



WESTERN RECORDER

January 7, 2003
Vol. 177, No. 1

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Developing nations' citizens, Americans value religion most

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans and people from developing nations place a higher importance on religion than do residents of other wealthy countries, a recent poll has found.

The poll, sponsored by the Washington-based Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, is part of a 44-nation survey in the Pew Global Attitudes Project.

It showed that 59 percent of Americans said religion plays a very important role in their lives. That percentage is almost twice as high as Canadians, 30 percent of whom felt that way.

Americans' positive sentiments about religion also were stronger than those of the Japanese, 12 percent of whom said religion was important, and Western Europeans. Thirty-three percent of people polled in Great Britain ranked religion highly, compared to 27 percent of Italians, 21 percent of Germans and 11 percent of French citizens.

For the most part, people in developing nations placed religion as a high priority in their lives.

Majorities of populations in every Latin American country surveyed except Argentina held to this view. Thirty-nine percent of Argentinians said religion was very important.

Seventy-one percent of residents of the Czech Republic said religion had little or no importance in their lives—more than any nation surveyed.

The Pew Global Attitudes Project is part of a series of worldwide surveys of public opinion that have included more than 38,000 people in 44 countries. It is chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

What's the big idea?

Sometimes, it's the small things that make the biggest difference.

In that spirit, here's a collection of little ideas used in a variety of Baptist churches that you can adapt to add sparkle, energy or a special touch to what your church already does.

These aren't programs to launch or philosophies to embrace. Most of them cost little or nothing to implement.

They're simply little ideas that work:

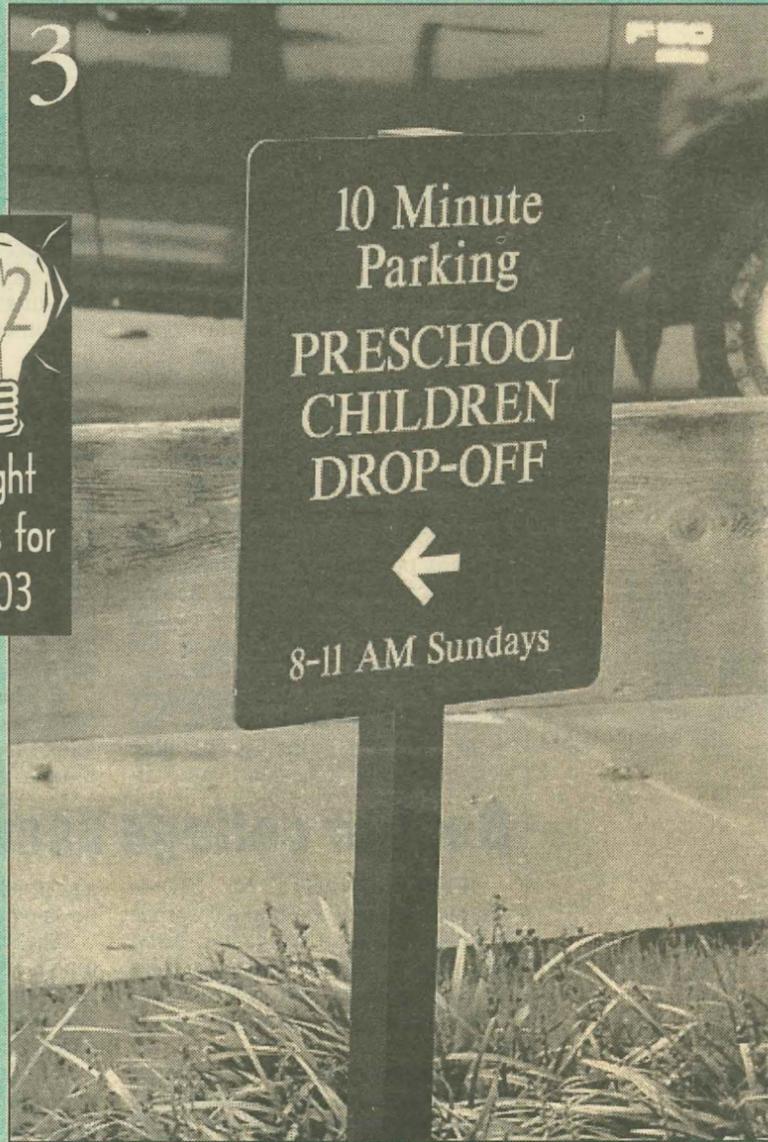
1 Who are they?

