

November 12, 2002  
 Vol. 176, No. 44



See insert

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Baptists**

Rankin counters "myths" about IMB. Page 2.

**Kentucky**

Greenfield: Unity doesn't require "cookie-cutter" views. Page 3.

**Editorial**

Kentucky response to Baptist Faith & Message breeds unity. Page 5.

**Missions**

Missionaries own hockey team to reach unchurched. Page 17.

**Books**

"Jabez" author focus on Africa, AIDS and changed lives. Page 20.

**People**

100-year-old Baptist minister still spreading the gospel. Page 23.

**Leaders: Many small rural churches face uphill struggle**

By Ken Walker  
 State Correspondent

COLUMBIA—Bobby Loy's roots at Pierce's Chapel Baptist Church stretch back to 1888, the year his grandfather's family helped start the rural congregation. Two generations later, Loy served as treasurer, deacon and song leader.

He fondly recalls the 1960s and '70s, when attendance peaked at 45, including many children. From there it steadily declined. By the time the doors closed at the end of 2000, Sunday turnouts averaged about a dozen.

Sadly, the end came just several years after members spent \$25,000 adding a 12-by-36 room on the back for a kitchen and the first-ever indoor bathrooms.

"Everything runs its course and it ran its course," said Loy, who continues to maintain church records and mow the grass. "You hate to see it, but what can you do? You can't make people go to church."

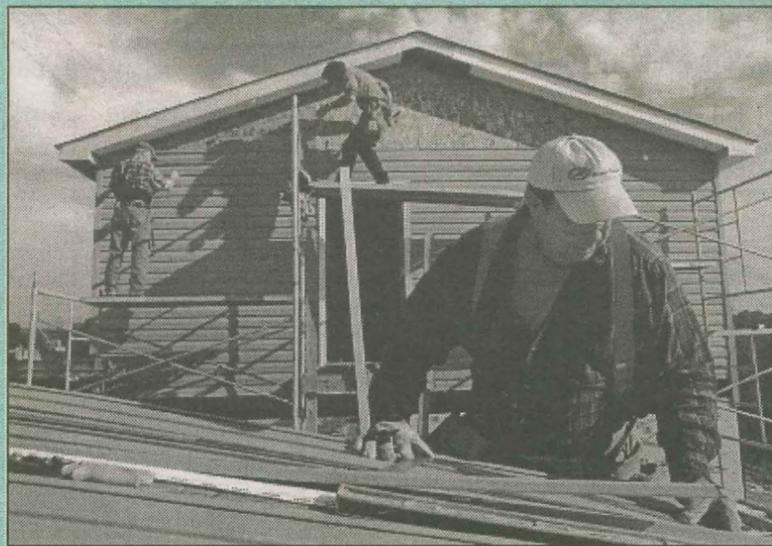
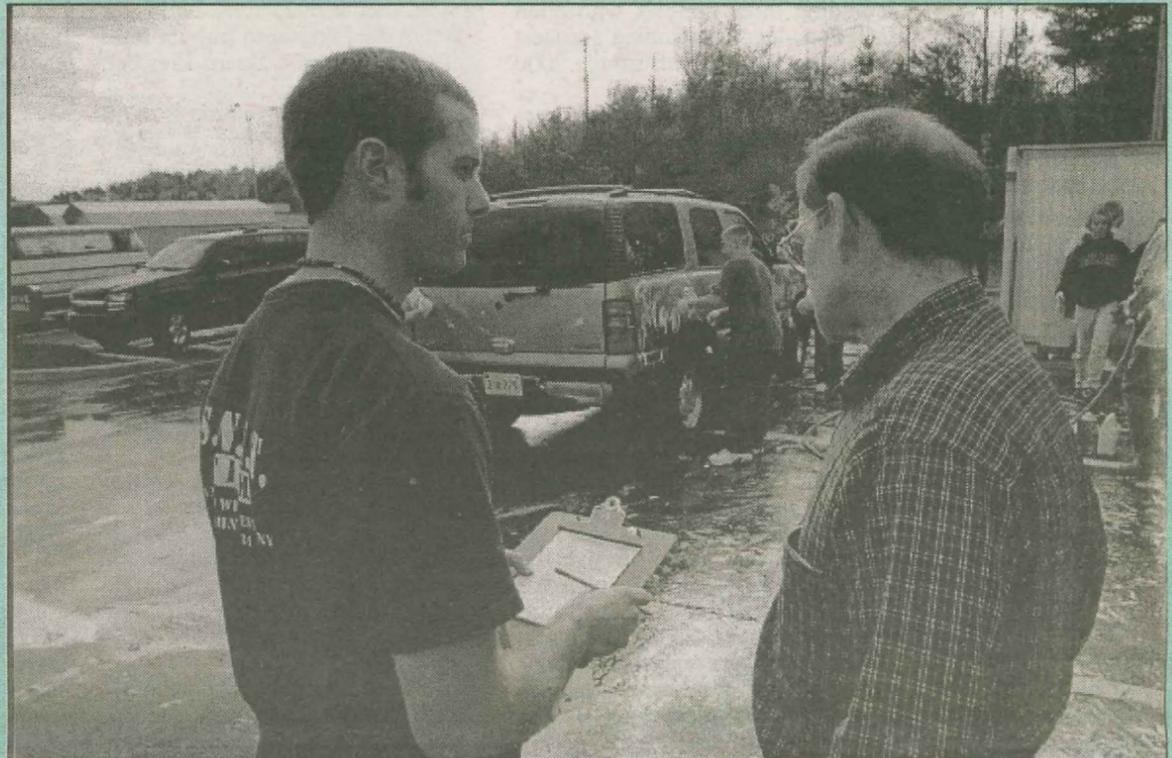
"I can show you two or three churches that are going to have the same problem unless a miracle happens," he added. "The small rural churches are dropping by the wayside because everyone goes where the activity is. That's the name of the game."

Around the commonwealth, many people working in rural and small-town areas are expressing similar concerns. A mixture of changes in lifestyles, social trends and worship styles have created a gloomy trend.

There is enough concern that the state directors of missions conference early this year focused on revitalizing churches.

□ See *Many small rural ...*, page 10

**Mountain missions**



Several hundred Kentucky Baptists took part in Cross Over this past weekend in Eastern Kentucky. The annual event, held before the Kentucky Baptist Convention, brings participants together from a variety of churches to do missions and evangelism work. This year, projects extended from Mount Vernon to Williamsburg. ■ Above: Matt Howe, youth minister at New Salem Baptist Church in London, conducts an evangelistic survey with Tom Beckner, of Fort Wayne, Ind., while youth wash Beckner's SUV. ■ Left: Lew Cook of Maysville, measures vinyl siding to be installed on a Mountain Outreach house that Kentucky Baptist Builders helped build in less than four days. Cy Moorman of Brandenburg and Jesse Quire of Turner's Station work in the background. (Photos by David Winfrey)

**Good drama doesn't require big budgets or large staffs, specialists say**

By Victoria Moon  
 State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Successful church drama ministries don't need big budgets or a cast of thousands, according to three creative ministry experts in Kentucky.

Just one person can start an important ministry that enhances a church's worship, they said.

"We just had a piece about the widow's mites," said Louis Tagliaboschi, creative arts minister at Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green. "We had all the lights in the church off, then brought one light up on a woman who walked in, dropped two pennies in a bowl, then walked out again."

Tagliaboschi said that simple moment created a powerful illustration for the pastor's sermon on stewardship.

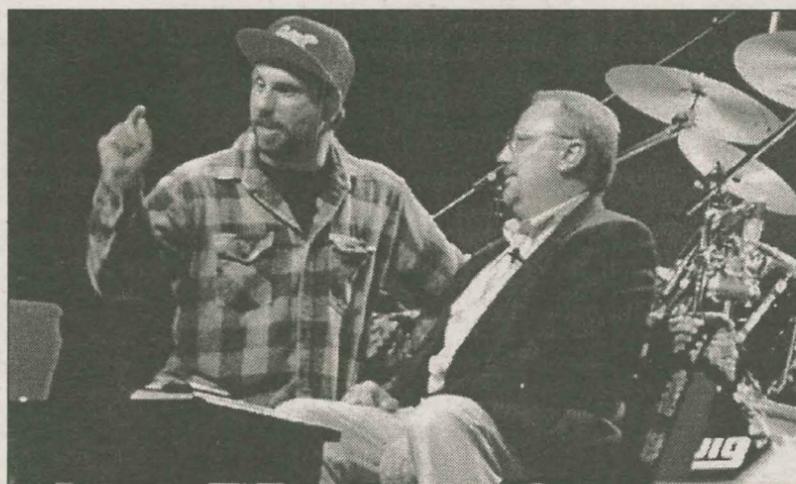
"You heard those two coins clink throughout the worship center," he said. "It was proof that you don't need Broadway actors or even dialogue to create an impact."

Tom Smoot, creative ministries director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, agreed that drama ministries can be small and still highly successful, especially in today's culture.

"We are in a very visually oriented world," he said, "and the church must become visually oriented to keep up with a visually-based world. But you don't have to do a pageant. You can do a sketch, or a two- to three-person play."

In fact, trying to start big creative ministries too quickly can lead to some serious pitfalls, he added.

"Too many churches want to jump on the drama ministry bandwagon and do a big pageant immediately." □ See *Specialist: Drama not ...*, page 8



**DRAMA MINISTRY** An increasingly visually oriented society means more churches should consider adding drama to their services, according to those who specialize in creative ministries. Such a ministry isn't limited to large churches, they add. "You don't have to do a pageant," said Tom Smoot, creative ministries director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "You can do a sketch, or a two- to three-person play."

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 13

# BAPTISTS

## 'The Baptist Hour' changes names to 'Strength for Living'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The name of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's "The Baptist Hour" radio program has been changed to "Strength for Living" to reflect its shorter format and current content.

"Because 'The Baptist Hour' is a beloved name, dating back more than 60 years, we probably have held on to it longer than we should," said Martin Coleman, director of NAMB's production team. "The program is only 30 minutes long now, which has led to some confusion in the industry and among listeners. 'Strength for Living' better describes what the program is about."

The weekly program features NAMB President Robert Reccord, who took over preaching responsibilities earlier this year from retiring Mississippi pastor Frank Pollard. It airs on 441 stations each week.

The Baptist Hour, first broadcast in 1941, has featured such Southern Baptist leaders as M.E. Dodd, George Truett and W.A. Criswell.

To listen to "Strength for Living" or find local stations, visit [www.strengthforliving.net](http://www.strengthforliving.net).

## IMB adopts \$290 million budget, appoints 95 workers

DALLAS (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board adopted a \$290.1 million budget for 2003 during an Oct. 31-Nov. 3 meeting in Dallas.

Other business included the appointment of 95 missionaries and accepting the resignations of 19 others, including three couples who cited IMB President Jerry Rankin's request in January that they affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

Trustees also were told about a new partnership to speed up Bible translation and heard Rankin challenge "myths" about the IMB (see related article).

While the 2003 budget is the IMB's largest budget ever, it also represents a serious tightening of expenditures to channel available funds for support of the growing number of missionaries, said David Steverson, IMB vice president for finance.

The basic budget of \$268.8 million is an increase of \$5.89 million over 2002; the \$21.3 million challenge budget is an increase of \$4.3 million.

The budget anticipates a \$6.5 million increase in giving through the Cooperative Program. It also plans for a \$21.3 million increase in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts.

Those numbers represent "a God-sized challenge" for Southern Baptists because gifts from Southern Baptist churches are not keeping pace with the number of people answering God's call to overseas missionary service, Rankin said.

The record \$113.7 million Southern Baptists gave to the Christmas offering in 2001 fell short of the \$120 million goal. Offering receipts will have to increase 18.7 percent (\$21.3 million) to meet the need created by the surge of new missionaries, IMB officials said.

"We find ourselves for the first time having to consider restricting the flow of missionaries to the field because Southern Baptist giving has not been growing as quickly as Southern Baptist going," Rankin said.

"But we are pressing on in faith, trusting that when we are obedient to

## Rankin counters 'myths' about IMB

DALLAS—Communicating the truth about missions strategies and what God is doing through Southern Baptist missionaries is difficult in a world of self-serving spin, media distortions and Internet myths, Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin told trustees.

"Whether information is deliberately distorted or not, we live in an environment in which myths often take on a life of their own," Rankin said.

Seeking to communicate the truth about the IMB and its motives "is not always ... respected by those among Southern Baptists who are not supportive of the conservative direction of the denomination," he added.

Five views Rankin dismissed as "myths" include:

■ "The International Mission Board is no longer interested in seminaries, hospitals and other institutions and is mandating that all missionaries leave these assignments to be church planters regardless of their calling and training."

By contrast, Rankin said, "we are appointing more seminary teachers, medical personnel, teachers and so-

cial workers than ever before." Rather than "patronizing dependence of historic mission institutions," however, he said such workers are "using their calling and skills to push back the last frontier of an unevangelized world."

■ "Since 'New Directions' in 1997, all decisions are handed down by administrators in Richmond (Va.) and field missionaries have less involvement in decision-making."

While "administrators in Richmond cast the vision," Rankin added, "Never has decision-making been so decentralized and missionaries had more freedom to fulfill their calling."

■ "The IMB had changed its way of counting missionaries to inflate statistics." Rankin said a related myth is that IMB leaders are "emphasizing short-term missions and no longer interested in career missionaries who plant their lives in an incarnational witness."

"We are counting missionaries the way they have always been counted," Rankin insisted. "While the percentage of career missionaries has declined, this does not represent a decline in the number of long-term missionaries." He said IMB officials currently are working with

more than 3,000 candidates in the appointment process.

■ "The Southern Baptist Convention is more interested in doctrinal conformity than missions as its unifying and driving priority (and) that the IMB is simply looking for churches to support its bureaucratic programs rather than serving the churches."

Rankin said Southern Baptists realize that record missionary appointments, church starts and financial support "can only be made, not by embracing diversity and theological relativism, but by adhering to the doctrinal foundations of our faith."

■ "The IMB has unlimited reserve funds that it refuses to spend while appealing for massive gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

Noting that the IMB's \$300 million in investments and reserves includes such items as mission funds on the way to the field, self-funded medical coverage, post-retirement benefits, contingency funds and restricted endowment, Rankin said the IMB "has no margin of reserves that are available for any purpose beyond a \$10 million operating reserve maintained by board policy."

Based on reporting by Baptist Press

answer God's call to missions. He will be faithful to give Southern Baptists a vision for providing the financial resources we need."

The climax of the trustee meeting was the appointment of 95 missionaries in a Sunday evening service at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano.

The new workers were the second-largest group in the board's 157-year history—the largest group being the 118 appointed a year earlier in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Trustees also learned that the IMB is moving to a higher level of partnership with Wycliffe International, which has about 5,000 missionaries working on Bible translation projects

in more than 1,400 languages.

The new missions partnership could accelerate by 100 years the translation of the Bible for the estimated 1 billion people who still do not have God's Word in their own language, mission leaders added.

About 3,000 language groups have no access at all to the gospel. At the current pace, translations for all of them could not be completed until 2150, Wycliffe Executive Director John Watters told the trustees.

"We have been asking ourselves what would it take to give every language community some access to God's Word by 2050," Watters said. "That would cut 100 years off the

translation process that's already going on."

Under the new plan, the IMB will appoint missionaries to fill needs for translators, share more information about church planting and translation projects and coordinate strategies for taking the gospel to unreached people groups.

Trustees also learned about the release of \$1.3 million that funded 59 hunger and general relief projects. The aid included emergency food packets, aid for malnourished mothers and children, agriculture training, seed packets, materials for house reconstruction, job skills training for refugees and water purification.



## Missouri Baptists refuse to drop legal action

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (ABP)—Messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention rejected by about a 2-to-1 majority a motion to drop legal action against five convention agencies.

In other business at the Oct. 28-30 annual meeting, a divided convention voted to release for other use money initially earmarked for the five entities. The funds had been held in escrow after the agencies changed charters so that the convention no longer had sole power to name their trustees.

Brian Kaylor offered the motion to instruct convention leaders to drop their motion for declaratory judgment filed earlier this year against the Baptist Home, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist University, Windermere Baptist Conference Center and Word & Way.

"It's time to focus on what really matters—the Kingdom," Kaylor said. "It's time to start loving them instead of suing them."

Missouri Baptist leaders took the five agencies to court to ask a judge to resolve a dispute about whether the various trustee boards had the legal right to amend their charters without convention approval. Previously, the state convention had the power to elect the agencies' trustees.

Kenny Qualls, newly elected MBC president, said the convention is "heartbroken" about the dispute but must remain "steadfast" in efforts to restore the institutions to their former relationship.

Dropping the lawsuit, Qualls said, "would set a precedent not only for Missouri, but for the rest of the nation."

Ron Bracy said Baptists ought to resolve their differences not "with the ways of the world," but by Scripture.

Paul Callahan countered that he believed the convention already had followed biblical steps to restore fellowship without success. Callahan

said when a believer refuses to turn from wrongdoing, the Bible directs the church "to treat them as though they are heathens."

Convention President Bob Curtis told messengers a judge will hear motions to dismiss the legal action on Nov. 19 in Jefferson City. He urged messengers to set aside that date as a day of prayer "for God's wisdom to be manifest."

Messengers were divided on a recommendation to redirect more than \$1.3 million escrowed last year from the five agencies to other ministries. Approving a motion from the MBC Executive Board, messengers voted to release \$750,000 to fund the Missouri Missions Offering for 2003; \$100,000 each for the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Southwest Baptist University, Hannibal-LaGrange College and William Jewell College; and \$200,000 to be used for church planting.

# BAPTISTS

## Greenfield: Unity doesn't require 'cookie-cutter' views

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

WILLIAMSBURG—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Harold Greenfield is committed to unity in Kentucky Baptist life—but not unity at any cost.

Citing last year's adoption of the KBC Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee proposal as an example of state convention unity, Greenfield said, "I'm all for this era of unity as long as dissenters are not intimidated. We Baptists come from a long line of dissenters."

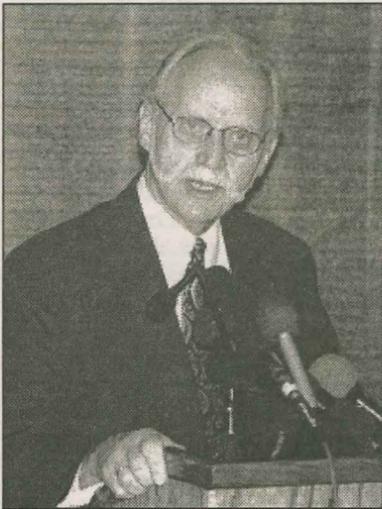
"It's OK to question things, but we ought not call names or label each other," he said. "Labels are relative anyway."

Noting that "we're not all the same and we're not supposed to be the same," Greenfield added, "We're not cookie-cutter Baptists, but we ought to be able to have fellowship without questioning one another's orthodoxy."

Greenfield, who retired in December 1999 after 29 years as director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, will conclude his one-year term as KBC president at the end of this week's KBC annual meeting in Williamsburg. He served last year as KBC first vice president.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said Greenfield's "keen interest in the work of Kentucky Baptists" has been a hallmark of his presidency.

"Harold has not missed a single



KBC PRESIDENT Harold Greenfield will complete his one-year term as president this week in Williamsburg.

meeting that he was expected to attend," Mackey said. "He probably has been more involved in the process of convention work than any other president since I've been here."

Greenfield said one of his most significant actions during the year was the opportunity to appoint a 14-member KBC Mission Study Committee.

The study group, authorized in May by the KBC Executive Board, is responsible for reviewing the changing ministry needs of Kentucky Baptist churches, KBC ministry objectives and related issues. It also will "recommend any changes

that are needed in order for the ministries of the KBC to be more effective in the 21st century." The committee is scheduled to present its recommendations to the KBC Executive Board next May.

Greenfield, who has worked closely with the committee, said he expects the group's final report to focus on the configuration, organization and motivation for Kentucky Baptist mission work.

Mackey said the work of the mission study committee, along with Greenfield's personal support and involvement, likely will be Greenfield's "greatest impact and legacy" as KBC president.

In addition to that effort, Greenfield began his year of service with a threefold focus on missions and evangelism, increased retirement and health care benefits for ministers and increased support for Kentucky Baptist educational institutions.

"Missions and evangelism are a continual emphasis among Kentucky Baptists," he pointed out. "That's where we've been and what we're about."

As for the focus on ministers' benefits, Greenfield explained, "I've been touched by the plight of pastors of smaller churches. I've known too many pastors who couldn't retire because they had nothing to retire on."

Describing his advocacy on that issue as "more of an emphasis than any concrete thing," he added, "Hopefully, there have been some

individual improvements in that area."

Concerning the KBC's ongoing support of Christian higher education, he said one of the challenges of the future is providing sufficient financial resources to meet growing needs.

Citing his own experience as a graduate of Baptist schools, Greenfield noted, "I just believe in the mission that the Baptist colleges have in our total missions program."

Looking toward the future, Greenfield said he believes the KBC "is healthy because of the rank and file Baptist folks out there who are regularly and faithfully giving and going."

"We've got so many faithful, dedicated pastors," he added, "most of whom are unrecognized."

The KBC Executive Board staff also contributes to the state convention's health, Greenfield said, describing them as "authentic, hard-working Christians."

Greenfield's final responsibility as KBC president will be presiding at this week's annual meeting on the campus of Cumberland College.

Convention messengers will explore the theme, "Let the Light Shine." Greenfield said, "By drawing close to the Light of Christ, we can inspire others."

Reaffirming his commitment to unity, Greenfield said he hopes Kentucky Baptists from throughout the state will experience "a light not just shining to us but shining through us."

**"We ought to be able to have fellowship without questioning one another's orthodoxy."**

KBC President  
Harold Greenfield

## MSC couple sees state's Hispanic population as mission field

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—Three and a half years after returning to Texas for recuperation from his second heart attack, Gus Reyes and his wife, Gloria, are back in Kentucky to direct an Hispanic mission.

Reyes is pastor of Nuevo Vista Iglesia Baptista (New Life Baptist Church) in Bowling Green, which started Sunday afternoon services in mid-September.

In January, he will begin teaching seminary extension courses on the basics of pastoral leadership, administrative duties and Baptist doctrine. His wife will teach a conversational Spanish class, designed to help Kentuckians converse with immigrants.

"There were enough bilingual Texans (back home) who could do the work if I was gone," said Reyes, formerly volunteer director for Corpus Christi Baptist Association. "But there weren't enough bilingual people in Kentucky. We prayed and felt strongly about coming back and doing what we could to enlarge the Kingdom of God."

