

December 10, 2002  
Vol. 176, No. 48**FOR THE RECORD****Kentucky**  
KBC "100 Days"  
emphasis recording  
reports of answered  
prayers. *Page 3.***Family Forum**  
Ministry activities can  
help single adults better  
enjoy the holidays.  
*Page 5.***Editorial**  
"100 Days" and  
beyond—a spiritual  
legacy. *Page 5.***Nation**  
Should laws against  
mobsters be invoked for  
abortion protests?  
*Page 8.***Music**  
Howard "Happy"  
Goodman, who died last  
week, revolutionized  
gospel music. *Page 9.***Books**  
Reviews include books  
on worship and the  
conflict in the Holy Land.  
*Page 9.***Paper or plastic?**  
Some churches now  
take credit cards.  
*Page 11.***Survey ranks evangelicals below lesbians**

VENTURA, Calif. (ABP)—Non-Christians in the United States view evangelical Christians somewhat more kindly than prostitutes but with less affection than lesbians and lawyers.

That's according to new data released by the Barna Research Group, which recently conducted a national telephone poll of adults who do not consider themselves Christians.

The poll asked respondents to record their impressions of 11 categories of people—military officers, ministers, evangelicals, born-again Christians, Democrats, Republicans, real-estate agents, movie and TV performers, lawyers, lesbians and prostitutes.

Evangelicals ranked 10th out of the 11 categories. They received favorable marks from only 22 percent of the non-Christians interviewed, higher than the 5 percent approval rating given prostitutes but lower than the 23 percent rating given lesbians and Republicans.

On the other hand, ministers as a group came in second, with a 44 percent favorable rating, behind military officers, who scored 56 percent favorable.

Born-again Christians also fared better as a group than evangelicals, drawing a 32 percent favorable rating, the third highest of all categories. But pollster George Barna said most respondents don't know the difference between the two terms.

"Our studies show that many of the people who have negative impressions of evangelicals do not know what or who an evangelical is," he said in a statement.

For example, he pointed to the fact that "born-again" Christians drew a more favorable rating than evangelical Christians, "although few adults are able to identify any substantive differences between those two groups."

Barna said the survey is evidence of the power of labeling in society. He urged Christians to draw a lesson from this study as they are tempted to judge other people by stereotypes.

"We may also consider people groups about whom we have developed a negative or unflattering impression and examine the basis of those attitudes," he said. "We find that when people examine the foundation of their impressions and then talk to a few people from the groups of which they have a low opinion, they discover those people are not so bad after all."

**Mary's due***Some Protestants seek more respect for Jesus' mother this Christmas*By Kevin Eckstrom  
Religion News Service

PRINCETON, N.J. (RNS)—Beverly Roberts Gaventa had never thought much about the Virgin Mary.

Gaventa was, after all, a Presbyterian who was rather suspicious of all the attention lavished on the mother of Jesus.

So when she was asked to co-edit a book on Mary, Gaventa at first declined. "I can't do that," she said. "I'm a Protestant."

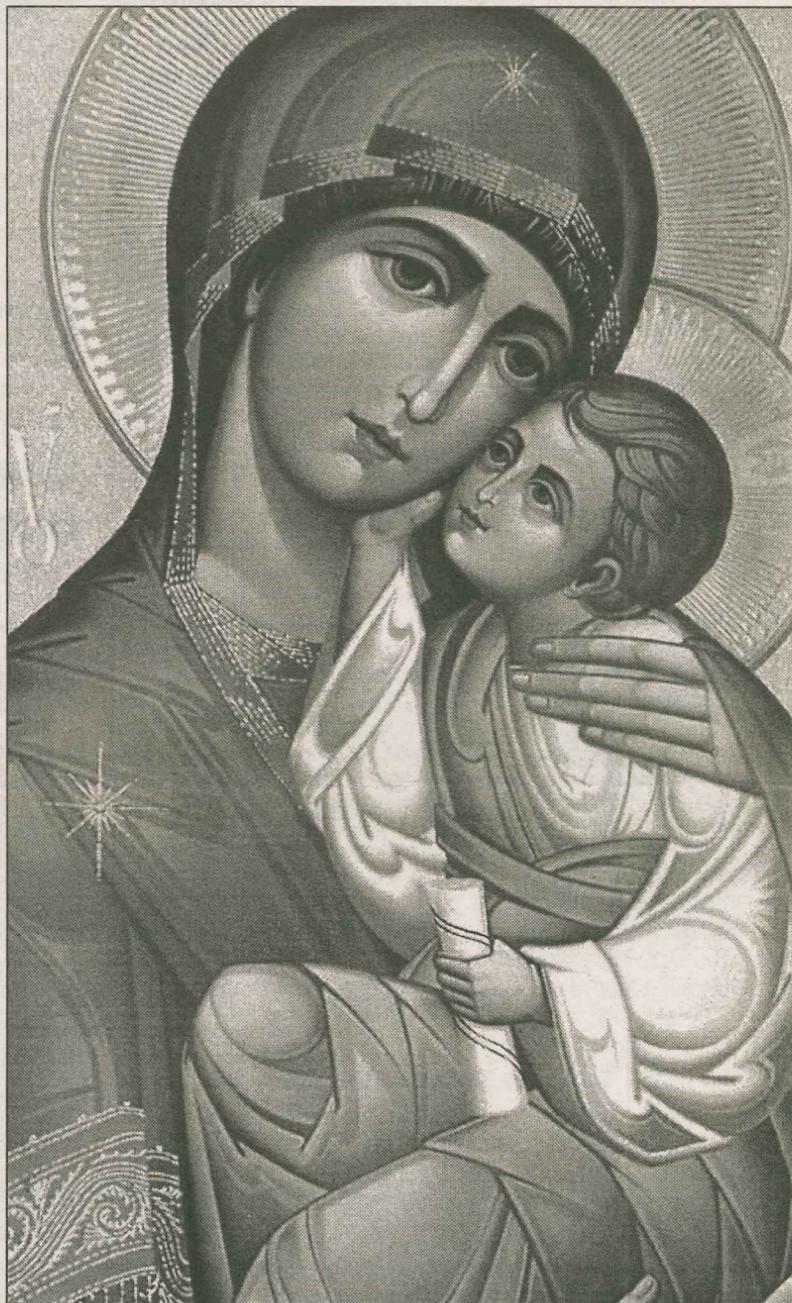
But the more she explored Mary, the more Gaventa grew to like her.

As a mother, Gaventa discovered a maternal kinship. As a Christian, she found a soulmate who wrestled at times with God's will. This Mary had a strong faith, with real questions and real emotions.

"For most Protestants, Mary is little more than a character in the Christmas story," she writes in her new book, "Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary." "She creeps into our consciousness along with the Advent wreath, making a brief appearance perhaps in sermon and song, and then she disappears along with the creche, no later than Epiphany."

Gaventa, a professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, is one of a growing number of Protestant theologians who say it's time for Protestant churches to give Mary another look.

In short, Mary shouldn't belong only to the Catholics, especially at Christmas.

"It's clear in (the Gospel of) Luke that all generations will call Mary blessed, and we really haven't done that," Gaventa said. "What we're saying—  
□ See *Mary deserves more ...*, page 6**OVERLOOKED?** A Greek icon depicts the Virgin Mary and the child Jesus. Some Protestant theologians say Catholics shouldn't be the only ones who honor Jesus' mother. (National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception photo by Nick Crettier)**Cornerstone helps man find reasons to live**By Dannah Prather  
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

HAROLD—Teddy Smith had a plan to "get it over with."

The 22-year-old resident of Pike County was looking for a way to get himself killed.

"I put my life in the hands of a total stranger," said Smith, who lives in the community of Hellier. "For \$500, I paid him to end my life."

The path that led Smith to make the tragic contact over the Internet began before he was even born, when heredity determined he would have anterior horn cell disease, a neuromuscular disease.

The disease confines him to a

wheelchair and denies him experiences many people take for granted.

"I have no use of my legs at all," he said. I have very limited use of my left arm. About the only thing I can do is hold things with my fingers, but I can't even move that hand, but my right hand and arm has pretty good strength."

The path toward suicide also led him to Cornerstone Counseling, a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children ministry.

"Satan took my disability and used it against me," Smith said. "I thought my life wasn't good enough. I started noticing my disability, my limitations. I felt I couldn't do anything. I thought my life was more a punishment and not

a blessing from God."

After graduation from high school, Smith entered Pikeville College, but feelings of hopelessness worsened. "It got really, really bad," he said. "To the point of suicide. There were several failed attempts. I knew I had to get out."

Smith eventually turned to the Internet, hiring someone for \$500 to do the job Smith couldn't do himself. "It was five days exactly before the World Trade Center tragedy happened," Smith said. "I saw so many lives struggling there to live, and here I was using \$500 to get rid of mine."

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks might have saved Smith's life. He went to see his pastor, Greg Whitetree of Hellier Missionary Baptist Church. Smith told Whitetree about the  
□ See *Cornerstone Counseling ...*, page 3

Smith

# BAPTISTS

## LifeWay opens 120-room Ridgecrest hotel

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Ridgecrest Conference Center dedicated its newest facility, the Mountain Laurel Inn, Nov. 25. The 120-room hotel is part of a larger plan to update and expand both national conference centers operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Revitalization at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina and Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico is proceeding well, said Mike Arrington, vice president of LifeWay's corporate affairs division.

LifeWay trustees recently approved a 10-year plan designed to prepare the retreat centers for ministry into the 21st century, noted Byron Hill, director of LifeWay's national conference centers.

"The revitalization plan is designed to touch every part of the campus and



**ROOM AT THE INN** The 120-room Mountain Laurel Inn at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center is part of a major revitalization effort at LifeWay's two national conference centers. (Baptist Press photo)

either totally renovate existing buildings or build new ones," Hill said. "Upon completion of our 10-year plan, we will have set these campuses up for another 20 to 30 years of ministry."

In addition to the Mountain Laurel Inn, Ridgecrest leaders recently dedi-

cated the 300-seat Rutland Chapel. Improvements at Glorieta include the recently remodeled Chaparral Inn.

The revitalization projects include plans to build a second hotel and dining hall at Ridgecrest, and two hotels and an indoor recreation center at Glorieta.

"Our goal as we continue our work to revitalize the conference centers is to fulfill their mission—and LifeWay's vision," Arrington said. "As God works through us, we will help people and churches know Jesus Christ and seek His Kingdom by providing the best conference center environment for experiencing spiritual transformation and renewal."

Last year, more than 92,000 guests visited LifeWay's conference centers and 1,200 campers participated in various programs and camps. The centers recorded more than 2,300 spiritual decisions.

## Canadian Baptist workers establish record number of churches in 2002

COCHRANE, Alberta (BP)—The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists has started a record number of churches this year and continues to advance toward its goal of 1,000 churches by 2020.

Paul Johnson, CCSB church planting consultant, said 33 Southern Baptist churches have been established this year from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia, eclipsing the previous single-year high of 23.

According to a study from Church Planting Canada, an arm of the British Columbia-based evangelical church planting and research organization of Outreach Canada, the number of CCSB churches grew at an annual rate of 10.4 percent from 1998 to 2000. From 1992 to 1997, the CCSB grew from 100 to 124 churches, an average yearly gain of 4.4 percent.