When lay members of the congregation are involved in worship roles, such as Scripture reading, prayer or welcoming guests, include a two- or three-sentence biographical sketch about each person in the worship bulletin. Even in medium-sized churches, many people might not know where other members work, who they're married to or how long they've been members.

2 Get online.

If your church doesn't have a Web site, make a New Year's resolution to get on the Internet. Even if you rarely update it, the site can be an "electronic Yellow Pages," offering information about service times, contact information and driving directions to the building. Younger adults often turn first to the Web for information, and it's time your church was there to greet them. Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communication office for resources.

□ Find 29 more ideas on page 8



Give mom a hand. In addition to the usual parking spaces for visitors and the handicapped, reserve spaces near the door for pregnant women and single mothers. Train greeters to help carry in diaper bags, infant seats and other items that single moms wrestle with.

Three workers slain in Yemen; deadliest attack in IMB history



FIELDING QUESTIONS Jerry Rankin (left), president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, and Larry Cox, IMB vice president of the office of mobilization, field questions about the situation in Yemen during a Dec. 30 press conference. Three Southern Baptist workers were shot and killed in a Baptist hospital. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

JIBLA, Yemen—Three Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers murdered Dec. 30 in Jibla, Yemen, were honored by colleagues as modern-day Christian martyrs.

The three IMB representatives were killed and another wounded when a lone gunman opened fire in an early morning attack at a Baptist mission hospital in Jibla. The attack is the deadliest incident in the history of Southern Baptist missions.

Hospital administrator William Koehn, business manager Kathleen Gariety and physician Martha Myers were killed and pharmacist Donald Caswell was injured in the attack.

Koehn, 60, of Arlington, Texas, had planned to retire in October after 28 years of service. Gariety, 53, was from Wauwatosa, Wisc. Myers, 57, was from Montgomery, Ala. Caswell, 49, is from Levelland, Texas.

"Our personnel, as Americans and Christians, are well aware of the risks of living and serving in a place like Yemen," said IMB President Jerry

Rankin. "Yet their love of the Yemeni people and obedience to a conviction of God's leadership has been expressed in a willingness to take that risk—and to give of their lives. Our hearts go out to their families, colleagues and local friends, who join us in grieving this tragic loss."

Yemeni nationals and hospital workers mourned at the funeral of Koehn and Myers on the grounds of Jibla Baptist Hospital Dec. 31. Gariety's body was scheduled to be returned to the United States for burial.

Yemeni hospital staff and friends built caskets for Koehn and Myers, dug their graves and lowered the bodies into the ground. "This is my father," one of the Yemeni hospital workers said of Koehn. "I have to do this."

During the funeral, several hundred Yemenis gathered at the hospital to pay their respects. Others lined the street for a half-mile outside the hospital gates.

□ See Attack at hospital ..., page 6

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, January 8

BAPTISTS

BF&M action named top story of 2002

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—The Southern Baptist International Mission Board's requirement that all 5,100 of its missionaries affirm the Southern Baptist Convention's revised Baptist Faith and Message statement was rated the top religion news story of 2002 by state Baptist paper editors.

IMB President Jerry Rankin issued the mandate in January, reversing an earlier decision. Missionaries were asked to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement or list their objections to it. Supporters said the move was necessary to assure Southern Baptists and the board's trustees that their missionaries are doctrinally sound. Opponents said the signing requirement made the confession into a creed.

By year's end, more than 30 missionaries had resigned rather than endorse the revised faith statement. Others are waiting to hear the IMB's response to their objections. But the vast majority of missionaries complied.

In an informal survey by Associated Baptist Press, editors of Baptist papers overwhelmingly chose the IMB action as the top story of the year. News of the terrorist shooting of three missionaries in Yemen came too late in the year to make the list. But other denominational issues and world af-

fairs on the list include:

2. District of Columbia dispute. The SBC North American Mission Board decided to end the cooperative agreement with District of Columbia Baptist Convention. NAMB, which has provided nearly \$500,000 annually to the DCBC, sought to gain greater accountability from the D.C. convention. DCBC Executive Director Jeffrey Haggray called the proposal an "ultimatum" that violated the convention's autonomy.

3. New Missouri convention. Moderate Baptists launched the new Baptist General Convention of Missouri in response to conservative dominance of the traditional Missouri Baptist Convention. The MBC also filed lawsuits against five agencies that appointed self-perpetuating trustee boards.