During their first stay, the Mission Service Corps volunteers worked with Hispanics in Central Kentucky through Sulfur Fork Baptist Association.

Last fall, Kentucky Baptist Con-

vention Mission Service Corps coordinator Eric Allen called Reyes to ask if the couple would consider returning.

After a summer meeting to explore options, leaders of Warren Baptist Association offered the couple free housing and financial support to start the new mission.

Jerry Oakley, associational director of missions, said the extension classes are a valuable element of the ministry. Sessions will be held during the week, on a day yet to be determined.

"These courses will be useful for both laymen and pastors," Oakley said. "They are open to anyone. We expect people to come from as far away as Elizabethtown or Franklin. There will be a cost, but we will make it possible for people to enroll."

Many Hispanics in the Bowling Green area are permanent residents, unlike the migrant workers that Reyes usually worked with in Central Kentucky. But significant ministry challenges still exist.

For example, some Hispanics

avoided New Life's mid-October fiesta at a city park because so many Anglos attended, Reyes said.

In addition, many Hispanics come from a Catholic background and have an innate resistance to attending a Baptist church, he said.

Scarce pastoral leadership for Hispanics is another challenge, he added. One of Reyes' goals is to train a pastor who eventually will take his pulpit, as well as leaders for the dozens of Kentucky Baptist Hispanic missions that do not have pastors.

"We need to start missions that are willing to have a parent-child relationship," explained

Reyes, a former police officer. "We don't want churches to just give (Hispanics) a place to meet, but also teach them. If we build solid, it will be slow, but it will be solid."

The new ministry has boosted missions interest at the sponsoring church, Forest Park Baptist, according to Pastor Mark Bauldaff.

In addition to hosting services, the church donated an apartment for the Reyes' housing. Two musicians are helping provide accom-

paniment at the weekly services, and other members have attended to show their support.

Bauldaff said the church also raised nearly \$1,200, or 20 percent over its goal, for this year's Eliza Broadus state missions offering. He attributed that to awareness that the funds help start works such as this mission, the first mission Forest Park has sponsored in its 50-year history.

Located near the campus of Western Kentucky University, the congregation has taken the first step toward building bridges with a variety of cultures in its neighborhood, Bauldaff said.

"It helps to have Gus and Gloria here," he said. "They're a part of our church. This helps crumble some of those racial and cultural barriers that had to be crossed for us to reach into our community."

Forest Park's experience can be duplicated across Kentucky, Reyes said. He foresees a continuing influx of immigrants from Mexico, Cuba and Central and South America.

"Hispanics are coming in by the bundle, and unless we reach them for Christ we're going to have trouble," Reyes said. "We have an opportunity or a problem, depending on how we want to take it. I think it's a great opportunity. The mission field we used to go to is in our own back yard."



Gloria and Gus Reyes

## WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253  
(USPS 679-380)

### TRENNIS HENDERSON

Editor

DAVID WINFREY  
News Director

MAURI SMITH  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

JOYCE MARTIN  
Partnership Editions  
Editor

*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.

To subscribe: Send \$12.19 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$9.75 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@ntr.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Barry Howard, Corbin, chairman; Laura Beville, Bowling Green, vice chairman; Mike Harmon, Princeton, secretary; David Harmon-Vaught, Louisville; Ken James, London; Don Mantooh, Morehead; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Charles Midkiff, Lexington; Linda Polley, Elizabethtown; Bill Thurman, Lexington; Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

## Designed to make a difference

By Rick Warren

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP)—You were put on earth to make a contribution.

You weren't created just to consume resources—to eat, breathe and take up space. God designed you to make a difference with your life. This is one of God's purposes for your life, and it's called your "ministry"—or service.

The Bible says, "God has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). These "good deeds" are your service to the world. Whenever you serve others in any way, you actually are serving God and fulfilling one of your purposes.

The apostle John taught that our loving service to others shows that we are truly saved. He said, "Our love for each other proves that we have gone from death to life" (1 John 3:14). If I have no love for others, no desire to serve others and I'm only concerned about my needs, I should question whether Christ really is in my life. A saved heart is one that wants to serve.

In the Bible, the words servant and minister are synonyms, as are service and ministry. If you are a Christian, you are a minister, and when you're serving, you're ministering.

Serving is the opposite of our natural inclination. Most of the time we're more interested in "serve us" than service. We say, "I'm looking for a church that meets my needs and blesses me," not "I'm looking for a place to serve and be a blessing."

But as we mature in Christ, the focus of our lives increasingly should shift to living a life of service. The mature follower of Jesus stops asking, "Who's going to meet my needs?" and starts asking, "Whose needs can I meet?" Do you ever ask that question? At the end of your life on earth you will stand before God, and He is going to evaluate how well you served others with your life. Think about the implications of that. One day God will compare how much time and energy we spent on ourselves compared with what we invested in serving others.

At that point, all our excuses for self-centeredness will sound hollow:

## FIRST PERSON

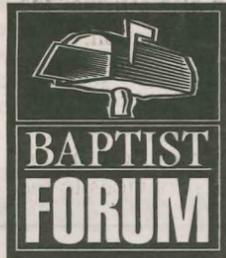
## Worship reflections

I've read with interest the Western Recorder's recent series of articles about worship styles.

I'm glad to see Jim Cordell (Kentucky Baptist Convention church music department director) providing assistance to churches in understanding the issues. I resonate with his concern that many people need to be taught to worship. Our corporate worship should be an overflow and expression of our daily lives of wor-

ship and devotion to Christ.

Here in the mountains of western North Carolina, we have found something that works for us. Back in 1995 we began a third Sunday morning worship service that was distinctly contemporary, with guitars, drums, a praise team, words on a screen, etc. At the same time we began a second Sunday school for those persons who attended the contemporary worship service. We did nothing to change the two traditional services that "bookended" the contemporary worship hour.



## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Focus on our common mission

I am excited about this week's 165th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. I shared last week about the exciting program and dynamic speakers that messengers will be enjoying.

I'm excited as well, however, because the lead-up to this year's annual meeting has been extremely positive. It is a credit to leaders—official and unofficial—who have been willing to do what is best for Kentucky Baptists and the mission of our Lord.

It is obvious to me that God is at work in bringing a sense of peace, mutual respect and reconciliation to Kentucky Baptists. I pray that Kentucky Baptists who have a vision for the power of a commonly shared mission will continue to give faithful leadership even though it may mean foregoing personal preferences.

I pray that more Kentucky Baptists will lay aside their concerns about the future and place their passion and skills into the mission that our Lord has for us through their churches.

This is important because these are challenging days for our mission financially. In order to avoid hard decisions about financial support for entities and the mission, we need the help of every Kentucky Baptist.

I encourage each Baptist to give faithfully to his or her local church. When Kentucky Baptists are faithful to their local church, that church more easily can support missions through the Cooperative Program and other giving.

The financial support of every church by every member is vital for Kingdom growth. KBC ministries and world missions rely on a strong vision by pastors and key leaders.

Strong church giving is crucial for our institutions and agencies as well. For example, the 2000-2001 audits for Campbellsville, Georgetown and Cumberland show that the KBC budget support for these schools accounted for 5.6 to 8.8 percent of their total income (including tuition and auxiliary income) during that year.



Bill Mackey

"I was too busy" or "I was preoccupied with working, having fun or preparing for retirement."

To all excuses God will respond, "Sorry, wrong answer. I created, saved and called you and commanded you to live a life of service. What part did you not understand?"

If you're not involved in any service or ministry, what excuse have you been using? Abraham was old, Jacob was insecure, Leah was unattractive, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Gideon was poor, Samson was codependent, Rahab was immoral, David had an affair and all kinds of family problems, Elijah was suicidal, Jeremiah was depressed, Jonah was reluctant, Naomi was a widow, John the Baptist was eccentric to say the least, Peter was impulsive and hot-tempered, Martha worried a lot, the Samaritan woman had several failed marriages, Zacchaeus was unpopular, Thomas had doubts, Paul had poor health and Timothy was timid.

That is quite a variety of misfits, but God used each of them in His service. He will use you, too, if you stop making excuses.

Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, is pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif.

What we have discovered is that we have reached several hundred people who have come to take part in the contemporary worship service. On any given Sunday, our worship attendance is almost equally divided among the three services.

We intentionally have stayed away from "blending" worship styles. Not only does a blended worship often become a battleground, it leaves no one feeling really satisfied with worship. It calls to mind Bear Bryant's description of a tie football game, which he likened to kissing one's sister (with apologies to my three sisters).

Skip Fendley  
Hendersonville, N.C.

## STEWARDSHIP

## Three types of investors: Which one are you?

By Don Spencer

People, as investors, generally can be categorized into three groups: savers, investors and traders.

■ **Savers.**

Savers pick an investment and stick with it, wanting stability and

safety. Often, savers either are unaware or unconcerned about the impact of inflation on their investment.

Savers view both investors and traders as "gamblers." Uncomfortable with this approach, they retreat to their safety net, investing conservatively and avoiding risk. It's not uncommon for a saver to simply purchase a CD at his or her bank. Considering other investment options is out of the question. Familiarity, safety and stability are more important.

■ **Investors.** Investors have some understanding of the risk vs. reward connection in investing. They are willing to take a reasonable risk to increase earnings. An investor is not overly concerned about short-term losses, anticipating a greater reward in the long term.

Investors tend to view both other types as naïve—the saver in taking too little risk and the trader in taking excessive risk. True investors are in it for the long-term and will ride it out, even if feeling a little apprehensive.

■ **Traders.** Traders enjoy the "game" of investing, using market timing and making frequent changes in their portfolios. They are comfortable with risk and volatility in investments.

Traders tend to view the other two types as stupid and naïve in the modern information age. Through the early and mid 1990s, some investors began to flirt with being traders. They wanted to "get on the bandwagon." They began using market timing and going after those high-profile stocks everyone was talking about. They've discovered they really were not traders after all because a true trader knows the big market drops can be there and that's part of the challenge of the "game."

There is no "right" or "wrong." God created us as unique individuals. Make sure your investments are compatible with who you are as an individual and with your overall investment goals.

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



## Discipline of journaling helps process thoughts & emotions

**Q: Someone said I could journal as a way of getting over my divorce. Any suggestions for getting started?**

Journaling is a great way of processing your thoughts and emotions. It often helps you to see things more clearly when you get them down on paper. Here are some suggestions from journaling therapist Kathleen Adams:

■ **Begin by being quiet.** Light a candle to represent God's presence. Take time to clear your mind and be calm.

■ **Date every entry.** You will be able to celebrate your growth later if you can trace how long it's been since certain "down days."

■ **Keep it.** Your thoughts and prayers written in the midst of turmoil might make no sense to you today, but might mean a lot when you decide later to pick it up.

■ **Write quickly.** This is so your "internal critic" doesn't have time to slow down the things you need to get out.

■ **Start writing and keep writing.** Don't go back and "fix" glitches.

■ **Tell all the truth faster.** Give yourself permission to get out the ugly, scary and negative feelings.

■ **Protect your privacy.** This is crucial. Store your journal in a special place, not tempting to others. Add a disclaimer asking others to "keep out." Put information on the front page so if it is lost and found, it can be quickly returned. Write in "code" if you feel there is special danger in sensitive subjects being read by others. If you know another language, use it.

■ **Write naturally.** Pick up your journal when the mood strikes and put it down when the mood changes.

A journal can be a powerful tool to unlock the pain you might be holding within. Its value can be more than psychological. By writing out your prayers, it becomes a great spiritual resource as well. One thing that can help with the spiritual aspect is to select a journal with a scripture verse on each page. May God bless you as you begin the growth journey of journaling.—James Stillwell



**Q: How can I teach my children to make good decisions?**

In his book "Every Child Is a Winner," Upward Unlimited founder and president Caz McCaslin tells how his father helped him learn to make good decisions. The ideas are shared here with McCaslin's permission.

McCaslin says that when he asked if he could do something, his dad would answer in one of three ways: "Yes," "no" or "I'll leave it up to you." His dad said "yes" to situations where he knew his son would not be in any danger. Even if McCaslin wanted to do something his father thought unwise, he let him do it in an effort to help his son learn the consequences of his decisions.

His dad's thinking went like this. "I'm going to give Caz the opportunity to make the right choice. If he makes the wrong choice, he's not going to get hurt. But he knows what is right and what's wrong. Let's see what he does with it."

McCaslin's dad said "no" when he felt he needed to make the decision for his son to protect him from dangers he probably wasn't aware of or from situations he might not be able to handle—situations where a wrong or immature decision would have serious, lasting ramifications.

"I'll leave it up to you" was the answer when it really didn't matter one way or the other.

The intentional process allowed McCaslin to experience the consequences of his decisions in safe ways while growing in his ability to make good decisions.—David Garrard

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

## Kentucky response to BF&M breeds unity

It has been one year since Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers adopted the landmark proposal of the KBC Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee.

Hailed by committee members as a reflection of Kentucky Baptists' commitment to "unity in diversity," messengers overwhelmingly voted to "adopt the Bible as the basis of all our faith and practice."

The measure also called on Kentucky Baptists to "acknowledge the value" of historic faith statements ranging from the 1742 Philadelphia Confession of Faith to each version of the Baptist Faith and Message from 1925 to 2000. It encourages Kentucky Baptist churches and associations to "use confessions of faith as resources to inform and edify Kentucky Baptists concerning the basic tenets of our faith."

"We feel as a committee that this report and recommendation is best for Kentucky Baptists," committee chairman Charles Barnes said after last year's vote. "We obviously would like to see this be the position of Kentucky Baptists as far as we can see in the future."

What impact has the action made a year later? While several other state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities have struggled with the most effective way to respond to debate over the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, the majority of Kentucky Baptists apparently have put that issue behind them. Citing the 2000 statement as one of many options for churches to study and consider, the KBC action also affirms "the autonomy of each local church and association."

Rather than sowing discord, many Kentucky Baptists leaders have sensed growing unity in state convention life since last year's KBC annual meeting.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey notes in his column this week on page 4 that "it is obvious to me

that God is at work bringing a sense of peace, mutual respect and reconciliation to Kentucky Baptists."

Harold Greenfield, outgoing KBC president, said in an interview last week that he believes last year's action "was an indication we're going to stay united" as Kentucky Baptists.

As positive as such views are, all is not as well on the Baptist Faith and Message front beyond Kentucky's borders. One of the most glaring concerns is the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's increased pressure on veteran missionaries to affirm the revised faith statement.

In a recent letter to missionaries who have not endorsed the statement, IMB President Jerry Rankin noted they "are serving in a strategic role and are vitally needed in what God is doing through the IMB."

While acknowledging his directive "is not an issue of your faithful and effective service or your adherence to doctrinal positions stated when you were appointed," Rankin said affirming the 2000 statement is necessary "to assure the Southern Baptist Convention of our continuing doctrinal accountability."

"We are not heretics," responded missionary Rick Dill, who faces dismissal for not affirming the latest Baptist Faith and Message. "We are conservative Christians. We are Baptists. We are Southern Baptists. We have served faithfully on a foreign field for over 20 years."

So far, more than 30 IMB missionaries have resigned over the issue. Surely that's not what most Southern Baptist messengers had in mind when they adopted changes to the 1963 faith statement.

The wisdom of Kentucky Baptists upholding the Bible, acknowledging the value of various faith statements and promoting unity grows more apparent all the time.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## The fatherless John Lee Malvo

By David Gushee

JACKSON, Tenn. (RNS)—Emerging details about the life of John Lee Malvo, the 17-year-old boy accused of participating in the sniper slayings that terrorized the Washington, D.C., area for more than three weeks, reveal yet again the tragic costs of the breakdown of family life and the absence of a father in a boy's life.

The essentials of Malvo's tortuous but all too typical family background were recently reported by The New York Times.

Malvo was the product of the relationship between Una James and Leslie Malvo. The couple never married, and once mother and son moved out of Leslie Malvo's home the father was never a regular presence in his son's life. In fact, they have not seen each other since around 1996, as best the father can recall.

John Lee Malvo was recalled by teachers in his Jamaica hometown as being well-adjusted and studious, a promising student who was a favorite of teachers. However, his home life was a swirl of uncertainty. He apparently lived with a variety of adults, not always including his mother, and stayed in a variety of homes as his high school years progressed.

In 1999, apparently, mother and

son left Jamaica and moved to the Caribbean island of Antigua, where he enrolled in yet another school.

Sometime in 1999 or 2000, James and Malvo met John Allen Muhammad—just one of many names the lead sniper suspect employed. Muhammad had moved to Antigua with his three children from his first marriage, with whom he had fled in a bitter custody battle with his ex-wife. In Antigua, Muhammad made his living selling stolen property and forging documents.

James met Muhammad in that capacity; she was looking for a fake birth certificate to help her get to the U.S.

For some reason, young John Lee Malvo ended up moving into the one-room apartment Muhammad shared with his three children. One person said Muhammad kept Malvo on a strict exercise, nutrition and Islamic study program, and that Malvo was quiet, obedient and attentive. The deeply disturbed Muhammad was becoming Malvo's father.

Here is another twist to the story: James married another man, Jeremiah Neal, in April 2001. They lived in Florida, and Malvo was with them. However, this marriage lasted only until October, when Neal divorced James. The next place Malvo surfaced was in Bellingham, Wash., where he once again hooked up with Muham-

mad, this time for keeps.

Not long afterward they began what appears to be a crime spree that ended with at least 11 dead.

Pity the children who spend their lives attempting to survive the chaos of parents' bad choices. Pity the young men looking in vain for their fathers. Pity John Lee Malvo, whose mother ran through a series of men, whose father disappeared from his life when he was just out of elementary school. Pity a boy so desperate for a man to care about him, to show him how to live, that he turned to someone like Muhammad, a violent, angry failed businessman, accused swindler and small-time crook—and now, allegedly, mass murderer.

Picture Malvo apprenticing with Muhammad in the skills of long-range sniper killing and quick getaways in a Chevy Caprice with a hole in the trunk designed for random mayhem. Imagine his sense of pride when his "step-father" congratulated him for doing such a good job at their mutual project—mass murder. "Great shooting. Nice aim, though you might want to aim a little lower next time. Great driving! I'm so proud of you, son!"

Dream of a world in which every child is raised by a loving mother and a father. Dream of a world with no more fatherless boys looking for approval through the sights of a gun.

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



# Familiar Faces Extraordinary Places

Kentucky Baptists are touching the world through Partnership Missions! Through our partnerships with the European Baptist Convention, Poland and New England plus special projects in Greece, Malta and northern Brazil, Kentucky Baptists have dozens of opportunities each year to work all over the world through short-term mission trips.

Hundreds of Kentucky Baptists from all walks of life—pastors, Sunday School teachers, college students, lay people—have participated in partnership missions projects, and you can, too!

## Here's a Rundown of Partnership Projects for 2003:

Project Location	Project Date	Project Type	Project Location	Project Date	Project Type
<b>MALTA</b>			<b>POLAND</b>		
Mosta & Floriana, Malta	June 19-July 2	Prayer & Children's Outreach	Bialystok BC	Jan 29-Feb 11	Day Camp for Children
Mosta & Floriana, Malta	Aug. 18-Aug. 29	Evangelism	Warsaw	Mar 19-Apr 1	Prayer Walk/Evangelism
<b>GREECE</b>			Narewka	Apr 23-May 6	Renovation of Retreat Facility
Thessaloniki	Spring Break	Several Possibilities	Warsaw Seminary	May 7-20	Camp for Deaf Children
Various Locations	May	Biblical Vision Tour	Malbork	May 7-20	Construction
Various Locations	June 12-25	Bible/Missions Ministry	Swietajno	May 7-20	Construction
Thessaloniki	June	Baseball Clinic for Kids	Glogow	May 28-June 10	Evangelism
Volos	June	VBS	Torun	May 28-June 10	Construction/Evangelism
Thessaloniki	June	Start Baseball Leagues	Wroclaw-New Hope BC	June 4-17	Construction/Evangelism
	June	Vision Teams-2004 Olympics	Warsaw Seminary	June 18-July 1	Senior Adult Camp
Thessaloniki	July	Youth Camp	Wisla, Oasis BC	June 25-July 8	Construction/Evangelism
Thessaloniki	July	Evangelistic Rock-Concert	Krakow, FBC	June 25-July 8	English language/VBS/coffee
Volos	July 15-30	Prayer Walk, City Clean-up	Warsaw	June 26-29	College Team Orientation
Thessaloniki	August	Beach Evangelism	Ustka	June 30-July 9	Ustka camp
Volos	August	Prayer Walk, City Clean-up	Wroclaw, FBC	July 9-22	VBS/Evangelism/Engl. Lang.
Katerina	Dates Open	Develop Baseball Parks	Lwowek Slaski	July 9-22	Construction/Evangelism
Athens	Dates Open	1st Greek Evangelical Church	Lublin/Eblong church	July 13-20	Youth Camp
Thessaloniki	September	Prayer Walk, City Clean-up	Lakeland of N. Poland	July 16-29	Outdoor Youth Camp
Various Locations	October	Biblical Vision Tour	Malopolska	July 16-29	English Camp/Evangelism
<b>BRAZIL</b>			Malbork/Stezyca	July 16-29	English Camp/Evangelism
Teresina	Spring-Summer	Evangelistic Pre-school (VBS)	Wisla	July 21-26	Wisla Camp
Parnaiba Delta/ Canary Isl.	May, June, July, Sept.	Mission to Fishermen	Katowice, 2nd BC	July 23-Aug 5	Evangelism/Discipleship
Imperatriz	Various	OPERATION PARROT'S BEAK	Przemysl	July 23-Aug 5	English Language/Evangelism
Teresina	Spring-Summer	Apartment Ministry	Swietajno	July 30-Aug 12	Children's Camp
Various	Various	Choir Tour	Zielona Gora	July 30-Aug 12	Evangelism
Maranhao (Sao Luis)	Various	100 Yr. Celebration	Wisla- Oaza BC	July 30-Aug 12	Construction/Evangelism
<b>EUROPE</b>			Wroclaw, New Hope BC	Aug 6-19	Construction/Evangelism
England	Apr 4-14	Religious Education	Olsztyn	Aug 6-19	Evangelism/Student Ministry
Germany	Apr 4-14	Religious Education	Warsaw Seminary	Sept 10-23	Pastor's Conference
Interlaken, Switzerland	July 2-12	Extended Teaching Care	Warsaw Seminary	Sept 17-30	Medical Conference
Germany	July 16-29	VBS, Preaching, Training	TBA	Sept 24-Oct 7	Women's Conference
Germany	Spring-Fall	Construction	TBA	Oct. 1-14	Evangelism
Germany, Austria	Sept 5-15	Religious Education			

**"For as much as I was able to share with them, I think every child there touched my heart in some way and taught me something new about life."**

— Mandy Webb, Cumberland College Student, member of First Baptist Church, Monticello. Mandy spent the summer teaching English to the children of Orle Gniazdo orphanage in Marwica, Poland.