"An important part of this is that

half of our new churches started this year are ethnic churches," Johnson said. "Some have said that the CCSB is the most ethnically diverse convention among Southern Baptists in the world."

One of the convention's main goals in the coming year is to encourage church members to start small-group Bible studies or "Experiencing God" groups that can then develop into churches.

In addition, the province of Alberta is being used as a test area for establishing a number of regions where church planting consultants, pastors and other church members help oversee new churches.

The predominantly French-speaking province of Quebec, meanwhile, has been selected as the location of the CCSB's first center for training leaders to develop new congregations.



### BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Canadian churches face possible split.** The Fellowship of Baptist Churches in Canada may be headed for a split after an unsuccessful effort to make male-only church leadership a test of membership at the denomination's annual convention. A motion requiring all 496 member churches to limit the offices of pastors and elders to "qualified men" as a condition of membership received 59 percent support from the more than 500 delegates, short of the two-thirds majority needed to change the bylaws, reported Christian Week. "A decision will need to be made on which churches will leave," said William Oosterman, a key organizer of the failed motion.

■ **Association bars WMU from facilities.** A Baptist association in North Carolina has barred the local Woman's Missionary Union from using the association's building as long as WMU leaders belong to churches no longer affiliated with the association. A policy adopted by the executive committee of Tuckasee Baptist Association says only the association and its related organizations

can use the building. Associational leaders are interpreting the policy as excluding WMU because its co-directors are from churches that have withdrawn from the association. Six churches left the association this year after the association's pastors' conference became upset that a member church had called a woman as co-pastor.

■ **Association drops church over baptism.** First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., has been declared out of fellowship with Greenville Baptist Association over the congregation's membership policy. First Baptist accepts members by transfer from other churches who have not been baptized by immersion. The church's policy is to require immersion only for members making a first-time profession of faith. First Baptist, founded in 1856, previously broke ties with the Southern Baptist Convention but remains a member of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., faces possible dismissal from Spartanburg County Baptist Association over the same issue.

■ **Peace fellowship names interim leader.** Jim Lowder has been named interim executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America effective Feb. 1, 2003. He succeeds Ken Sehested, who resigned earlier this year. Lowder, executive director for Habitat for Humanity in San Francisco, has served on the BPFNA board for several years. Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America provides resources and training focusing on world peace and justice.

■ **Reighard accepts corporate post.** Dwight "Ike" Reighard, pastor of NorthStar Church in suburban Atlanta, has been named "chief people officer" of the Atlanta-based HomeBanc Mortgage Company. Reighard, a former president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference and a two-term president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, will serve as HomeBanc's "cultural caretaker," helping the 1,000-employee corporation maintain its people-first philosophy. Reighard said he has turned over leadership of the NorthStar congregation to others and currently is preaching there twice a month.

## IMB, Lebanese Baptist Society form partnership to start churches

By Manda Roten  
Baptist Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP)—Lebanese Baptists and the Southern Baptist International Mission Board have established a partnership aimed at planting churches in every neighborhood in Lebanon.

Leaders of the Lebanese Baptist Society and the IMB recently signed a ministry partnership, committing to three goals for Lebanon: every person hearing the gospel, every home receiving a copy of the Bible and every neighborhood having a church.

The partnership is based on "a common vision of proclaiming God's Word to all peoples and making disciples of the nations," said an IMB worker living in the country.

Southern Baptists started working with Lebanese Baptists in 1921, but a civil war that erupted in 1975 forced IMB workers from the country. Calmer days have allowed the partnership to be re-established.

"Today, the Baptist community joins again the hands of its mother church, enjoying the richness, the mercy and goodness of its eternal Father," said Nabil Costa, executive director of the Baptist Society, formally known as the Lebanese Society of Education and Social Development.

Approximately 70 percent of Lebanon's 3 million people are Muslim. They are among nearly 300 million Arab Muslims living in two dozen countries of the Middle East and North Africa. Lebanon is the only country in the region in which Muslims who turn to Christ have been able to safely announce their new faith.

Beirut and Beyond, the IMB team located in the capital city of Beirut, will serve as the cornerstone for the project. The team's vision is that God will start a church planting movement in Beirut that will move throughout Lebanon, "resulting in an exponential explosion of new communities of believers," the IMB worker said.

Local believers have an invaluable firsthand understanding of the language and culture, the worker pointed out, while Christian workers in the country are trained to understand how God often uses His people to facilitate church planting movements. In addition, American Christians will be encouraged to enlist volunteers from the United States.

"When we put these together, we have a great team," the worker said.

For more information about the partnership effort, visit the Web site [www.beirutandbeyond.com](http://www.beirutandbeyond.com).

## '100 Days' project reaps reports of answered prayers

By **Trennis Henderson**  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—There's just one week left in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's "100 Days of Prayer" emphasis. But convention leaders are confident the impact of the statewide prayer focus will continue far beyond next Monday.

The emphasis "has had a major impact in Kentucky," said Larry Martin, leader of the KBC missions growth team. "It was not an isolated event. It is a continuing step in the prayer movement across Kentucky."

Among people who made a commitment to participate in the 100-day prayer emphasis, Martin said he expects the experience to be "a launching pad for them to consistently pray for revival and spiritual awakening."

"We are continually challenging our churches to be houses of prayer," he added. "We're seeing more and more churches coming back to focus their prayer meetings on a supernatural movement of God in revival."

"If My People ... 100 Days of Prayer" was launched Sept. 8 and concludes Dec. 16. A daily prayer guide produced by the KBC includes Scripture passages and prayer requests for each day of the emphasis.

The prayer guide notes that the effort's threefold purpose is to "call individuals to improve the quality of their prayers and the amount of time in prayer; challenge groups of believers to concerted prayer; (and) commit churches to being houses of prayer."

### "Excited about praying together"

Eric Allen, director of the KBC's Mission Service Corps volunteer program, worked with Martin to coordinate the prayer emphasis.

"The response has been more than we anticipated," Allen said. "It's been refreshing to me to see pastors and church members who are excited about praying together."

Allen said an initial printing of 20,000 prayer guides was quickly distributed to fill requests from churches throughout the state. KBC leaders responded by printing and distributing an additional 20,000 copies of the 12-page guide.

The prayer emphasis, which began with the KBC's annual week of prayer for state missions, will conclude during Southern Baptists' season of prayer for international missions.

"Thinking about the Acts 1:8 model, beginning with prayer for our state and concluding with prayer for the uttermost parts of the world is significant," said Joy Bolton, executive

director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. "I hope that people who have not been in the regular habit of praying for missions and the work of Kentucky Baptists will continue to be involved in prayer."

Several Kentucky Baptists said they have seen specific answers to prayer during the 100-day emphasis.

### An answered prayer for kids

Robert Thomas, pastor of Grace Community Baptist Church in Louisville, said his congregation had been unsuccessful in efforts to reach youngsters in an inner-city multihousing setting.

During the first week of the prayer emphasis, Kentucky Baptists prayed for opportunities to "reach children with the salvation message of Jesus Christ while they are still tenderhearted" and that "churches and associations will develop multihousing ministries that include strong ministries to children and their families."

The next Sunday, "we ran the van over there and there were 40 kids," Thomas said. "Those kids have gotten actively involved in our church."

"We just gave all the praise and glory to God," he added. "We had been trying to reap over there for so long. It was really a boost to the overall morale of our church."

Kentucky Baptists' concerted prayer effort "has had a huge impact on the Kingdom in ways I can't even really express," Thomas said. "It opened that door for us; a door we had

already been beating on. I think prayer really had an impact on that."

Jan Curry, volunteer prayer coordinator at Community Baptist Church in Henderson, said she has seen significant growth in the church's prayer chain ministry. Beginning with nine or 10 members, the prayer effort has grown to include two prayer chains involving 48 people.

During the 100 days of prayer, church leaders printed the prayer guide's daily Scripture passages each week in the church bulletin.

"Just bringing it to the attention of everyone is extremely important," Curry said. "When prayer was specifically for youth, we saw growth there. It's worked."

### Church reconciled

Allen said other reports of answered prayers included a congregation experiencing major conflict that found a way to resolve its differences. Church leaders reconciled the week after Kentucky Baptists prayed "for unity in our churches as we make our focus the will of the Father" and that "the love of Christ will be evident in a lost world through His body of believers."

The prayer effort "reminds us of the power of prayer," noted KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "It also helps us to understand the importance of our prayers. I don't know all the ways God uses prayers, but I do believe He uses our prayers in accomplishing His purposes."

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Spring Meadows Children's Home's ladies' auxiliary** is soliciting recipes for a charity cookbook to be published next spring or summer. To submit a recipe, visit the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Web site, [www.kbhc.org](http://www.kbhc.org), or call (800) 456-1386 to request a recipe form. Proceeds from the sale of cookbooks will benefit Spring Meadows Children's Home and other KBHC programs.

■ **Will Willimon**, dean of Duke University's chapel, has been announced as the featured speaker for Georgetown College's pastors' conference, April 7-9. The conference also will feature conferences by Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, and a panel presentation by young ministers describing their entry into ministry positions. Advanced registration costs \$100. For more information, call Robbi Barber at (502) 863-7047, or visit the school's Web site, [www.georgetowncollege.edu](http://www.georgetowncollege.edu).

## Cornerstone Counseling helps man find reasons for living

Continued from page 1

escalating depression, the suicide attempts and the contract.

"I've known Teddy for 18 or 19 years," Whitetree said. "But I was surprised. He was able to mask it pretty good there for quite a while. I knew right away that he needed much more help than I could possibly give. I've not been trained in counseling. All the counseling I know I've learned out of a book."

At the same time, the person Smith hired to kill him took the money and ran.

Whitetree said he was relieved to be able to refer Smith, as he has others, to the Cornerstone Counseling office in Harold, also in Pike County. "I felt very inadequate sitting down and talking to someone with emotional problems who didn't want to go to a secular counseling service," he said. "You're under pressure to provide counseling because there's no other game in town. Then Cornerstone came along and suddenly here's a resource I could readily tap into."

Cornerstone provides professional, Christian counseling for individuals, couples and families. The ministry, which began 10 years ago, is made possible through partnerships between Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, local churches, Baptist associations and other Baptist agencies and institutions.

The partnerships helps lower the cost of counseling; often lower than other professional counseling services. Cornerstone also provides finan-



**OIL PAINTING** Ted Smith also was encouraged to develop his skills as an artist.

cial help for clients who might not be able to receive services otherwise.

The Harold office is supported by both Pike and Enterprise Baptist associations. Arlene Nickell is the Cornerstone Counselor. "My first impression of Teddy was that he really didn't want to die, he just didn't know how to live," she said. "I don't think he was so deeply depressed as he was stuck. He was frustrated."

Smith said counseling helped him change the perspective of his life. "One of the things Arlene really stressed was to, 'Stop focusing on what you can't do. Focus on what you can do.'"

The two discussed goals "and what was standing in my way," Smith said. As a Christian, Smith said it was cru-

cial to be able to talk about his "best Friend," Jesus Christ in counseling.

"God fit into everything we talked about," he said. As he told Nickell of his dreams and goals, art continued to come up in the conversation.

Nickell told Smith, "Let's give it to God." Since then, Smith has become quite busy.

