.
- We depart to serve God.

Other theological underpinnings are that worship "must be a priority in every church" and that it "empowers the church to accomplish its mission."

Authentic worship is celebratory, participatory, Trinitarian and contextual, he emphasized.

### Traditional worship

Calvin Miller, a professor at Samford University's Beeson School of Theology in Birmingham, Ala., emphasized that traditional services should not sacrifice creativity.

"I've always loved the idea of every church finding its own way to go, making your services as unique as fingerprints," he said after preaching at the conference's traditional worship service.

Speaking from Psalm 130, Miller held up various bowls representing need, despair and abundance.

"The bowls of terror and the bowls of abundance define who we are," he said. Even amid the times of despair in life, "joy accompanies all of us as we wait to be filled with God's abundance."

Miller later told participants, "One of the things I talk to my students about is trying to get a sense of variety" in worship services.

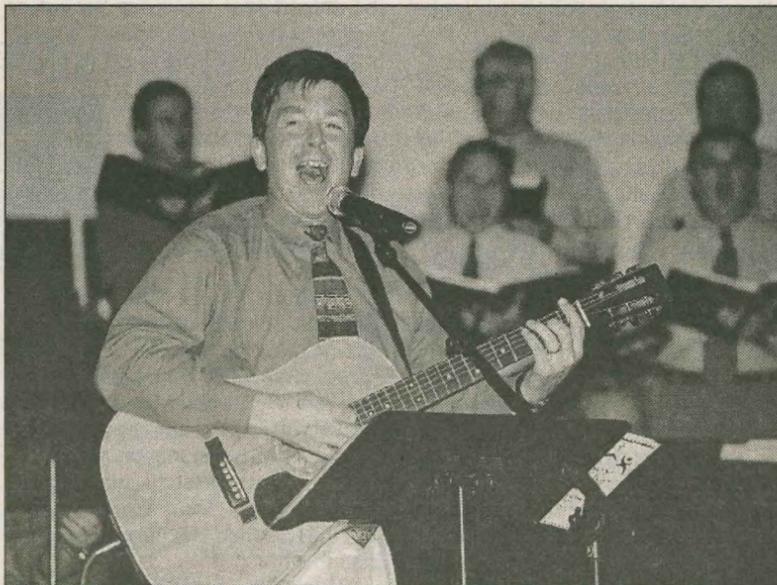
"Do things that bring variety to how the stage appears," he suggested. "Try to bring something visual."

"I truly believe most people will enjoy anything well done," he added. "My gut feeling is a great solo is better than a bad choir."

### Contemporary worship

The pastor of one of the state's newest and fastest-growing churches said contemporary worship involves music with a cultural ring.

Jeff Eaton said the songs in a contemporary worship experience will have a familiar sound to young members and visitors from a non-church



**MUSIC IN WORSHIP** Carl Stam, a music and worship professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and music minister at Clifton Baptist Church, leads participants in singing during the Church Health Summit in Bowling Green, Oct. 11-12.

background.

"It's basically going to match what you hear on a radio station, but the lyrics all point to Christ," said Eaton, pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg.

Michael Higdon, worship leader at the four-year-old church, said such freedom allows the church to deviate from predictable patterns in its order of worship.

Dressed in blue jeans and a casual shirt, Higdon said his clothing reflects who he is in daily life. He wants to look the same way on Sunday morning.

"With a contemporary style, there's a freedom for folks to know their leaders aren't perfect, that we have spiritual struggles like anybody else," the worship leader said.

Despite their fondness for modern music, Eaton reminded his audience that he isn't saying contemporary is the "right" form. Nor should there be a war over worship styles, because Christians' only common foe is Satan, he said.

Instead of organ and piano, Hope Community's instruments include drums, keyboard, and bass, electric and acoustic guitars. The band rehearses during the week, and its preparation shows on Sundays, Eaton said.

Such excellence is a key, because in trying to reach a different culture his church competes with many other influences, he said.

"People are used to things popping and that's what they want," Eaton said. "Music is their language."

But some people have a misconception that contemporary music requires a complex, flashy presentation, Higdon added.

Instead, Hope's worship team tries to keep its arrangements simple, he said.

"We sometimes think the content has to be this technical complicated thing," Higdon said. "But we try to keep this simple. We're just trying to take people into the presence of God."

### Blended worship

Music minister Steve Gray said

blended worship allows worship leaders to use every color in the palette to help people experience God.

Comparing worship options to Baskin-Robbins' 31 flavors, Gray said the goal is to enhance, not limit worship.

"We want to use everything that God has given us," said Gray, minister of worship and music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. "It does not mean that vanilla is not awesome."

The same worship service at Immanuel is likely to use a hymn to help express God's holiness and a praise chorus to focus on the intimate relationship available to Christians.

When Loscalzo went to the church six years ago, he led the congregation from having one traditional service to having two blended Sunday morning services.

Loscalzo said he made an intentional decision to make both services as identical as possible, not have one traditional service and another contemporary.

"That would have created two separate congregations," he said.

Music isn't the only way to blend worship, Loscalzo said. Services also make use of visual arts, from skits to liturgical dance. Loscalzo said he wears a suit and tie to preach, but doesn't use a pulpit.

The intended tone is neither too folksy nor too formal, he said.

Pastors making a transition in their churches must lead and explain that transition to help members understand the reasons behind it, Loscalzo added.

"One of the things that has gotten us past the worship wars is we brought it out of the closet," Loscalzo said. "Too many churches shove it down throats or don't explain it."

Still, he noted, 140 members left Immanuel after the changes in worship style in order to establish a traditional-worship church.

"We did not do this painlessly," he said, adding that Immanuel ordained the pastor for the new church.

Compiled from reporting by News Director David Winfrey, Editor Trennis Henderson and State Correspondent Ken Walker.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky Baptist** leaders signed a "community marriage covenant" Oct. 11 in Louisville. Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey and Long Run Baptist Association Director of Missions Wesley Pitts were among religious leaders signing the recommended guidelines to build stronger Christian marriages. The event coincided with a "Marriage Savers" training conference last weekend in Louisville.

■ **Kentucky Baptist** Convention disaster relief coordinator Larry Koch underwent heart bypass surgery Oct. 10. The 3-hour surgery involved five bypasses. He was reported as feeling well afterwards, recovering at Baptist East Hospital in Louisville.

■ **Seventeen Kentucky** Baptist volunteers traveled to Atlanta last week to help with "mud-out" work, helping clean houses damaged by Tropical Storm Hannah late last month. Volunteers arrived Oct. 10 and were expected to be finished by the middle of this week, according to leader Harold Moore of Ashland. Georgia Baptists had requested the volunteers because many of their workers had been serving several weeks in Georgia and Louisiana, he said.

■ **Campbellsville** University will host its fall preview day for high school juniors and seniors Nov. 9. For more information, call the admissions office at (800) 264-6014.

■ **Correction:** A chart in last week's Western Recorder incorrectly listed the number of new Catholics from 1990 to 2000. According to the Glenmary Research Center, the number of Catholics increased by 8.6 million during those 10 years, a 16.2 percent growth from the 53.3 million Catholics in 1990.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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## Use common sense

I am writing in response to the letter, "Ordination concerns," published in the Sept. 24 issue.

I am a moderate Southern Baptist and I am extremely troubled that a minister questions two Louisville churches that have ordained four women as deacons.

I believe Satan can attack a church from within, even though that church does not have women deacons. I know of two particular churches where I feel this has happened and both churches have only men deacons.

It is true that Paul said in 1 Timothy 2:12 that he "does not permit a woman to teach or have authority over a man, but to be in silence." But there also are two other verses in 1 Timothy 2 that we need to consider. In verse 9 Paul states, "I also want the women to be modest and sensible about their clothes and to dress properly; not with fancy hairstyles or with gold ornaments or pearls or expensive dresses." How many churches, men or women, rigorously adhere to this?

In 1 Timothy 2:15, Paul said, "But a woman will be saved through having children, if she perseveres in faith and love and holiness, with modesty." Does this mean that childless women are condemned?

My point is when a person quotes specific verses of the Bible to gratify one's needs or desires, another person always can find a verse that challenges the previous one. I feel we need to have faith in the overall principle of the Bible.

I also agree that churches today need to get back to teaching and preaching the Bible and practicing what God said in His Word. But I feel we need to maintain common sense and remember that even though men who were inspired by God wrote the Bible, different men have translated it.