4. Texas Baptist mission plan. The Baptist General Convention of Texas launched a new missions network and established a "rescue" fund for IMB missionaries who resign or are fired over the issue of the Baptist Faith and Message.

5. Catholic sex scandal. Sex-abuse allegations among priests rocked the Roman Catholic Church, particularly in Boston, where Cardinal Bernard Law eventually resigned.

6. Vines and Mohammed. Former SBC President Jerry Vines of Jacksonville, Fla., called Mohammed a "demon-possessed pedophile" during a

June speech at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, launching a storm of criticism.

7. War. The ongoing war against Al-Qaida and possible war with Iraq heightened Christian-Muslim tensions even further.

8. Faith-based initiatives. Legislation to authorize faith-based social initiatives failed in Congress, but President Bush later issued an executive order enacting some similar provisions.

9. BWA and CBF. The Baptist World Alliance agreed in July to consider the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship for membership, over the objection of Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

10. Baptist Foundation of Arizona. A \$217 million settlement was reached in the lawsuit against the embattled accounting firm of Arthur Andersen for its role in the collapse of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona. The collapse cost about 13,000 investors an estimated \$570 million. Criminal charges were later filed against foundation executives.

Other prominent stories of 2002 that received some notice from editors include: The phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance was deemed unconstitutional; a tax break for clergy housing expenses became law; missionary Martin Burnham was killed in the Philippines; and legendary Dallas pastor W.A. Criswell died.

Baptist college accused of homosexual agenda

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (BP)—Charges of a pro-homosexual agenda at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., have prompted a Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Board subcommittee to open an inquiry into the issue.

Controversy has been building over a student-initiated amendment to the student bill of rights that would add "sexual orientation" to the section addressing discrimination.

Patricia Schoenrade, a William Jewell professor since 1989, told reporters she is concerned about the advocacy of homosexuality as a viable lifestyle being affirmed at the MBC-affiliated college.

Charlie Burnett, chairman of the MBC Executive Board's inter-agency committee, said he and other MBC leaders had been flooded with e-mails

and phone calls following the initial news reports.

The scheduled performance next month of "The Vagina Monologues," a sexually explicit play, on the William Jewell campus has added to the controversy.

William Jewell President David Sallee told the inter-agency committee that the "tempest" had been created by a small number of students.

"If the amendment is approved, it won't affect how the school handles threats of discrimination," Sallee said. He added the amendment to the student bill of rights would not be legally binding and would not change administrative practice.

"We want to be able to treat this fairly and understand it," Burnett responded, "but there are certain things we stand for. At the top is that God's

Word is very solid, true and inerrant. We will have to dig into this deeper and would like your cooperation in this matter."

Sallee held firm in his defense of the William Jewell position.

"We offer a great liberal arts education," he said. "We are proud of the multiple views that are presented. You can find people on all sides of the issues. If we're going to provide students a good education, we've got to give them multiple views."

"We expect our college to address any and all topics, confident in the academic freedom we enjoy," Sallee added. "We also expect that freedom, like every freedom, to be exercised responsibly."

The inter-agency committee will present its findings to the MBC Executive Board in April.

Guam typhoon damage prompts call for disaster assistance fund

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (E)—The most destructive typhoon ever to hit the U.S. territory of Guam has not yet required mobilization of Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers, but officials say financial contributions are needed to help with the relief effort.

Typhoon Pongsonnah hit Guam Dec. 8, causing the deaths among the Pacific island population of 150,000. It directly hit two villages and a U.S. Force base with winds up to 150 mph.

"Basically there are 32,000 people homeless," said Joel Phillips, off-site coordinator for Southern Baptist disaster relief network and a North American Mission Board volunteer mobilization associate.

Because of the damaged infrastructure, disaster officials asked relief organizations to send "in-kind" donations of disaster response volunteers, according to Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for NAMB. Cash contributions were needed, however.

"The truth of the matter is cash contributions give the leaders more flexibility to meet the needs," he said. "We may get an invitation to go in and help rebuild, but already Southern Baptists churches have been asked to provide \$100,000 just to begin providing relief to the churches and some of the communities on Guam."

Of the six Southern Baptist churches on Guam, only two received significant damage. The most affected was Tamu Baptist Church.

"We received minimal damage to the parsonage where we live, but our church building next door for the most part received extensive damage," said my Wallace, pastor of the church. "Doors and windows were blown off, air conditioners were blown away, walls inside were caved in. Our pews, carpet and musical instruments were soaked."