The disease, which has reduced so much of Smith's mobility, so far has spared his right hand. With it, he is able to continue his studies in art, computer science and education. He hopes to graduate next year. Smith said art has become a vehicle of personal expression and praise to God.

"I've really only been doing my artwork for about two years," he said. "A lot of my inspiration for drawing

comes from God. Several of my pieces start from a Bible verse and I'll work from that."

Two of his works are on display at Hellier Missionary Baptist Church. Others he sells on his Web site, [www.e-tedz.com](http://www.e-tedz.com). He's begun working on an inspirational book about his life, "Teddy: Finding Life in a World of Destruction."

Another dream was being able to drive. When Smith said it was something he would never do, Nickell asked, "Why not?" He now has his permit and is trying to raise funds to purchase an appropriately-equipped van.

Already a faithful church member, Smith is now even more active, according to Whitetree. Smith volunteers at the Freeda Harris Center, a Kentucky Baptist ministry, down the road from the church. He's also a Sunday school teacher and a Bible study leader.

Smith said his time with Nickell helped him get a better understanding of how God sees him.

"I haven't done a self-portrait yet ... because I was really working on how to view myself," he said. "I did do a few sketches, and every time I put myself in the chair."

Smith said that a few years ago he never would have drawn himself in his wheelchair. "I looked at it as a punishment and I hated it, but now it's a part of me and I thank God for who I am, the way I am."

For information about Cornerstone Counseling, call (800) 981-7493.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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## Invoking the wrong commandment

By Marie Fortune

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The revisions to the Roman Catholic bishops' Dallas Policy on the sexual abuse of children that were agreed to last month in Washington hold some interesting revelations.

The bishops directly tie the definition of sexual abuse to a moral standard based on the Sixth Commandment in the Old Testament, "You shall not commit adultery." If this is the basis of their ethical understanding of sexual abuse, then no wonder the perception persists that the bishops simply don't "get it."

The average layperson would rightly ask, "I thought adultery was about adults having sex with someone they are not married to. What does sexual abuse of kids have to do with adultery?"

The fundamental ethical question is: Why is it wrong for an adult to be sexual with a child or teen? The answer is not rocket science. It is a

betrayal of trust, a misuse of adult authority, the taking advantage of a child's vulnerability and sexual activity in the absence of meaningful consent.

When you add to this the fact of a priest being sexual with a child, it is also a betrayal of the role of the pastor. The job of clergy is to nurture the flock, protect them when they are vulnerable, empower them in their lives—especially children and youth. Our people assume they can trust clergy not to harm them. Sexual abuse betrays that trust.

In other words, sexual abuse harms the child or teen. It is a sin to cause this harm. In New Testament Scripture, Jesus is very clear: "It would be better for you if a millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea than for you to cause one of these little ones to stumble" (Luke 17:2).

The bishops got the wrong commandment. Instead of the Sixth, they should have gone to the Seventh:

## COMMENTARY

## At war with evil

In regard to the Nov. 19 Western Recorder article "War with Iraq: What would Jesus do?" by Joseph Phelps, I know that during the time of Jesus there were no wars, but may you be reminded that Jesus was with God all the time in the Old Testament.

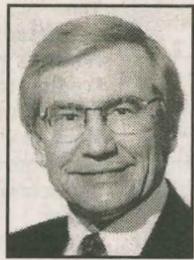
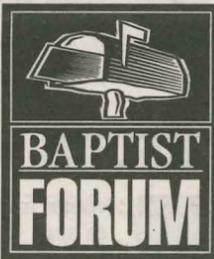
So what would you do, Rev. Phelps, if you were on the front lines against the butcher Genghis Khan? Or perhaps a Jew in the 1930s-1945 in Germany? Perhaps you would rather be a Baptist preacher in Russia during the Cold War!

In conclusion, Christians always will be at war with evil.

Harry Jump  
Dry Ridge

## Commentary kudos

As a former Kentucky Baptist and now a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Order of Friars Minor (the Franciscans), a community founded by Francis of Assisi who walked onto a battlefield between the Christians and Muslims of his day to share the gospel with both sides, I am glad that I continue to subscribe to the



Bill Mackey

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Shepherding the Shepherd

The next Shepherding the Shepherd conference, a special time of renewal and encouragement for Kentucky Baptist Convention pastors and their spouses, has a very intriguing theme, "The Practice of Grace: Giving and Receiving Life." Shepherding the Shepherd will be Jan. 16-18 in Lexington.

Dick Lincoln, pastor of Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., will address the topic, "The Pastor's Journey in Growth, Grace and Gratitude." Having known Dick for 22 years as a hard-charging church growth leader, I want pastors and wives to hear the story of his journey.

Dick has been very fortunate to be in a church that has allowed him to build on his strengths. He was saved as a college student following visits by two college students, and one of them, Patti, became his wife. Dick is an intellectual with a passion to reach people for Jesus and develop a congregation obedient to Jesus.

Participants at past Shepherding the Shepherd conferences have loved the worship leadership of Dave Bullock and the Network Band. For the first time, Dave's wife, June, will accompany him. They will lead a breakout session titled, "Keeping Romance and Intimacy in Marriage." This should be instructive for pastors and wives who live busy lives.

After a career as co-therapists at the Mayo Clinic, Melissa and Louis McBurney established a counseling center, Marble Retreat, for pastors and their families. Louis will address "Grace and Bounty Management" in the plenary session. In the breakout session, Louis will address a topic for wives, "How Husbands Need Grace" and Melissa will address a topic for husbands, "How Wives Need Grace."

God used Dennis Hatfield to provide significant encouragement for pastors and wives last year at Shepherding and again in May for the

"You shall not steal." To steal is to take something that doesn't belong to you. To sexually abuse a child is to steal their innocence, often with profound and tragic consequences.

When an acknowledged pedophile priest can say he didn't see what was wrong with his behavior with a child—he was taught not to have sex with adult women—we can begin to see the inadequacy of this ethical analysis. The sexual abuse of a child or teen is about the misuse of power by the adult. It is about theft: taking advantage of a child's naivete, stealing his or her future.

The Roman Catholic bishops will never be able to move forward and restore credibility to the church and the priesthood unless they can get their commandments right. They should be worrying about the theft of their children's innocence and trust, not about some abstraction of adultery.

Marie Fortune is editor of the *Journal of Religion and Abuse* and founder of the Seattle-based Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence. She is the author of "Is Nothing Sacred? The Story of a Pastor, the Women He Sexually Abused, and the Congregation He Nearly Destroyed."

Western Recorder.

Thank you very much for the Nov. 19 guest commentary by Joseph Phelps, "War with Iraq: What would Jesus do?" This commentary was one of the best statements of the questions which Christians are called upon to ask as the nation appears to be gearing up for a war which is fraught with as much moral danger for us as it is with physical danger for so many in Iraq and indeed throughout the world.

Thank you for your courage, and my congratulations to Rev. Phelps for a fine contribution to the serious discussion of these issues.

God bless you and your ministry.  
Jack Clark Robinson  
Albuquerque, N.M.

KBC staff. His messages have encouraged me more than anyone else I have ever heard. He brings the best from the church and corporate world. Transitions in his career will provide dynamic background for his plenary message on grace.

Participants also will hear from Bill Whittaker who is well known in Kentucky as a pastor, missionary to the Philippines, former state convention president and now president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He is a writer, teacher and continuous learner.

We are grateful to Baptist Healthcare System for making this experience possible for pastors and wives by funding half of the costs. If this has sparked your interest, limited conference space still is available. Laypeople, please consider providing the \$180 that your pastor and wife will need to confirm their reservation. They might need babysitters and travel money as well.

Please join with me in prayer for all ministers and spouses, especially those in your church!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

## Save for college and save on taxes at the same time

By Don Spencer

Parents want to offer their children the best opportunities for the future. For many, a college education is vital to opening those doors and becomes one of the biggest investments a

parent or grandparent can make.

There are a number of tax-advantaged ways to save for college such as educational (Coverdell) IRAs and US Savings bonds. One of the best tax-advantaged ways to save for college is known as a "Section 529 Plan."

A few of the features of these plans include:

■ **Flexibility.** Parents, grandparents, relatives and friends may open an account on behalf of a beneficiary, regardless of their income. You can open separate accounts for as many different beneficiaries as you wish.

■ **Tax-deferred earnings.** Contributions grow free of current tax. Tax-deferred growth always means you accumulate more.

■ **Tax-free withdrawals.** Withdrawals used for qualified education expenses may be free of both federal and Kentucky income tax.

■ **Choice of investments.** These plans generally offer choices of different investment strategies and degrees of risk, allowing you to select the approach that fits your needs and investment philosophy.

■ **Transferability.** If the beneficiary decides not to attend college, funds may be transferred to another beneficiary. If the new beneficiary is a qualified family member (including brothers, sisters and first cousins), the tax advantages still apply.

■ **Contribution limits.** There is no limit on annual contribution. However, a lifetime limit of \$235,000 per beneficiary does apply.

Kentucky has an excellent Section 529 plan that offers all these advantages, the Kentucky Education Savings Plan Trust. This plan offers participants professional money management through TIAA-CREF. The cost is low compared to many plans.

With Kentucky's plan, you can open an account with as little as \$25. Another advantage of the Kentucky plan is that these savings are not included in determining the amount of Kentucky state student aid the beneficiary will receive. For more information on Kentucky's plan, visit the Web site: [www.kentuckytrust.org](http://www.kentuckytrust.org).

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



## Ministry activities can help singles enjoy holiday season

**Q: What can our church do to assist and encourage older single adults during the holiday season?**

Holidays often are tough times for single adults of all ages. Christmas is considered a special family time and New Year's Eve often is a time for couples. Many divorced, widowed or never-married singles feel especially lonely without family members to help celebrate the holidays.

Single adult ministries often plan meals or group activities to bring people together during these special, yet difficult, times. Although helpful, large group activities aren't the only cure for holiday depression.

Church leaders involved in adult ministries might want to provide suggestions that can help single adults beat the holiday blues. A list of holiday activities for single adults could include:

- Visit someone else who might be alone for the holidays.
- Invite single friends and acquaintances to your home for the holidays.
- Volunteer at a local hospital or nursing home.
- Provide respite care for a primary caregiver.
- Visit people who are in prison.
- Spend time with an older relative who is alone.
- Provide an older neighbor a special service or activity such as running errands or helping decorate for the holidays.
- Lead a special holiday prayer service that involves your church's single adult ministry.
- Schedule a day alone during the holidays. Spend some quality time alone—with just you and God.
- Read a book that inspires and encourages you in your faith.—*Jon Rainbow*

**Q: As a parent concerned about proper nutrition and health, what are some helpful fitness resources for my children?**

Physical education teachers and ministers of recreation can provide exercise and eating suggestions that will make a difference in your child's level of fitness. Several other excellent resources also are available to help encourage your child toward better physical fitness. Among them are:

■ **Physical Best.** The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (AAHPERD) offers a program called Physical Best which combines fitness assessment, educational materials and awards to motivate children to change fitness behaviors. Physical Best gives special emphasis to fitness activities during leisure time, which supports the program's ultimate goal of instilling a commitment to lifetime fitness. Although designed for use in schools, elements of the program can be used by individuals. Click on [www.aahperd.org](http://www.aahperd.org) for additional information.