Connie Pruitt  
Louisville

## Changeless gospel

Leonard Sweet adds his voice to the chorus that looks for an easier evangelism in our churches ("Sweet: Is your church willing to get its hands dirty?", Oct. 1 issue).

The "lost" (bad word) are reached with the gospel. It's not the songs we sing; it's the message of salvation—the gospel—that is seldom heard in our churches.

If failure is to be singled out, consider Paul's testimony to the elders of Ephesus: "I have kept back nothing that was profitable to you, but have shown you, and taught you publicly, and house to house, testifying . . . repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:20-21). When was the last time you tried that?

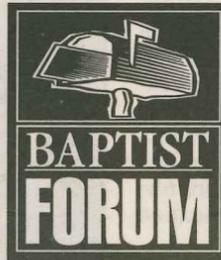
When Paul went to Corinth, he didn't affirm their debauchery by "embracing their culture"; rather he "determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." Embracing the culture was the problem Paul came to correct with the gospel of the crucified One.

If you follow Sweet's thinking, you will need to rewrite the Scripture where Jesus encounters "two possessed of devils, coming out of the tombs" in the land of the Gergesenes (Matthew 8:28-34). You would need to put Jesus in a tomb next door where He would be crying day and night, and cutting Himself with stones. However, the One who came "to set at liberty the captives" will look ridiculous

in those ropes and chains. But Jesus would be embracing their culture. Thank goodness the demoniacs embraced Jesus' culture rather than the other way around. Sweet speaks of the power of images for our time; the most powerful image I know is Jesus on that cross!

When will we learn that the gospel "is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes" (Romans 1:16)? Only the gospel is changeless.

John C. Huffman  
Louisville



## Wet-dry debate

Those who say that the wet-dry issue is not a moral issue possibly have never been convinced of yielding in any way to the adverse effects of the nation's No. 1 drug—beverage alcohol—nor have any of those they love. In this opinion, ultimately all must agree that it is a moral issue.

Many responsible people will agree that alcoholism is no more a disease than is any other uncontrolled desire such as the desire for more wealth, more power, more popularity, more pleasure, etc.

One final thought: Why not make the possibility of a wet-dry election a more democratic choice by changing the law so as to require a sufficient number of signatures to exceed the percentage of voters favoring the opposite position in the last such election?

Quentin Gaskin  
Harrodsburg

## What are you thinking?

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

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Big Creek's dedication celebration

The recent dedication of a new sanctuary at Big Creek Baptist Church in Hazard was a celebration of hard work and cooperation between church members and Baptist Builders.

Bill Combs, pastor of the church, expressed special appreciation to steering committee chairman Gwen Bailey, projects director Winston Fields and to all committee members. Fields, Clyde Smith and Floyd Brewer worked on construction for a full year.

The pastor said the sanctuary could not have been completed without the assistance of Baptist Builders, however. God sent 44 Kentucky Baptist Builders organized by Ted Garrison of Perryville. Pastor Combs expressed gratitude to God for sending this skilled group at the time their talents were required. Another 36 builders came from Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.

During the construction, church members prepared meals and opened their homes to the workers. It was spe-

cial to see members express praise to God for what He had done in exceeding their expectations and making believers out of the skeptics.

Big Creek first met on Oct. 7, 1951, when 36 people gathered in a school building to organize the first Sunday school. The mission became a church July 9, 1953.

The church enjoyed significant growth during the late 1970s led by Pastor Drew Martin. Additional educational space and a Christian Life Center were dedicated in 1981.

Water and insect damage destroyed the foundation in the former building, so in 1997 the church launched a building campaign. They were assisted in securing funds by Truett Cocanougher, a contract consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and director of missions in Bracken Baptist Association.

Combs grew up in Hazard where he returned to the Lord at age 16. Out of a hunger to learn the Bible, Combs read through the Bible many times and

memorized many passages. Then, having led children's church for about 18 months in his church, God thrust him into an evangelism ministry to youth, churches and high school campuses for 10 years.

He has a wonderful testimony of God's grace in his life. When he was a college student, Combs was involved in a near fatal collision while returning to Cumberland College. He was given only a 10 percent chance of surviving, but he began a slow recovery that enabled him to complete his education and become a pastor.

It was gratifying to see the results of the ministry of Baptist Builders in Hazard after I attended the Celebrate the Mission Brotherhood convention on Friday night. Among many reports was the report by the Kentucky Baptist Builders.

I praise God for Brotherhood Director Randy Foster and the numerous ministries coordinated by laypeople. When working in cooperation and led by the Holy Spirit, a group of Baptist laypeople can accomplish anything!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

## STEWARDSHIP

### Consumers urged to beware of top investment scams

By Don Spencer

State securities regulators recently released a list of the top investment scams they are fighting. You, as a consumer, should be aware of these so you can avoid being cheated:

■ **Unlicensed individuals selling securities.** If the person is not registered, don't invest. This includes life insurance agents.

■ **Affinity group fraud.** Many scammers use a victim's religious or ethnic identity to gain trust, knowing that it's human nature to trust people who are like you.

■ **Payphone and ATM sales.** Selling coin-operated, customer-owned telephones with promised returns that never materialize.

■ **Promissory notes.** These are short-term debt instruments by little-known or non-existent companies that promise high returns with little or no risk. Sometimes these are sold by independent life insurance agents.

■ **Internet fraud.** The wide reach and anonymity of the Internet provide scammers a prime place to cheat people out of money. Avoid all anonymous financial advice on the Web.

■ **Ponzi/pyramid schemes.** These swindles promise high returns to investors but the only people who consistently make money are the promoters who set them in motion. Inevitably, the schemes collapse.

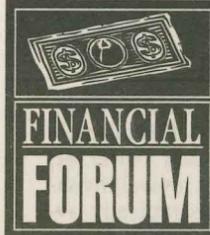
■ **"Callable" CDs.** These higher-yielding CDs have a long maturity (10-20 years) unless the bank, not the investor, "calls" or redeems them. These redemptions may result in large losses.

■ **Viatical settlements.** The insured gets a percentage of the death benefit in cash and investors get a share of the death benefit. Originated as a way to help the gravely ill pay their bills, these interests in the death benefits of terminally ill patients are always risky and sometimes fraudulent.

■ **Prime bank schemes.** Scammers promise investors triple-digit returns through access to investment portfolios of the world's elite banks.

■ **Investment seminars.** Often the people getting rich are those running the seminar, making money from admissions, books, tapes, etc.

Be skeptical about any get-rich-quick scheme. The old adage is still true, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



## Unity—not unanimity—is vital in daily parenting decisions

**Q: As parents, how important is it for us to present a unified front when dealing with our children?**

Children seem to know instinctively how to play one parent against the other. They know who to ask for special dispensations. They know who is going to be sympathetic and who is not. In short, they know how to divide and conquer, which seems to indicate the importance of parents always presenting a united front.

Family therapist Murray Bowen believes that the unified front principle is not sound, however. "The effort to arrive at a united front is primary to relieve parental anxiety and not for the benefit of the child," he says. Instead, Bowen stresses the importance of each parent having a unique relationship with each child, and working together as a couple to resolve any significant differences in terms of family leadership.

Parents can express unity without being unanimous. At the same time, they should be careful not to undermine each other when they disagree. Children can and should see their parents as partners while recognizing the life truth that two individuals—even parents—are not going to agree on everything.

Hopefully, parents will be on the same page when it comes to fundamental beliefs, values and basic ideas about raising children. These are the areas in which children need consistency. And hopefully, parents will have the kind of special relationship with their children that will allow them to lend a sympathetic ear without creating the two-on-one triangulation that often disrupts family relationships.—David Garrard

**Q: My 80-year-old father has failing health. My mother, who is healthy at age 75, has cared for him the past two years. Seeing the wear and tear on her, however, it seems clear that Mom can't care for Dad any longer. We agree that increased care is necessary. Nursing home personnel have encouraged us to put Dad in the home by himself, but I hate to separate my parents. What should we do?**

Aging parents present many difficult issues for both elders and their families. In addition to the the emotional loss that aging presents, physical deterioration is a reality that cannot be ignored. You have cleared the first hurdle in getting your family to agree that your father needs extra care. The next challenge is determining what kind of care your father needs.