Partnership Missions Department

P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, Kentucky 40253-0433

## Get Involved Now!

Contact the **Partnership Missions Department** today at **(502) 244-6462** call toll-free in Kentucky at **(888) 254-5720** or send an e-mail to [partnership@kybaptist.org](mailto:partnership@kybaptist.org) For more information, including partnership details, volunteer requirements and a downloadable application form, visit us on the Web at [www.kybaptist.org/partnership](http://www.kybaptist.org/partnership)

You can also be a vital part of partnership missions through prayer! Join **Operation Bended Knees** and you'll get regular updates that will help you pray for the needs of each partnership country, it's people, missionaries, volunteer teams and coordinators. Join now by contacting the Partnership Missions Department!



## Cross Over 2002

### Hundreds take part in projects before annual KBC meeting

By Trennis Henderson  
& David Winfrey  
Editor & News Director

WILLIAMSBURG—Kentucky Baptists' Cross Over 2002 was more than just the nuts and bolts of ministry. It also was hammers and nails.

More than 1,200 volunteers took part in dozens of ministry projects in three associations Nov. 9. Weekend activities also included revival services in several churches in Laurel River, Rockcastle and South Union-Mount Zion associations.

The second annual Cross Over Kentucky evangelistic emphasis was held prior to this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at Cumberland College in Williamsburg. In addition to "Jesus" video distribution, community needs surveys, prayerwalks and free car washes, last week's Cross Over event featured a four-day construction project blitz.

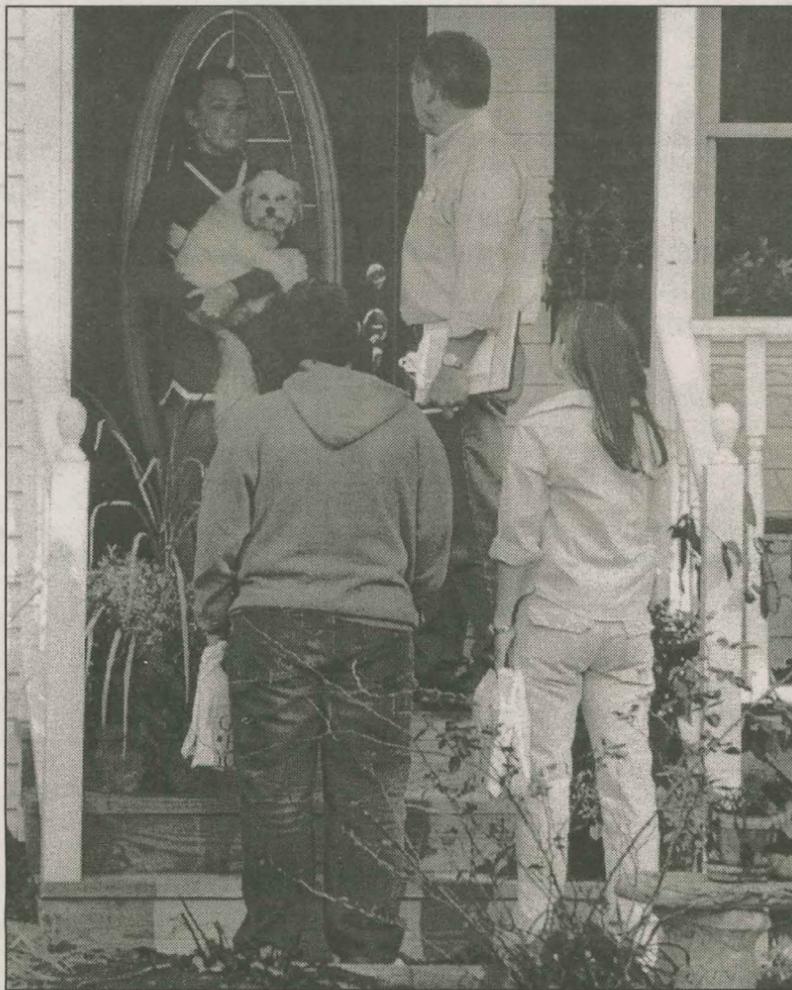
Baptist Builders and disaster relief volunteers worked with Mountain Outreach, a missions organization at Cumberland College, to build a new home for an area family. More than 50 workers raised the structure, installed the electrical and plumbing infrastructure and most of the drywall from Wednesday through Saturday.

#### "Like a piece of heaven"

Randy and Becky Tucker, members of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, spent their wedding anniversary working on the house. Tucker took a week's vacation from his job to volunteer, saying he felt God leading him to go on a mission trip shortly before being invited to participate in the Cross Over project.

"It's like a little piece of heaven," he said as fellow volunteers installed drywall. "All these men have been a blessing to me."

"It was amazing to me how God assembled people from every area of



**DOOR-TO-DOOR** Johnny Jervis, pastor of Swiss Colony Baptist Church near London, and two members visit a neighbor of the church during Cross Over. Eastern Kentucky churches distributed thousands of copies of the "Jesus" movie video.

the state" for the construction project, said Cross Over coordinator Dan Garland, leader of the KBC evangelism growth team. "It shows what can be done when we work together."

Highlighting the ministry aspect of each Cross Over project, Garland added, "Hopefully we're not just building homes, but building lives and building the Kingdom."

Johnny Jarvis, pastor of Swiss Colony Baptist Church near London, said Cross Over exposed a lot of Eastern Kentucky Baptists to evangelism and missions in new ways.

"I feel like more people are canvassing the streets of southeastern Kentucky (today) than ever before," he said while walking in the neighbor-

hood near his church to hand out copies of the "Jesus" video.

"I really feel like when this is over, churches that didn't visit before will realize the need to visit more than they ever have before," he added.

Dallas Riggs, pastor of Slate Hill Baptist Church in London, praised Cross Over for encouraging more Baptists to share their faith.

#### Building boldness

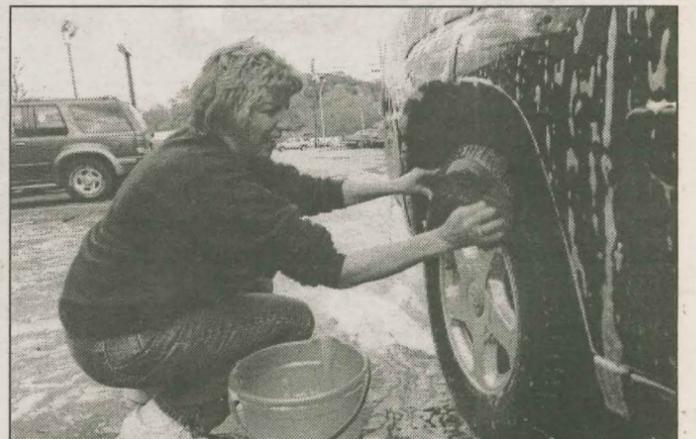
"Most church members have never been put into a witnessing position. It scares them to death," he said, watching a crew from his church wash a truck and share a "Jesus" video with the driver. "I think this builds boldness. Besides, it's just fun to be out with your church."

Steve Mayle, pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, said Cross Over is "a unique opportunity to let folks in this region know what Kentucky Baptists are about." Helping wash car windows outside a Williamsburg grocery store as a servant evangelism project, Mayle noted, "We tell folks, 'We can clean the outside but it takes Jesus to clean the inside.'"

Jessica Tucker, 16, a member of Rineyville Baptist Church, was taking part in her second Cross Over. She said the experiences have helped her explore her own call to missions.

Sharing her faith has helped her learn how to interact with people who have a variety of opinions about Christianity and spiritual matters in general, she said.

"Yeah, I'll grant that there are go-



ing to be some people who will shut the door in your face, but there's other that didn't know anything at all about how to be saved."

In addition to face-to-face ministries, several volunteers also worked on behind-the-scenes projects.

Former KBC President Jim McKinley and his wife, Betty, worked with a group of Cumberland College students, sorting and folding donated clothing at Cedaridge, a community ministry center in Williamsburg. "Any ministry in the name of Jesus can impact every area of life," McKinley said.

#### Youth rally

Another first at this year's Cross Over was a Saturday night youth rally at Swiss Colony Church.

Youth groups from Sherman Baptist Church near Dry Ridge and Kings Baptist Church in Mount Washington took part in Cross Over activities during the day and then shared skits, testimonies and dramatic interpretations of contemporary Christian songs during the youth rally.

Randy Record, the KBC's youth evangelism strategist, challenged the young people to avoid getting trapped in the cul-de-sacs of life which he described as "a dead-end road where you just kind of circle around."

"A lot of people think when we do this work of the Kingdom, we have to do it in our own power," Record said. "God doesn't want that. You don't need eloquent words or persuasive speech. You need the full power of Jesus through the Holy Spirit."

Two young people from the host church made professions of faith in Christ at the rally.

"The highlight was definitely the two being saved tonight," said Greg Deaton, associate pastor at Swiss Colony. "That's what we've been praying for. It's been an awesome night."

Janus Jones, director of missions for South Union-Mount Zion Association, said Cross Over gives small congregations in the region an opportunity "to feel what it's like to be involved in something really big. It puts a face on the convention."

Garland said Cross Over is a catalyst to help churches "get outside the box and do evangelism in a way they have never done before."

The spiritual impact of ministry projects such as Cross Over "is why I work for Kentucky Baptists," he added. "It's Kentucky Baptists at their absolute best."

**CAR WASH** Kathy Murphy, a member of Liberty Baptist Church in London, washes a tire during a free car wash. Several churches took part in service evangelism projects.



**PRAYER RALLY** More than 30 Kentucky Baptists gathered in front of the Whitley County Courthouse for a Nov. 9 prayer rally as part of last weekend's Cross Over Kentucky emphasis. (Photo by Trennis Henderson)

# RESOURCES

## Creative ministry specialist: Great drama resources available

By Tom Smoot

Having worked in Christian drama for 32 years, I can tell you there are many resources available.

But finding quality Christian drama materials often becomes a trying task.

Here are a few of the resources I've found to have quality materials from which to choose:



Smoot

### ■ Baker's Plays

([www.bakersplays.com](http://www.bakersplays.com)). Baker's Plays are mostly royalty plays. That means that there may be a fee to produce them. It will be small, but a fee nonetheless. They have a Religious Play Supplement to their catalogue. Each play or collection of plays in the catalogue will have a brief description of the play. The company is good to work with and fair in their

royalties of the plays. Most of their materials are church plays, and some how-to books.

### ■ Contemporary Drama Service

([www.contemporarydrama.com](http://www.contemporarydrama.com)). This publishing company not only publishes plays, but also has many resources in the area of interpretative movement, clowning, multi-media and also how-to books. They offer "play kits" which have scripts, director instructions and royalty fees included for one price. Their catalogue comes out twice a year.

### ■ Creative Resource Group ([www.churchideas.com](http://www.churchideas.com)).

The Creative Resource Group offers some of the most refreshing and new scripts of any publishing company. Their scripts are divided into subjects, so it's easy to find an evangelistic play, an entertaining play, etc. Their scripts are real-to-life situations. They can run as short as two minutes up to full-length. They also have resources for doing creative arts in worship services.

### ■ Lillenas Publishing Company ([www.lillenas.com](http://www.lillenas.com)).

I highly recommend this group and its Web site. Lillenas probably has the most intensive drama catalogue of any publishing company. They have many books of collections of plays as well as single copies. Many of their collections are non-royalty plays, and they give you permission to copy scripts in some of their collections. They also have the very short and full-length plays. Because of the variety of writers and the variety of church subjects, Lillenas can provide you with most anything you need, including some how-to books of their own.

### ■ LifeWay Christian Resources ([www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)).

LifeWay publishes books on dramas, monologues and other helpful resources in church drama. Their "National Drama Service" offers a quarterly book of scripts, which includes several short scripts for all occasions. Lifeway's Convention Press also publishes "The Complete Guide to Church Play Production." If I could recommend just one book to church drama directors, this would be it. From choosing a play to closing the production and striking the set, this book will put many helpful tips at your fingertips.

■ **Cross Point Scripts** ([www.crosspointscripts.com](http://www.crosspointscripts.com)). This group publishes a quarterly drama ministry newsletter with many good scripts. They are for all occasions and run four to six minutes on the average. Each of their scripts have director's notes on the sidebar, along with musical suggestions to accompany the script during production. The newsletter makes this company unique. It includes director and actor instructions, suggestions and aides.

I know there are many more good publishing companies out there, and I'm not leaving them out for any particular reason. Those listed are some of the ones that I frequently use. If you want more information on these or any others, feel free to contact me and I will try to help you out.

Tom Smoot ([tom.smoot@kybaptist.org](mailto:tom.smoot@kybaptist.org)) is director of the creative ministries department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Specialists: Drama not just for big churches

Continued from page 1

diately, and they are not ready to do that yet. Drama shouldn't be done for drama's sake in the church, but for a purpose: to entertain, to inform and to evangelize. Remember, when you do drama, you want people to get excited about it, not say, 'Oh, no.'"

Mozelle Clark Sherman, senior professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said creative ministries in the church answer to a higher call than simply putting on a play or a show.

"You are talking about a complete bathing of the senses," she said. "It is not to entertain, but to move to action. It is using the arts for the glory of God."

Sherman said little or no budget is necessary for starting a creative arts ministry.

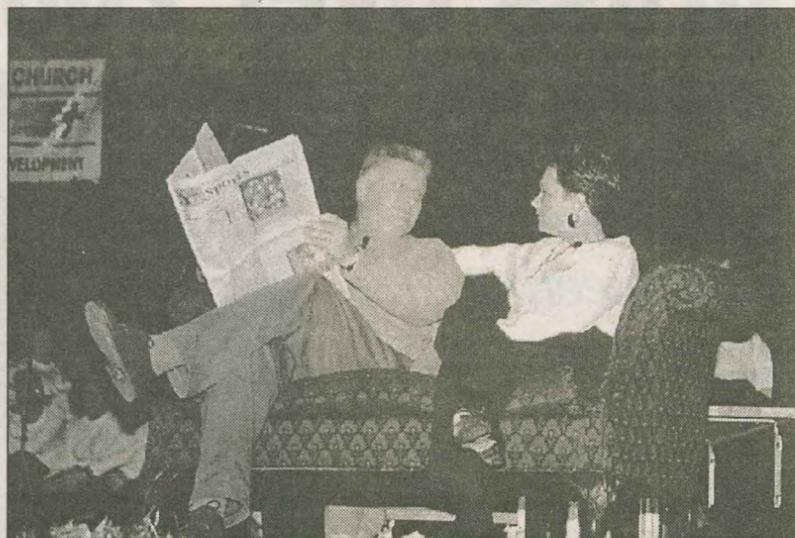
"For years, I did drama in a church with no budget for that at all," she said. "I realized then that people who are really attuned to using drama in the church will be able to create their own enhancements."

Sherman said an easy, inexpensive idea is to dramatize scripture passages.

"Have four or five people read a passage of Scripture in loud, proclaiming voices," she said. "I've found it's a wonderful way to get youth and senior adults involved in creative ministry."

Whatever size church or drama ministry, Smoot encourages organizers to plan extensively before starting. Jumping into a ministry without proper planning can actually hurt, rather than help, the worship experience, he added.

"People think, 'Oh, I'm doing this for God, so He will bless it no



**SIMPLE SKITS** Two members of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green perform a skit during a worship service. Short skits are an ideal way to introduce drama ministry in a church, according to several creative ministry specialists.

matter if it's good or bad," Smoot said. "I don't know where churches have gotten that idea, but God is going to have a hard time blessing something done with little or no effort put into it. God can pour out His blessing on anything, but He doesn't want the gospel presented in a shoddy way."

Tagliaboschi suggested that small churches just beginning drama ministries think small.

"Start with simply a dramatic monologue, with one person in one costume," he said. "Just keep it short and to the point. You don't need to spend five minutes developing the character. These skits are really illustrations to enhance worship."

Many free resources are available to small drama ministries through the Internet, he added.

"The resources are out there," he

said, "you just have to know where to look."

Smoot offers workshops and education in dramatic ministry, specially aimed at small churches.

"We have classes specifically designed to teach people the basics of dramatic ministry, and show them where the resources are," he said. "The classes cover everything from drama and interpretive movement to puppetry and clowns."

"You don't need to do creative ministry on the level of a megachurch to make an impact," he said.

"If even one person is willing to take on the responsibility of directing the ministry and educating himself or herself, that's all you need," he added. "I've seen plays come out of rural churches as powerful as those in much larger churches. It's how one person responds to God's call."

World Wide WOW!



Special Delivery e-Newsletter

Special Delivery the KBC's free weekly e-newsletter, is jam-packed with great news, information and helps. You'll find:

- advance announcements for great training events
- the latest Kentucky Baptist news
- links to helpful resources
- quick, creative ministry ideas!

Sign-up is easy and FREE. Send an e-mail to [news@kybaptist.org](mailto:news@kybaptist.org) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Need more details?

Check out  
[www.kybaptist.org/specialdelivery](http://www.kybaptist.org/specialdelivery)



Sign-up before Nov. 20 and you could win a \$25 gift certificate from Amazon.com!



# A Future And A Hope

*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

*— Jeremiah 29:11*



*Will you help us continue to provide a future and a hope for the children, teenagers and families in our care? Please prayerfully consider your gift to KBHC's Thanksgiving Offering.*

*Dr. William K. Smithwick  
President and CEO*



**KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN**  
10200 Linn Station Road • Triad East, Suite 200 • Louisville, KY 40223  
(502) 245-2101 • 1-800-456-1386

[www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org)

**2002 Thanksgiving Offering**

**Statewide Goal  
\$1,200,000**

## Not all rural situations bleak, mission leaders point out

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**"It's been my experience that you can't kill them. The strength they have to keep going is amazing."**

Larry Baker, director of missions for Christian County Baptist Association, talking about rural congregations

HOPKINSVILLE—After starting or welcoming seven new churches into Christian County Baptist Association during the past 10 years, Larry Baker doesn't consider the future of rural congregations that bleak.

While there are several small churches in his association, others like Bethel Baptist Church have grown steadily in the past four years. Once down to a dozen members, Bethel averages 45 to 50 people on a Sunday, according to Baker, the association's director of missions.

Crediting a new pastor with giving them hope, Baker said rural congregations have a resilience that helps them persevere.

Nor do many of these churches see themselves as hurting; they like a smaller, more family-oriented atmosphere, he said.

"I'm not as pessimistic as some of these other guys" about the future of rural churches, Baker said. "It's been my experience that you can't kill them. The strength they have to keep going is amazing."

That observation has some validity, according to a former employee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (a predecessor to the North American Mission Board) who has

studied rural churches extensively.

As part of a consulting contract with the University of Missouri, Gary Farley also examined churches in Kansas City during a 50-year period. Less than 25 percent of those metropolitan churches survived the 1945-95 span, he said, compared to many rural churches that continue for 75 to 100 years.

### RURAL CHURCH CHALLENGES

Rural churches often resemble a yo-yo, he said, drifting down before some new people come along or a group of young people become Christians and bring a growth spurt.

"Some are going to die because the community has died," said Farley, now director of missions for Pickens County Baptist Association in Carrolton, Ala. "A lot of these churches were planted when people walked from place to place. It was a six-mile world. Today nobody walks. We all drive."

It is also hard to characterize the "rural church" because so many varieties exist, he added.

Many churches in rural areas center around families. They continue as long as the family expands and no intra-family squabbles erupt, Farley said.

But others are in areas that have been overtaken by suburban sprawl and have a wide mix of occupational and economic backgrounds in their congregation, he said.

With the latter, those who are flexible enough to allow change and not expect newcomers to reflect their subculture will survive, Farley said.

"One thing I'm seeing in Missouri is the emergence of mini-mega churches in a lot of Wal-Mart towns," he said. "Frequently it's the first church in town which had a missions vision, built a new building on the bypass (near Wal-Mart) and become a regional church."

But rural churches must face reality, Farley said, particularly the expectation that they should have a full-time pastor.

Fifty years ago this model was emphasized so strongly in the Southern Baptist Convention that many people treat a bivocational pastor as a step backward, he said.

But Farley recommended churches reevaluate their ministry and accept their capabilities and limitations. The other step he suggested is finding a niche and doing it well.

"I tell rural churches all the time to find themselves a signature ministry," Farley said. "Don't try to compete with these big, emerging churches. Find something you do well that will draw people who need the ministry or want to do it, such as music or ministry to an age segment."

"I know one rural church with 75 to 80 in Sunday school and they take 30 to 40 people on a mission trip every year. If a church can find some-

thing to get excited about, it will revitalize them and they'll do well. That's the future of the rural church."

Starting new churches is another way to address the situation, according to Richard Harris, vice president of church planting at NAMB and a Kentucky native.

Forty percent of the 1,765 churches started by Southern Baptists last year were in rural areas, he said.

Harris, who grew up in Pulaski County, said existing rural churches need strong pastoral leadership and a willingness to reach out and serve their communities in order to survive.

"If they stay like they've been, they're going to die," he said. "There's a new kind of rural church needed that is more ministry- than program-driven. People are hungry (and) homeless. There are unwed mothers. I haven't been in an area where churches couldn't grow if they looked around at the needs."

Randy Jones, director of missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said rural churches can be revitalized and turned into missions-minded, growing assemblies. But it requires committing to a minimum five-year process and realizing that some who don't like change will leave, he said.

"A well-equipped director of missions or the KBC staff can help walk them through these challenges," Jones said. "But often they don't call until they're in serious trouble."

## Many small rural churches facing uphill challenges, leaders say

Continued from page 1

Keynote speaker Jim Harrington, former director of Union Baptist Association in Houston, noted that rural churches that continue to resist change are struggling to attract bivocational pastors.

"Are we going to make the changes needed to reach our children and grandchildren? Or (will we) keep things the same to meet the expectations of the older generation?" asked Randy Jones, director of missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Each church has to answer those two questions."

Jones noted that population shifts are part of the picture. He points to 2000 census data, which showed 14 rural counties lost people during the 1990s, while Kentucky's population increased 9.6 percent.

Because of how statistics are reported, Steve Thompson of the KBC said no numbers are available for how many of the 2,400 KBC churches have closed in recent years.