■ **The President's Challenge.** The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports also offers a school-based program called The President's Challenge. The program invites children to get fit by being active. Boys and girls can earn the President's Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) by participating in activities for at least 60 minutes, five days a week. The health benefits are obvious. Other programs challenge children to measure their fitness against national standards and to work to improve themselves. For more information, click on [www.fitness.gov](http://www.fitness.gov).

■ **VERB: It's What You Do.** VERB is a new program from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The idea is simple: Verbs are active and kids should be too. The program includes TV commercials aimed at kids, as well as ads in magazines such as Sports Illustrated for Kids. Check the CDC Web site at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for information.—*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](mailto:wesrec@ntr.net).



## '100 days' and beyond—a spiritual legacy

If you haven't yet taken part in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's "If My People ... 100 Days of Prayer" emphasis, there still are a few days left.

The statewide prayer focus, which began Sept. 8, will conclude Dec. 16. While joining fellow Kentucky Baptists for the final week of the prayer emphasis isn't quite the same as praying for specific needs throughout the 100-day effort, any amount of prayer is a plus. For a copy of the prayer guide, visit the Web site [www.kybaptist.org/100days](http://www.kybaptist.org/100days).

What impact has the prayer emphasis made so far?

Examples of involvement range from dozens of students at a high school in Western Kentucky who are meeting together each day for prayer to a congregation that has more than quadrupled the number of people involved in the church's prayer ministry, noted Eric Allen, director of the KBC's Mission Service Corps volunteer program.

Allen, who is helping coordinate the prayer emphasis, said answered prayers include reconciliation between a pastor and church that had been experiencing major conflict, a teenage boy whose father allowed him to begin attending church after previously refusing to let him do so and several churches seeing significant growth in their ministry to children and youth.

"The feedback has been very, very encouraging," Allen emphasized. "People were very receptive and hungry for something like this."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and Larry Martin, leader of the KBC missions growth team, said they believe the prayer emphasis also has made an impact on the state convention as a whole.

"I think '100 Days of Prayer' provided tremendous prayer support for specific ministries but also for the

annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Mackey said. "There have been numerous times during the 100 days when I sensed the presence of the Lord in a very special way. I was aware a lot of people were praying for the ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

"It certainly is no coincidence that our convention in November was marked by such a sense of unity and commitment to God's movements which we're experiencing in Kentucky," Martin pointed out. "This is simultaneous with many churches breaking out of the walls of their church buildings to really minister in their communities."

As the 100-day focus concludes, Martin said KBC leaders "are going to be looking for other types of prayer emphases to keep prayer before people." He said the KBC's quarterly prayer meetings for revival and spiritual awakening, regional prayer seminars and training for 400-plus local church prayer coordinators across the state are among prayer-related efforts already under way.

Mackey suggested that individuals who have used the "100 Days" prayer guide consider praying through the Scriptures and prayer requests a second time, "perhaps this time taking more notes concerning things that God reveals to them or calls on them to repent of or some new obedience God wants them to implement in their lives."

His suggestion ties in well to the prayer guide's final prayer request: "Pray that you will continue to grow in your faith and knowledge of the Word and in your daily communion with the living Christ."

If that is accomplished in the lives of believers throughout Kentucky, the spiritual impact of "100 Days of Prayer" will continue for many years to come.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## God blesses church-state separation

By Joseph Underwood

Some Christians today think separation of church and state is the work of the liberal media.

History, however, reveals the First Amendment was written by patriots who risked their lives by signing the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. They were not anti-religionists! They had experienced the atrocities of the union of church and state and its corruption of religion. They desired religious liberty for all with no coercion and no persecution.

Many pastors were the strongest promoters of separation of church and state, precisely in order to guarantee religious liberty. Why?

■ *Separation of church and state is divinely mandated because God endowed man and woman with freedom.* "Created in the image of God" means man and woman are people, not things or robots. They have freedom to say "yes" or "no," even to God. Through Joshua, God said: "If it seem evil to you to serve Jehovah, then choose whom you will serve ..." (Joshua 24:15). No coercion in our relationship with God is allowable.

■ *Separation of church and state reflects God's intention in soul competency.* "God is love." Love chose not to exist in isolation, nor did it choose to exist in relationship by compulsion. God was pleased with the cre-

ation of the universe; but in all that vastness, there was no one to love or to reciprocate that love. Only people could communicate directly and personally with Him and He with them.

The Apostle Paul explains in Romans 8:16: "The Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." That is soul competency.

Unfortunately, the union of church and state results in coercion, punishment, inordinate discrimination and in all kinds of atrocities that violate the competency of the human soul.

■ *Separation of church and state is divinely vital.* Any attempt to coerce people in religious beliefs and practices is a denial of their personhood and a blasphemous denial of God's ability to enter into personal relationship with believers (Matthew 16:17).

In many countries every "partnership" of church and state results in coercion of belief and practice.

■ *Separation of church and state is necessary for the health of the church, because church-state partnership inevitably destroys all spiritual vitality.* In 40 years of visiting and studying churches in more than 100 nations, I have never once discovered a church that received government dole or union and maintained any vital effectiveness in daily life or in redemptive ministries.

■ *Separation of church and state is a Christian principle because Jesus*

*steadfastly rejected all effort to involve Himself in political and military "messiahship."*

Jesus was not crucified because He became the kind of political messiah desired by the religious leaders. He was crucified because He continually rejected all political involvement. Jesus insisted: "My kingdom is not of this world. ..." (Luke 17:20).

■ *Separation of church and state reflects God's creative ideal because every facet of our relationship with God is voluntary and personal, or it is totally non-existent.* Repentance, faith, love, prayer, worship, obedience to Christ and service in Jesus' name are personal and voluntary, or they are void. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15).

I believe in separation of church and state, for I have seen the astounding blessings poured out by God when a church is characterized by faith and commitment.

No amount of government money or political support can achieve the spiritual resurrection of those who are "dead in trespasses and sin." No life can be morally and spiritual transformed by government.

But God still works miracles and wonders in and through those churches that trust Him to do "much abundantly more than all we ask or think, according to His power at work in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

*Joseph Underwood, a retired Southern Baptist international missionary, is a church historian from Richmond, Va.*

# CHRISTMAS

## Mary deserves more respect, some Protestants say

**"It's because of her 'yes' that things begin to happen. The nativity was possible only through the naked faith of Mary."**

*Catholic Priest Johann Roten*

*Continued from page 1*

ing is that attention we have given Mary is very negative, rather than the positive attention she might deserve."

### Virgin becomes a lightning rod

For Christianity's first 1,500 years, Mary fared pretty well. Her legacy birthed universities, conquests and cathedrals. But then, with the Protestant Reformation, Mary became a theological lightning rod between Protestants and Catholics.

Protestants, led by Martin Luther, were concerned that Mary and all the saints had usurped the importance of God's grace in the salvation process. The statues, the stained glass, the rosaries were all too much for the iconoclastic Luther. In the process, Mary dropped off the Protestant radar screen.

"After the Reformation, Catholics had a severe case of fixation on Mary and Protestants had a severe case of amnesia," said Sister Elizabeth Johnson, a theologian at Fordham University in New York. "We went into our extremes."

Things only deteriorated when, in 1854, Pope Pius IX declared that Mary had been born without the stain of original sin—the Immaculate Conception—and in 1950, when Pope Pius XII declared that Mary did not die like other mortals but had been "assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven"—the Assumption of Mary.

For Catholics, both doctrines carried the weight of papal infallibility.

Most Protestants rejected both because neither is explicitly found in Scripture, and they were equally uncomfortable placing Mary too close to the throne of her Son, Jesus, the "one Mediator" between man and God.

Johnson, who conceded that some Catholics "went off the rails" in their devotion to Mary, spent eight years on a Catholic-Lutheran dialogue team discussing the issue.

The group's final report in 1990 said Catholic prayers to saints are neither "idolatrous or injurious" to Christian faith, but "must be protected against abuse."

The 1990 statement was the first major step in dismantling the theological wall that had grown up around Mary and separated Protestants from Catholics.

### Mary's lessons to evangelicals

Joel Green, an evangelical professor who contributed to Gaventa's book, said there is much that even conservative Protestants can learn from Mary.

Green said Mary—immaculate or not—really teaches all Christians about evangelicals' two favorite words: faith and grace. The Christmas story, he said, "is much more about the Holy Spirit than gynecology."

"Her sin or sinlessness is not on the table," said Green, who teaches at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore. "What is on the table is God's grace and her embracing the vocation God has put before her. ... That's the bottom line. I don't need an Immacu-



**MARY** A statue in a chapel at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington depicts the Virgin Mary with the infant Jesus. Some theologians say Protestants have overlooked Mary.

late Conception to get there."

Many Catholics could agree with that, although many would also go further. Johann Roten, director of the world's largest Marian library at the University of Dayton in Ohio, said both sides can agree that Mary was, in fact, the first Christian.

"Who is the ultimate embodiment of the Christian faith?" said Roten, a Catholic priest. "It's Mary. Everything begins with her. It's because of her 'yes' that things begin to happen. The nativity was possible only through the naked faith of Mary."

Certainly there are aspects about Mary that will continue to divide the two sides. Nancy Duff, who teaches with Gaventa at Princeton, argues that Mary makes a strong case for women's ordination, a notion that would

offend most Catholic leaders.

Duff, also a contributor to Gaventa's book, said Protestants will still "recoil" from the idea of praying to Mary or displaying statues.

In other words, don't look for a St. Mary's Baptist Church any time soon.

"We don't venerate the saints, but we can see Mary as a significant biblical figure who gives witness to Christ," she said. "There's just no reason for us to overlook Mary."

### 'Never heard a sermon about Mary'

Converts agree. Steve Ray, a former evangelical who converted to Catholicism in 1994, recently finished an apologetics video on Mary as part of a 10-part series for Ignatius Press. He said his new view of Mary has deepened his understanding of God and Jesus' incarnation as a human being.

"We went through Protestant churches our whole lives and never heard a sermon about Mary," Ray said. "We heard about (Old Testament heroines) Hannah and Sarah and Deborah, but not Mary. If you talk too much about Mary, you become suspect."

Johnson, the veteran of the ecumenical talks on Mary, said that if both Protestants and Catholics can agree on the babe in the manger, then certainly they can agree on His mother. "We can find each other at the crib," she said. "There's no conflict there."

## Christian camping's worldwide impact

I write this column from the annual meeting of Christian Camping International/USA & Christian Camping International/Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia.

For the last four days, our leadership teams from Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, along with 1,600 other camp and conference leaders from around the world, have gathered here to discuss the many joys, challenges and opportunities facing those of us who serve in this ministry.

Oh the joys of this ministry! To watch God work year in and year out as He draws so many so much closer to Him! Our team feels blessed to be a part of such an exciting work of God.

With the daily pressures we face in our ministry, it is possible to become somewhat weary from the work. But our energy increases when our leadership team comes together with so many others who are involved in similar ministries. Our commitment increases. Our anticipation grows when we hear the stories of the remarkable ways God is working in other camps across the nation and around the world. To hear the testimonies of camping leaders from the U.S., Canada, Russia, Spain, Brazil and many other countries will fan

the flames within anyone. The story is the same anywhere in the world: When people retreat and camp at conference centers, God works in their hearts and brings them closer to Him.