Your father's physician might agree to have a family conference with your father present to discuss what kind of health care needs he has. After that, the physician might refer you to a social worker who can explain the different types of care. Your financial situation also will need to be considered in choosing the type of care. Non-professional sitters might be one option. Some people are available to care for elders if no skilled medical assistance is needed.

Other options include assisted living facilities that could accommodate both your parents. Some of these facilities have units to care for Alzheimer's patients and also offer nursing care on the premises. Other assisted living facilities have nursing care units to accommodate residents when medical needs increase. Another option is a traditional nursing home.

I suggest that you work with your father's physician, your pastor and perhaps a counselor in coming to a decision about your parents' future. Seeking input in this transition from qualified support people should benefit everyone involved in the decision-making process.—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.*



## Biblical worship: 'No room for mediocrity'

This issue of the Western Recorder culminates a month-long series of articles on "Worship Without Warfare."

The previous articles, which highlighted elements of traditional, contemporary and blended worship, were a prelude to this week's coverage of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's "Journey Into Worship" Church Health Summit Oct. 11-12 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

The weekend conference, coordinated by the KBC church growth team, no doubt lived up to its billing for the 500-plus Kentucky Baptists who attended. Four worship services and dozens of small-group workshops in six interest tracks offered participants an opportunity to gain practical insights in such areas as enriching traditional worship, praise teams that lead worship and "How to Integrate the Arts into a Non-Artsy Church."

One of the most significant aspects of the conference was that it was not a forum to criticize certain worship styles as ineffective or to claim that one form of worship is superior to others. There have been far too many such debates at the local church level—often leading to unnecessary division and strife.

Instead, speaker after speaker at the Church Health Summit emphasized the importance of each congregation seeking to make its chosen worship style as effective as possible. "Quality," "excellence" and "authenticity" were goals highlighted throughout the two-day event.

Why spend so much time writing articles and planning a conference about worship? In the words of Martin Theilen, author of "Ancient-Modern Worship" and one of the conference's keynote speakers, "Worship must always be a great priority among the people of God. ... There's no room for mediocrity." Theilen, pastor of First United Methodist Church in

Lebanon, Tenn., highlighted convergent worship which typically includes the five elements of gathering to worship God, listening to the Word of God, responding to the call of God, celebrating at the table of God and departing to serve God.

"Convergent worship understands there are numerous diverse strains of worship in Christian worship," he explained. "Convergent worship sees value in all of those elements and can put them together in an appropriate way in a particular setting."

Other worship styles modeled at the conference included:

■ **Traditional.** Author and theology professor Calvin Miller emphasized that traditional worship services should not sacrifice creativity. Suggesting that each congregation's worship experiences should be "as unique as fingerprints," he urged church leaders to "get your creative people in your church together and try to birth something."

■ **Contemporary.** Jeff Eaton, pastor of Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg, noted that contemporary music is a vital tool in reaching younger members and people

without a church background. Michael Higdon, Hope Church's worship leader, added that contemporary does not necessarily mean technically complicated. Seeking to keep the worship format simple, Higdon said, "We're just trying to take people into the presence of God."

■ **Blended.** Steve Gray, minister of music and worship at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, said his congregation's blended worship style incorporates hymns, choruses and other worship elements. "We want to use everything God has given us," he explained.

As churches throughout the commonwealth practice diverse worship styles, KBC church growth team leader Vernon Cole said, "The biggest issue is the seriousness with which they worship rather than going through the motions. If they say it with heart and meaning and intentionality, that's a major step forward." Amen.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## If your friend says, 'I'm gay'

By Tim Wilkins

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—If a friend confides, "I'm gay," it can precipitate an avalanche of emotions.

Your initial and subsequent responses will accomplish one of two things—distance the friend from you or draw the friend toward you.

Here are five suggestions:

■ **Express grief with, not anger toward, your friend.** "Be angry, and do not sin," Ephesians 4:26 says. Grief and anger are

natural. Where we often need help is knowing when to express each. Grief typically is expressed alone, while anger often is expressed directly at the homosexual friend. I suggest you switch these.

Grieve with your friend. "Mourn with those who mourn," Romans 12:15 counsels. Let your friend know you hurt with him, not because of him. Express anger toward the deception in homosexuality. Remember, in most cases your friend has been battling this alone longer than you have known about it.

■ **Display encouragement, not embarrassment.** Embarrassment frustrates the healing process. A preoccupation with "What will people say?" should be immaterial. If it is difficult to discuss the issue, remember Richard Lovelace's advice in his book,

"Homosexuality and the Church": "Persons who are compulsively uneasy, fearful or filled with hatred when relating to persons involved in sexual sin ... need a releasing work of the Holy Spirit, freeing their own sexual natures, building in them a sense of security which will permit them to express Christian love while standing firm against impurity."

Jesus was not embarrassed with the woman at the well, the one who was "taken in adultery" or the one who anointed Him (John 4 and 8, Luke 7). Jesus, for example, talked with the first woman rather than writing her a long letter as some do to their homosexual friends. Neither did Jesus send her a message through another person.

■ **Communicate love physically, not just verbally.** Recoiling from your friend exacerbates the problem. Why? A component of homosexuality is an inability to develop appropriate same-sex friendships. Place a firm hand on your friend's shoulder; give him or her a bear hug.

As I have said repeatedly, when I see Christ face to face I am not going to extend my hand in business fashion and say, "Pleased to meet you."

■ **Cultivate an "open-door policy" rather than a "case-closed mentality."** If you communicate, "I refuse any more discussion on the matter," you

essentially are saying, "I don't want to hear about your pain and confusion."

Buy good books on the subject and read. Though tempted to give them to your friend, don't, unless you get his or her permission. If the friend asks you to read something supporting homosexuality, do it; it won't hurt you. What better way to learn of the arguments that condone homosexuality and to be able to respond biblically and compassionately? Reading your friend's literature communicates earnestness and will make him or her more receptive to reading literature you recommend.

Talk with, not to, your friend; resist lecturing. Your friendship is a two-way street; create an atmosphere where your friend could tell you anything and you never blink an eye—unless it is a time when you and your friend are weeping together.

■ **Emphasize becoming Christ's disciple rather than "how not to be gay."** Refuse the temptation to try to convert your homosexual friend to heterosexuality. "All you need to do is marry, settle down and everything will work out" is disastrous advice.

Heterosexuality is not the goal—becoming more like Jesus is! As discipleship occurs, the same-sex attractions diminish and in many cases, but not all, opposite-sex attractions emerge.

Tim Wilkins, a former homosexual, is the director of Cross Ministry in Wake Forest, N.C.

# WORSHIP

## Prof: Traditional churches can still boost worship experience

BOWLING GREEN—Even smaller churches can find ways to enrich their traditional-style worship, according to Lester Ruth, a worship professor at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore.

Ruth said essential elements in effective worship include being filled with the Holy Spirit, bathing worship services in prayer, pursuing quality fellowship and maintaining true God-attentiveness.

"This is one of the real strengths of traditional worship that is done well—the awe of being in God's presence," he said.

"Between creativity and stableness, generally the quality you want to emphasize in traditional worship is stableness," Ruth explained. The "unchanging quality" of traditional worship "creates a sense of tradition," he said.

But worship leaders should seek to "take the stableness and allow eternity to shine through it," he added.

Other ways to enhance traditional worship, he said, are to:

- **Consider the appropriate pace of the service.** "The appropriate pace for traditional worship is an orderliness, a reverential, respectful unfolding. ... That's part of the beauty and the majesty of the services."

- **Use dramatic reading of Scripture.**

- **Provide more times of prayer and more kinds of prayer.**

"The book of Psalms ought to be our guide here," Ruth suggested, citing such types of prayer as praise, thanksgiving, lament, intercession and supplication.

- **Increase the "sign value" of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.** "Be attentive to the quality and the quantity of the signs," he said, seeking to bring fresh insight to age-old rituals.

- **Learn new hymns and occasionally use alternative choruses when appropriate.**

Trennis Henderson

## Speaker: Children's worship not kid's play

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—Too many churches treat children's worship as a casual activity instead of a serious responsibility, according to child education specialist.

"Jesus felt children were important and we should, too," said Marilyn Goodwin, director of a childhood development center at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

### Worship WITHOUT Warfare

"Children are the future. Sometimes we only have one opportunity to share Christ with them. The things they learn now they will remember as teenagers," said

Goodwin, whose husband is pastor of Salem Baptist Church.

Children's sermons are one way to emphasize spiritual lessons. Such sermons are common in smaller churches that don't have enough staff or volunteers to conduct a separate children's church service, she said.