But a spot check of five associations in rural and small-town areas showed two whose resident membership declined over 10 years, while the others gained only between 1 and 5.7 percent. And Taylor County Association, which reported the largest increase, saw membership among its rural churches decrease slightly.

Wilburn Bonta, director of missions for Russell Creek and East Lynn Baptist associations, called Pierce's Chapel a reflection of what may happen to smaller churches that fail to provide children's activities.

He said all Kentucky Baptists should be aware of the situation fac-

ing their country brethren.

"These little churches that are running 30 to 40 people and over half the congregation is retired are going to be in trouble in a few years," said Bonta, who oversees another church that has dwindled to a few people and hasn't met this year.

"We're seeing people move to some of the larger churches," he said. "When I find someone who did that, they tell me it's because their new church has things for their children."

Robert Clark, director of missions for Taylor County Association, foresees major changes ahead for his rural churches. About 75 percent of the Baptist pastors in his county are bivocational and many of them are aging with the churches, he said.

"I make visits to all of them," Clark said. "Most have a noticeable absence of young people, and that's the future of the church. The graying of the members and pastoral leadership is a great concern."

The pastor of a church five miles west of Harrodsburg that averages 225 on Sunday said rural congregations must recognize the challenges they face.

While Bruners Chapel Baptist Church has experienced healthy growth the past five years, Pastor Larry Redding is concerned for smaller counterparts.

Churches no longer can rely on tradition and experience to maintain numbers, said Redding, who said people commonly drive 15 to 20 miles to attend a church that meets their needs.

"Rural churches that are comfortable doing what they're doing are running 35 to 40," Redding said. "But we

have to do whatever we can to reach our culture for Jesus Christ. Churches have to gradually work toward change, reach out and have a mentality for growth and evangelism."

That includes being open to music that will attract young people, said Jack Geurin, director of missions for Mercer Baptist Association.

He recalled visiting a Lincoln County church where some members were concerned that young members were singing praise songs.

"A few of the adults were saying,

'How are we going to stop this?'" Geurin recalled. "I said, 'Please don't stop 'em, let 'em go.' They were shocked that I was old and thought that music was a good thing because it was reaching young people."

"Churches that aren't letting young people do their thing are going to die," Geurin said. "I know of one church in another association that wouldn't allow it. And the young people and people who were for change in music and worship style went down the road and built another church."

**"The graying of the members and pastoral leadership is a great concern."**

Robert Clark, director of missions for Taylor County Baptist Association

## International Order of The King's Daughters and Sons



"IN HIS NAME"

### What Do We Do?

We serve in Christ's name through educational scholarships. We offer financial aid to students seeking training in Christian leadership, the ministry and health-related careers. Financial aid also is offered to North American Indian students and high school graduates who would like to attend a five-week program in the fine arts and education at Cautauquo Institute in New York.

### Who Are We?

Founded in 1886 in New York City, we are an international organization of Christian men and women dedicated to service in Christ's name. There are 34 branches in the United States and Canada. To learn more about The King's Daughters and Sons Kentucky branch and Jefferson County circles, call (502) 245-8916 or 829-5536.

# ISSUES

## Mergers, house meetings among ideas for rural churches

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

GRAYSON—After sensing God leading him to return to his native state in the mid-1990s, John Newland eventually became pastor of Hitchins Missionary Baptist Church, where his grandfather twice served as pastor.

In March of 2000, First Baptist Church of Grayson asked Newland to become its co-pastor. He resisted, saying he couldn't leave Hitchins, three miles south of Grayson, which had grown from five active members to about 35 under his leadership.

When First Baptist persisted, he agreed, but on the condition his members come with him. Both congregations agreed to the merger by more than 90 percent, and the two churches joined in late July 2000.

A year later, Newland became senior pastor when failing health forced Charles Davis to retire.

"We've had great success with the merger," Newland said. "Through the process we did not have one casualty, someone who quit going to church anywhere. I was pleased about that."

One factor that helped swing the decision was Hitchins' limited space. About 50 children came to vacation Bible school that summer, straining its

facilities. Also, members had talked about moving to Grayson because so many people either lived or shopped there.

While welcoming the country members didn't bring an automatic growth spurt, last year's average Sunday attendance of 150 at First Baptist is now up to 175.

Newland has introduced change as well, switching from the King James Version to the New International Version of the Bible, shedding his tie and adopting a blended style of worship. It includes electric and bass guitars, and sometimes a youth praise band.

For Newland, the most thrilling change came a few weeks after the merger, when his two elementary-age children played in a handbell choir.

"When my kids got up to play, I broke down sobbing with joy that my kids had a chance to participate in something like that," Newland said. "For four years at Hitchins, they were the only kids there."

Although he thinks the merger succeeded, Newland isn't a firm believer that all rural churches should take this step. While he recommends considering it, he suggests looking at other options.

In retrospect, he wonders whether Hitchins might have survived if it had returned to its former status as a mission of First Baptist. Closing the church meant the loss of another preaching point in Carter County, he said.

If some rural churches would revert to mission status, they might avoid dwindling away, Newland added.

"There would have to be a lot of dialogue," the pastor said. "You couldn't totally abandon the culture. But if a lot of small rural churches would partner with bigger churches in their area, it would help both of them."

Another alternative to rural decline is looking at church in a new way, said the pastor of a new, home-based congregation in the Ashland area.

Since January, Hillside Community Church has developed a network of 50 people, who currently meet for worship and Bible study in various homes.

Pastor Tim Holmes said members have participated in several community service projects this year to help spread awareness that the church is made up of people, not buildings.

Meeting house to house is so old-fashioned it seems new in Boyd Coun-

ty, Holmes said. But the second chapter of Acts mentions worship, prayer and home fellowship, not a building, he said.

"I did pulpit supply for 10 years and saw a lot of these rural churches," said Holmes, who formerly worked in campus ministry at Ashland Community College. "One thing I've noticed is they can't get past the idea of going to a building. They look at it as bricks-and-mortar instead of seeing themselves as a body of believers."

"I think the definition of church has changed," Holmes said. "We're sharing a vision of connecting and developing. I see a lot of 1970s ministry here, knocking on doors and inviting people to a place instead of going out and serving people. There's a lot of soup kitchens and clothes closets, but not a lot of church members are going to where the homeless live."

Not everyone has to use Hillside's alternative style, but turning around small rural churches will call for a willingness to change and pastors willing to serve small communities, he said.

"It's a different approach to ministry," Holmes said. "They can't be looking at nickels and noses. We have to teach people the church is not a place."

**"We have to teach people the church is not a place."**

*Tim Holmes, pastor of Hillside Community Church in Ashland*

### RURAL CHURCH CHALLENGES

**CP Missions and You...**

The Cooperative Program is about more than just giving money. Even though your offering makes a vital difference, so does your time. Experiencing missions first-hand helps you see how ministries touch lives for Christ. Serving as a volunteer brings missions to life each time you place your tithe in the offering plate. Campers on Mission is one of the many ways you can experience missions first-hand. Opportunities to serve include church construction, outreach (state waterways, campgrounds, parks), worship services at day camps and camp volunteer leadership in crafts, teaching and food service. Call Gilbert Chard at 606.277.5179 to find out how you can be the face of CP Missions in Kentucky through Campers on Mission.

**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

Putting a **FACE** on Missions in Kentucky

To learn more about CP Missions and volunteer missions opportunities, check out [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)  
502.254.4731 / 888.254.5713

# 2002 REPORT OF THE KBC COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

## SPRING REPORT

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Kentucky League on Alcohol & Gambling Problems (Trustees):**  
2004 unexpired term: Stanley Williams (Cannonsburg)

### KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**Booneville (Region 8):** 2003 unexpired term: David Caudill (Jackson)  
**Central (Region 7):** 2004 unexpired term: Vic Stansbury (Lebanon)  
**Freedom (Region 7):** 2002 unexpired term: Lance Metcalf (Albany)  
**Greenup (Region 8):** 2003 unexpired term: Mark Lynch (South Shore)  
**Irvine (Region 8):** 2002 unexpired term: Denver Banks (Tyner)  
**Jackson (Region 8):** 2004 unexpired term: Orval Marcum (Irvine)  
**Little River (Region 1):** 2003 unexpired term: Archie Brock (Cadiz)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2003 unexpired term: Gene Dyson (Louisville)  
**Lynn (Region 3):** 2003 unexpired term: Gordon McDowell (Magnolia)  
**Russell Creek (Region 7):** 2003 unexpired term: Jammie Vance (Campbellsville)  
**Tates Creek (Region 6):** 2004 unexpired term: Kenny Davis, Jr. (Berea)  
**Taylor County (Region 7):** 2002 unexpired term: Robert Clark (Campbellsville)

## FALL REPORT

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Campbellsville University (Trustees):**  
2006 Terms [11]: Doug Feltner, (Campbellsville); Lawrence Hall (Elizabethtown); Les Hollon (Louisville); Roy Honeycutt (Louisville); O.C. Jones (Radcliff); Alex Montgomery (Campbellsville); Larry Noe (Campbellsville); Ava Bingham Reynolds (Louisville); Wendell Ray (Murray); Jay Shoffner (Middlesboro); Mamie Wong (Fremont, California)

### Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees):

2006 Terms [7]: Jimmy Davidson (Abingdon, VA); Kenneth Dick (Monticello); Tom Prather (Louisville); Harold Robinson (Somerset); Doug Surber (Dayton, OH); Thomas Westfall (Pikeville); Don Lane Young (London)

### Cumberland College (Trustees):

2004 Unexpired Term: Doyle Baker (Lexington); 2006 Terms [7]: Donnie Patrick (Williamsburg);

Lonnie Walden (Williamsburg); P. Norris Shockley (Louisville); Billy Hurt (Symsonia); Jon Westbrook (LaGrange); Jim C. Oaks (Neptune Beach, Florida); Thomas Scott Thompson (Oneida, Tennessee)

### Georgetown College (Trustees):

2005 Unexpired Terms [2]: Eugene B. Arnett (Louisville); Richard Ward (Lexington); 2006 Terms [6]: Marion Bradford (Hendersonville TN); JoAnne James (London); David Wheeler (Los Angeles, CA); James W. Anderson (Lexington); Granetta Blevins (Mt. Sterling); Thomas W. Dowling, Jr. (Corbin)

### Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees):

2006 Terms [2]: Freida Tackett (Cynthiana); Mike Woolfolk (Benton)

### Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors):

2006 Terms [4]: Charles Barnes (Louisville); Shirley Spalding (Louisville); John Trisler (Salvisa); Cy Waddle (Somerset)

### Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (Directors):

2006 Terms [6]: Thomas Adkisson (Shelbyville); Tommy Morreau (Paducah); William O. Price (Owensboro); Lena Romans (Beaver Dam); Stella Thornberry (Hazard); Marjorie Yandell (Marion)

### Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems (Trustees):

2005 Terms [5]: John E. Smith (Upton); Sam Crawford (Pikeville); Skip Alexander (Campbellsville); Chris Holloway (Russell Springs); Mark Shelton (Burkesville)

### Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees):

2004 Unexpired Term: Herschel Morgan (Philpot); 2006 Terms [6] Allen Roberts (Manchester); Dervis Rush (London); Howard Williams (Oneida); Orman Wilhoit Conrad, Jr. (Falmouth); Ron Rose (Gray Hawk); Farrell Isenberg (Owensboro)

### Western Recorder (Directors):

2004 Unexpired Term: Skip Alexander (Campbellsville); 2006 Terms [2]: Mike Harmon (Princeton); Don Mantooh (Morehead)

### KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**At-Large (Region 2):** 2005 term - David Stovall (Owensboro)

**At-Large (Region 3):** 2005 term - Pat Allen (Brandenburg)

**At-Large (Region 7):** 2005 term - Ken Jewell (Waynesburg)

**Bell (Region 8):** 2005 term - Jay Sulfridge (Middlesboro)

**Blood River (Region 1):** 2005 term - David Puckett (Benton)

**Bracken (Region 5):** 2005 term - Gary Conner (Carlisle)

**Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1):** 2003 unexpired term - Jerrell White (Eddyville)

**Christian County (Region 2):** 2005 term - Rodney Travis (Hopkinsville)

**Daviess/Mclean (Region 2):** 2005 term - Jim England (Owensboro)

**Daviess/Mclean (Region 2):** 2004 unexpired term - Gary Shockley (Livermore)

**Daviess/Mclean (Region 2):** 2005 term - Don James (Utica)

**East Lynn (Region 7):** 2005 term - Virgil Noe (Greensburg)

**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2005 term - Glen Cummins (Lexington)

**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2005 term - Carrie Beth Tonks (Lexington)

**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2005 term - Shannon Thomas (Paris)

**Enterprise (Region 8):** 2005 term - Jeff Shurow (Staffordsville)

**Franklin (Region 5):** 2005 term - Chuck Beighle (Frankfort)

**Franklin (Region 5):** 2004 unexpired term - Susan Brown Hutcherson (Frankfort)

**Freedom (Region 7):** 2005 term - Lance Metcalf (Albany)

**Gasper River (Region 3):** 2005 term - Murl Gray (Morgantown)

**Graves County (Region 1):** 2005 term - Tony Steele (Mayfield)

**Green Valley (Region 2):** 2005 term - Mark Galloway (Morganfield)

**Greenup (Region 8):** 2005 term - Floyd Paris (Ashland)

**Knox (Region 8):** 2005 term - Shane Nickell (Barbourville)

**Laurel River (Region 8):** 2005 term - Gregory Deaton (East Bernstadt)

**Laurel River (Region 8):** 2004 unexpired term - Doug Horsfield (London)

**Liberty (Region 7):** 2005 term - Toby Nunn (Park City)

**Lincoln County (Region 7):** 2005 term - Brad King (Waynesburg)

**Little Bethel (Region 2):** 2005 term - Joe Leonard (Madisonville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2005 term - Robert Blackburn (Louisville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2005 term - Jon Auten (Louisville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2005 term - Martha Lee (Louisville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2005 term - Kevin Hamm (Louisville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2004 unexpired term - Larry Mucker (Louisville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2005 term - Sam Gerding (Louisville)

**Mercer (Region 6):** 2005 term - Carlos DelaBarra (Louisville)

**Muhlenberg (Region 2):** 2005 term - Ron Melton (Drakesboro)

**Nelson (Region 3):** 2005 term - Bruce Treon (Cox's Creek)

**Northern Ky. (Region 5):** 2005 term - Ginger Sanders (Union)

**Northern Ky. (Region 5):** 2005 term - Arnold Caddell (Burlington)

**Northern Ky. (Region 5):** 2005 term - Bruce Peters (Edgewood)

**Ohio County (Region 2):** 2005 term - Pete Leach (Beaver Dam)

**Ohio County (Region 2):** 2004 unexpired term - Troy Richards (Fordsville)

**Pike (Region 8):** 2005 term - Tim Lucas (Pikeville)

**Pulaski (Region 7):** 2005 term - David Morris (Somerset)

**Salem (Region 3):** 2003 unexpired term - Don Cole (Brandenburg)

**Severns Valley (Region 3):** 2005 term - Bob Hamilton (Elizabethtown)

**South District (Region 6):** 2005 term - Bob Hammons (Crab Orchard)

**South Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7):** 2005 term - John Justice (Corbin)

**South Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7):** 2003 unexpired term - Sam Ballou (Corbin)

**Tates Creek (Region 6):** 2005 term - Bill Fort (Richmond)

**Taylor County (Region 7):** 2005 term - Robert Clark (Campbellsville)

**Three Forks (Region 8):** 2005 term - Alan Dodson (Hazard)

**Upper Cumberland (Region 8):** 2005 term - Glenn Durham (Harlan)

**Upper Cumberland (Region 8):** 2004 unexpired term - John Cody (Evarts)

**Warren (Region 3):** 2005 term - Steve Hussung (Bowling Green)

**West Ky (Region 1):** 2005 term - James Presson (Cunningham)

**West Union (Region 1):** 2005 term - Kevin McCallon (Paducah)

**West Union (Region 1):** 2004 unexpired term - Matt Rudy (LaCenter)

### Preacher of 2003 Annual Sermon:

Skip Alexander (Campbellsville)

Alternate: Greg Giltner (Hopkinsville)

### Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

**Committee Members:** Doug Anderson (Chairperson), Tom Hughes (Vice-Chairperson), Kathryn Akridge, Ron Barnett, David Brasher, Truett Cocanougher, Nancy Cooper, Larry Davis, Brenda Easterling, Kathleen Hall, Farrell Isenberg, Mary Lou Jenkins, Layne Johnson, James Jones, Larry Kemp, Linda Krutza, Stan Lowery, Shane Nickell, June Rice, Lena Romans, Wes Roy, Paul Schmidt, Bob Sutton, and Norman Workman

# 2002 REPORT OF THE KBC COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

**Committee on Arrangements - 2005 terms -** Bob Lowery (Central City) and Carroll Mosely (Bowling Green)

**Committee on Constitution & Bylaws - 2005 terms -** Wendell Romans (Beaver Dam), Bill Nichols (Manchester) and Jason Pettus (Bowling Green)

**Committee on Credentials - 2005 terms -** T.A. Prickett (Owensboro), Kent Workman (Crofton) and Gary Arrington (Ashland)

**Committee on Nominations - 2004 terms unless noted otherwise:**

**Region 1:** Charlie Simmons (Mayfield)

**Region 2:** Steve Evans (Owensboro) and Jerry Tooley (Owensboro)

**Region 4:** Jon Bishop (Louisville) and Linda Barnes Popham (Louisville); 2003 unexpired term - Kevin Ezell (Louisville)

**Region 5:** David Cheek (Mayslick)

**Region 6:** Jim McGee (Lexington) and Carol Hatley (Winchester)

**Region 7:** Darren Gaddis (Corbin) and Geneva Faw (Waynesburg)

**Region 8:** Dorothy Crace (Ashland)

**Committee on Order of Business - 2003 unexpired term -** Skip Alexander (Campbellsville); 2005 terms - Jack Gordon (Hopkinsville) and Greg Cagle (Pikeville)

**Committee on Public Affairs - 2003 unexpired term -** Tom Butler (Paducah); 2005 terms - Melvin Felts (Hopkinsville), French Harmon (Ft. Mitchell) and Leigh Anne Alexander (Campbellsville)

**Committee on Resolutions - 2004 terms -** Ralph Neal (Barbourville) and Tim Harris (Woodburn)

### Persons to Report - 2003

**Cooperative Program:** Billy Compton (Elizabethtown); Alternate: Bill Henard (Nicholasville)

**International Mission Board:** Norman Lytle (Louisville); Alternate: Larry Baker (Hopkinsville)

**North American Mission Board:** Belinda Riley (Lynch); Alternate: John Morris (Hazard)

**Obituaries:** James Pierce (Lexington)

### Recommended by Committee on Committees:

**Committee Members:** Carl Boyd (Chairperson), Kay Trisler (Vice-Chairperson), Paul Badgett, Mary Lou Crutcher, Tyre Denney, Dan Ferguson, Steve Hussung, Mike Melloan, and Roger Wolfe; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director - Bill Mackey and Convention President - Harold Greenfield

# CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

## Seeking & Serving

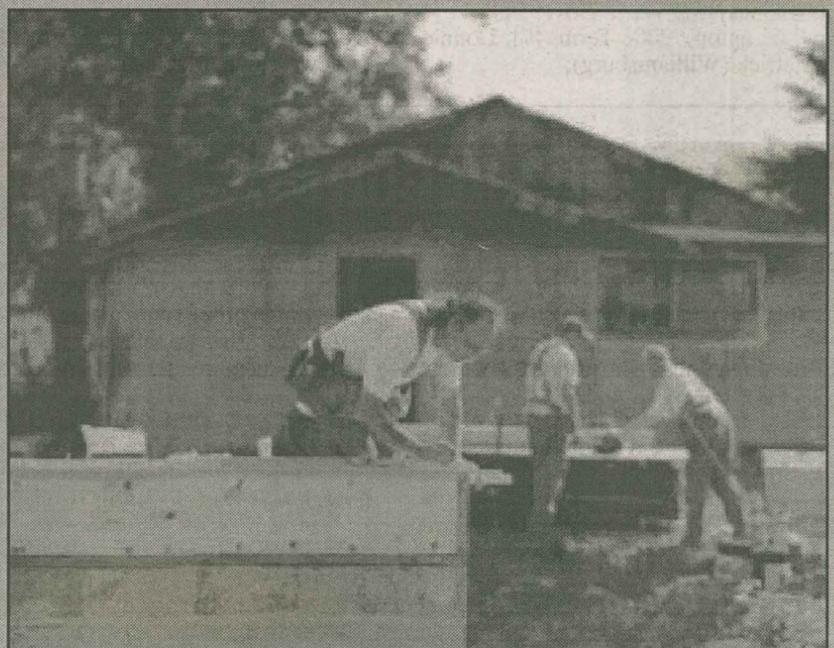
As the new sculpture for the college's boulevard suggests, the spirit of servanthood is integral to Cumberland. Believing that knowledge and education do not exist in a vacuum, the Leadership/Community Service Program illustrates Cumberland's deep commitment to leadership and community service as a moral task and ethical responsibility. The goal of this program is to empower students to become compassionate agents of change, to use their knowledge and abilities to help others, to inspire responsibility, and to stimulate service as a lifelong conviction. Each student participates.

*The Divine Servant* (Jesus Washing the Feet of Peter) by Max Greiner, Kerrsville, TX

**Mountain Outreach** In 1982, as they drove through the mountains of southeastern Kentucky, two Cumberland College students were moved by the needs of poverty-stricken families living in ramshackle homes without running water, electricity, or proper sanitation. By the time they graduated in 1984, they had helped build nine houses, and the legacy of Mountain Outreach was established. The program operates solely on donations and gifts provided to the college.

Mountain Outreach recently celebrated building its 100th house, a home for a family of eight. The mother said of learning a house would be completed for them, "You'd have to live my life to know how special that day was to me."

For more information on the Mountain Outreach Program at Cumberland College, see <http://cc.cumberlandcollege.edu/outreach/outreach.htm>.

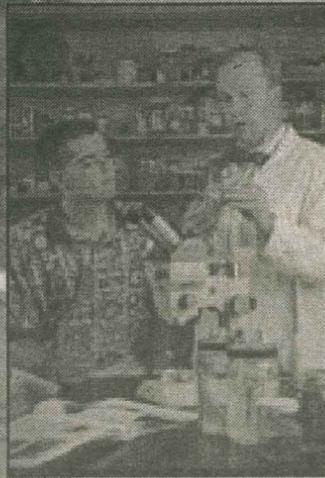


Church groups often help with summer construction. Viewed against the old home, long-time local volunteer Dallas Vest works on the new.