The magnitude and significance of camp and conference ministry is enormous! There are 1,062 camp and conference members in CCI/USA. We met this week in Vancouver with several hundred members of CCI/Canada. This summer I was able to spend time with the leadership of CCI/Russia and CCI/Spain. I visited camps in both these countries. The scope of Christian camping is at an all-time high, around the world!

The vision statement of CCI/USA notes that "in faith, CCI/USA members will present the message of Jesus Christ to an accumulated 400 million people worldwide by the year 2020!" What a bold vision.

As we approach this beautiful Christmas season, please pray for our teams. Pray for the work God does through camp and conference centers around the world in this global ministry! Can you imagine 400 million?

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



**Rusty Ellison**

## KENTUCKY BAPTISTS:

Thank you for 10 years of involvement in Mississippi River Ministry.



There have been more than 10,000 professions of faith through Mississippi River Ministry in the last decade.

Mississippi River Ministry is a partnership of the area's seven state conventions, the North American Mission Board, and Woman's Missionary Union. Mississippi River Ministry is caring about people. It is meeting needs and sharing Christ.

If you would like information about Mississippi River Ministry, contact Randy Jones, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433; (502) 244-6460.







# SMILE

## Firsts

Renita Tackett, director of our foster care program in Eastern Kentucky, took an opportunity at the recent President's Dinner to thank supporters of KBHC for several small, but very important things. Because we have so many supporters across Kentucky, I wanted to pass her words along to you through this column.

Renita told the President's Dinner guests that because of their support, many of the children and teenagers KBHC cares for "have their first decent Christmas, their first Easter basket, their first birthday party." Renita said one girl, upon receiving a gift said, "I've never had a doll before." She was 17 years old.

"We get to see these moments," Renita said. You could tell by the look on her face and the sound of her voice that she considers herself blessed and privileged to witness those firsts. It was important to her to try to pass along some of that blessing to those attending the dinner. It's equally important that we try to pass it along to all of our supporters whenever we can, wherever we can.

How important is the shelter you help provide? It's more than shelter; for a child who has known pov-

erty, it's security and comfort. How important are the bottles of shampoo, bars of soap and tubes of toothpaste? Some children come to us thinking of these things as luxuries, not necessities. How important are the clean sheets and new clothes? Extremely important to the child who comes to us with only the clothes on his back.

## HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

How important is the Bible you put in a child's hand? It is a lamp unto her feet and a light unto her path. How important is the horseback riding or the rafting trip? Every year kids tell us, "I've never done anything like this before!" How important are the Bible studies and devotionals that take place between the recreation? They have eternal consequences.

It's more than just stuff. It's more than just buildings. We hope your mind's eye will permit you to see the 17-year-old with her new doll, as strange as that may seem, and rejoice with us in that. Thank you for giving her and Renita that moment. You made it possible.

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)

## Peace

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College alumnus Nick Osborn wrote this week's Advent devotional on peace. Osborn graduated from Cumberland in 1993 and now serves as minister to students at First Baptist Church in Kettering, Ohio. He and his wife, Markie (a 1994 Cumberland College graduate), have two daughters.

John 14:25-27 serves as the Scripture text for Osborn's devotional.

"Two Christmases ago, my two-year-old daughter and I were talking about the people who came to see baby Jesus in the manger. While putting all the pieces of our nativity back on the table, she frantically began to scramble around the room while repeating, 'Where is He?'"

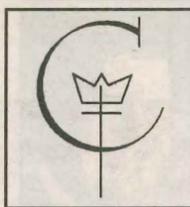
"I stopped her and said, 'Abby, who are you looking for?' Her reply: 'Baby Jesus! We've lost baby Jesus.'

"To my preschooler, this was certainly a catastrophic event. In her bedtime prayer, she began to tell Jesus how sorry she was that she had lost Him. As I pondered her plight, I began to ask myself if I had lost perspective on the holiday season.

"All the hustle and bustle, con-

stantly running from one ministry event to another, I was trying to make sure everyone had a blessed holiday. All the while I was collapsing from exhaustion. Had I lost the proper place of that Babe in a manger? Yes. Abby, in her desire to return Him to His proper place, spoke volumes to me that night about keeping my eyes on Jesus.

## CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



"Two days later, we found that piece of the nativity in our living room and Abby squealed with delight, 'We found Him!' She carefully took baby Jesus and placed Him in His proper place and smiled and said, 'There you go, Daddy. We found Jesus!'"

"This Christmas, may we all allow Jesus the rightful place in our hearts so that we can truly experience the peace and satisfaction that He so desires for us."

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

## Kudzu



Doug Marlette

## Church of the Covered Dish



Thom Tapp

## Bible Crossword

### Across

- 1 Biblical ointment
- 5 Stadium cheer
- 8 Not out
- 12 Fever, chills
- 13 Nancy Hanks's son
- 14 Roman road
- 15 Particulars (abbr.)
- 16 Prof. sports org.
- 17 "the \_\_\_ that is in thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:3)
- 18 Tribe of Israel
- 20 Disciple who was sent by Paul to Crete
- 22 Whom Peleg begat (Genesis 11)
- 24 Uncle (Sp.)
- 25 "Lord, wilt thou ... \_\_\_ again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)
- 29 "And \_\_\_ walked with God" (Genesis 5:22)
- 33 Corrida cheer
- 34 "\_\_\_ Alpha and Omega" (Revelation 1:8)
- 36 Indo-Chinese native (var.)
- 37 "\_\_\_ the Lord, o my soul" (Psalm 103:1)
- 40 "Thou shalt be a father of many \_\_\_" (Genesis 17:4)
- 43 "they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, \_\_\_" (Psalm 35:21)
- 45 Enclosure
- 46 Component
- 50 "\_\_\_ foolish questions, and genealogies" (Titus 3:9)
- 54 Eye \_\_\_
- 55 Jehovah
- 57 Son of Shammua (Nehemiah 11)
- 58 \_\_\_-European
- 59 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46)
- 60 Prepared food shop

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46	47	48				49		50		51	52	53
54						55		56		57		
58						59				60		
61						62				63		

- 61 Average
- 62 Operate
- 63 "The \_\_\_ of your understanding being enlightened" (Ephesians 1:18)

### Down

- 1 Nothing (Sp.)
- 2 Matures
- 3 Wife of Mahlon
- 4 "make straight in the \_\_\_ a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3)
- 5 Hied
- 6 Father (Aram.)
- 7 "Let not your \_\_\_ be troubled" (John 14:1)
- 8 "Of the tribe of \_\_\_ were sealed twelve thousand" (Revelation 7:7)
- 9 Tiny particle
- 10 Cheese
- 11 To be (Sp., var.)
- 19 Vintage auto
- 21 "and \_\_\_ the kine to the cart" (1 Samuel 6:7)
- 23 Eastern state univ.
- 25 "Will a man \_\_\_ God?" (Malachi 3:8)
- 26 Building addition
- 27 Understand
- 28 Belonging to (suffix)
- 30 Siouan
- 31 Tin
- 32 Pronoun
- 35 Chart
- 38 The thirteenth judge of Israel
- 39 Pronoun
- 41 Beverage
- 42 "whom thou would not let \_\_\_ Israel" (2 Chronicles 20:10)
- 44 "The discretion of a man deferret his \_\_\_" (Proverbs 19:11)
- 46 Place of twelve wells of water (Exodus 15)
- 47 "Their \_\_\_ is gone out through all the earth" (Psalm 19:4)
- 48 Norse saga
- 49 Great-grandfather of Elkanah (1 Samuel 1)
- 51 Confidence
- 52 Lazy
- 53 Raised platform
- 56 Noise

## Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
H	I	E	W	T	I	R	O	N	A	D	E
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B	E	N	D	W	E	L	T	S			
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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **VeggieTales to hit the big screen again.** Just two months after the successful release of the first VeggieTales movie, the companies involved in its production have announced plans for a second film. "The Bob and Larry Movie" is slated for 2005, announced Big Idea Productions and Artisan's FHE Pictures. Their "Jonah" debuted in early October and grossed more than \$24 million by late November. The second film will focus on the characters Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber but will include other animated characters and humans.

■ **"Choice on Earth" cards spark criticism.** Planned Parenthood's distribution of a Christmas card that says "Choice on Earth" has prompted criticism from anti-abortion activists. "The group twists a well-known Scripture in which God offers peace on earth—not abortion—through the birth of His Son Jesus Christ," said Wendy Wright, senior policy director for Concerned Women for America.

■ **Ruling permits "Choose Life" license plates.** The U.S. Supreme Court declined last week to hear a challenge from abortion-rights supporters to "Choose Life" license plates in Louisiana. Six other states—Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Carolina—also have such specialty tags. The Louisiana specialty plate features the words "Choose Life" and the depiction of a baby in a blanket held in the beak of a pelican, Louisiana's state bird.

■ **Study: Church youth groups develop self-esteem.** Participation in religious youth groups are associated with high self-esteem and positive self-attitudes, according to a recent survey by the National Study of Youth and Religion. U.S. 12th graders who participated in religious youth groups for at least six years were more likely to have positive attitudes toward themselves and feel that they have something to be proud of than those who had never participated in youth groups, according to the report.

## High court hears case on abortion protesters

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Should abortion protests fall under anti-racketeering laws or does its use chill non-violent protest?

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court considered the legal implications of abortion protests in a case stemming from a 1998 finding by a Chicago jury, *The Washington Post* reported.

"Classic protest actions venerated in American history would be crimes," Roy Englert, a lawyer representing leaders of the Pro-Life Action League, told the justices.

He and other lawyers for abortion protesters said civil disobedience such as that used by Martin Luther King and other civil rights marchers would be threatened if previous rulings in the case are upheld.

Englert's clients and Operation Rescue were found liable for acts of violence and coercion that violated federal racketeering and extortion laws. Clinics in Milwaukee and Delaware were awarded damages and a federal judge later ordered a permanent nationwide halt to the protests. The 7th U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the verdict and the injunction in 2001.

While the abortion opponents had participated in protected activities, such as street protests, some also had taken part in illegal activities, such as trespassing, blocking access to abortion clinics and destroying clinic property, the federal court ruled.

A lawyer for supporters of abortion rights urged the Supreme Court to uphold the verdict, saying it would not stop nonviolent protest but would

prevent organizers of violent intimidation campaigns from escaping punishment.

"We ask the court not to turn the clock back on 50 years of (anti-racketeering) law," Fay Clayton, an attorney for the National Organization for Women, told the court.

Solicitor General Theodore Olson, representing the federal government, told the justices that the court should

uphold the appellate court's interpretation of extortion. He said the protesters had disputed the right of the clinics to control their business.

Englert argued that his clients could not deny that they had broken anti-trespassing and other laws but said their actions did not reach the level of extortion because they had not actually taken property.

*With additional reporting by Baptist Press*

"...the most awesome voice in Gospel music"

Billboard Magazine

# Cynthia Clawson

## In Concert

Sat. December 14, 7p.m.

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
2000 Douglass Blvd.  
Louisville, Ky 40205

Tickets \$12

Call 502-459-1595, 9a-4p M-F

## Pass the turkey, please

From everything we see on TV and read in newspapers and magazines, most Americans love to eat. Some of us apparently enjoy eating more than others.