But pastors or teachers who lead these sermons should remember to aim the message at the children.

A common mistake pastors make is preaching to adults through a children's sermon, Goodwin said. "But they forget that the children may not understand" certain words or ideas aimed at adults.

Such sermons must be short, between five and seven minutes. A good rule of thumb is that a child's attention span equals one minute for every

year of age, she said.

Messages also must be direct and concrete. Goodwin said one of the biggest mistakes she observes is adults using an object to represent something else. Children, who don't reason abstractly, then fail to get the point, she said.

Adults should be sensitive to shy children when bringing them to the front of the sanctuary for a children's sermon, she said. Calling them forward during a song can lessen the feeling they are in the spotlight; so will seating them with their backs to the congregation.

Goodwin said leaders should relate Bible stories accurately so children don't have to later "re-learn" certain truths. Other tools can be used in sermons, she added, such as personal testimonies, historical stories or current events.

Props—like pictures, puppets or someone portraying a Bible character—are effective ways to vary presentations, she said.

"Children have great imaginations," added Goodwin, who has led children's church services. "One way they learn and grow is through their imaginations. I never want to stifle that creativity."

Church leaders should be more intentional in teaching children about worship, she said, including patiently explaining its practices.

"If we don't let them ask questions and explain things, they don't learn," she said. "This will affect them later on. It's an awesome responsibility to

teach children about worship."

If a church offers a children's worship service, the age when a child is ready to worship with adults will depend on his or her maturity level and parental preference, she said.

If parents think a child is ready to attend, they should explain unfamiliar customs, like the offering, Communion and baptism. A baptism could be scary to a child, Goodwin noted. Parents could make the topic more familiar by letting a child look at the baptistry and touch the water before a service, she said.

When a child will attend a service, it helps to know sermon topics in advance, she said. She recalled visiting a church where the pastor discussed sexual purity and marriage.

"Some of his illustrations were embarrassing to me, as a married person," she said. "I always tell my husband to be careful what illustrations he uses because children are in our services."

Regardless of the setting, adults should remember the ways children learn, she said. Options include: playing, repeating songs and lessons, doing things to reinforce a lesson, imitating their elders and curiosity.

### SBC YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED

Spring/Summer Mission trips to NC Coast; Appalachia; Toronto; and 8 metro cities. Package includes most meals, lodging & assignments.

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800 299-0385 www.yom.org

## Pastor offers ideas to improve invitation time

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—Testimonies, prayer and intentional preaching set the stage for successful invitations at the close of worship services, according to a leader at one of Bowling Green's largest churches.

All the elements in a service should contribute toward the goal of leading people into a deeper spiritual relationship, said Scott Kilgore, executive pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church. The invitation represents the crucial climax to this process, he added.

"Often we treat an invitation like an addendum. 'OK, we're over. Now, how do I wrap this up?'" Kilgore told pastors during a workshop at the Church Health Summit, Oct. 11-12.

"What is your desired outcome?" he asked. "I want to encourage people to encounter the Holy Spirit. But has there been praise, thanksgiving, confession and testimony? In hearing testimonies, people can say, 'I need that too. How do I encounter the same, living Jesus Christ?'"

Prayer includes behind-the-scenes effort, he said. At Living Hope, a prayer team meets in a separate room during every worship service to pray for the pastor and that nothing would inhibit the work of the Holy Spirit.

Some church prayer teams go into the sanctuary before a service, praying that God will move in people's hearts, he added.

"If we believe the invitation is a mystical moment, we also believe prayer is an important

part of that," Kilgore said. "Another element in prayer is expectation. ... If we expect to see the Holy Spirit move, we'll see Him in subtle nuances during the service."

He also advised churches to prepare leaders to respond to calls for prayer, repentance or other decisions.

In many churches the altar has become a foreboding, distant place, Kilgore noted. He recalled preaching at a revival meeting in which nobody responded to his invitation to come to the altar to pray for that church's ministries.

"There's nothing lonelier than an empty altar," he said. "At Living Hope, we try to make our altar accessible—a warm, welcoming, open place, not a place of judgment. We need to show people this isn't just a place for non-Christians. This is a place Christians go who want to be serious about their walk with God."

Churches need trained decision counselors to talk and pray with people who respond to invitations, Kilgore said.

Living Hope uses deacons, women's ministry leaders and children's workers, he noted. Whoever a church appoints, it is important that they be trained to make sure people seeking baptism or membership have accepted Christ as Savior and identify with certain beliefs and policies, he said.

"High expectation churches are seeing growth because of excitement and a high level of commitment," Kilgore said. "We're unapologetically Baptist. We tell people what is expected of them and make sure that they believe what we do."

## Gift planning now

These are not the best of times, nor are they the worst of times. We want to help you in your charitable gift planning for times like these.

I want you to know we do not take the "one-size-fits-all" approach in our charitable gift planning consultation service. We recognize each person's situation and interests are different and must be addressed in ways that accomplish that person's goals.

According to planned giving expert, Robert Sharpe Jr., charitable giving historically does not decline much overall during periods of recession, because donors to most causes tend to be drawn from the ranks of older people. A retired person cannot lose his or her job, but a younger person, with less seniority on the job, is more vulnerable than an older person during recessions.

People in their prime earning years actually might increase their giving during recessions, according to Sharpe, because they cut back in luxury expenses and use those funds for other purposes, one of which may be a charitable gift.

Wealthier people of all ages, who give from capital resources and from investments, may not be in a position this year to make the gifts they would like to make.

However, some of them who cashed out of the equity markets before the decline and reinvested in bonds and cash may have more wealth than ever. As a result, they should be able to continue to make significant gifts.

The gift of an appreciated bond is as good as a gift of appreciated stock. Others, who have owned particular stocks and/or real

estate for long periods of time still have accumulated gains and still could make gifts of those appreciated assets.

Perhaps you have a desire to give more, but feel hampered by lower interest rates. Perhaps you are concerned about providing an inheritance for your children.

As strange as it might seem, now could be the time for you to make a gift that could result in increased income that cannot shrink and that you cannot outlive, and a tax-free inheritance for your loved ones. Let us help you navigate the noise in your gift planning now.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

# SMILE

## God 'interrupted'

You pastors reading this column know that ministry is more than preaching and Bible study. Each day seems to be filled with its own set of crises.

To be sure, preaching and Bible study are extremely vital to any ministry. But things have a way of interrupting. Sometimes a crisis cuts short sermon preparations, or prayer requests take up most of the Bible study time, but Jesus understands. Just read the first chapter of Mark.

Jesus begins His ministry of preaching and immediately a man with an unclean spirit interrupts His sermon. Jesus leaves to go to Simon Peter's house and there He has to take care of Peter's sick mother-in-law. He then has to deal with the personal problems of the whole community. Jesus finally finds some quiet time early the next morning before taking off to do more preaching, but He is interrupted immediately by a leper.

Funny thing is, it almost seems as if Jesus actually welcomed all of the interruptions.

You see, Jesus could not simply preach. Why? Because His compassion for each individual compelled Him to stop and minister to his or her particular need. And it is at those

interruptions that we have most of our best images of the love God has for each of us. Often they proved to be the best "teachable moments" for the day, as well.

Our ministry here at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is a ministry of interruptions. It is a ministry of "teachable moments." Yes, our kids have the opportunity to hear good preaching, participate in Bible studies and attend various Christian events. Nevertheless, it is the day-in and day-out, crisis-to-crisis ministry of compassion that dominates what we do. Simply put, it is the way Jesus did it.

In the midst of all of these interruptions, Jesus has shown us what we need to do to be ready for crises when they come. He took the time to be alone with the Father. Prayer is the way to maintain our spiritual focus in the midst of life's turmoil. As KBHC prays, I ask you to join us. This is a ministry of the compassion of Christ. Thank you for being part of it.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Mike Dixon

Mike Dixon is vice president of religious life at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Contact KBHC at (800) 456-1386 or [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org).

## Sharing the gospel in Paris

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College junior Josh Benton, son of Frank and Nancy Benton of Hartford, spent two weeks of his summer in Paris. He originally had applied for a mission trip to Kazakhstan, but that trip fell through after Sept. 11, 2001. He applied for and was accepted for the Paris team.