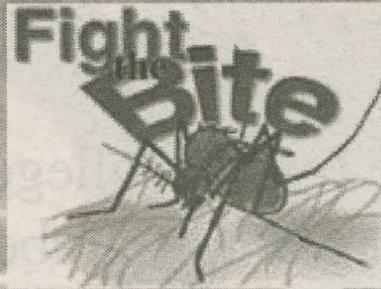
# Serving a



The Ward and Regina Correll Science Building will follow the design of Monticello. Here technically advanced laboratories and classrooms will serve students studying in the scientific areas.

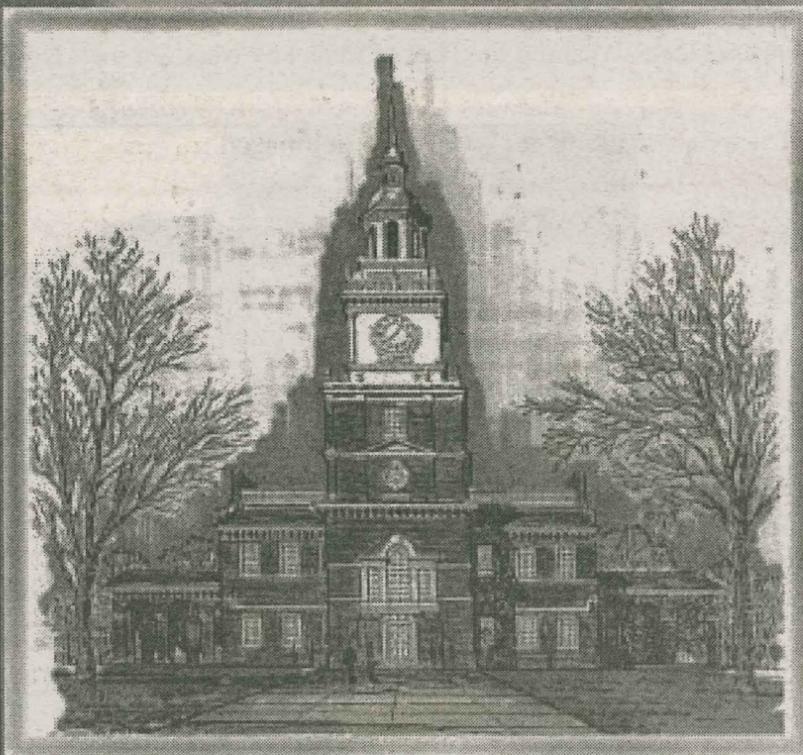


Dr. Robert Hancock, Cumberland professor of biology, has drawn international attention for his mosquito expertise through appearances on the Discovery Channel and NBC's Dateline. Posters featuring Dr. Hancock's work and related information about West Nile Virus have been distributed to Kentucky schools and elsewhere.



President Abraham Lincoln said in an 1861 speech at Independence Hall, "I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here, in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle, from which sprang the institutions under which we live." How appropriate that a replica of such a setting be built for a place of learning.

Plans for the new Cumberland College business department facility are under way, and construction on the two-story frame is expected to begin soon. Ground was broken in February on the site, where a "mountain" was moved to fill in dirt and prepare for establishing the foundation.



Featured left, an artist's rendition of the new business building to be fashioned similar to Independence Hall.



The Joan Day Foyer of the Grace Crum Rollins building will be dedicated in April. A foyer plaque honoring building benefactors will find a place of endeavor, of high expectation, of bright light on the highest mountain, a lamp of learning, of grace and beauty and warmed by its commitment.

# g a Purpose

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

### A Time to Build!

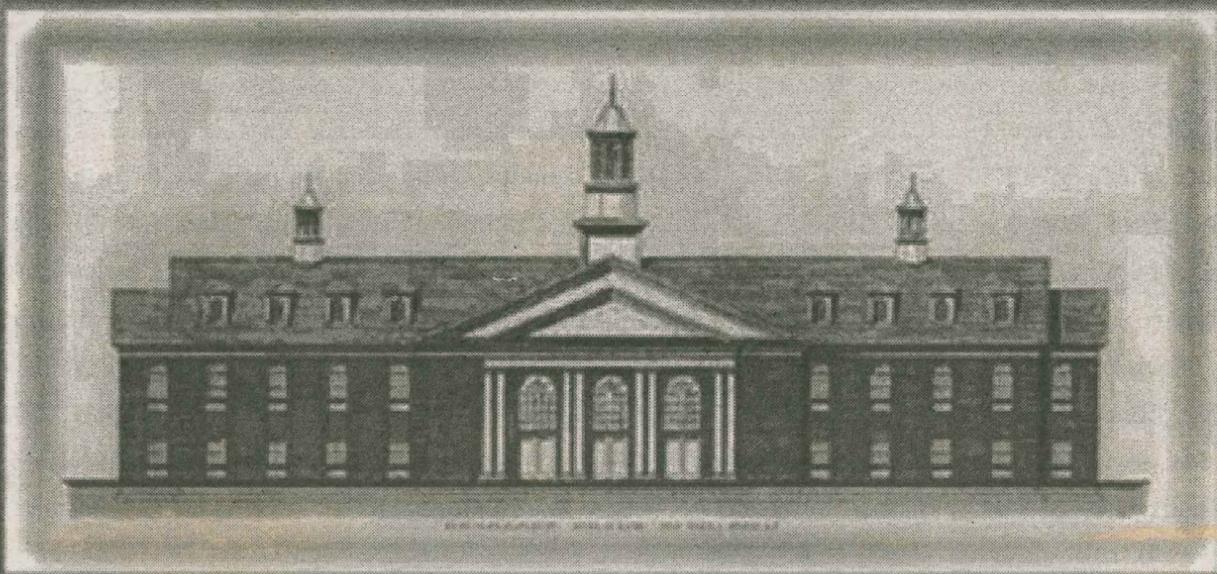
Whether building the character of an individual or building a home for a family, Cumberland has a missions emphasis with a world view. Clocks set to reflect the time on other parts of the globe were recently added to the outside of the Rollins Center to remind students that the world is larger than their own corner of it. Not surprisingly, Cumberland students were scattered across many countries again this year, studying, working, and ministering to others. A number of students traveled to Paris, France with the KBC Student Ministries Department sharing with North African and Middle Eastern residents there. Meanwhile, others were in Haiti, ministering to severely disabled children in orphanages. Cumberland students also went to Spain and Peru to evangelize and build.



A clock tower is being built as a centerpiece of campus to point students, as they look up, in the right direction toward heaven, while reminding them that the time God has given to accomplish His purpose is swiftly passing.

"We know the goals of a meaningful society reflect a hunger for kindness, gentleness and fair play. The men and women we admire put in more than they take out. They are broadly cooperative, where others are merely competitive. They look forward, not backward; they have bifocal vision... they can see both the present and the future. They build fires by which others are warmed. They dig wells from which they never drink. They are mentors for the underdog, the walking wounded, the down and outers. They see life, not as a ladder to be climbed, but as a giant spiral staircase, with room enough for everyone to attain a lofty position." - Cumberland College President Jim Taylor, honoring Dr. Edward L. Hutton at the Hutton Hall dedication in May.

Hutton Hall, residence for women, also houses the Emma McPherson Chapel, which was dedicated in April. The chapel is named for Cumberland teacher "Miss Mac," who is remembered for her Christian witness, sense of humor, faithful friendship and abiding love and prayers.



um Rollins Fine Arts Center was dedicated  
ilding benefactors reads, "Here students will  
ectation, of hopefulness. You have placed  
p of learning for all to be guided by its bril-  
s commitment to Christian values."

# CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

*Serving in Kentucky...*

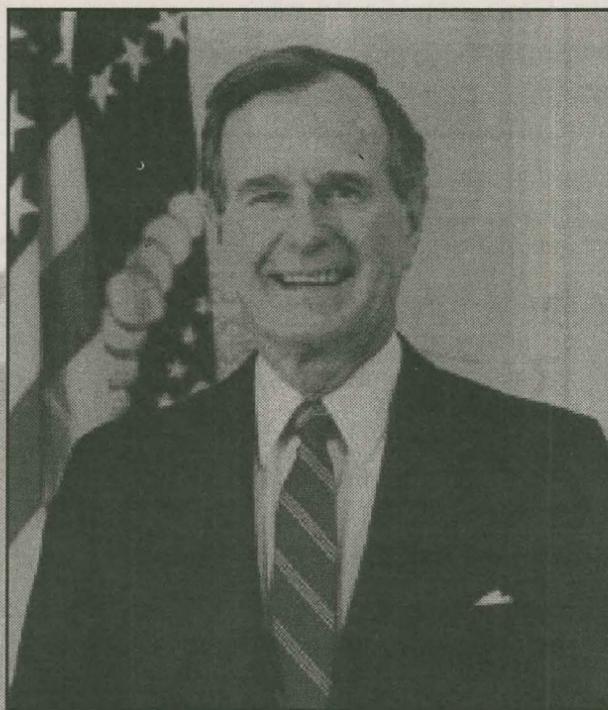
**PASTORS:** Rev. Ray Cummins, ('55) Indian Fork, Bagdad • Rev. Dallas Messer, ('55) Baxter First Baptist, Harlan • Rev. Marshall Eastham, ('55), Pleasant Valley, Greensburg • Rev. H. G. Pratt, ('56), Clearfield Baptist, Clearfield • Rev. Kendall Hatton, ('61), Rectors Flat, Monticello • Rev. Richard DeBell ('62), Bethany Baptist, Williamstown • Rev. Bill Collett ('64), Kelly Street, Harlan • Rev. Sam Smith, ('66) Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Corbin • Dr. Robert (Don) Mantooth ('67), First Baptist Church, Morehead • Dr. Floyd Price ('67), First Baptist, Prestonburg • Rev. Calvin Hibbard, ('68), Laurel River Baptist, London • Dr. Michael W. Bryant, Sr. ('69), Faith Harvest Fellowship, Mt. Vernon • Rev. James Holloway, ('71), Twelfth Street Baptist, Paducah • Rev. Bob Bausum, ('72), Salt River Baptist, Perryville • Rev. Max Cox ('72), Bacon Creek Baptist, Corbin • Rev. Donald Kannady ('72), Oakland Baptist, Glencoe • Rev. David L. Hughes, ('73), Bethlehem Baptist, Louisville • Rev. Bobby Joe Rouse, ('73), Pansy Missionary Baptist, Mary Alice • Rev. Johnny Jervis, ('74), Swiss Colony Baptist, London • Rev. Stephen Wayne Alford ('75), Belleview Baptist, Burlington • Rev. George Naylor ('76), New Bethel Baptist Church, Verona • Rev. David Michael Lee ('77), Eastwood Baptist, Bowling Green • Rev. Willie E. Ailstock, III ('77), Dry Ridge Baptist, Dry Ridge • Dr. William D. Henard, III ('77), Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington • Rev. Drew Martin, ('77), Reid Village Baptist, Paris • Rev. Gary Kasey, ('78), New Salem, Vine Grove • Rev. Wendell Shane Nickell ('78), First Baptist, Barbourville • Rev. Kenneth Willoughby ('78), First Baptist, Newport • Rev. Rick Frazier ('79), First Baptist, Louisa • Rev. Robert Lee Barnes, ('79), Berlin Baptist, Burlington • Rev. Michael Caudill, ('79), First Baptist, Hindman • Rev. Brian Shoemaker, ('79), Buckner Baptist, LaGrange • Rev. Willis Bennie Bush, ('80), Faith Baptist, Corbin • Rev. David Charles Cheek, ('82), Mays Lick Baptist, Mays Lick • Rev. Gary Kirby, ('83), Lick Fork Baptist, London • Rev. Jerry T. Browning, ('84), Forks of Dix River Baptist, Lancaster • Rev. Donald L. Jones, ('84), Immanuel Baptist, Somerset • Rev. Bruce Treon, ('84), New Salem Baptist, Cox Creek • Rev. Tom A. Wicker, ('85), Chaplin Baptist, Chaplin • Rev. Will Langford, ('86), Hickory Grove Baptist, Independence • Rev. Vola W. Brown, ('86), Freedom Baptist, Stanford • Rev. David Robinson, ('86), North Fork Baptist, Whitesburg • Rev. Tim Hobart Mills, ('88), Bethlehem Baptist, Pineville • Rev. Richard Bowden, ('89), Ormsby Heights Baptist, Louisville • Rev. Virgle Grant, ('90), Eastside Bethel Baptist, Richmond • Rev. Wesley Brockway, ('91), Davis Memorial, Louisville • Rev. Troy Shelton, ('91), River of Life Community Church, Springfield • Rev. Shannon Back, ('92), Jeffersonville Baptist, Jeffersonville • Rev. Gene Bracken, ('92), Hiseville Baptist, Hiseville • Dr. Paul Chitwood, ('92), First Baptist, Somerset • Rev. Donnie B. Patrick, ('92), First Baptist, Paintsville • Rev. Robert Wesley Roy, Jr., ('92), Highland Hills Baptist, Fort Thomas • Rev. David Hewitt, ('94), Mt. Freedom Baptist, Wilmore • Rev. Jimmy Siler, ('94), Locust Grove, Girdler

**DIRECTORS OF MISSIONS:** Rev. Janus Jones, ('65), South Union/Mt. Zion Associations • Rev. Roy Faulkner, ('68), Laurel Association • Rev. Ronald L. Chastain, ('71), Crittenden Association • Rev. Jerry Tooley ('78), Daviess-McLean Association • Rev. Kenneth Dick ('79), Freedom/Wayne County Associations • Rev. Harry Hunter, ('90), Lincoln and Casey County Associations

**ASSOCIATE PASTORS/MINISTERS OF YOUTH/MUSIC/OTHER:** Rev. C. Richard Dendler, ('58), Assoc. Pastor, Florence Baptist Church, Florence • Rev. Steve Fegenbush, ('74), Interim Minister of Music, • Rev. Joe Mobley ('76), Evangelist, London • Rev. Ken Whitehouse, ('76), Evangelist, Louisville • Rev. Michael T. Smith ('77), Associate Pastor/Minister of Music, South Side Baptist, Covington • Rev. Randy Edwards ('80), Minister of Youth, Main Street Baptist, Williamsburg • Ms. Kime Murphy, ('82), Minister of Youth, First Baptist, Mount Sterling • Dr. Charles Edward Lawless, Jr., ('85), Professor, Southern Seminary, Louisville • Rev. Bob Burnett, ('87), Minister of Youth, Whitley City • Rev. Roy Hamilton McNeil ('88), Music Evangelist, Harlan • Rev. Mark D. Murphy, ('90), Minister of Education and Music, First Baptist, Mt. Sterling • Rev. Kevin Roach, ('90), Associate Pastor, Corinth Baptist, London • Rev. Brian Varble, ('90), Calvary Baptist, Lexington • Ms. Terre W. Jasper, ('92), Minister of Youth, First Baptist, Leitchfield • Ms. Joy Wallace Burdette, ('93), Minister of Music, Fort Mitchell Baptist, Fort Mitchell • Rev. William Bradley Clark, Jr., ('94), Minister of Youth, Hickory Grove Baptist, Independence • Rev. Aaron Hogue ('00), Director of FCA Ministries for Kentucky, Somerset • Rev. Matthew Howe ('02), Minister of Youth, New Salem Baptist, London

**KBC OFFICIALS:** Dr. Ralph Nolan Hopkins ('63) KBC Collegiate Ministries Dept • Rev. David Aker ('64) Mountain Missions Director • Rev. Richard A. Adams, ('79), KBC Administrator

*(This list is not exhaustive. We apologize for any omissions.)* \*Background detail is the Mountain Outreach stained-glass window of the Gatliff Chapel



For its merit in serving fellow citizens, Cumberland's Mountain Outreach Program was named by **President George Bush** as his 220th Point of Light. The program recently celebrated building its 100th home for Kentuckians in need. Others who have recognized the college's efforts by visiting campus include: **President Jimmy Carter**, The Today Show's **Willard Scott**, Academy Award winner **Patricia Neal**, White House Bureau Chief for UPI **Helen Thomas**, comedian **Jerry Clowers**, and **Lt. Col. Oliver North**, as well as Kentucky celebrities **Cawood Ledford** and **Al Smith**.

# KENTUCKY

## SOUTHEAST MISSOURI REGIONAL FOUNDERS FRATERNAL

Invites you to its first meeting  
11:00 a.m., November 14, 2002  
First Baptist Church, Chaffee, MO  
Call (573) 887-3237 for more  
information

• Prepare  
for retirement

• Invest for a  
child's education

• Save for  
major purchases

• Create an  
emergency fund

• Consolidate  
retirement plans

• Build a  
family inheritance

• Reduce taxes

You face  
many  
investment  
needs  
in your  
lifetime.

**A**s you face these needs, it's nice to partner with someone you know and trust. The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has been helping ministers and employees of Baptist organizations prepare for retirement since 1918.

Now, through AB Funds Trust, the Board can also assist our participants and spouses with other investment needs. Stop by the Annuity Board's exhibit during the state convention to discover the many ways we can help you now and in the future.

1-800-262-0511

[www.absbc.org](http://www.absbc.org)



For more complete information about AB Funds Trust, including charges and expenses that apply to an investment in the funds, call 1-800-262-0511 for a prospectus. Read it carefully before you invest or send money. Shares of AB Funds Trust are distributed by PFPC Distributors, Inc., 3200 Horizon Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406

## Kentucky churches honored for ministry excellence

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Seven Kentucky Baptist churches were among congregations honored recently for ministry excellence by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The inaugural C.H. Spurgeon Awards ceremony, held on Southern Seminary's Louisville campus, recognized top churches in such categories as evangelism, global missions and worship. The awards are named after Charles Haddon Spurgeon, a famed 19th century Baptist pastor in London.

The ceremony, sponsored by Southern's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, included churches from Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee. Southside Baptist Church of Martin, Tenn., was named church of the year.

The event is the brainchild of Billy Graham School Dean Thom Rainer, who has been mailing certificates of recognition to the top Southern Baptist Convention churches for several years. Roughly 3 percent of the churches meet the criteria needed for a certificate—more than 25 baptisms and a baptismal ratio of less than 20 to 1 (meaning it takes 20 church members to reach one person).

In addition to baptismal criteria, Spurgeon Award recipients also are examined closely in other areas of ministry.

"Evangelism becomes a filter, but that's a minimal evangelistic criteria," Rainer noted. He said the goal is to highlight effective congregations "as models to others that this can happen in your church."

"The good thing about it is different size churches won the awards, and we didn't try to push the envelope that way," Rainer said. "It just happened."

Kentucky Baptist churches honored, and the category for which they were recognized, include:

- Evangelism, Garner Baptist Church in Rush.
- Prayer, Marrowbone Missionary Baptist Church in Elkhorn City.
- Worship, Main Street Baptist Church in Alexandria.
- Ministry, Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.
- Global missions, Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Innovative approaches, New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville.
- Preaching, Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown.

The ceremony is scheduled to go nationwide next year. A national Spurgeon Awards ceremony for Southern Baptist churches will be held in March, followed by a national Spurgeon Awards ceremony for all evangelical churches—SBC and non-SBC—in November 2003.

**It was her best Spring Break ever...**

Amy spent a week in Miami, Florida with some close friends and a few new faces from Campbellsville University—but they weren't there to party. They were there to serve the less fortunate on a special mission trip. It was amazing how many lives Amy touched in just one week. She helped rebuild decaying homes. She witnessed to college students from other schools. She served hot meals to the area's homeless. In the course of helping others, she learned about the plan God has for her life. Campbellsville is filled with ways to strengthen your faith and make your spiritual journey exciting.

Contact us at 1.800.264.6014 or 270.789.5220 or [www.campbellsville.edu](http://www.campbellsville.edu).

**Campbellsville University**  
It's a great place to "Find Your Calling."

## James ossuary damaged during shipment to Canadian museum

### Bone fragments found in ossuary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Bone fragments have been found at the bottom of a limestone ossuary that some scholars believe might have once contained the bones of James, the brother of Jesus.

Oded Golan, the artifact's owner, initially said he would not allow the bone chips to be analyzed. He agreed last week, however, to permit the chips—the largest of which is half an inch wide and three inches long—to be DNA tested.

Golan had kept the bone fragments in a Tupperware container at his home in Tel Aviv.

TORONTO (RNS)—Officials with the Royal Ontario Museum have called in an insurance examiner to determine what to do about several cracks discovered in the 2,000-year-old ossuary believed to have held the bones of James, the brother of Jesus.

Earlier this month, the museum's curators were shocked to find a series of cracks in the relic that apparently had developed during shipping from Israel.

The Royal Ontario Museum was to be the first museum in the world to display the recently discovered ossuary.

When staff removed the packaging surrounding the limestone box Nov. 1, they found alarming cracks in its structure. Some of the fault lines are new; others were described as extensions of pre-existing cracks.

Museum officials assured reporters the ossuary has not broken, but added they are concerned the cracks might make the piece unstable.

One of the new cracks runs directly through the box's now-famous Aramaic inscription, "Ya'akov (James), son of Yosef (Joseph) brother of Yeshua (Jesus)."

Oded Golan, the Israeli owner who was responsible for packing, shipping and insuring the box, was notified immediately.

Golan has given permission for specialists at the Royal Ontario Museum to repair the box with special adhesives once the insurance company consents. The repair process involves injecting special glue and pigment into the cracks, some of which are about half a millimeter wide, so the fissures would seem to disappear.

The box has an insured value of \$2 million.

Dan Rahimi, the museum's director of collections management, said it is "extremely, extremely rare for objects to be damaged like this. It wasn't packed by museum professionals." He said the packing regimen followed by museums is far more thorough, involving the use of double wooden crates separated by stiff packing materials. Without detailing how the shipment was packed, he said, "We would not have packed it that way."

Royal Ontario Museum Director William Thorsell said the ossuary will go on display as planned from Nov. 16 to Dec. 29.

## Belarus president criticized for signing new law that restricts religious freedom

MINSK, Belarus (RNS)—Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko signed on Oct. 31 a highly repressive new law on religion in what some religious leaders are calling a decisive step back to the police state tactics that once terrorized believers.

"This law returns us to the times of Stalin," said Yakov Basin, president of the country's Religious Union of Reform Judaism. "Religious groups can only exist if they are registered with the government."

The law, widely condemned by Protestants, Jews, minority Orthodox Christians and Eastern-rite Catholics, sets stringent rules for the government registration of religious organizations, requiring them to have been recognized in 1982 when Belarus was part of the atheistic Soviet Union. Registration is necessary to publish, organize religious schools or host foreigners.