One thing that makes eating so attractive is the variety of restaurants in which we can indulge ourselves. While many of us spend far too much time eating fast food, we also extend our calorie limits in the nicer restaurants.

So what does this have to do with Oneida? Lots! I believe we serve some mighty fine food to our students, faculty and staff. When you consider that they eat in our dining room three times a day, seven days a week, however, you quickly can understand what a special treat it is to break the routine.

If you have ever eaten in our dining room, you know that you get a tray and silverware and serve yourself buffet-style. Most people would agree that the food is delicious and there is a plentiful variety of foods to choose from. Since we are a boarding school for middle and high school students and we are in a remote area, our students do not have the opportunity to eat off campus very often.

I have a special appreciation for the Thanksgiving meal that we serve to our students, faculty, staff and guests. We go all out to provide everyone with a meal that is tasty and is also a change from the day-to-day routine. Instead of the serving lines we are accustomed to, the food is placed on the tables in bowls. The tables have been rearranged and decorated for the occasion.

The kitchen staff comes in early to prepare the mountain of food needed, so they do not get to spend most of the day with their families. We always show our appreciation to them by asking

them to join us in the dining room so we can say thanks and give them a round of applause.

This Thanksgiving was different from any in recent memory because of the number of people who joined us. Normally about 75 students and nearly 100 additional faculty, staff and guests dine with us on Thanksgiving Day. This year we had around 250. A large number of our faculty and staff had family members and friends join us for the occasion. Additionally, some parents and other family members of our students shared our Thanksgiving meal. Some families came from as far as Paducah and central Illinois, nearly eight hours away.

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Because of the short break, many of our students could not make the trip home. We encourage families to join us so they can be with their children. It cuts their driving time in half, as they make only one trip to our campus.

When the time came to eat, we seated our faculty, staff and guests first. Then our students came in. We do it this way so that the students do not all sit together. They take seats throughout the dining room. This gives our staff a better opportunity to fellowship with the students.

As soon as we have the blessing, a chorus of voices says, "Pass the turkey and dressing." Within seconds, dozens of bowls and platters are being passed back and forth. It is a beautiful sight that is appreciated by all.

We want to thank all of our friends who help make all that we do possible, including eating such a wonderful meal! Thanks!

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)

## Appreciation for online courses

January marks our second semester of online courses. In the convenience of your home or business you can take evangelism (three hours credit), and Old Testament I (two hours credit). Both classes are accredited and apply toward a degree from Clear Creek.

Robert Ison has preached for six years, and last summer he found our Web site information about distance learning.

"I was struggling with God's guidance to come to the Southern Baptists from a more independent/community type Baptist background," Ison said. "At God's direction I enrolled in the online course in Baptist doctrines."

As the course progressed, he moved his church membership to First Baptist Church, West Liberty, and will soon be reordained. "I am already enrolled for both online courses for Spring 2003 and will enroll as a fulltime student in Pineville for fall 2003," he said.

"The format for the courses offered by Clear Creek opens the door for many more opportunities for both mentoring and discussion. Overall, the course has been wonderful. ... The course has helped guide me, bearing much fruit with in my life. I want to thank the col-

lege for following God's heart and developing this course. I also want to point out the thoughtfulness that has been presented to me by both faculty and students as my wife, daughter and I have faced the very difficult decisions of selling everything we have, leaving two very prosperous careers, the only hometown we have ever known, and following God. It is a good trade!"

Online students have extended Clear Creek's influence far from campus. Glenn Ford lives near Owensboro; he teaches plumbing to inmates at Green Rover Correctional Complex in Central City. In his church, he is an assistant Bible teacher, Royal Ambassadors leader and FAITH youth team leader. Jacob Yates is a high school senior in Clintwood, Va. He is "seeking God's plan" while serving as president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Harold Sears operates a silkscreen print shop in Boulder, Colo. "I am a Clear Creek kid of 1943 when my dad was a student," he said. "Boulder is not Southern Baptist country, and I took the course to enhance skills I can use for Christ."

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

# MUSIC/BOOKS

## Happy's trail

*Friends say Goodman 'revolutionized' gospel music during 50-year career*

NASHVILLE (BP)—Howard "Happy" Goodman, the patriarch of The Happy Goodmans, one of gospel music's most popular and influential groups, died Nov. 30. He was 81.

After marrying his wife, Vestal, in 1949, the couple traveled and performed with his brothers Sam and Rusty.

Before retiring last year with its "Final Stand" album, the group had won two Best Gospel Performances Grammys and secured a place in the history of gospel music.

"There never has been, and I don't think there ever will be, a family group with as much energy and talent as the Happy Goodmans," said Maurice Templeton, publisher of Singing News magazine.

Frank Breeden, president of the Gospel Music Association, called Goodman and his wife, Vestal, "true ambassadors for the gospel music industry."

"Their influence and inspiration has permeated all musical genres, making them among the most beloved in gospel music," Breeden said. The Happy Goodman family was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1998.

Goodman's group provided the basis for two popular gospel television programs, "The Gospel Singing Jubilee" and the "Happy Goodman Family Hour."

The family's Web site states that The Happy Goodmans' recordings have featured 15 No. 1 songs and sold more than 7 million units.

Legendary Christian songwriter Bill Gaither said Goodman revolutionized the gospel music world.

"The Happy Goodmans were born in a red-hot Pentecostal holiness camp meeting in Kentucky, and came out of the meeting with fire in their souls and took it to the stage."

During Goodman's Dec. 3 fu-

neral in Nashville, Gaither honored his friend by performing some of the songs Goodman loved, including "Jesus is the Sweetest Name I Know."

Gaither said Goodman lived up to his persona for clever wit and sidesplitting stories, on and off the stage.



Goodman

"They are a jovial family, demonstrative in their love," Gaither said. "What you see is what you get with Happy Goodman. People saw that he loved life, telling great stories and eating a good meal with friends."

Gaither said he got to know the Goodmans during the 1990s when they started recording the popular Gaither Homecoming Videos.

Gaither credited Goodman with bringing many changes to the gospel music industry.

"They were one of the first groups to have a band," he noted. "Most gospel groups were doing it with four singers and a piano. They came along with players, guitars, bass, drums. It allowed them to do some other rhythm feels."

The group's energy on stage was "incredible," Gaither said. "The Happy Goodman Family was a fun-loving bunch and they could create a lot of excitement on stage," he added. "Unlike most early quartets, who would gather around a microphone, the Goodmans would rare back and let it go with joy."

A family spokesman said Goodman had been hospitalized seven months as a result of various complications after knee surgery. He was undergoing therapy and rehabilitation when he developed pneumonia a week before his death.

In addition to his wife, Goodman is survived by a son and daughter and their spouses, four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service

**Whose Promised Land? The Continuing Crisis Over Israel and Palestine.** Colin Chapman. Baker Books, 2002. 328 pages. \$17.99. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Be prepared to have all your assumptions about Israel, the Palestinians, biblical prophecy and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East challenged.

Colin Chapman's review of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis explodes many commonly held conceptions about how modern Israel came to be; the reasons for Palestinian anger and unrest; why American and many western European democracies joined the Zionist cause; and the role of modern Israel in the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Chapman has done a yeoman's job in taking the vast amount of material (historical, political and theological) related to the history and context of the current struggle in the Middle East and summarizing it in a manner that is concise, useable and easy to read. He begins with a review of the history of Palestine, from Abraham to today. He then moves to a review of the modern effort to establish a Jewish homeland/state. From there he reviews the biblical understanding of the role of "the land" in God's purposes. The last chapters offer pointers on how to deal with the crisis. The appendices provide extremely useful supplemental information, such as "The Covenant of Hamas."

Chapman has provided an honest, balanced and easily accessed reference book. On the one hand, he counsels Christians to be aware that our historic animosity toward Jews created much of the desire for a Jewish homeland. But he also recommends that Christians not allow our collective guilt, or our rightful understanding of God's love for the Jews, blind us to the real issues of love and justice that are central to the gospel. *Jim Holladay*

**The Unquenchable Worshipper.** Matt Redman. Regal Books, 2001. 126 pages. \$9. ♦♦♦♦♦

Like it or not, postmodernism has swept the culture and is influencing how many churches reach out to their communities. Nearly every day, new churches spring up that combine both ancient and contemporary worship styles, blending hymns and candles with PowerPoint and percussion rock beats.

One of the main people to blame—or praise, depending on where your feelings lie—is Matt Redman, one of the top worship leaders in England who started the modern praise and worship movement in the early 1990s in the United Kingdom. He has written songs like "The Heart of Worship" and "Better Is One Day," which have become staple praise songs at many churches worldwide.

In his book "The Unquenchable Worshipper," Redman does not fall prey to the usual pitfalls of books written by well-known worship leaders: Offer 10 easy steps to create mean-

ingful worship services by manipulating the music and other elements to elicit an emotional response.

Instead, Redman, like his song, gets to the heart of worship. He writes a book that is equally at home in the hands of laypeople as it is on the shelves of music ministers.

Redman challenges all Christians to examine their hearts and see whether they really are offering God praise with their whole heart and soul. One leaves the short but packed book thinking in a whole new way about one's attitude toward Sunday morning worship.

Admittedly, Redman is more of a musician than a writer. Much of the book's meat comes from quotes of great theologians he admires rather than his own words. But he still creates a book that should be read by every worship leader and would add much to the lives of everyday lay believers as well. *Victoria Moon*

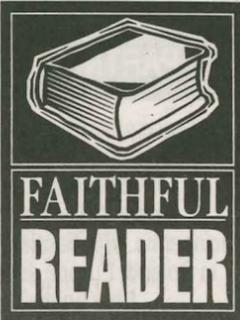
**Key Words of the Christian Life: Understanding and Applying Their Meaning.** Warren Wiersbe. Baker Books, 2002. 127 pages. \$10.99 ♦♦

Warren Wiersbe rightly argues that language and words are important, and that we pay too little attention to their power to shape our lives. As Christians, we cannot afford to fall prey to sloppiness in our use of words.

"Key Words of the Christian Life," which grew out of a series of radio messages, is Wiersbe's attempt to help us reclaim and understand the vocabulary of the Christian faith. After affirming the centrality of Scripture, he introduces or reintroduces us to justification, adoption, regeneration, propitiation, imputation, sanctification, reconciliation, redemption, intercession/mediation, formation, predestination and glorification. While many of these words are valuable in communicating the Christian faith, some of them are not central to understanding the gospel. Further, such crucial words as faith, love and grace are not on Wiersbe's list.

In focusing on these key words, Wiersbe wants to clarify for the average Christian what each means and its place in the Christian life. I found his presentation muddled more water than it clarified. For example, his discussion of adoption (being given adult standing in the family) and regeneration (being born into a new life) obviously overlap, and he could have clarified better the distinction. He seems determined to hang on to the terms propitiation and imputation, though they obviously communicate little to our world and have been replaced in modern Scripture translations.

His discussion of predestination is confusing. He wants to draw a distinction between foreknowing and foreordaining, but in the end they become synonyms in his discussion. More disconcerting is his claim, "I do not find any place in the Word of God where ... God predestines people to be lost;" only to read less than a page later, "To foreknow means to choose beforehand." *Jim Holladay*



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

## Point of Grace wins Inspirational awards

CHARLOTTE (RNS)—The Christian singing group Point of Grace has been named inspirational performer of the year by the Inspiration Networks.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based cable television network produced the 2002 Inspirational Life Awards, based on a "people's choice" award system on its Web site.