Burton noted that NAMB's unbudgeted disaster assistance fund currently is depleted. "Southern Baptists' ability to respond to disasters is directly proportionate to the contributions we receive," he said.

Contributions designated for disaster relief may be sent to North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022. Donations also may be made online at www.namb.net/disasterrelief.

Funds designated for Guam response also may be sent to the Hawaii-Pacific Baptist Convention, 2042 Vancou Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822-2

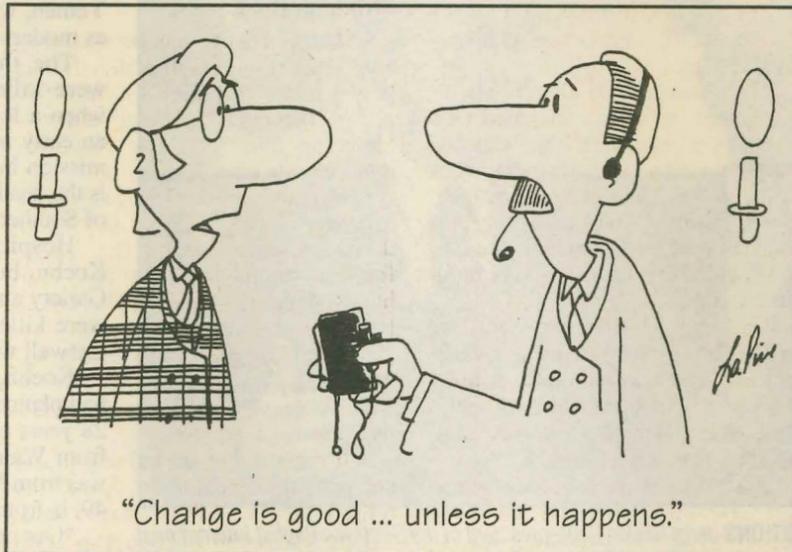
Brothers raise funds to aid Afghans

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Four brothers received an award from the Missouri Baptist Foundation for their efforts in raising \$130 to send to the America's Fund for Afghan Children.

The Castillo boys—Joshua, 11, Stephen, 9, Seth, 8, and James, 6—headed President Bush's call last year for American children to donate \$1 to help the children of Afghanistan. But they took it one step further.

The boys, who live on the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary campus in Kansas City with their parents, students Timothy and Stephanie Castillo, knocked on doors across campus seeking donations.

For their efforts, James Smith, president of the foundation, presented them with its Fellowship of Christian Stewards 2002 Academy of Junior Achievement Award during a chapel service at the seminary.



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KENTUCKY

Tour offers info to small churches on discipleship and evangelism

LOUISVILLE—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2003 Small Church Growth Tour will showcase two key areas of church ministry—evangelism and discipleship—when it meets in six locations across the commonwealth in January and February.

The annual seminar seeks to help church leaders see their church's potential and identify methods and resources that can help their churches become and stay healthy.

This year's seminars will focus on effective strategies in evangelism and discipleship that result in church growth.

Chris White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, will be the featured speaker.

White has successfully helped a struggling congregation transition into a growing one.

White will share how his church and community benefited from a small outreach team and from members' commitments to pray for a year for unchurched friends.

He also will discuss how spiritual growth occurred in the lives of members as they became involved in various missions efforts.

Registration for the Small Church Growth Tour is free to leaders of Kentucky Baptist churches, but reservations for meals at the beginning of the event are required.

Participants are asked to contact the local representative at least five days in advance of the event.

The tour dates, sites and contact people are:

■ **London**, Jan. 14 at Corinth Baptist Church; Roy Faulkner, (606) 864-9441.

■ **Lexington**, Jan. 16 at Cane Run Baptist Church; Jerry Wilkes, (859) 254-7747.

■ **Elizabethtown**, Jan. 27 at Immanuel Baptist Church; John Walker, (270) 765-4023.

■ **Bowling Green**, Jan. 28 at Warren Baptist Association Office; Jerry Oakley, (270) 842-4160.

■ **Corydon**, Feb. 10 at First Baptist Church of Corydon; Phillip Basinger, (270) 827-9867.

■ **Hickory**, Feb. 17 at Liberty Baptist Church; Charles Clark, (270) 247-7947.

Each event begins at 6 p.m. (local time) with dinner; the conference is 7-9 p.m.

For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention church growth team office at (502) 254-4780 or toll-free (888) 254-5710, or visit the KBC Web site: www.kybaptist.org.