"Only two or three of our communities will pass the registration process," said Yauhiyn Androsik, a spokesman in Minsk for the 23-parish Greek Catholic Church, which

is loyal to the Vatican but worships according to the Eastern-rite and operated underground for much of the 20th century.

In addition, religious communities with fewer than 20 members are illegal under the law, banned from worshipping, even in homes.

In Belarus, the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Church is by far the dominant faith with about two-thirds of the population claiming membership. Roman Catholics rank second with about 700,000 believers and Protestants have an estimated 100,000 adherents.

Lukashenko, sometimes described as Europe's last dictator, runs the country as if it never left the totalitarian Soviet Union and is pressing for a political and economic union with Russia.

He supports the law as a means of fighting religious sects and preserving the place of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Metropolitan Filaret, the Orthodox leader in Belarus, sees the law as a means of "counteracting those forces that would destabilize society."

## A RELATIONSHIP YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.



### When organizations work together for a common goal, anything is possible.

In 1988, the Annuity Board established a subsidiary known as the Southern Baptist Convention Managing General Agency, Inc. (MGA) to assist Southern Baptist churches and organizations in obtaining property and casualty insurance. Since 1991, the MGA has had a contractual relationship with GuideOne Insurance. The Annuity Board endorses the GuideOne program. Dividends and charitable contributions from the MGA are paid to the Annuity Board's relief program, which benefits hundreds of retired ministers, missionaries and their widows.

To find out how this relationship can benefit your congregation, visit the Annuity Board booth during the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

WHERE: CUMBERLAND COLLEGE  
WHEN: NOVEMBER 12-13



## Unsafe at any speed?

*Churches seek options to popular but 'inherently unsafe' 15-passenger vans*

By George Henson  
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—More than 10,000 churches continue to operate a vehicle the Southern Baptist Convention's primary insurer of churches has declared "inherently unsafe."

GuideOne, the church insurer endorsed by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, insures more than 50,000 churches nationwide.

Of those, about 10,000 maintain policies on 15-passenger vans. Some of those churches own and insure more than one such van.

The insurer has strongly encouraged churches to stop using 15-passenger vans. "GuideOne believes 15-passenger vans to be inherently unsafe," the company said. "We encourage our policyholders to strongly consider other transportation options."

The company still covers 15-passenger vans it has already insured

but has stopped writing new policies for the large vans. It also has issued regulations about who may operate the vans. All drivers are required to have a commercial driver's license, a chauffeur's license or pass a defensive driver's course.

In April, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reissued a cautionary warning to users of 15-passenger vans. Government research has determined 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk that dramatically increases as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five people to more than 10.

The rollover rate for 15-passenger vans in single-vehicle crashes nearly triples when the vans are loaded with 10 or more occupants as compared to fewer than five occupants.

### Critics: Rollovers more likely

Critics say the weight and center of gravity of 15-passenger vans make them more susceptible to rollovers,



**15-PASSENGER VAN** The leading insurance carrier for Southern Baptist churches still insures 15-passenger vans but has stopped writing new policies for the vehicles.

that their design does not allow them to endure a side-impact crash and that many deaths in the vans have been attributed to occupants not wearing seat belts.

An investigation by CBS News revealed at least 424 people nationwide have been killed and hundreds seriously injured in rollovers of the vans since 1990.

These findings have created a quandary for many churches that don't want to operate vehicles that may be unsafe but have large sums of money invested in the vans. The vans are popular because they provide a relatively inexpensive way to transport a group of people in a vehicle that anyone with a regular license can drive.

Some church leaders fear that selling their 15-passenger vans might simply pass the safety hazard onto others.

First Baptist Church of Athens, Texas, is looking to dispose of its four 15-passenger vans. "We've parked them and pulled the keys," said family minister Joe Wood.

Shiloh Terrace Baptist Church in Dallas has bought a 24-passenger bus but is using its 15-passenger van until more members acquire the commercial driver's license required to drive the bus.

"We're still using it for a few things, but we've put a lot of restrictions on it," said Scott McLaughlin, interim church administrator. Among those restrictions are a limit of eight occupants and a maximum driving speed of 60 miles per hour.

Hampton Road Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas, held a driving clinic to acquaint drivers with the unique handling characteristics of 15-passenger vans.

### Designed for cargo, not people

Those characteristics have been noted by GuideOne and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Critics believe the van's body extends too far beyond the rear axle, causing the back end to swing out uncontrollably during quick maneuvers. This condition is exaggerated further if the van is towing a trailer.

The vans also are said to be top-heavy, because they are built on a cargo-van base. The design was based on

carrying cargo on the floor, not passengers elevated off the floor.

The solution to the problem, according to GuideOne literature, is for churches to use 15-passenger buses rather than the vans.

"The big difference between 15-passenger vans and buses is that buses are designed and made specifically to pass government safety tests for passenger vehicles," the insurer has told churches. "Fifteen-passenger vans are not held to this same standard. Buses generally are encased in a steel cage, have stronger flooring, specially designed seating with better collapse and impact absorption and better rollover protection."

The vans do not have side bar protection, meaning passengers face greater risk of injury from side-impact collisions, according to GuideOne.

Federal safety regulations governing 15-passenger vans also are less strenuous than those governing small buses.

### Seatbelts a key

On the other hand, the greatest determining factor in whether occupants in rollover crashes live or die is the use of seatbelts. According to the National Highway Transportation Safety Board, 80 percent of people killed in van rollover crashes in the last 10 years were not wearing safety belts. Passengers who wear seatbelts in 15-passenger vans are 75 percent less likely to be killed in a rollover crash than people who don't.

Ford Motor Co., manufacturer of the popular Econoline 15-passenger van, maintains the vehicles are "very safe." But Ford also agrees with government recommendations that the vehicles be operated only by trained drivers and that all passengers should wear seat belts.

Churches wanting to sell their 15-passenger vans might not get the kind of financial deal they want, warned Nick England, president of Lasseter Bus and Mobility in Lewisville, Texas.

"Churches should not have real high expectations about what they can get for their 15-passenger vans," he said. "There's just a real glut on the market, especially as more and more churches are trying to get out of these vehicles."

Church insurer GuideOne recommends that churches use 15-passenger buses rather than vans.

**An outstanding learning environment...**

Campbellsville University provides students with a first-class faculty. You'll be learning from some of the region's most distinguished scholars. In fact, over 70% of Campbellsville's professors hold a Ph.D. or the highest degree in their fields of study. Perhaps that's one of the reasons leading publications such as *Money*, *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report* list Campbellsville University among America's best small, private universities.

You'll be on a first name basis with your professors and not just another face in the crowd. We believe in providing students with a personal education—not a faceless one.

At Campbellsville University, you'll find an exceptional education and professors who really care about you. You'll find friends for a lifetime. You'll find ways to serve others while strengthening your faith. Through it all, you'll find the person you're meant to be—and the road you're meant to travel.

To schedule a campus visit or learn more about Campbellsville University, contact the Office of Admissions at 1.800.264.6014 or at 270.789.5220 or [www.campbellsville.edu](http://www.campbellsville.edu).

**Campbellsville University**  
it's a great place to "Find Your Calling."

## Baptists on both sides of Mormon property dispute

By Robert Marus  
Associated Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY (ABP)—A city block at the center of the Mormon universe is also at the center of a legal dispute pitting claims of religious liberty against the freedom of speech.

A three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that Salt Lake City officials violated the First Amendment by selling a section of a downtown street to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for use as a religious park. Terms of the sale said the area would remain accessible to the public but allowed church officials to regulate speech, such as distribution of anti-Mormon literature, on the site.

The case could go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. It has created strange bedfellows. A Southern Baptist minister and the American Civil Liberties Union join on one side, saying the sale terms violate free speech. A Baptist state convention joins the Mormons on the other, contending that churches have the right to remove protestors from their property.

The pedestrian plaza formerly was

a block of Salt Lake City's Main Street that divided the church's main administration complex from the historic Mormon Temple and other religious sites. The city sold the block to the church in 1999. Today it is a pedestrian plaza featuring religious statues, plants, benches and a reflecting pool.

### Free speech or 'antagonistic?'

An easement retained by the city, however, allowed the general public access to the site after the sale. City officials and church officials added language clarifying that public access did not include making the site a forum for free speech.

But the 10th Circuit panel ruled in October that parts of the plaza that were once city sidewalks remain a "traditional public forum" for speech.

But the Mormon Church, which owned the land before the city obtained the easement, said the plaza no longer resembles a city street and therefore is not a public forum.

Fifteen religious groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief supporting the Mormons. They include the Colorado Baptist General Convention and the United Methodist Church.

The brief says the three-judge panel's ruling endangers religious liberty

because it opens the door to forcing churches to open their private property "for antagonistic demonstrations and marches."

That is misdirected concern, Baptist minister Kurt Van Gorden said.

A leader in a 104-year-old ministry called the Utah Gospel Mission, Van Gorden was arrested twice in April for handing out Christian literature on the plaza. He was released on bail, and the church later dropped trespassing charges.

"The Utah Gospel Mission ... as well as other mission groups, have

used that section of Main Street to pass out gospel literature," Van Gorden said. "The city recognized that that was a public forum for over 150 years."

The judges agreed with Van Gorden, saying the city could not delegate to the church in a public easement the power to restrict speech in a way that discriminates against non-Mormon viewpoints.

Attorneys for the LDS church have asked for the full 10th Circuit Court to review the case because of its First Amendment implications.

### 15-Passenger Van Safety is Big News these Days!

LifeWay has the solution—a 15-passenger mini-bus that meets Federal safety standards.



- Mini-Bus
- 15 Passengers (No CCL)
- 21 Seating
- Center Aisle
- Low First Step
- Raised Roof
- Longer Wheelbase
- Dual Rear Wheels
- Steel Construction

#### SERIOUS CONCERNS

- How much financial liability can your church bear?
- Insurance rates are going up!
- Legal Advisers are saying, "Remove the last row of seats!"
- Some states have already put mandatory replacement deadlines in action!
- Charitable Organizations and Child Transportation Businesses are at Risk!

**LifeWay**  
CHURCH BUSES  
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.  
Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer

• Call us: 1-800-370-6180 • Visit us: [carpenterbus.com](http://carpenterbus.com)

### Your sacrifice means

their going—  
people hearing  
lives changed

a world reached

Johnson turns darkened cell blocks into classrooms for teaching stories of redemption and the principles of faith.



### Missionary Amy Johnson

Tears come easily during Johnson's morning prayers. "This work is not something to take lightly, and I always knew it wouldn't be easy; the Lord made that clear," Johnson says. "But I never regret that I came."

Johnson brings a word of peace to Honduras, one of the most violent countries in Latin America with more than 20,000 gang members and 67,000 AK-47s.

"... they've formed a new gang—a Bible study gang."

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®  
Goal: \$125 million



A Southern Baptist Convention entity supported by the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

® Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union.



That all peoples  
may know Him

# MISSIONS

## Missionaries own hockey team to reach unchurched

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)—Just call it a slap shot for Jesus.

A Southern Baptist missionary couple has bought and now operates a non-profit, developmental hockey team as a way to share their faith.

Stephanie Smith has long sought to impact the largely unchurched hockey community for Christ through her role as a sports medicine trainer.

She has ministered to players as sports medicine coordinator for a local private school and a nonprofit team affiliated with the Minnesota Junior Hockey League—a competitive development league designed for players through age 21.

But when the general manager of her junior-league team resigned for health reasons this spring, the Smiths were offered the opportunity to own and manage the team.

"We decided this would be one of the ways we could really expand the ministry because we would have operating control over what happens at each home game," Smith said.

Their goal: to bridge the cultural gulf between evangelical Christians and the hockey community—and ultimately reach players, their families

and fans with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"We want to show the Christian community that there is this wonderful group of people right at their back door who are not affiliated with any church but are religiously attending arena functions on weekends," she added.

Smith remains as athletic trainer, although now in an unpaid capacity. Her husband, Ross—a part-time church youth leader and former track coach with a business degree—is general manager.

### New name, new focus

They rebuilt the organization from scratch, renaming the team "Northern Lights" to reflect their Christian mission and an all-Christian staff.

"We chose the name Northern Lights because our staff wants to share the Light of the World as we develop the young men who are on our team and to create a bridge between the Christian and hockey communities," she said.

With the start of their first season this fall, they have involved local churches and Christians in staffing every position at the Northern Lights' home games, whether working the concession stands, overseeing the

penalty box or even singing the national anthem. Smith also hopes to further involve the hockey players and church groups in partner service projects.

Through those connections, the Smiths are helping Christians gain a better understanding of how to more effectively minister to hockey fans and families in their own communities and to use that model for reaching other sport groups.

"We want to allow these people who love, breathe and eat hockey to talk about what they love; then after listening, they will ask us about what we love the most—and that's our Father," Smith said.

The games themselves also will be opportunities for evangelism, including testimonies from Christians involved in hockey, contemporary Christian music and the availability of free hockey-theme tracts at the concession stands.

### Players on board

Players appreciate the owners' new paradigm for junior hockey.

"Everyone thought it was weird to hear a Christian-based organization was taking over," player Kelley Kranz said. "They didn't know what to expect and thought we'd have mandato-



ry church attendance or something. My parents had high hopes and figured it would be good. But our performance tells the story. Hopefully they all see that we're for real now."

The Smiths already have seen some success, especially this past summer at another hockey camp where they served on staff.

Of 175 elementary and high school staff attending, 96 made professions of faith during the three nightly chapel services. Two of the coaches accepted Christ the first night.

**SQUARING OFF** Southern Baptist missionaries Ross and Stephanie Smith operate the Twin Cities Northern Lights ice hockey team with the goal of building a bridge between the largely unchurched hockey community and Christians. Through last week, the team's 11-1 record leads the league. Five of the league's top 12 scorers play for the Northern Lights. (BP photo by Stephanie Smith)

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.  
— 1 Peter 3:15

THE GIVE ME AN ANSWER COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE:  
**WHY ONE WAY?**

What about the man on the island who's never heard the Gospel? How were people saved before Christ? Is Jesus "a" way or "the" way to salvation?

College students can get these and other important questions answered at Southern Seminary's 3rd Annual "Give Me An Answer Collegiate Conference," February 22-23. This affordable conference will be held on the historic campus of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and will feature Dr. R. Albert Mohler and our renowned faculty.

Are you prepared to give an answer? If not, let us help. For more information call 1-800-626-5525 ext. 4617 or e-mail [jauton@sbts.edu](mailto:jauton@sbts.edu).



2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

**He could have gone anywhere...**

Zach was already accepted in several of the nation's largest universities—but after a visit to Campbellsville University, he knew it was the right place for him. During his campus visit, students and professors came up to introduce themselves. He joined new friends at various on-campus events and activities. Before his visit, Zach worried he'd miss out if he attended a smaller school—but he soon realized he'd miss out if he went anywhere but Campbellsville.

To schedule a campus visit or more information, contact the Office of Admissions at 1.800.264.6014 or at 270.789.5220 or [www.campbellsville.edu](http://www.campbellsville.edu).

**Campbellsville University**—it's a great place to "Find Your Calling."

## Poll finds many pastors pessimistic about future of Christianity in U.S.

PHOENIX (RNS)—Most Protestant pastors believe the influence of non-Christian religions and "New Age" spirituality will increase in the next 10 years, while the influence of Christians will decline or stay the same, according to a survey by Ellison Research.

More than four-fifths of ministers polled (82 percent) said they expected the influence of non-Christian religions to increase in the United States in the next decade. A majority (55 percent) said they believe "New Age" spirituality will gain ground.

The Phoenix-based marketing research company based its findings on a national survey of 567 Protestant ministers who are actively leading churches. The sampling margin of error is 4.1 percent.

Other findings included:

- 35 percent said they thought the number of Christians would increase in the next decade, while another 35 percent thought the number would decrease. Three in 10 said it would stay the same.

- 37 percent of pastors said the proportion of Americans who are believing Christians will decrease by 2012, while 34 percent said it would increase.

- 44 percent of pastors said they expect the proportion of Americans attending church to decrease, compared to 33 percent who expect it to grow.

- 26 percent said they expect the influence of Christianity to increase in Americans' daily lives, while 41 percent said it would decrease.

- 44 percent believe overall freedom of religion in the U.S. will decrease in the coming decade. Ten percent think it will increase and 46 percent expect it to stay the same.

- 19 percent of pastors said Christianity will have increasing influence on national politics during the next 10 years, 50 percent expect little change and 31 percent said there will be a declining influence.

## Magazine uses science to explore how Jesus' face looked

NEW YORK (RNS)—Popular *Popular Mechanics* magazine, the techy bible for gizmo and gadget lovers everywhere, will probe "The Real Face of Jesus" in its December cover story.



The magazine and its scientific collaborators overlaid biblical descriptions and computerized tomography, a type of X-ray picture, on a Semite skull from the his-

torical era of Jesus to re-create what Jesus might have looked like.

The resulting composite looks little like the popular European-looking Jesus with flowing locks, according to *The New York Times*. One guess is that he was about 5 foot 1, with curly hair and weighed only about 110 pounds.

"If you look at the history of the

magazine, we have been explaining how the world works for 100 years. Our story demonstrated advances in the field of forensic anthropology," Editor Joe Oldham told the *Times*.

Jesus and other biblical topics are usually repeat winners for news magazines like *Time* and *Newsweek*. "I know a bandwagon when I see one, and as long as our approach fit our editorial mission, I was happy to get on it," Oldham said.

## "If My Money Runs Out Before I Do, What Happens Next?"

### Plan Now For Long Term Care Insurance

Call Long Term Care Insurance Expert NOW!



Carol James

Louisville  
Local # (502) 245-3966  
Toll-free: (800) 227-1394



**We bring good things to life.**

Insurance products underwritten by General Electric Capital Assurance Company

81669

## Calvin Fields Memorial Cabin

The boys' camping program at RABRO at Cedarmore is a program that has served young boys for many, many years.

Operated by the Brotherhood of the KBC, this camping ministry recently has been under the leadership of Dewayne Doyle and has been re-designed as the Mission Adventure Camp. Doyle has done an admirable job in leading this camping ministry into a new era. Under his leadership, stability has come to a much-needed ministry.

Years ago, a dear and dedicated man named Calvin Fields gave many years of his life to this ministry at RABRO. While I did not know Fields personally (he served before my time in this ministry), Fields represents the stuff of which spiritual legends are made.

In a very real and positive sense, Fields is a legend in boys' camping around the state. His love for his boys who attended camp was unsurpassed. He personally touched the lives of thousands of impressionable young boys. To count how many boys came to Christ under his ministry would be impossible.

As I travel across the state and talk about camping, the name Calvin Fields comes up more fre-

quently than any other.

In an effort to keep alive the precious memories of Fields' work and ministry with his boys, his family has generously given a great deal of money to a fund that will be used to build the Calvin Fields Memorial Cabin at the RABRO camp. This much-needed cabin will house boys who continue to come and experience Christ in the camping ministry now led by Doyle.

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES**



Rusty Ellison

I know so many of the readers of this column knew Fields well and loved him dearly. It is altogether fitting and appropriate that this project be completed. We already have more than 60 percent of the funds needed to complete the project.

If you would like to help build this Calvin Fields Memorial Cabin and donate to the Cabin Fund, please contact Randy Foster, Doyle or myself. We'd love to discuss the project with you.

As we do, we will likely hear your stories of how Fields touched your life or the lives of the boys you took to RABRO. To God be the glory for the selfless work of his servant, Calvin Fields.

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

## Churchgoers' giving

I am always disappointed when the annual reports of giving by American church members are released. I realize again how a small proportion of the members bears the large proportion of the responsibility for providing the financial support of the mission of their churches.

Here are the latest results reported by the "Chronicle of Philanthropy." Membership in Protestant churches in the United States had declined slightly, while contributions from those members had risen. Among the 62 denominations, the Southern Baptist Convention reported the largest total of member contributions at \$8.4 billion. Rounding out the top five were the United Methodist Church

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION**



Barry Allen

at \$4.8 billion, the Presbyterian Church (USA) at \$2.9 billion, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at \$2.3 billion and the Episcopal Church at \$2.1 billion.

Southern Baptists reported the largest number of members at 15.9 million with the Methodist Church being the second largest with 8.3 million. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reported 5.1 million members, the Presbyterian Church (USA) reported 3.5 million and the Episcopal Church reported

2.3 million.

It is when we consider the amount contributed per member that the reason for my disappointment becomes clear. Among these five major denominations, all were pitifully low. The SBC total per member was \$529, well below the national average of \$599. The Episcopal Church reported \$929 per member, the Presbyterian Church (USA) reported \$837, the United Methodist Church reported \$571 and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America reported \$448.

Obviously our churches have not taken seriously enough the responsibility to teach financial stewardship. Too often churches have narrowed the view of stewardship to institutional fund raising and concentrate solely on the amount of money that needs to be raised for the annual church budget and/or the building program. Churches are self-serving at that point and neglecting the issue of stewardship in the larger context of an overall philosophy of life. May God help us to get on the right track! Call us for assistance.

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

## A future and hope for Teddy

A while back, one of our Cornerstone counselors told me and some fellow Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children staff about an amazing young man named Teddy.

The more we learned about Teddy, the more we wanted to know him better. There were a few things that made the getting-to-know-you part challenging. First, Teddy's a really busy guy. He's a full-time college student, active in his church and an artist and entrepreneur. Second, he lives in a rural area of Eastern Kentucky, so hooking up wouldn't be easy. Third, he has a neuromuscular disease that has kept him in a wheelchair and in and out of the hospital his entire life. We finally made the connection, and last week Teddy shared his testimony by video-

it began to torment him. When he reached adulthood, he figured there was nothing left for him. He tried to take his life more than once. When he failed, he was ready to pay someone to do the job for him. God intervened in a mighty way, and through a loving family and pastor, Teddy was referred to Cornerstone Counseling.

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

tape with several special KBHC friends at the annual President's Dinner.

Teddy, now 22, never has known life without the disease, so according to his pastor, he was pretty much like all the other kids except he just happened to be in a wheelchair. He never seemed to be preoccupied with his disability. But, as he got older, he began to notice all the things he was missing out on. It began to weigh him down. Then,

Already a believer, Teddy wanted to figure out how God wanted him to spend his days between now and heaven. His Christian counselor wanted to help. Together they changed the focus of Teddy's attention from his disabilities to his abilities.

Jeremiah 29:11—a future and a hope. Teddy is able to see a more hopeful future because God was at work through

Kentucky Baptists supporting KBHC and Cornerstone Counseling. He now has an active ministry on the World Wide Web and has led people to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Because you were there for KBHC and Cornerstone, we were there for Teddy and Teddy was there for the people who needed him. Isn't God awesome?