Other musical winners included:

■ CeCe Winans' album "CeCe Winans" for contemporary gospel album of the year.

■ Third Day's "Come Together," for rock/alternative album of the year.

■ Michael W. Smith's "Worship" for praise and worship album.

■ T-Bone's "The Last Street Preacha" for rap/hip-hop/dance album.

■ Living Sacrifice's "The Hammering Process" for hard music album.

■ The Martins' "Glorify, Edify, Testify" in the Southern gospel category

■ "The Storm Is Over" by Bishop T.D. Jakes and the Potter's House Mass Choir in the black/traditional gospel category.

■ Chris Rice for "The Living Room Sessions" in the inspirational category.

■ Point of Grace earned a second award in the pop/contemporary category for "Free to Fly."

"Traveling Light" by Max Lucado was named nonfiction book of the year and "Desecration" by Jerry Jenkins and Tim LaHaye was named fiction book of the year.

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Efforts to begin churches among drug addicts and their families in the Marina region of Moscow. An anti-drug rally/concert organized by Baptists in October drew 600 people. "Please pray that many addicts or families of addicts will call the hotline number (that was) given," missionaries write.

■ A basketball team from the States that is ministering among Chinese students in Budapest, Hungary, this month.

■ Outreach among Roma/Gypsies that has begun near Bucuresti, Romania. "G," a Romany believer has started two home Bible studies with 10 people attending in one location and seven in the other. "Thank God for G's faithfulness to share Christ," missionaries write.

■ Thank God for a young French Christian family beginning a house church in the Paris suburb of Gometz.

■ Polish young adults who meet each week in Warsaw with Baptist representatives Erick and Caroline Kittelson and Susan Carson.

■ "A," a Bulgarian Christian who has begun a ministry to students at American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. The university draws students from across Bulgaria as well as other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BENTON**—New Bethel Church called **George Culp** as interim pastor.

Sharpe Missionary Church recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church called **John Laida** as interim pastor.

■ **CROMWELL**—Green River Church will present its third annual Green River Christmas scenes Dec. 13-14, 6-9 p.m. **Kelley Harris** is pastor.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—First Church ordained **Bryan Cobb** to the gospel ministry. Cobb is associate pastor and youth minister.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Broadway Church's Women on Mission will host the West Louisville Girls' Choir in a holiday concert Dec. 15, 5 p.m. For information, call (502) 895-2459.

Highland Church will hold its annual Christmas dinner Dec. 15, 6 p.m., featuring music by the Atherton High School madrigal singers.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—First Church will host "Return to Bethlehem," a walk-through drama, Dec. 14, 16 and 17, 5-8 p.m., and Dec. 15, 2-4 p.m. For information, call (270) 821-3611.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—**Jack Stallworth** resigned as pastor of Conway Church.

Freedom Church recently called **C.E. Jacobs** as interim pastor.

Roundstone Church called **Paul Pearson** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Friendship Church ordained **Danny Mize** to the gospel ministry Dec. 1.

■ **PRINCETON**—Cedar Bluff Church called **Robin Redd** as associate pastor.

Chapel Hill Church called **Harrell Riley** as interim pastor.

First Church ordained **Steve Kukahiko** and **Rick Williams** as deacons Dec. 8. **Tom Hughes** is pastor.

■ **TOPMOST**—Topmost Church recently called **Carl Mullins** as pastor.



**THANKSGIVING FEAST** More than 250 students, faculty, staff and family members gathered Nov. 28 for Oneida Baptist Institute's Thanksgiving dinner. The family-style Thanksgiving meal is an annual tradition for students who live too far away to make the trip home on a short break. Some students also invite their families to join them on campus for the holiday. Oneida officials said this was the largest Thanksgiving crowd in recent years. The school's cooks prepared 24 turkeys for the occasion. (Oneida Baptist Institute photo)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Two-story duplex in original Highlands in Louisville. Cash flow investor opportunity. Two 1-bedroom apartments, updated with new features. Easy to own—special programs. Asking \$74,900. Live in one; renter in other pays the mortgage. Call Chuck, Homebase Real Estate, (502) 421-8987, 558-4757.

**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](http://www.healthplanprovider.net); [www.braxtonenterprises.net](http://www.braxtonenterprises.net) ceo6660.

**SEEKING:** Cedar Creek Baptist Church of Louisville, Ky., is looking for a qualified individual to serve as associate pastor of education and administration. This full-time position will involve general oversight of the adult education ministries, outreach and the administrative functions of the church. This individual will work in conjunction with the senior teaching pastor in providing supervision of paid staff and related ministries. Cedar Creek is a growing, conservative, Bible-based Southern Baptist church seeking to reach and disciple people for Jesus Christ. Contact information: Personnel Committee, Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 7709 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; (502) 239-2129; [www.cedar-creekbaptist.org](http://www.cedar-creekbaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of activities for First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington, Ky. Need energetic, outreach-minded person to schedule and oversee activities for all ages in our new Christian life center. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 315, Mt. Washington, KY 40047, or call (502) 538-7361 for more information.

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

**SEEKING:** Leonardtown Baptist Church in southern Maryland is accepting resumé for a full-time youth pastor. Ministry description available at [www.leonardtownbaptist.org](http://www.leonardtownbaptist.org) in December. Send resumé to: Leonardtown Baptist Church, PO Box 1757, Leonardtown, MD 20650, Attn: Youth Pastor Search Committee, or e-mail to: [search@leonardtownbaptist.org](mailto:search@leonardtownbaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/youth. Please send resumé to: Otter Creek First Baptist Church, 13000 Quail Run Drive, Little Rock, AR 72210, Attn: Martha Owens.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Greenville, Ky. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 145 S Main St., Greenville, KY 42345.

**SEEKING:** Worship leader for growing church with both contemporary and traditional worship in the Northern Kentucky area. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church Cold Spring, 4410 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring, KY 41076, Attn: Carol Hitch; or send via e-mail to: [hitchcarol@hotmail.com](mailto:hitchcarol@hotmail.com). No phone calls please.

**SEEKING:** Full-time or bivocational pastor for small country church located in western Kentucky near Fort Campbell. Send resumé with references to: Pastor Search Committee, Salem Baptist Church, 2828 Elmo Road, Pembroke, KY 42266.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor for Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro, Ky. Duties will include song leading and supervision of the full music program, leading weekly youth worship service, daily administrative duties and some preaching responsibilities. Formal education not required for candidate with qualifying experience. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Southside Baptist Church, 410 W Doncaster Ave., Middlesboro, KY 40965. Phone inquiries: Pastor Jay Sulfridge, (606) 248-4094. E-mail: [pastorj@eastky.net](mailto:pastorj@eastky.net). Video or audio tapes would be very helpful.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth and music minister for First Baptist Church, Liberty, Ky. Looking for individual called into this special ministry. Could, in time, turn into full-time position. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 58, Liberty, KY 42539. Phone: (606) 787-7360.

**SEEKING:** The Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati is seeking names of individuals for the position of associational missionary. Please send resumé to: Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati, 135 Williams St., Cincinnati, OH 45215, Attn: Bill Hounshell, search team chairman, or e-mail to: [billnewhope@fuse.net](mailto:billnewhope@fuse.net).

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to youth. Youth group averages 25-30. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, FBC Clinton, 320 Mayfield Drive, Clinton, KY 42031.

**SEEKING:** Part-time director of senior adult ministries (beginning 2003). Position is responsible for developing, managing and evaluating a comprehensive program for senior adults. Work week consists of 20 hours (Sunday through Wednesday). Individual must be experienced with adult ministries and be a current member of a Southern Baptist church. Send cover letter and resumé to: Richard Landers, First Baptist Church, PO Box 697, Richmond, KY 40476-0697, or via e-mail to [rlanders@firstbaptistnet.com](mailto:rlanders@firstbaptistnet.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Boones Creek Baptist Church. Send resumé and video or audio tape to: Pastor Search Committee, Boones Creek Baptist Church, 185 N Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40509-9485.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for First Twelve Mile Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Troy Richardson, 167-K Washington Trace, California, KY 41007.

**SEEKING:** Energetic, growth-minded pastor for Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, a congregation with 385 resident members and a SS enrollment of 249. The church is located in an area with good growth potential. At least some seminary a plus. Please send resumé to: Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, 501 Noel Ave., Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

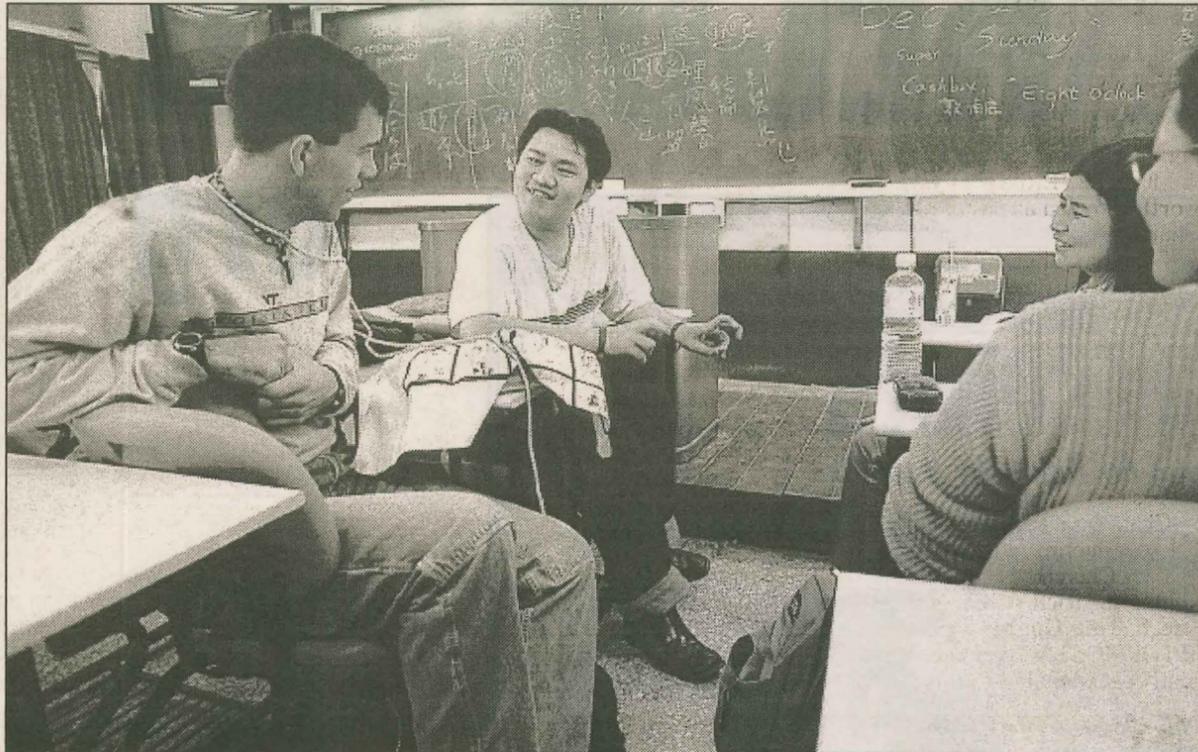
**SEEKING:** Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center is looking for a teacher for the four-year-old preschool program. Hours are 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Kentucky Cabinet of Health Services certifies our center. Requirements: College degree preferred—high school diploma required; experience working with preschool children a plus; love for children; ability to plan curriculum and activities; and ability to be flexible. Must be at least 18 years of age. Benefits: Competitive hourly wage; paid holidays; state-certified training provided; pleasant and positive work environment; possibility of extra hours, if desired. Interested individuals should contact Fern Creek Baptist Church, (502) 239-0316, or send resumé to PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center.