Each morning, team members formed small teams of two to three females and one male. Each small team went to public housing projects to place books in the mail boxes. Many people from North Africa and the Middle East have immigrated to Paris and live in public housing. The books the team members placed in the mail boxes primarily were children's books but were perfect for individuals who were just learning French.

In the afternoons, Benton worked with kids clubs. As one of the few males on the team, he often found himself acting out the Bible stories, which focused on the life of Joseph. Since he did not know French, he learned to listen for different inflections and verbal cues to know what was happening in the story.

The best part of the experience

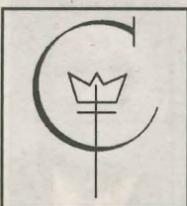
for Benton was the opportunity to work with a 14-year-old boy. The boy was the oldest of six children and his father had forbidden his children to attend the kids club. The boy came anyway and sat at the top of a hill where he could see and hear what was happening. Benton brought the day's crafts to him and spent one-on-one time with the boy doing crafts, practicing English and playing soccer.

Benton enjoyed working with the career missionaries in Paris. They told the team members they hoped "the distribution of the books will touch not just the Muslims but the French and that Jesus, the real Light, will take over and really make Paris the 'City of Light.'"

Benton, a political science major, plans to attend law school after graduating from Cumberland College. We know he will continue to make an impact for Christ.

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

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

## Bible Crossword

Sissy Magnusson

### Across

- The poor godly man in Christ's parable (Luke 16:20)
- This liquid when new is not put in old bottles (Mark 2:22)
- Printer's measure
- Burying this was a mistake (Matthew 25:15-28)
- Foolish man built his house on this (Matthew 7:26)
- Half-way
- Before, prefix
- The Lord promised that though our sins be scarlet, they shall be white \_\_\_\_\_ snow.
- Bear-like animal related to the raccoon
- Each, abbr.
- Jesus is God's only begotten (John 3:16)
- Jesus told a story about 5 wise and 5 foolish (Matthew 25:1-2)
- Hello
- Underling
- Shade tree (Hosea 4:13)
- What the disciples fished with (Matthew 13:47)
- Finished first
- City in the Netherlands famous for its cheese
- No one puts this kind of cloth into an old garment (Mark 2:21)
- A day's wage for a hired laborer (Matthew 20:2)
- The enemy sowed these among the wheat (Matthew 13:25)
- Thanks, Br.
- Discharged a firearm
- Hush!
- Encountered
- Egyptian sun god

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- Full of wonder
- We shouldn't put this under a bushel (Mark 4:21)
- Sick
- The wise man built on this (Luke 6:48)
- In Christ's story, the father threw a party for this son (Luke 15:11-32)

- Yearned
- Article that precedes a vowel
- The wise took this for their lamps (Matthew 25:4)
- Jesus spoke of laborers in this place (Matthew 20:1)
- One who scatters seed (Mark 4:3)
- "A certain \_\_\_\_\_ made a great supper" (Luke 14:16)
- In debt
- Nathan, for short
- Bible part that contains the Gospels, Epistles, and Revelation, abbr.
- Pulled
- "True worshippers \_\_\_\_\_ worship the Father in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23)
- Laughter syllable
- Environment, prefix
- Tactical Air Command, abbr.
- European mountain
- Delve
- "Unforgettable" Cole, first initials
- Son of Jose (Luke 3:28-29)
- Californian city, abbr.

### Down

- The shepherd left the 99 for this (Matthew 18:11-12) (2 words)
- Town in Judah (Joshua 15:37)
- No ifs, \_\_\_\_\_, or buts
- Salt Lake's state, abbr.
- The Jews ostracized these people (John 4:9)
- Jesus told a parable about a king who invited people to this kind of celebration
- Surrounded by
- Normal temperature and pressure, abbr.
- A dialect
- Biblical term for yeast (Matthew 13:33)
- Do over again, prefix

### Last week's solution

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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **House reaffirms "under God" in pledge.** The U.S. House of Representatives has voted overwhelmingly to reaffirm the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The House approved the measure, which also reaffirms "In God we trust" as the national motto, in a 401-5 vote Oct. 8. The Senate approved similar legislation by a 99-0 vote in late June. The congressional action came in response to a June 26 opinion by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the pledge violates the Constitution because it includes the words "under God." Widespread disapproval greeted the court's ruling, and the judges stayed enforcement of the decision.

■ **Religious leaders urge caution on war.** As Congress approved a resolution for war in Iraq, a broad coalition of religious and secular leaders, led by the National Council of Churches, urged caution and restraint. "We're just hoping that sounder heads will prevail," said former Pennsylvania congressman Bob Edgar, president of the National Council of Churches, which represents 36 of the country's major Protestant and Orthodox denominations. In recent weeks, the NCC has helped mobilize protests, prayer vigils, news conferences and lobbying efforts in the capital against the push for war.

■ **Sermon titles too explicit?** Some parents are protesting suggestive sermon titles on the signboard at a metro-Atlanta church. "Tough Love in Dealing with Raunchy Sex" was a recent Sunday's topic at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Another: "Mixing Jesus with Sex in the City," referring to the HBO television series. Pastor Bryant Wright, who is preaching a "tough contemporary issues" series at his 6,000-member church, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper: "I hope every title creates interest in the community." Church receptionists said they've received about 30 phone complaints, mostly from nonmembers.

## Missions & Evangelism *Touch of Gray*

With A

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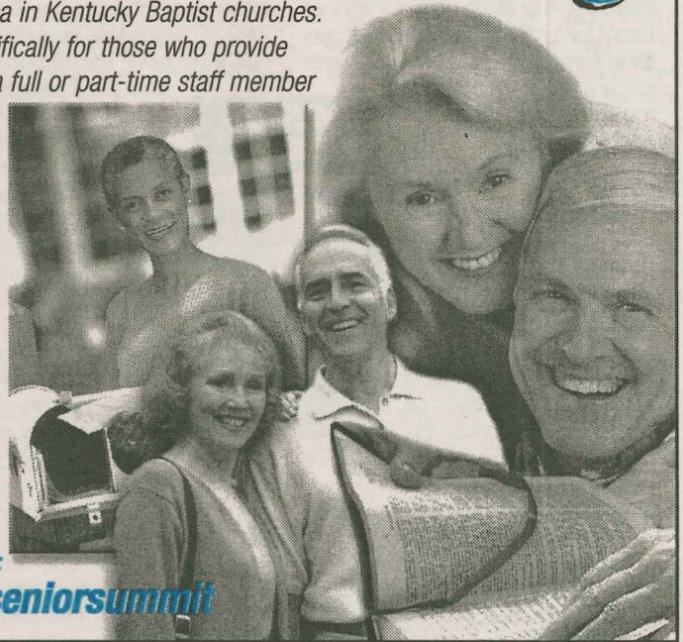


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## 'I thank my God upon every remembrance of you'

I find it difficult to get excited about some things. A trip to the dentist, April 15 and buying a meaningful gift for my wife are not things I usually look forward to.

When I read Paul's words to the Philippians, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you," I can identify with his feelings of gratitude. One of my most thankful moments is thinking of our volunteers.

I have written several times in previous articles about the crucial role volunteers play in our ongoing ministry. While we have volunteers all year long, April through October are our busiest months. These talented folks bring with them a devotion and enthusiasm that are appreciated and encouraging.

Each year, one of my most difficult challenges is deciding which projects have the greatest priority. At times the decision is relatively easy since the man-hours and total costs are somewhat minimal. Yet there is always a host of projects that will be costly and will require a lot of labor and expertise.

We typically avoid using outside labor sources because of the high costs. By using our staff and volunteers, we save tens of thousands of dollars each year. Volunteers provide a vast labor pool and bring with them invaluable skills. We benefit from volunteers who spend from a few days to several weeks with us. It is our pleasure to provide their meals and lodging, and we are blessed with the work of their hands and minds.

Each group brings its own mixture of skills which can be used on the farm, with maintenance and construction, in the print shop, in our used clothing store, in the food pantry and in a host of other places. Our cheerful and eager volunteer

friends are willing to tackle about any problem. All we have to do is to tell them what the need is and how we want it done. Within minutes the men and women go to work. The intensity with which they work is truly amazing. Many of our volunteers are retired or semi-retired people. In spite of aches and pains and an assortment of other physical problems, they toil as if they were being paid \$30 an hour.