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

## Newby serves in Colorado

Cumberland College junior Christy Newby, daughter of Vivian Newby of Benton, served as a Kentucky Baptist student missionary in Lowry, Colo., this past summer. She worked with Grace Point Church, a church-planting church just outside of Denver.

Newby primarily worked with children. When the pastor realized how gifted she was in working with children, he turned her loose to establish a children's ministry at the church.

As part of her assignment Newby also worked with Apartment Life, a church-planting group that places people in apartment complexes so they can begin Christian programs and ministries. During the summer, the group hosted Kids Clubs, breakfasts, pool parties and dog washing parties. Newby said the dog washing parties were especially fun.

Three youth groups visited the church during the summer. Newby worked with them in providing vacation Bible schools, youth rallies and kids' clubs.

As Newby reflected on her summer, she described the high point as "everything. There was never a point I got discouraged." She described everyone in the

church as special people. They all were encouraging of one another, she said, and served as accountability partners for each other.

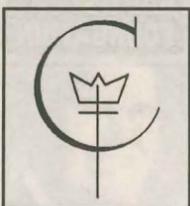
Newby learned that there are areas in the United States that are unchurched and unreached. She returned to the Cumberland College campus with a determination to minister to those individuals and reach them for Christ.

Newby also returned saying she learned a lot about prayer and how effective prayer is. Everything the church did was bathed in prayer. She wants to continue to live through prayer in her daily life.

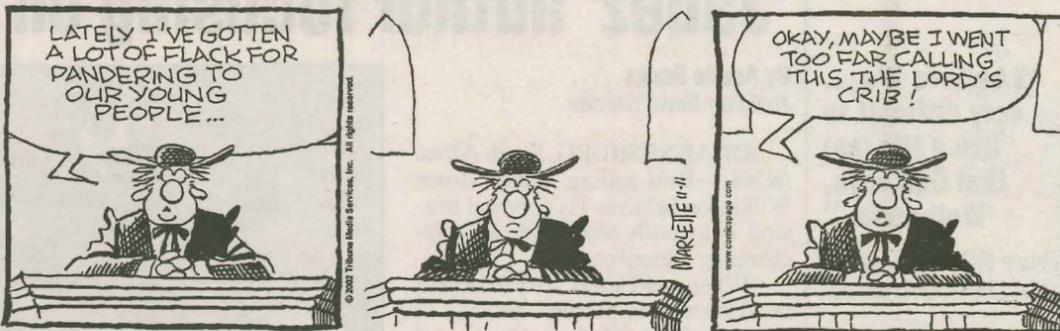
Newby, a communication major at Cumberland College, is one of many Christ-centered students on our campus. They are all making a difference for Christ on our campus and throughout our nation and the world. We thank God for all of them.

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

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

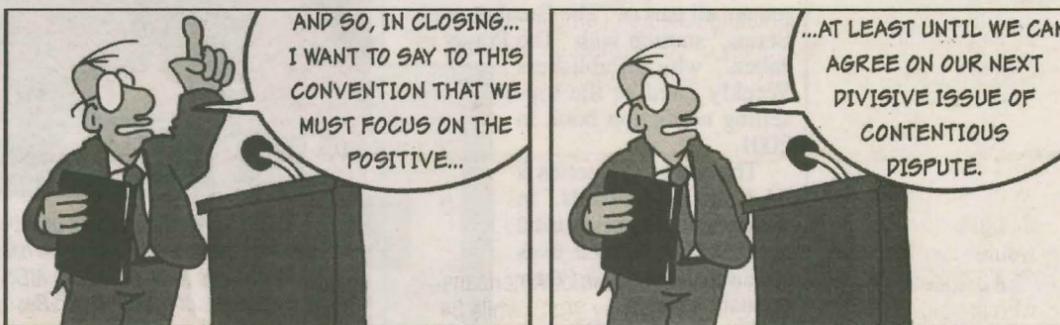


## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

## Bible Crossword

### Across

- 1 One of the seven churches (Revelation)
- 7 "These ... have turned the world \_\_\_ down" (Acts 17:6)
- 13 "and now shall I die for \_\_\_" (Judges 15:18)
- 14 "Blessed is the \_\_\_ whose God" (Psalm 33:12)
- 15 Egyptian sun god
- 16 Satisfied exclamation
- 17 Spy society
- 18 Branch of U.S. armed forces (abbr.)
- 19 Linking verb
- 20 Tropical Asian ape
- 22 British farewell
- 23 "The liberal soul shall be made \_\_\_" (Proverbs 11:25)
- 25 River between GA and SC
- 26 Celebrity of Calaveras County
- 28 Duck or down
- 31 "I will do all thou \_\_\_" (Ruth 3:11)
- 33 Spat
- 35 Pierre \_\_\_ Renoir
- 38 Secular
- 42 Cold (Sp.)
- 43 Belonging to Einstein, informally
- 45 Japanese outcast
- 46 "And great was the \_\_\_" (Matthew 7:27)
- 47 Biblical pronoun
- 49 Swamp
- 50 Windy City trans.
- 51 Look! See!
- 52 Norma \_\_\_ (Sally Field role)
- 54 Stagger

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13							14				
15			16				17			18	
19		20			21					22	
23		24			25			26	27		
28			29	30		31		32			
			33		34						
35	36	37						38	39	40	41
42					43		44		45		
46							47	48		49	
50					51			52		53	
			54	55				56		57	58
59								60			

- 56 Put in writing
- 59 Goddess of law and justice (Gr.)
- 60 City of the Philistines (1 Samuel 5)

### Down

- 1 "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no \_\_\_" (Genesis 13:8)
- 2 "Azareel, the son of \_\_\_" (Nehemiah 11:13)
- 3 New England state (abbr.)
- 4 Bore (colloq.)
- 5 "At that day, saith the Lord, thou shall call me \_\_\_" (Hosea 2:16)
- 6 Punctures
- 7 "\_\_\_ not your heads" (Leviticus 10:6)
- 8 "Neither shall there be any more \_\_\_" (Revelation 21:4)
- 9 Train dep.
- 10 Age of Roman toddler
- 11 "Gamaliel, a \_\_\_ of the law" (Acts 5:34)
- 12 Involve
- 21 "but a handful of meal in a \_\_\_" (1 Kings 17:12)

- 24 Mission accomplished in the end zone (abbr.)
- 26 "when the day of Pentecost was \_\_\_ come" (Acts 2:1)
- 27 King and Emperor (abbr.)
- 29 "they are \_\_\_ unto the angels; and are the children of God" (Luke 20:36)
- 30 Nickname of Cyrus
- 32 Which is (Lat.)
- 34 Kettledrums used by Moors
- 35 Influence
- 36 Russian mountain range
- 37 Actor Girard
- 39 Expeditionary force (abbr.)
- 40 Resident of (suffix)
- 41 Gave a sloping edge to
- 44 Middle Eastern country
- 48 Belonging to (suffix, pl.)
- 51 What to wear with a muumuu
- 53 Anglo-Saxon letter
- 54 Second note of a scale
- 55 Printer's measure
- 57 Part of the psyche
- 58 Preposition

### Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	D	A	M	P	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	R	A	M	P	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103
104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115
116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127
128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139
140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151
152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163
164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175
176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187
188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199
200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211
212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223
224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235
236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247
248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259
260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271
272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283
284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295
296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307
308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319
320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331
332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343
344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355
356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367
368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379
380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391
392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403
404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415
416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427
428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439
440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451
452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463
464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475
476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487
488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499
500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511
512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523
524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535
536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547
548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559
560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571
572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583
584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595
596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607
608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619
620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631
632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643
644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655
656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667
668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679
680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691
692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703
704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715
716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727
728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739
740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751
752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763
764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775
776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787
788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799
800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811
812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823
824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835
836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847
848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859
860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871
872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883
884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895
896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907
908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919
920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927				

## 'Jabez' author focusing on Africa, AIDS, changed lives

**"I believe it's ... very difficult to live a life (so) that God says, 'Well done.'"**

Bruce Wilkinson, author of "A Life God Rewards"

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (RNS)—Best-selling author Bruce Wilkinson believes his personal mission is to push people toward life-changing experiences.

"Whenever I speak, I try to bring a breakthrough to people," he said. "I like to help people individually and corporately."

The trio of popular books he's written are all part of "The Breakthrough Series," starting with "The Prayer of Jabez," which Publishers Weekly cited as the top-selling nonfiction book in 2001.

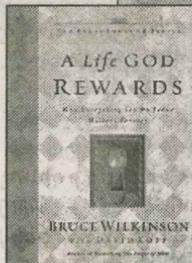
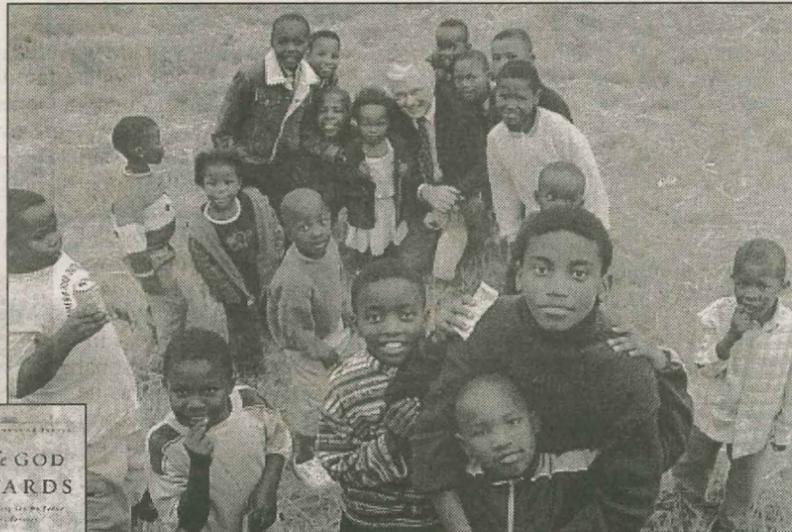
The latest in the series is "A Life God Rewards," in which he challenges readers to consider how their lives on Earth might affect their eternal existence.

The compact, 124-page book is based on his review of Jesus' words about eternal life.

"Christ's point is that the only way for you to have treasure in heaven is by passing on some of your treasure on Earth," Wilkinson said.

But the book series is just one of his missions in life. His newest passion is Africa, where he believes the crises of famine, poverty and AIDS should be addressed by more American churches.

After visiting his son and daughter-in-law, who already had moved to the continent to start a training school



**SOUTH AFRICA** "Prayer of Jabez" author Bruce Wilkinson poses with children in Umtata, South Africa. He has begun an effort to encourage more American churches to help address AIDS, poverty and famine on the continent. (Photo courtesy of Global Vision Resources)

for pastors, the 54-year-old author said he could not ignore the needs.

Through his new ministry, Global Vision Resources, he hopes to address the overwhelming social conditions with an "America to Africa" initiative.

"When you look at the Bible, and you say, 'What's God's primary method to help people?', the answer is the local church," Wilkinson said. "That's His organization. ... I want to bring the American church down to the African church to help."

Wilkinson, who has addressed audiences of thousands in South Africa,

Ghana and Nigeria, and met with political leaders of different African countries, was the longtime president of Walk Thru the Bible, an Atlanta-based ministry that offers Bible-teaching seminars. In April, he formed Global Vision Resources to extend his "breakthrough" writings via multimedia products.

In August, he moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, and expects to live there for at least three to five years.

He is in the midst of discussions with two evangelical organizations, the World Vision relief agency and

Promise Keepers men's ministry, to develop short-term voluntary mission work to address famine and coordinate training in AIDS prevention. He hopes interracial church teams in America and, when possible, in Africa will work together by next year.

Wilkinson wants to see the same American compassion that welled up after Sept. 11, 2001, shared with the African continent.

"Americans have lost touch with the reality of the need ... and when they go and they meet people who are literally dying of hunger they won't be able not to do something," he said.

Asked if his work in Africa relates to a desire for a greater reward in heaven, Wilkinson said he hasn't personally linked the two concepts.

"It's not connected because I have such a deep commitment to ask God to let me do more for Him that I'll go anywhere, change anything, give up anything," he said. "I believe it's ... very difficult to live a life (so) that God says, 'Well done.'"

But he hopes the concepts of his new book—written before his African plans took shape—may help others make a commitment to similar service.

"This book is trying to say there's an eternal consequence to whether or not you live your life for God ... and now that you know it, don't you think you better make sure you live that way?" he said. "And the invitation to do something in Africa is one of the thousands of ways you can make a difference."

### She always has a smile and a hug

We all appreciate knowing someone who will brighten our day and lighten our load. "Darlene" (not her real name) is just such a person. Darlene, a junior, came to Oneida four years ago. She was from north central Kentucky and came with the same frustrations familiar to many of our students. But Darlene had faced one challenge already that most young people have not faced: the untimely death of her mother.

Darlene's parents had divorced many years earlier. She had been living with her mother, who had a history of emotional problems. When Darlene was only 12, her mother took her own life. Darlene went to live with her father, but did not get along with her stepmother.

The emotional roller coaster Darlene had experienced during her young life began to take its toll. Her grades were everything from very good to very poor. She was not a discipline problem at school, though she had gotten into a little trouble over an easily avoidable situation. Her teachers were convinced she was very capable but was not motivated and did not apply herself.

At home, the tension between her stepmother and father was getting out of control. Her lack of motivation and resistance to structure and discipline was causing daily conflicts within the home. Darlene's father knew a coworker who had a son here at Oneida and had been pleased with his progress. Her father was impressed with what he had heard about Oneida and decided to give us a call.

After talking to her father, it didn't take long to realize that many of Darlene's problems revolved around the tragic loss of her mother. We all agreed that it would be best for her to be in

another environment.

There were no big surprises when she came to Oneida. She was not motivated, but she got along with her peers and she did an average job of getting along with teachers and house parents. One of the things Darlene told us when she enrolled was that she wanted to "accept her appearance." Though she was attractive, she was struggling with a weight problem. Additionally, she told us she had little self-esteem.

She did have an interest in music and joined the band and the choir. She also became very involved in our farm program, something she really enjoyed. Little by little, we began to see Darlene blossom in her work on the farm. And she began to smile. In fact, for the past two years I cannot remember seeing her a single time when she did not have a big smile and a ready hug.

While the faculty and staff at Oneida Baptist Institute normally feel that it is our job to brighten the day for our students, we also need a little encouraging along the way. Rare is the day when I and several others do not receive

a hug and a smile from Darlene.

Darlene is still not an honor roll student, and I suspect that she could do better academically. On the other hand, she gets along well in the dorm. She is not in the farm program this year, but still enjoys being in the band and has been a key figure in our school choir. Her self-esteem is much better, and I believe she has come to grips with her appearance.

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 trip back home

Thanks to an invitation to preach revival services at Providence Knob Baptist Church, I had four days in my hometown of Bowling Green. The white frame church sits on a hill off Ky. Highway 68 in the beautiful farmland Rockfield community of Warren County.

Pastor Joe Causey and his wife, Bonnie, were youth at Calvary Baptist Church in Bowling Green while I was a Western Kentucky University student. I was Joe's Royal Ambassadors leader. Bonnie and I laughed again about my less-than-perfect driving record.

The Causeys have served Providence Knob since 1980; most of those years Joe was a bivocational pastor. In these days when pastors are encouraged to follow the CEO model, it was encouraging to work with a leader who shepherds the flock. The highlight of the revival was the salvation of their granddaughter Kaitlin. The church gave \$400 to help endow the O.G. Lawless Scholarship. Lawless was a former director of missions for Warren Baptist Association and pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

People in the congregation stirred memories from five decades of my life. Four of my sisters attend-

ed; they were the first to take me to church at Calvary, where I was baptized, called to preach and ordained. The current pastor, David Gifford, and other members attended during the week. Calvary Baptist made the initial commitment for the Lawless Scholarship. Friends from the Class of '61 at Warren County High School reminded me of my first leadership opportunities.

I also visited with members of Jackson Grove Baptist Church, where I was pastor 1964-69.

In addition to the revival commitments and some study time for graduate classes I'm taking, three other essentials were on my list for this trip home. One day I visited the best mother-in-law a husband could have, Juanita Howard, a member of Eastwood Baptist. My sisters and I had supper together, and Betty hosted us after church for homemade banana pudding. The third essential was a visit to Riley's Bakery, a Bowling Green tradition. At least I didn't eat the brownies on the same day as the banana pudding. Much has changed since I moved away in 1969, but I'm thankful for people who helped me to still feel at home.

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

**CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE**



Bill Whittaker

# BOOKS/MOVIES

## Popular sports books for youth reissued to provide moral guides

By Cecile Holmes  
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—In an age of confusion and anxiety, the Chip Hilton Sports Series, re-released over the past several years by publishers Broadman & Holman, offers reassuring moral guidance for young Christian readers.

The final volume in that 24-volume series is now available.

This new book provides yet another good yarn in the popular fictional series for youth. Titled "Fiery Fullback," it continues an important tradition of youth fiction dating back to the late 1940s.

As the story in this book begins, Chip, the central character, is soon to begin his senior year at State University. He and other players on his team are preparing for the upcoming season at training camp, held annually at Camp Sunrise.

That advance season practice proceeds well, but for two problems: The State team lacks a strong defensive unit and a new player named Greg Hansen seems determined to cause problems for Chip and the rest of the group.

Chip tries but fails to understand Greg's motives. He has trouble reading his actions.

All he really knows is that the sole position Greg is willing to play is fullback. But Chip's team doesn't need a fullback. The current one, Fireball Finley, works well as an addition to the team's offense, meaning there is no need for a replacement.

The action unfolds when Greg opposes Head Coach Ralston's desire that he play middle linebacker. Greg doesn't want the assignment and opposes it throughout the sea-

son, remaining more intent on gaining fame for himself than carving the best course for his team.

As with all of the Hilton series, this book is a straightforward tale. In this book, a talented young sportsman tries to keep a naysayer from ruining team morale and unity. The last thing Chip's team needs in this particular story is a bad attitude when a trip to the Rose Bowl is in the offing.

The book was written by the late author and coach Clair Bee. Randall and Cynthia Bee Farley, his son-in-law and daughter, updated it.

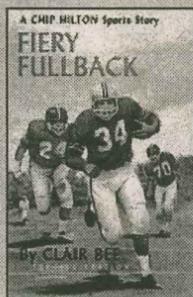
Before her father's death, Cynthia Farley promised him she would have his series of books republished to meet the needs of a new generation of youth.

Her father began writing the series in 1948 with the books issued in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Their creator was considered one of the greatest basketball coaches of all time.

Bee was elected to six sports Halls of Fame and awarded many honors before his death in 1983 at age 87. His coaching ability lives on in the NCAA's Clair Bee Award, presented to coaches for their innovation and influence on the game. His series for youth has shaped prominent figures including best-selling author John Grisham.

His daughter said she never realized how influential the books were. "We are, in fact, just now starting to glimpse how dramatically vital the series had been and continues to be to so many readers," Farley writes.

"The updating has been such fun," she adds. "Through his books, we feel we are keeping Dad and his great message alive."



**Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths.** Bruce Feiler. William Morrow Publishers, 2002. 224 pages. \$23.95. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

So, you think you know Abraham. Think again. Most of us are familiar with the biblical narrative in Genesis 12-25 about Abraham. We are even aware that the Apostle Paul uses Abraham as the model of what it means to be saved by faith. Yet that is only part of the picture of this known, but enigmatic figure.

Bruce Feiler, author of "Walking the Bible," invites us to take a personal pilgrimage with him as he seeks to understand Abraham, a pivotal figure for Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Along the way, he hopes that he and we will find something in this person who holds the key to greater understanding and peace among the world's three great monotheistic faiths.

In addition to introducing us to the role Abraham plays in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Feiler shares both oral and written traditions about Abraham that are not found in either the Bible or the Koran. For Judaism and Islam, and to a lesser degree Christianity, these extra-scriptural stories are nonetheless key to placing Abraham within each. At the same time, Feiler digs into the biblical story and presents aspects, nuances and key components of the narrative that most of us miss. In doing so, he offers both Christians and Jews a deeper, challenging insight into how Abraham fits into our understanding of God.

Feiler's engaging style quickly draws the reader into the world of Abraham, both past and present. He never dwells too long on any one insight or aspect, almost inviting us to investigate the matter further for ourselves. *Jim Holladay*

**Lamentations: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching** (a part of the Interpretation Series). F.W. Dobbs-Allsopp. John Knox Press, 2002. 159 pages. \$21.95.

My rating of the book is twofold: as a commentary: ♦♦♦♦♦; as a part of the Interpretation Series: ♦♦.

This is an excellent commentary on an Old Testament book that sees very little use in Christian churches. F.W. Dobbs-Allsopp writes in a clear manner. It is evident that the author has a real love for Lamentations and has devoted much time to the study of the book.

My major disappointment is that this commentary is misplaced in the Interpretation Series of commentaries.

This commentary is far more critical (in a scholarly sense) than any other "Interpretation" commentaries I have used. Dobbs-Allsopp acknowledges in the preface a struggle with the appropriate level of discourse for the work. The solution to this struggle, in my opinion, has placed the work outside the intended purpose of the series. Out of a total of 159 pages, the first 49 pages are an introduction that pursues every possible scholarly question about Lamentations. I am not

opposed to this attention and have already said this is an excellent commentary.

I am disappointed that the commentary does not focus mainly, as the other commentaries in this series do, on the teaching and preaching points that are useful for application of the text to the layperson's life. Especially after the author's reference to Sept. 11 in the introduction, I would have hoped that application to a world of threatened and realized terror would have taken a more prominent place in the work.

My real disappointment, then, is with the editors of the series who did not ensure that Lamentations received the same level of treatment as other biblical books covered in this excellent series. *Wayne Hager*

**Mary Called Magdalene: A Novel.** Margaret George. Viking Press, 2002. 630 pages. \$27.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

Mary Magdalene, though not one of the 12 disciples, nonetheless plays a pivotal role in the drama of the gospel.

Delivered from demon possession by Jesus, she becomes part of a small, inner core of women who followed Jesus and supported His ministry. She was present at the Crucifixion, and unlike the 12, she did not abandon Jesus. On Easter Sunday, she encountered the risen Lord, and was commissioned to go tell Peter and the others that Jesus was raised from the dead. Beyond a few other references in the apocryphal documents, this is all we know of her.