**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.

**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](http://www.talklongdistance.net), (888) 645-4559.

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## Big man on campus



**BIBLE STUDY** Taiwanese students who express an interest in learning more about the gospel are invited to join a "BodyLife" Bible study group. Each group is comprised of five or six people. Southern Baptist Journeyman missions worker Vip Vipperman, left, facilitates one such group on the Dongwoo University campus in Taipei, Taiwan. (BP photo)

## Even size helps Baptist student share gospel

TAIPEI, Taiwan (BP)—On any college campus in the United States, "Vip" Vipperman would fit right in.

There's that constant, easygoing grin. His eyes darting around, looking for eye contact. A flash of recognition is followed by a pointed exclamation of "Aww, brah! What's up?"

But at 6 feet 3 inches, the recent graduate from Louisiana State University is one of the tallest guys on the campus of Dongwoo University in Taipei, Taiwan. He stands out. And that's the desired effect.

A grin escapes as Vipperman approaches a Taiwanese student. A short conversation in Chinese ends as both reach for their cell phones and punch each other's numbers in memory.

Vipperman, a "journeyman," a two-year missions worker appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, is excited. "Dude! He invited me to practice with the hip-hop club tonight."

This is what Unbound Student Ministries is all about, he later explains.

Taiwan has a historical Christian presence, but it is raising a generation of young people who couldn't care less about God. Disenfranchised from traditional churches, which they describe as boring and irrelevant, students are consumed with identity.

Unbound Student Ministries developed as a vision of Mark and Kandy Persall, Southern Baptist workers who have served in Taiwan for 14 years. Based on the church-planting movement of rapidly reproducing, indigenous churches, the Persalls saw a way to reach Taiwan's sliding generation.

A hundred yards away from Vipperman, fellow Unbound journeyman



**PRAYER PAUSE** Journeymen Jenny Matherne and Vip Vipperman pause to pray while waiting for students to show up for a BodyLife meeting. They anticipate the day when the meetings will be composed entirely of Taiwanese students. (BP photo)

Jenny Matherne, a redheaded former sorority girl from Baylor University in Texas, sits alone with her Bible in the commons area of the university.



### That all peoples may know Him

Two Taiwanese girls join her, and they make their way to the cafeteria and find a table where they begin to talk. Surrounded by the smoky smell of Chinese noodles and

boiled meat dishes, melded with clipped chatter of chopsticks from the lunch crowd, the conversation turns to the eternal.

### Having church

No one around them even knows that the girls are having church. This is BodyLife, Unbound Student Ministry's model of a rapidly reproducing, student-led church.

Of the 1 million college students in Taiwan, 97 percent are non-Christian. With these kinds of numbers, there is something to be said for having a wide variety of ways to share the gospel.

Methods include English clubs, using the Bible storying method and

the extensive use of volunteers, like the Unbound journeymen, two-year missions volunteers who spend time on campuses with students.

Results are beginning to show. Contact points have been made at universities in three of Taiwan's major cities: Taipei, T'ai-chung and Kao-shiung.

"We reach out to students who would never set foot in a church, and we do it at places where normally they wouldn't have any exposure to the gospel," Vipperman says. "That means going to where they hang out, finding out what they do, and developing relationships."

At Dongwoo University, that means getting into the club scene. Students spend nearly all of their free time associating with student clubs based on their interest.

For journeymen like Vipperman and Matherne, hanging out with the guitar club, the art club, the drum club, the ping-pong club and even the hip-hop club allows them to relate to the students.

### Plugged in

When a student expresses an interest in meeting, they are plugged into small Bible studies, made up of no more than five or six other students.

Believers are taught through the Word and are equipped to start their own Bible studies, reaching more of their friends.

As more and more students hear the gospel and join the Bible study groups, leaders seek to show the students that they can be catalysts for spiritual reproduction.

"They get excited," Vipperman says. "They don't know it's not normal to go home and read through several books of the Bible in a day and share with their friends."

## Paper or plastic?

### Some churches taking credit cards

By Bob Smietana  
Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—These days, it seems almost everybody takes credit cards. Even God. Or at least, God's people.

While you won't find credit card terminals in many churches and synagogues, a growing number are accepting donations by automatic billing to credit cards. This approach allows people to donate to their congregations in the same way they pay their utilities or other monthly bills.

This fall, the Roman Catholic archdioceses of Chicago and San Jose, Calif., started offering electronic donation, by credit card or deduction from a checking account through a company called Parish Pay. Besides convenience, Tim Dockery, director of development services for the Chicago archdiocese, said electronic giving allows people to be more intentional in their giving.

"They can ask, 'Does the amount I am giving reflect where I am in my spiritual life?'" Dockery said. "Am I spending more on cable television than I am giving to the church?"

People often overestimate the amount they are donating to the church, Dockery said. "Some people would say they are giving 2 or 3 percent of their income to charity. But when they do the math, they actually find they're giving only half or 1 percent."

Andrew Goldberger, co-founder of Parish Pay, said about 72 percent of people who use their system donate using credit cards. The smallest donation the company collects is \$10 a month, he said. The largest is more than \$1,000. Parish Pay gets a 1 percent fee per donation plus \$1 per user for its services.

To use the service, people use an envelope, similar to collection envelopes found in many congregations. Instead of putting cash or a check in the envelope, an individual fills out the credit card number or account information and sends it to the company, which enters it into their system.

"No one from the church sees the account numbers," Goldberger said, which helps make the system secure. "If you have a credit card's number lying around a church office," he said, "God knows what will happen."

Even those congregations that will not accept credit cards can benefit from electronic giving, according to Len Thiede, vice president of sales for Vanco Services in St. Paul, Minn. Thiede, whose company works with about 5,000 churches nationwide, said most people who use their services prefer to have their donations electronically debited from a checking account.

"Churches are wary of credit cards," he said, "because they are concerned about the credit card debt that people are piling."

Thiede estimates that even people who regularly attend services will miss six or seven weeks a year, which can affect how much money they contribute. Others who might have committed funds, "aren't following through on pledges."

David Brewer, church administrator at Gary Memorial United Methodist Church in Wheaton, Ill., has been using the Vanco service for eight months. About 40 people in the church, which has an attendance of 600, have signed up.

"It has helped us out quite a bit in the summer because people often just drop out during that time," Brewer said. "Right now we are averaging about \$8,000 a month (in electronic giving). Without the automatic withdrawal, giving would not have been as steady."

Despite the growing interest in electronic giving, most American congregations have drawn the line at having an actual credit/debit card machine in their buildings.

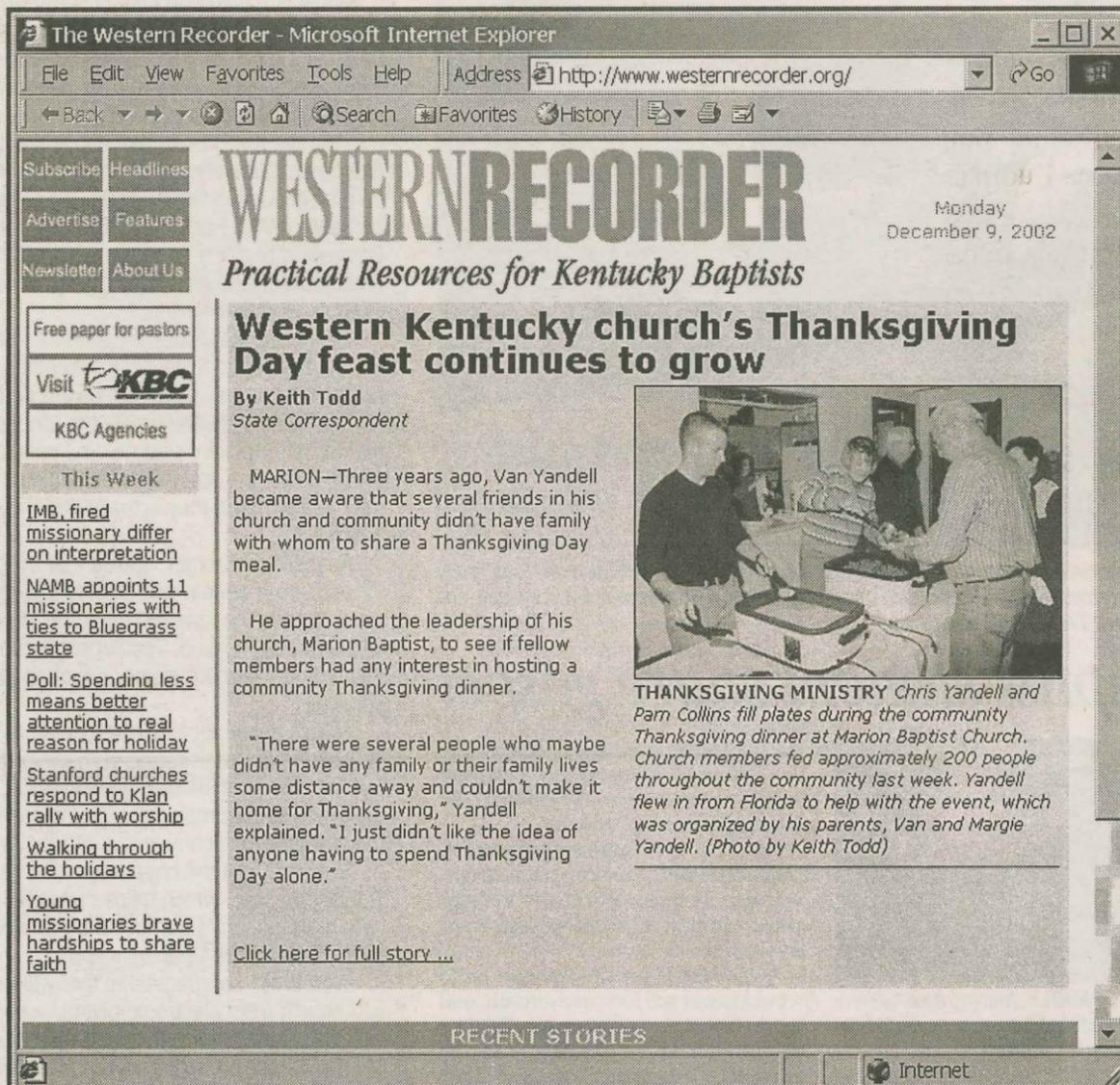
That's not the case in Canada, where some churches have installed credit/debit card machines, according to the National Post. Desert Stream Christian Fellowship in Belleville, Ontario, which installed its machine in October 2000, was the first in Canada to do so, Pastor Kevin Dowling said.

The machine helps his church keep up with the move toward a "cashless society," he said. "We use the debit card everywhere else," Dowling said, "so why not the church?"

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