This year we have had volunteers from more than a dozen states, including California. We are abundantly blessed with groups from all across Kentucky, too. This week is typical. We have several groups working on a dozen different projects: putting a new roof on our middle school building, installing a new heating system for our indoor pool, painting rest rooms and the newly remodeled younger boys' dorm. Others are helping on the farm, harvesting our corn crop for silage or for our grain bins. Two men are repairing three disabled vans. Six men are replacing a large section of our most used sidewalk. The new sidewalk will be level, much wider,

straight and will provide a bypass to shorten the distance our students have to walk. It will be a great improvement to our campus.

Most of these projects either would have to be done with expensive outside labor or would have to wait until the need was more critical if it were not for our volunteers.

Like Paul, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you." Volunteers, what would we do without them?

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

**THIS IS ONEIDA**



W.F. Underwood

## A former firefighter still helps save lives

"Next to ministry, firefighting is the greatest job in the world," Danny Reed said. "Many people see firemen playing checkers at the station and think it's an easy job. Before Sept. 11, people didn't realize that firemen put their lives on the line for others every day. In New York they went into the buildings to get people out without reservation or thought of self-protection. I look back and think of what I did with a wife and three babies at home."

It wasn't easy for Reed to leave the work of a firefighter after nearly 11 years to accept the call of ministry. "I prayed that the Lord would take the love of the job away from me," Reed said. "It was so difficult to leave a job where you live with the guys 24 hours a day. I

en me a desire to see lost souls saved," Reed stated. "Without a doubt, He's told me to do that."

Several models of Christian commitment encouraged the Oklahoma native to follow God's will. "The biggest influence was my dad, a firefighter in Oklahoma City for 25 years. I grew up in a great Christian home. Next to my wife and the Lord Jesus Christ, my dad is my greatest friend and influence. My older brother is a bivocational pastor and firefighter in Moore,

Okla.," Reed said. "I am so thankful for the ministry examples of Clear Creek alumni Ted Wilson and Bob Willis."

Reed was on duty the day the Murrah Federal Building was bombed. "I saw things no one should ever have to go through. Yet God taught me much about compassion and loving people. It was

10 days I will never forget and pray I'll never see again. I still think back on those who lost people, and those we dug out. To see their faces rekindles compassion." Some of Reed's memories came back with Sept. 11. His brother assisted with closing ceremonies at Ground Zero in New York.

"God has called me to preach His Word. More importantly He has given me a desire to see lost souls saved," Reed stated. "Without a doubt, He's told me to do that."

**CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE**



Bill Whittaker

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

# KENTUCKY

## Mennonites help boost Baptist church's morale, ministry

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

PROVIDENCE—Mennonite volunteers are nearing completion of the 10th home they have rebuilt since a tornado swept through this Western Kentucky coal town in late April.

Their presence has not only helped area residents but also boosted the morale of the members at First Baptist Church of Providence and improved that congregation's name in the community, according to Pastor Alan McCutchen.

"This church used to be the standard First Baptist," said McCutchen, pastor since the spring of 2000. "We had the professional people and those with political clout. Now we're mostly senior citizens.

"But some families have started coming to church because we're doing things again. We've had people who would never darken the doors of a church come because Mennonites worked on their house."

The rebuilding began July 8 under the auspices of the Mennonites' Christian Aid Ministries. While most volunteers have come from that denomination, McCutchen said First Baptist members have helped several home owners with finishing touches, like drywall and carpet installation.

The pastor and two church members have also served on an ad hoc citizens committee formed to distribute \$100,000 in donations received after the storm damaged about 330 homes April 28.

Previously averaging more than 250 people in Sunday attendance



**JOINT WORSHIP** Daniel and Mary Etta Miller (center), Mennonite volunteers working in Providence, attend the "Celebration of Hope" service at First Baptist Church of Providence Sept. 29. First Baptist has hosted the Mennonite volunteers, who are rebuilding houses damaged by an April tornado.

since the mid-1970s, First Baptist has steadily dwindled. But during the past three months, Sunday morning turnouts have increased by 10 people, to 85. Two children were recently baptized, McCutchen said.

"This has been one of the most wonderful experiences I've ever had," he said. "I've never been around people who give so much of themselves, their energy, time and resources. These Mennonites live their faith."

So do Kentucky Baptists, he added, mentioning his gratitude for 75 disaster relief volunteers who cut trees, cleaned up debris and fed victims immediately after the tornado.

Still, there was something special

about a long-term volunteer presence, McCutchen said. The Mennonite agency didn't arrive until homeowners received emergency federal grants and other assistance so they could buy materials.

"These guys I've worked with for three months I've learned to love like brothers," said McCutchen, a Louisville native. "I've been so used to having them in church. When they're gone, it's going to be like a ghost town around here."

The workers hope to complete the final home by Oct. 18, with several additional days needed to wrap up operations, according to project coordinator Daniel Miller.

He estimated 200 different people from eight states and Canada participated, including a number from the region who returned several times.

A resident of Harrison, Ark., the semi-retired carpenter serves as one of six project coordinators who respond to various disasters. This was his sixth assignment the past three years, but the first time he's visited Kentucky.

Miller said he's appreciated the friendly reception, which included a community worship service Sept. 29. Featuring a Mennonite youth choir from Franklin, the event attracted a capacity crowd of 450 to First Baptist.

"They've been a loving people and an asset to us here," Miller said. "We appreciate their friendship and kinship."

Founded in 1981, Christian Aid Ministries is based in the Akron, Ohio area. The group is familiar to residents of Falmouth, where they rebuilt 50 homes after the 1997 flood.

Miller said the group concentrates on helping people with inadequate or no insurance, particularly those unable to help themselves, such as the handicapped, single mothers and elderly.

While building houses and several porches, the project also tore down denominational barriers.

"You couldn't split a hair between what they believe and what we believe," McCutchen said. "This has also brought our community together. Eight other churches canceled Sunday evening services to come to the (Sept. 29) service. I hope to see that willingness to work together grow in the future."

## Kentucky Ten Commandments display unlawful, court rules

By Joseph Gerth  
Louisville Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT—A federal appeals court ruled Oct. 9 that a law adopted by the Kentucky legislature in 2000 requiring the erection of a Ten Commandments monument outside the Capitol is unconstitutional.

The 2-1 decision by a panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that the monument was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

In his majority opinion, Chief Judge Boyce Martin said the words atop the monument—"I am the Lord thy God"—undercut the state's claim that the display is secular.

"The graphic emphasis on those first lines is rather hard to square with the proposition that the monument expresses no particular religious preference," Martin wrote.

No decision has been made on whether the state will appeal, said Jill Midkiff, spokeswoman for the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

The monument law was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky.

"The court has once again upheld the fundamental American value of religious freedom," said Jeff Vessels, state ACLU executive director.

Sen. Albert Robinson, R-London,

the original sponsor of the Ten Commandments measure, blamed the ruling on "liberal judges" and said he's working on a display plan that he believes would be constitutional.

The 6-foot-2 granite monument originally was erected in 1971 after it was donated to the state by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. It was removed in the 1980s for a construction project and has been in storage.

The push to restore it followed local efforts to post Ten Commandments displays in schools and courthouses. The law called for making the monument part of a larger "cultural and historical display" that would include other items, including monuments to former officials and veterans.

Some legislators argued the monument isn't religious because the Ten Commandments was the "precedent" legal code for American laws. But the appeals court rejected that.

Martin said lawmakers overlooked the impact of other codes such as the Magna Carta. He also said the size of the monument would make it appear the state not only endorsed religion but believed it to be highly important.

In a dissent, Judge Alice Batchelder said the case wasn't ripe for review since the monument has not been erected.

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## Festival outreach



Volunteers from Four Rivers Church of Paducah staff the hospitality tent during the city's "Bar-B-Que on the River" festival. Four Rivers was an official sponsor for the hospitality tent during the event, Sept. 27-28. Pastor Brad Henson said being in the middle of the large festival gives the church a high-impact, low-cost outreach opportunity. Church volunteers distributed more than 13,000 "wet-nap" packs. "When we participate in an event like Bar-B-Que on the River, we do so to show the love of Jesus in a practical way. When someone is hot and tired and needs a place to sit down in the shade, we want to give it to them in order to show them the love of Jesus," Henson said. "We want to serve the city of Paducah in such a way that people can see an authentic display of the love of Jesus."

# 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:

■ Baptist representative Kara Kelley, a nurse in Bucharest, Romania, as she writes an educational booklet designed for people with hypertension. At the end of the booklet, which she is writing in Romanian, Kelley will include an invitation for readers to phone a local pastor if they have more questions about "how to have a healthy life the way God designed," she writes.