Margaret George has taken this information, as well as her in-depth research into the world of women in first century Palestine, and constructed a fascinating and rich biographical novel. She begins with Mary as a young girl, on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, who becomes fascinated with an idol of Ashara she finds in the dirt by the road in Samaria. This lays the groundwork for showing how Mary becomes demon-possessed and the resulting madness that accompanies possession, as well as the ways the rabbis attempted to deal with it. She encounters Jesus through Peter and Andrew, who have taken her into the wilderness to deal with her demons. After He exorcises the demons, she becomes a grateful, increasingly loyal follower.

George's grasp of the gospel message and the life of first century Palestine allow her to create situations for Jesus to speak the familiar words of the New Testament into real-life situations. She imagines that after Peter agrees to leave his fishing boats to follow Jesus, they go to Peter's house (he was married, remember), where Peter attempts to explain his new calling to his wife and family. The interaction is priceless.

Though the book is about Mary, the central figure is Jesus. Though a fictionalized version of both their lives, I still found it an enriching way to hear and present the gospel. *Jim Holladay*

## Latest 'Left Behind' video hits stores

ST. CAATHERINES, Ontario (RNS)—The End of the World apparently goes on for quite some time.

"Left Behind II: Tribulation Force" has landed in video stores before it will appear in theaters.

Distributor Cloud Ten Pictures won't release the film until Dec. 31, when it simultaneously will land in theaters and churches nationwide.

The latest film stars Kirk Cameron (of "Growing Pains" fame), Chelsea Noble and Brad Johnson, all back from the original "Left Behind: The Movie." They play members of the Tribulation Force. After hundreds of millions of people vanish from the Earth, those left behind continue their battles with United Nations President Nicolae Carpathia, the Antichrist.

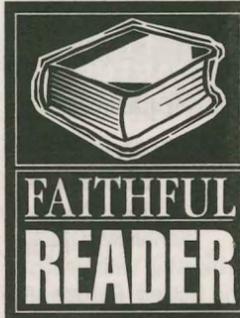
The 10 "Left Behind" adventure novels have sold more than 35 million copies since 1995. The series is based on the last book of the New Testament, Revelation, which foretells seven years of horror leading to the ultimate battle at Armageddon be-

tween Jesus and Satan. Book sales jumped 60 percent after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, part of a boom in Web sites and chat rooms devoted to end-times prophecy.

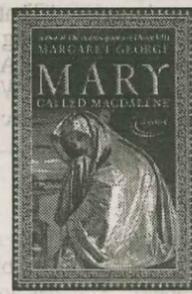
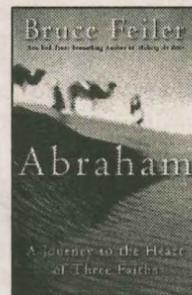
Peter Lalonde, co-founder and CEO of Cloud Ten, said the company's strategy of releasing the film first on video is to let word of mouth build in the Christian community for two months, making for a bigger box office on New Year's Eve. Churches will get the film for a licensing fee of about \$350.

No Hollywood studio releases movies on videos and DVDs before debuting in theaters. But the upside-down strategy worked in October 2000, for "Left Behind: The Movie." In its first week, it outsold such industry heavy hitters as "Toy Story 2" and "The Green Mile."

The video eventually sold more than 3 million copies. Its subsequent splash in theaters and churches made about \$4 million, further boosting video sales.



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



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Needed:** A team of up to 10 people to lead vacation Bible school in Hoensbroek, Netherlands, on July 26-Aug. 3. Contact Kentucky Baptist partnership office for details.

■ **God's direction** for evangelical Christians who are attending a Saturation Church Planting Seminar in Sibiu, Romania, this week. Pray that they will learn to partner with national believers in planting churches across Romania and other central and eastern European countries.

■ **Baptist representatives** Roy and Janet Miller and Brad and Amy Gilliland as they minister to English-speaking people in the Mediterranean region of France.

■ **The Beatas**, a couple in Poland who have professed faith in Jesus but are reluctant to be baptized and disciplined because of family concerns.

■ **Missionary Connie Robbins** in Russia, whose car was stolen last month. She writes: "Ask the Lord to use the Bibles in the car to help bring the thieves to Christ. Pray that the stolen car itself will be used of God as a method of evangelism, even now, as it is hidden away in some garage."

■ **Ministry to internationals** in Boston.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ALBANY**—Fairland Church recently held revival services with **David Frost** as evangelist.

■ **BARDWELL**—Antioch Church recently honored **Neville Dowdy** for 50 years as a Sunday school teacher. **George Gardner** is pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Hillview Church called **Jerry Howath** as interim pastor.

Jackson Grove Church called **Scott Hippler** as interim pastor.

■ **CRESCENT SPRINGS**—**Wayne Dozier** resigned as pastor of Crescent Springs Church.

■ **EMINENCE**—Eminence Church ordained **Glenda Lucas** and **Charles Turner Sr.** as deacons Oct. 27. **Michael Duncan** is pastor.

■ **EUBANK**—Glenwood Church called **John Piercy** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Memorial Church called **Rod Ellis** as full-time pastor of worship. He previously was interim minister of music at Latonia Church in Covington.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Bethlehem Church recently honored **Gary Ervin** for 30 years as pastor.

■ **HICKMAN**—**Tony Green** recently resigned as pastor of Davids Chapel Church.

■ **LIVINGSTON**—Pleasant Run Church called **Wayne Henson** as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Galloways** from Nashville in concert Nov. 17, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218.

Gethsemane Church will hold its annual Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 28, 3 p.m. For information, call (502) 969-3191.

■ **MONTICELLO**—Rectors Flat Church called **Kenny Ramsey** as pastor.

■ **NANCY**—King Bee Church called **Ernest Warren** as pastor.

■ **NEWPORT**—Trinity Church honored **Richard Livingood** Oct. 6 on his 10th anniversary as pastor.

## Cornerstone celebrates 10 years; Dooley among faithful volunteers

By Dannah Prather

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

**FRANKFORT**—When Marilyn Dooley first volunteered in 1993 for a new Christian counseling service, she probably thought she'd spend a season there and move on, just as she had done for several other worthy organizations.

But nearly a decade later, Dooley still serves through Cornerstone Counseling and encourages others to do the same.

This year, Cornerstone Counseling marks its 10th anniversary of professional, affordable Christian counseling throughout the commonwealth.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children establishes partnerships with local churches or associations to host Cornerstone offices.

Cornerstone counselors provide counseling to individuals, couples and families. The partnership arrangement permits fees that are lower than most counseling services. Scholarships also are available to clients in need.

The program first began in Bowling Green in 1992 through a partnership with Warren Baptist Association.

In Frankfort, KBHC worked with Franklin Baptist Association to open a Cornerstone office in 1993 at Dooley's church, Immanuel Baptist.

Dooley said she and other members of Immanuel "were anxious to have a Christian counseling service here. People need guidance and many secular counseling services are so expensive."

Today, there are Cornerstone Counseling offices in more than 20

cities: Ashland, Berea, Campbells-ville, Corbin, Frankfort, Harlan, Harold, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, La Grange, London, Louisa, Madisonville, New Castle, Northern Kentucky, Owensboro, Paducah, Pineville, Somerset and Stanford.

As a receptionist, Dooley's job is to "be cheerful and be helpful." Hers often is the first face many clients see.

She welcomes them into the church library, which doubles as Cornerstone's reception area. "A lot of our clients are not affiliated with any church," she said. "We

try to show love and compassion. ... We don't give advice. If they feel like talking, we just listen. Nothing that is said leaves the room."

Cornerstone Counselor Ken Walker said Dooley and other volunteers provide an important service to the ministry.

"I couldn't make it without Marilyn," said Walker, who has worked seven years at the Frankfort office.

"The first impression people get of Cornerstone comes from our volunteers," he added. "Marilyn and our other volunteers have a sense that Cornerstone is truly a ministry and they carry that attitude with them."

Dooley said that when a client does not return for counseling, she considers it a positive sign that the person's emotional health has improved. "We might ask Ken about someone and he'll say, 'They are well on their way,'" she said.

For information about Cornerstone Counseling, call (800) 981-7493.



Dooley

■ **PAINT LICK**—Good Hope Church called **Kenan McWhorter** as pastor.

■ **RADCLIFF**—Stithton Church called **Wayne Lipcomb** as pastor, effective Oct. 20. He previously was pastor of Union Church.

■ **ROCKFIELD**—New Gasper Church called **Andy Haley** as interim pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Buena Vista Church called **Michael Stacey** as pastor Oct. 13.

Mount Victory Church called **Mark Hail** as pastor.

Pleasant Run Church ordained **Jim Weddle** as a deacon Oct. 13.

■ **STEARNS**—First Church called **Timothy Morris** as pastor effective Nov. 10.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Mossy Gap Church called **Bernard Ellison** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Woodbine Missionary Church.

### What's going on?

Send your happenings to Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Full-size Hammond electric organ. \$500 to church; \$700 to other. Contact (270) 351-6710.

**HEALTHCARE:** Pre-existing conditions accepted. Non-insurance solution for hospitals, doctors, medications, vision, dental, hearing and more. Representatives needed. \$54.95/month per family. (888) 645-4559. www.healthplanprovider.net; www.braxtonenterprises.net ceo6660.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church in downtown Ashland, Ky., is seeking two experienced associates to fill the positions of minister of music and spiritual formations and minister of youth and children. Each position requires a candidate who possesses organizational and people skills and is energetic and self-motivated. The minister of music and spiritual formations will be responsible for the overall music ministry of the church, and the development, promotion and direction of church education programs for all ages. The minister of youth and children will be responsible for the development, promotion and direction of programs for youth and children. Salaries based on education and experience. Please forward resumés to the appropriate search committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105-0787; e-mail to fbcashla@fbcashlandky.com; or fax to (606) 324-4344.

**SEEKING:** Serve the Lord in the largest city in the Western hemisphere. English-speaking, self-supporting, evangelical Baptist church in Mexico City, Mexico, is seeking a pastor. The church serves expatriates and Mexicans from various denominations. Interested? Please contact Jim Wesberry: jimwes@prodigy.com.mx. Telephone: 011-5255-5550-2382. Fax: 011-5255-5616-7075.

**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.

## Noted Pearl Harbor survivor dies at 80

**HONOLULU (BP)**—Joe Morgan, a Baptist minister who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and was known for telling how God healed his hatred of the Japanese, died of congestive heart failure Oct. 25 at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. He was 80.

During retirement, Morgan volunteered weekly for more than 12 years at the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. His testimony was featured in a Baptist Press article published in the Dec. 18, 2001, issue of the Western Recorder.

Every Thursday until two weeks before his death, Morgan told the story of how God had released him from any bitterness and anger he had felt for the Japanese after the attack.

Morgan, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, returned to the Navy in 1958 as a chaplain and served for 10 years, including two tours in Vietnam. He later became a pastor in Hawaii before retiring.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational associate pastor/music. Forward resumé: Maple Grove Baptist Church, 5911 East Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

**SEEKING:** Buena Vista Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., is seeking a youth pastor/minister of education for an active, growing youth group of 20-25 students, and a growing Sunday school. If interested, please send your resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Buena Vista Baptist Church, 324 Clifty St., Somerset, KY 42501.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for small-town church; full-time preferred. Extra secular work or student considered. Over 500 prospective families in church field. Church profile available upon request. Search Committee, Box 292, Ghent, KY 41045.

**SEEKING:** Highly motivated individual to serve as part-time children's/youth minister for Tunnel Hill Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Come grow with us! Send resumé to: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Terry Chaudoin.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for Mt. Hermon Baptist Church (rural community). Send resumés to: Search Committee, c/o Betty Heaton, 45 Leepport Road, Milton, KY 40045.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Twelve Mile Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Troy Richardson, 167-K Washington Trace, California, KY 41007.

**SERVICE:** America's fastest growing Christian long distance company. No monthly service charge; 4.9 cents per minute; 6-second billing. Toll-free: (866) 587-8346. www.covenantphoneservice.com. Agent opportunity available.

**SERVICE:** America's Christian long distance. Free toll-free number; 4.9 cents/minute; 6-second increment billing; no contracts; online sign-up. www.talklongdistance.net, (888) 645-4559.

## 100-year-old Baptist minister still spreading the gospel

By Yvonne Betowt  
Religion News Service

SNEAD, Ala. (RNS)—Inez Oden Bonnie, oldest daughter of Rev. Andrew Winchester Oden, vividly remembers the time a young couple came rushing into their home in rural Alabama.

"We had a lot of people show up wanting my daddy to marry them," Bonnie said. "Once a couple showed up, and we had some peanuts still on the vine roasting by the fireplace. Daddy said he'd move the vines, but they said they didn't have time because the girl's father was right behind them. So Daddy married them right among the vines."

That was one of the stories shared one recent Sunday by the Oden family as all 10 living children and most of their offspring gathered to celebrate the milestone birthday of the family patriarch who turned 100 on Sept. 16.

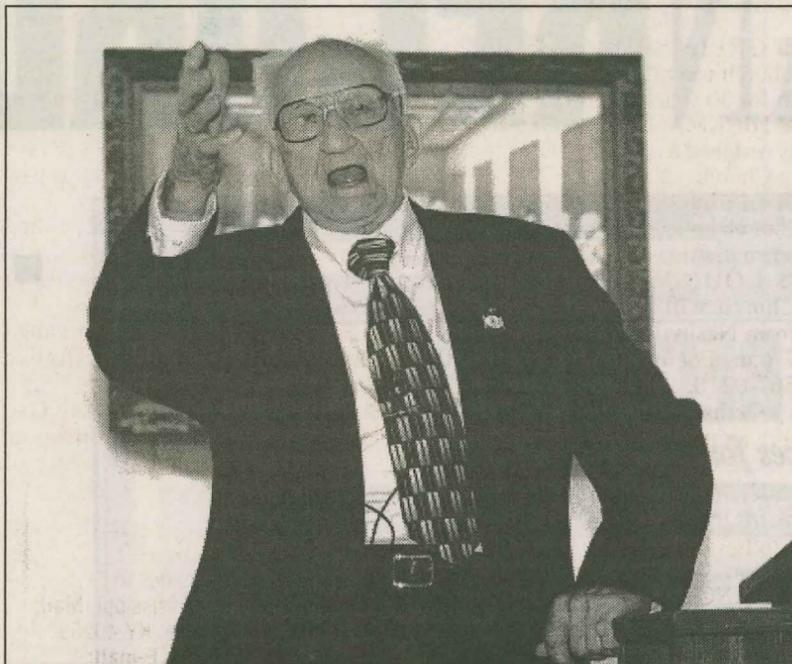
Oden marked the centennial by delivering a 15-minute sermon at Bethsaida Missionary Baptist Church.

Ray Oden, fourth oldest of Oden's children, is now the pastor at Bethsaida, a small red brick church at a crossroads. It sits opposite a white wooden church, two cemeteries and next to a dried-up cornfield.

"I'm delighted to be here, but I told Ray I felt more like going to bed than to preach," Oden told the crowd.

"I ain't going to preach. I'm not able to preach. I'm going to talk to you," he said. Then he began "talking," using no notes or Bible, and invoking verses from John, where Jesus fed the 5,000 with a boy's five loaves of bread and two fish, and the fourth chapter of Exodus, where God turned Moses' staff into a serpent.

Oden was pastor of Bethsaida Baptist Church for 14 years, one of his longest tenures at the 29 churches he served in Blount, Marshall, St. Clair



**CENTENARY SERMON** Andrew Winchester Oden preaches at Bethsaida Missionary Baptist Church in Snead, Ala., one day before his 100th birthday. (RNS photo by Robin Conn)

and Cullman counties in Alabama.

Being a minister was not Oden's first choice of careers. He wanted to cut hair and even went to barber college—which came in handy with his 10 children.

Although he first felt called to preach in 1920, Oden ignored it for a long time. He and his wife of nearly 70 years, Florence, had 11 children. Their first child, A.J., was killed in 1929 at the age of 4. Oden blamed himself for his son's death.

"My wife and I were appointed as representatives of our church to the associational meeting," he said. "I thought we were doing what God wanted us to do." The Odens took A.J. with them. While they were in the meeting, he was outside playing in an adjacent cemetery when a tombstone fell and crushed him.

"I thought God was punishing me (for not preaching) and I was sort of angry at first," Oden recounted. "It just tore my heart out. My wife told people she thought I was going crazy."

One month after his son died, Oden climbed into a pulpit for the first time. He has been preaching ever since. He couldn't read when he entered the ministry so his wife read the Scriptures to him and he memorized them.

Several years and four children later, Oden enrolled in a two-year Bible college, Eldridge Mountain Academy. While he was attending classes, he moved his family to a house the academy owned. It was there that he learned to read.

He encourages those going into the ministry "to get some education. Not having an education is what really held me back as a minister."

Although times were hard in his early years and ministers rarely received money for their services during the Depression, it didn't matter to Oden. Often his pay was in chickens or a basket of apples.

"We couldn't wait for Daddy to get home to see what he would bring us to eat," Bonnie recalled.

In addition to working as a farmer and barber, Oden drove a school bus to help supplement the family income. "He would plow the mule all week, then ride it 15 miles to church on Sunday," Bonnie said.

Oden served as moderator of Blount Baptist Association in 1945-46 and then served for two more years as associational missionary. He recently was recognized for his service in the book "Alabama Baptists" by Wayne Flynt of Auburn University.

After his first wife died in 1993, Oden found himself alone for the first time in seven decades. He didn't like it. He became reacquainted with an old friend, Sylvia Miller, whom he married in 1995.

When asked if his children cared if he remarried, Oden quickly replied, "I didn't ask them."

Oden has 34 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren, with two more expected soon. Many relatives came from far away to celebrate the milestone, including an adopted grandson, Lyle Oden, who is stationed in Germany with the U.S. Air Force.

"I couldn't miss this," said Lyle, 22. "He taught me how a godly man should act. He has a good sense of humor and is still pretty sharp. His life is his testimony."

Oden said he never believed he would live to 100, much less be preaching at his age.

"I'm not praising God for letting me live 100 years," he said. "I'm more thankful God has let me preach the Word."

**"I'm not praising God for letting me live 100 years. I'm more thankful God has let me preach the Word."**

100-year-old Baptist minister Andrew Winchester Oden

## Long-forgotten outdoor baptistry uncovered, put back in use

By Joe Westbury  
Georgia Christian Index

FORT GAINES, Ga. (BP)—The Georgia woods have given up many of their secrets through the years—Civil War miniballs, cannons, belt buckles. But one of the strangest would have to be an in-ground baptistry that had been lost for most of the last century in rural Clay County.

The discovery was as much a surprise to the members of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church as to anyone in their small community near Fort Gaines in southwest Georgia. The existence of the baptismal pool had been lost in the mists of time as it lay under dirt and a layer of pine straw for nearly half of its life.

The story of the missing baptistry began to unfold recently when members gathered in the woods across the street from the church to clear the land for parking spaces. As members hacked at the underbrush, deacon and Clay County Sheriff Roger Shivers hit something with a backhoe that caught his attention.

Not exactly sure what he had hit—

and recognizing it wasn't going to move—he called fellow deacons Mike Hartley and Eugene Williams to bring their shovels and dig around the area.

Within a few minutes of removing the top layer of soil the men had identified a concrete structure nine feet long and five feet wide. The men were at a total loss as to what they had found—and were somewhat apprehensive to continue digging.

"We didn't know if it was a grave or a septic tank but we talked a little bit and decided to keep digging," Williams recounted. "After we had dug out enough of the dirt we discovered it was a baptismal pool."

Few members remembered the church ever having a place to baptize new believers. Margaret Lindsey, who has been a member since 1939, had never seen the baptismal pool.

But M.M. "Pap" Shivers, who says he was "practically born and raised in this church" and who attended a two-room schoolhouse that shared the property with the baptistry, now remembers playing in it "way back then, you know, how little chillun' do when

they have time on their hands. We didn't know exactly what it was but, from the 1828 date inscribed in the concrete, it had been there 104 years when we were just little chillun'."

"I don't know how long it had been since the waters had been stirred in baptism, but I will tell you one thing. My mother was baptized in 1933 in Hog Creek, down the road here a bit in the Pecan community, so that will tell you that they weren't using it then."

After determining that the baptismal pool was in mint condition, the congregation restored the long-forgotten tradition of holding baptisms in the ancient structure rather than in Pastor Randy Stoke's swimming pool.

A garden hose stretched across the two-lane blacktop highway from the church slowly fills the four-foot-deep vault with 600 gallons of water. Even though the water is crystal-clear when the baptistry is filled, it becomes cloudy overnight as it begins to leach into the concrete.

The congregation has constructed a temporary cover for the baptistry, which keeps pine needles and animals



out of the pool and prevents anyone from falling into it when not in use, church historian Pam Monfort said.

Stokes said in-ground baptismal pools are rare but there is one baptistry of similar dimensions located at an African-American church in the county. The Mt. Gilead pool is believed to have been built with slave labor since the church's membership in its early days was largely comprised of wealthy landowners and slaves.

**TRADITION RENEWED** Dorothy Smith is led down the steps into an 1828 in-ground baptismal pool being used anew at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in rural southwest Georgia. (BP photo by Joe Westbury)

WWW.

# WESTERN RECORDER

.com

The Western Recorder - Microsoft Internet Explorer  
 File Edit View Favorites Tools Help Address http://www.westernrecorder.org/ Go  
 Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History  
 Subscribe Headlines  
 Advertise Features  
 Newsletter About Us  
**WESTERN RECORDER**  
 Saturday November 9, 2002  
*Practical Resources for Kentucky Baptists*  
 Welcome clients to a new site for uploading pages Click Button to Begin!  
 Free paper for pastors  
 Visit **KBC**  
 KBC Agencies  
 This Week  
 Anne Graham Lotz coming to Lexington  
 Bowling Green pastor offers invitation ideas  
 Churches must be less rational, more relational  
 Mennonites boost morale of W. Ky. Baptist church  
 This Week's Book Reviews  
**Worship war truce?**  
**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**  
 About the same time many Kentucky Baptists were taking part in a conference on various expressions of worship, a survey was released showing that 76 percent of American churchgoers would stay at their church even if the music style changed. (BP file photos)  
**Poll finds peace might be possible**  
 By Adelle Banks  
 Religion News Service  
 WASHINGTON (RNS)—The so-called "worship wars" that hinged mostly on the style of music found in Protestant services may have reached their peak or were never as big a deal as many church leaders once thought, a researcher has

A Kentucky Baptist tradition since last Thursday!

Come visit Kentucky Baptists' newest way to keep up with news that is important to you. From local events to national trends, we give you the information you need to better understand how your church can make a difference in its community and around the world.

If you're at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, visit our booth to learn more about our site and tell us what you want.

If you're at home or anywhere else with web access, look us up!