■ Missionary Journeyman Jessica Dowdy as she resumes teaching written English to deaf high schoolers in the Czech Republic. On the last day of school in June, several students asked questions about Jesus. Pray that Dowdy will have opportunities to share Jesus with each of her students this year. Pray especially for "E" and "M," she writes.

■ Missionaries in Silesia, Poland, as they turn more of the work over to Polish believers.

■ An interim pastor for International Baptist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria, from mid-January to mid-April. Missionary Pastor James Duke and his wife, Audrey, will be on stateside assignment then.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BEREA**—Fellowship Church called **Rodney Chrisman** as pastor.

■ **BURLINGTON**—Woodhaven Church recently honored Pastor **Walter Huette** for 50 years in ministry. He began his ministry in Bur-  
gin in 1952.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church ordained **Lloyd Foe** and **Louis Powell** as deacons.

Crestwood Church ordained **Sam Dunkle**, **Clint Elliott**, **Geoff Graham**, **Rick Hardin**, **Gayle Johnson**, **Rusti Morrison**, **Wayne Pifer**, **Randy Spiars** and **Bill White** as deacons Sept. 29.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Concord Church will hold revival services Oct. 18-19 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 20 at 11 a.m., concluding with dinner on the grounds. Evangelist **Michah Carter** will be the speaker. For information, call (502) 484-5071. **Travis Fleming** is pastor.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church ordained **Oliver Snyder** to the gospel ministry Aug. 25.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Greensburg Church called **Ferrill Gardner** as interim pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Audubon Church called **John Charles** as full-time minister.

Calvary Missionary Church called **Don Taylor** as minister of music.

Hyland Church called **John**

**Gaters** as minister of music and education.

Watson Lane Church called **Shannon Long** as pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold a revival on prayer Oct. 27-30, led by **Richard Burr**. **Rodney Travis** is pastor.

■ **LA GRANGE**—Eighteen Mile Church called **Joshua Adams** as youth director Sept. 15.

■ **LEBANON JUNCTION**—First Church called **Thomas Wicker** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Russell Cave Road Church recently ordained Pastor **Bryan Dupuis** to the gospel ministry.

Victory Church called **Wally Vinson** as minister of students and discipleship. **Mike James** is pastor.

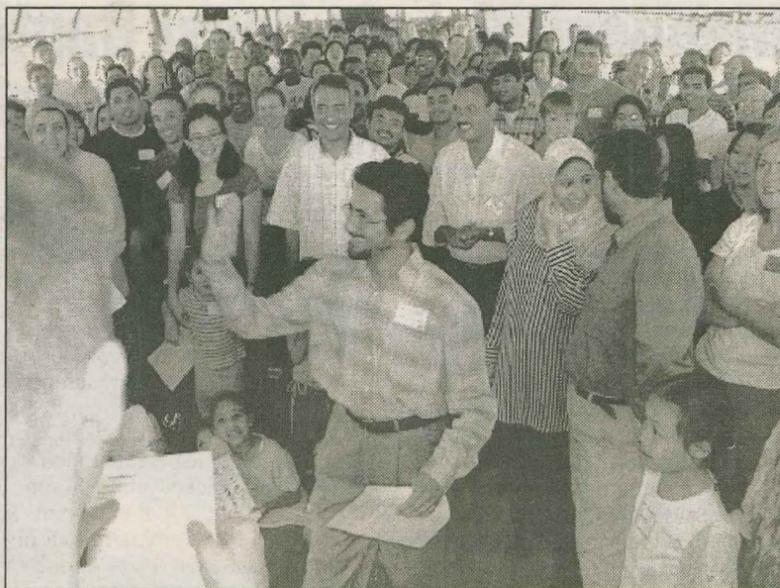
■ **LIVINGSTON**—**Steve Weaver** recently resigned as pastor of Pleasant Run Church.

■ **LONDON**—New Salem Church ordained **Matthew Howe** Oct. 13 as youth pastor. **John Woods** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church called **Karen Strader** as director of preschool/kindergarten.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Baltimore Church called **Jess Alford** as pastor.

**David Whaley** resigned as minister of music at First Church to become minister of music at Calvary Church in Jackson, Tenn.



**FRIENDSHIP CRUISE** More than 500 international students and family members from 50 countries took part in a recent International Student Friendship Cruise on the Belle of Louisville. Tommy Johnson, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's international student campus minister, said 160 participants signed up for American friendship families from area Baptist churches. The event was co-sponsored by the KBC collegiate ministry department, Long Run Baptist Association and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Missions Mobilization Center.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church ordained **Denny Jackson** as a deacon Oct. 13.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—Kings Church called **Jeffrey Atkins** as minister of recreation and activities. **Michael Hail** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church ordained **Martin Hughes**, **Jeff Richard** and **Bart Schofield** as deacons Sept. 29. **Dan Summerlin**

is pastor.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—Union Church celebrated its 192nd anniversary Oct. 6.

■ **SEBREE**—**Steve Steiner** resigned as youth minister at First Church.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Plum Creek called **Darrin Morgan** as youth minister Sept. 15. **Richard Graham** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**FOR SALE:** Like-new fitness equipment. Four Cybex 410T treadmills. Light commercial grade; only two years old. \$1,500 each. Contact Jeff Story, Calvary Baptist Church, (859) 232-8955, or e-mail jeff@calvaryroc.com.

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**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. West Broadway Baptist Church is seeking God's anointed to lead our church. WBBC is a growing, loving church averaging 275 in worship and 200 in Sunday school. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

**SEEKING:** Glen's Creek Baptist Church in Versailles, Ky., is seeking a bivocational (part-time) or full-time minister. College/seminary degree a plus. Salary based on education and experience; parsonage available. Interested candidates should submit resumé and references to: Search Committee, Glen's Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 543, Versailles, KY 40383. Resumés will be accepted until 10-31-2002.

**SEEKING:** Associate pastor of education and administration for Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green. Rich Pond is a growing church in a growing community. Send resumé and references to: Personnel Committee, Rich Pond Baptist Church, 200 Brad Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and children with an emphasis on youth. Experience preferred. Send resumé to: Berea Baptist Church, 310 Chestnut St., Berea, KY 40403. For more information, call (859) 986-9391.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Send resumé to: FCBC, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time administrative assistant for Long Run Baptist Association, Louisville, Ky. For more info., see www.longrunbaptist.org.

**SEEKING:** Pastor. Union Baptist Church, located 25 minutes south of Cincinnati, Ohio, in Northern Kentucky, offers the best of both worlds: the city with its culture and professional sports, and the rural/suburban lifestyle surrounded by rolling hills and pasturelands. UBC is looking for a pastor to take care of its flock of 265 in Sunday school attendance (high Sundays—more than 400). This 100-plus-year-old Southern Baptist church has a new (2-year) 500-seat sanctuary ready for its next pastor. Please send resumé and tape to: Union Baptist Church, U.S. 42 and Mt. Zion Road, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091.

**SEEKING:** RNs, LPNs, CMAs and CNAs. Baptist Life Staffing Agency in Northern Kentucky is currently seeking caring professionals to provide quality medical services to our elderly in the long-term care industry. If you are interested in making top wages and the freedom of setting your own work schedule, we want you. For more information or to set up an interview, contact Malta Curtiss or Kristen Davis at (859) 491-4301.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, Ky. The church averages 125 in Sunday school and 160 in worship. If interested, send resumé to Ricky Holloway, 12978 Orndorff Mill Road, Olmstead, KY 42265.

**SEEKING:** Two full-time positions: associate pastor/education director; and children's minister (a new position). East Side Baptist Church, 718 E 9th St., Mountain Home, AR 72653.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Pinckard Baptist Church. Married couple preferred. Please send resumé to: Pinckard Baptist Church, 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Twelve Mile Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Twelve Mile Baptist Church, Box 131, California, KY 41007.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for rural church (SBC affiliation). Send resumé and references to: Search Committee, 425 Pope Ave., Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

**SEEKING:** Full-time children's minister (grades 1-6). Great benefits package. Experience and seminary a plus. Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK (suburb of Oklahoma City). Over 5,000 membership. E-mail resumé to: rushing@councilroad.org. Visit Web site at www.councilroad.org for additional church information.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor/minister for Grant's Lick Baptist Church, Campbell County, Ky. Send resumé to: Robert Miller (search committee chairman), 6098 Hissem Ave., Alexandria, KY 41001. Phone: (606) 635-7420.

**SEEKING:** Jamestown First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of students and associate pastor. Nestled on Lake Cumberland, JFB is seeking a minister who is called to reach students. Undergraduate degree a minimum. Exceptional financial package available. Serious inquiries only. Send resumé to: MSAP Search Committee, Jamestown First Baptist Church, PO Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629, or e-mail: jfb-mdm@duo-county.com.

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# MISSIONS

## Specialist: Sports ministry an outreach hit

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

HOUSTON (BP)—When Richland Creek Community Church decided to conduct a sports camp a few years ago, many of the church's own children could not attend.

Faced with a limited capacity, members chose to open the event primarily to children who might have no other opportunity to hear about Jesus.

The Wake Forest, N.C., church is one of the best examples of using sports ministry to focus on non-Christians rather than members, said Victor Lee, a sports ministry evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

"The first year, 17 kids received Christ, and over the course of the next year 17 parents or siblings of those family members came to Christ," Lee said during a recent conference workshop. "The point is to have a sports camp that intentionally targets lost

people. If you just target your kids, that's not intentionally reaching your audience."

Lee said sports is an ideal way to connect with unchurched people because 96 percent of the U.S. population is linked to sports in some way.



Lee

Sports camps can be as effective as vacation Bible schools in reaching unchurched children, Lee said.

At Richland, kids in a lower-income neighborhood would be picked up at 8 a.m. and brought home at 4 p.m. They

would receive training in four different sports each day—along with Christian teaching.

"They had the gospel shared in most of those classes in some way," Lee said.

Sports clinics offer a similar, more concentrated focus on just one sport—with participants rotating through different stations receiving pointers and training on particular skills. At the end of the clinic, the gospel is shared and participants are given an opportunity

to respond. He said as many as 15-20 percent of participants often make professions of faith.

"You work the two hours and 15 minutes to earn the right to do that 15 minutes," Lee said.

Sports teams and leagues also can be effective evangelism tools, but they work best when they are designed from the outset with evangelism as a priority, he said.

If all of the players on a softball team are Christians, for instance, he suggested joining a secular league to allow time for the Christians to build witnessing relationships with other players.

Another way to be intentionally evangelistic is to decide at the outset that a team have a specific number of "free agents" who aren't members of any church.

"You've got the course of the season to live your faith in front of them," Lee said. "We've got to open up our mentality. We have too many closed facilities for the God-squad only, and Jesus wouldn't even play in those places, I'm convinced."

## English Christians using Harry Potter as evangelism tool

LONDON (RNS)—Harry Potter and his wizardry might have been condemned by some religious conservatives and evangelicals, but church leaders in Britain are using author J.K. Rowling's creation to spread the Christian message.

A new booklet published by the ecumenical body Churches Together in England and Ireland says the Potter books, which have sold more than 90 million copies worldwide, illuminate the battle between good and evil.

It says the books, aimed at children but increasingly popular with older generations, "ask people to look again at the selfish material world and the presence within it of Christian values—truth, love and, supremely, self-giving and sacrifice."

The Potter publications have come under fire from some Christians in Britain and the United States, who deride Harry's wizardry and consider it a dangerous influence on children.

But Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey stamped his own seal of approval on Harry Potter earlier this year when he described the film as "great fun" as well as a "serious examination" of good and evil.

The new booklet said that Harry Potter was initially seen as "one of the powerless and the voiceless." It added that "in our sort of world, the selfish, materially driven world we live in, Harry is entirely unprivileged."

The booklet compares Harry's training to be an adult wizard with "a faith journey" filled with parables extolling the Christian values of truth, love and sacrifice.



**HURRICANE LILI** Hurricane Lili brought ashore heavy rains (more than 10 inches in some places) and 100 mile-per-hour winds when it hit land on Oct. 3. In addition to flooding, hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents were left without power. (NASA photo)

## Baptist ministry continues in wake of Hurricane Lili's damage

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—More than 30 Southern Baptist disaster relief units have given 700-plus days of volunteer labor to help southern Louisiana recover from back-to-back Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili.

The bulk of their activity now is focused on clearing trees and other debris.

"We're cutting trees, hauling brush, cutting logs, patching holes in houses, putting vinyl over them, putting tarps over them, just doing everything we can to stop the water from getting in," said Carl Nance, a unit director from Charlotte, N.C., whose crews have been working since Oct. 7 in Abbeville, La.

Through Oct. 9, 37 cleanup jobs had been completed, with 14 crews currently on the scene. Those crews are from South Carolina, Florida, Texas, Alabama (two units), North Carolina (five units), Arkansas and Tennessee (three units).

Seven mobile kitchens in Louisi-

ana had prepared 92,281 meals as of late Oct. 9. Counting a response in Mississippi that closed earlier in the week, the meal count for the entire operation stands at nearly 150,000.

Joel Phillips, off-site coordinator for the response based in Alpharetta, Ga., said he anticipates at least several more weeks of response.

"I suspect by the end of next week we will have shut down a couple more kitchens, and the cleanup will probably be at this or higher," he said. "And once the water gets out—because we're still waiting for the water—we'll probably be looking at mud-out."

Financial contributions designated for the disaster relief response may be sent to the North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022.

Contributions to the Louisiana Baptist Convention designated for disaster relief also may be sent to the LBC Men's Ministries Department, Box 311, Alexandria, LA 71309.

## Speaker: 'Three Es' help churches reach postmoderns

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

HOUSTON (BP)—These days the "three Es" are just as important as reason, relevance and reality when it comes to reaching unchurched Americans, according to a pastor whose church has successfully connected with postmodern people.

James Emery White told a recent conference audience that church leaders need to realize postmodernism is far more complex than simple generational differences.

"We took this massive cultural change that was sweeping our nation and our world, and we reduced it to a generational grouping," said White, pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, N.C. "We didn't know what else to do ... but postmodernism is bigger than that. It cuts across all ages."

The cultural shift has resulted in people who are deeply spiritual but with no perceived need for traditional Christianity or any other particular faith.

"It's not just that people are far away from Christ and His church in their life and knowledge," White said. "They no longer see their spiritual search even involving the discovery of any faith or religion."

He also described a shift in how cutting-edge churches operate. In the 1980s many of the nation's largest churches grew on what he called the three "R"s of reason, relevance and a need to be real and authentic.

Those are still essential, he said. But he also shared three "E"s of reaching postmoderns that have helped Mecklenburg gain 80 percent of its members from among the unchurched since it began 10 years ago:

■ **Explanation.** It is no longer sufficient to convince people that the resurrection occurred, for instance. "They say, 'resurrection, smessurrection—who cares? What does it have to do with my life?'" White said. The Bible is a complete unknown. "In the '80s and early '90s, they only needed the facts and the relevance of it. Today, they need to be introduced to it."

■ **Experience.** Worship must strike a deeper chord, and merely changing the style to reflect popular culture is no longer sufficient, White said. "They need to feel like they're getting something experiential that they cannot get out in the world," he said. "So it would be the greatest of ironies if they came to church wanting to touch the transcendent and got only the world."

■ **Example.** "At no time in recent history have models and mentors meant more," White said. "(The) churches of the '80s worked hard in terms of appearing to be real and authentic. Today we've got to go beyond that and present actual examples of a transformed life."

Cutting-edge churches was the topic of a recent conference co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Second Baptist Church of Houston. Many sessions are available through streaming video on the Internet at [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net).

Ed Young Jr., pastor of the Dallas-area Fellowship Church in Grapevine, shared how expanded creativity in worship—with a liberal dose of humor—can help churches be more effective with whatever styles and cultures they favor.

"We should never give a half-baked presentation of the bread of life," he said. "We should serve the food in the most compelling and creative way as possible. ... We've got to get out into the sunlight and hand out samples to the people who are passing by."

For best-selling author and Bible teacher Bruce Wilkinson, living on the cutting edge of church leadership involves being willing to lead boldly.

"All growth is past the cutting edge," Wilkinson said. "The reason so few of us get out of the boat is we face no burden for anything but our own comfort."

As in his successful book on the prayer of Jabez found in 1 Chronicles 4:10, Wilkinson challenged leaders to be bold in asking God for great things—and following through on the vision even when it means not being sure how it's going to be accomplished. "If I know how to get there, it's too small."



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