Turning it around

Eastern Kentucky pastor shakes off rough start to help congregation grow

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

RUSSELL—When Ken Gowin became pastor of First Baptist Church of Russell in October 1998, the future looked bleak.

Its major corporate neighbor, Ashland Inc., had just announced the relocation of its headquarters to Northern Kentucky, taking 25 members of First Baptist and their money.

Other job transfers saw several more members depart.

For several months, it looked like Gowin might have been better off staying in the suburban Richmond, Va., church where he had been pastor for 11 years.

But appearances can be deceiving.

In the four years since, First Baptist has welcomed 465 new members, just over one-third (158) by baptism. With 39 converts baptized last year, the church ranked second among Greenup Baptist Association's 54 congregations.

Sunday attendance averages about 550 people, compared to 200 people a few years ago. Overcrowded conditions led to two Sunday school sessions for the past year.

Last month, members voted to start a \$1.6 million fund raising campaign to build a new family life center that will include 24 Sunday school rooms.

Phase two of the project calls for renovating the sanctuary to more than double its current capacity of 385 people.

While the economic downturn might have spelled doom for other churches, Gowin said he emphasized to the 108-year-old congregation that God is still on the throne.

Those who left were some of the strongest workers—and givers—in the church. Still, the pastor told members that God was sending them out to touch others and that the Lord would replenish the congregation.

"It's a God thing."

But ask him to pinpoint a reason for the growth and Gowin can only say, "It's a God thing."

"This was a good church when I came here, and I'm convinced God was leading someone here who had the same vision that had already been cast, and that had a heart for evangelism," he said. "I was extremely fortunate to walk into a situation that God had decided to bless. It's a very humbling thing."

To longtime members who are thrilled about the turnaround, their pastor may be too humble. Among them is past deacon chairman Bob McKenzie. He calls Gowin a better preacher than Billy Graham.

"He's a great speaker," McKenzie said. "He's not a fire and brimstone guy. He gives you something solid to take home. How the Lord led him to a



MISSIONS WORK Candy Evans (left) and Shawna Wolf, members of First Baptist Church of Russell, work at a processing center for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child last fall in Charlotte, N.C. The Eastern Kentucky congregation has more than doubled its average attendance in recent years. (Photo by Nancy Gowin)

little, struggling Southern Baptist church and it's grown this much in a few years, is beyond me."

Cynthia Church, a member for nearly 20 years and secretary for the past five, credits the new pastor with motivating more people to get involved in evangelism.

"We were a wonderful, caring church, but we weren't evangelistic," said Church, one of the first eight members who took FAITH evangelism training, which many members credit for the growth. "We didn't reach out to others. I can see that changing, and that's exciting."

Gowin said he chose FAITH because it was an established program and helped the church form a weekly visitation effort that now involves up to 45 people.

More importantly, it placed an emphasis on Sunday school, he said. The focus includes a care group leader for each class to foster ongoing contacts, prayer groups and social activities to draw class members closer together.

"We do all our ministry through our Bible fellowship units," the pastor said. "The reason FAITH has been a key is not because we've pushed a program but because we've pushed Sunday school. We've pushed the basics of winning people to Christ and ministering to people's needs."

Strike up the band

Another change has been in worship style. First Baptist already had begun in the mid 1990s a transition toward blending traditional and contemporary music and style. But Gowin accelerated the pace.

The piano-and-organ musical lineup have given way to keyboard, drums, guitar and bass. The service features more praise songs than hymns. Hymnals are available, but all lyrics are projected on a screen.

While older people often prefer traditional hymns over contemporary worship, 68-year-old McKenzie heartily approves the new style.

"A church that isn't doing praise and worship is behind the times," the retired chemical plant worker said. "There's something about praise music that ignites excitement before the

pastor gets up there."

Accepting people as they are

The atmosphere is also less formal today. Gowin still wears a coat and tie on Sunday morning, but members are more prone to khakis, pants and sports shirts.

Gowin, a Washington, D.C., area native, said he emphasized adapting church practices to be more in tune with the culture while still retaining its biblical beliefs.

"If we're going to be different than them, let's be different in what we believe," Gowin said. "We believe the Book and want to live by the Book, but let's not be different in the way we dress, or the way we don't accept people and point fingers at them."

"We accept people the way they are. We want to see them saved and open our arms to them."

Tim Gibson, associate minister of education who came to the church four months ago, attributes the friendliness he has observed to an atmosphere of excitement.

"People's lives have been changed and they know if people come there's potential for their lives to be changed, too," Gibson said. "It's not only because of what God has done in their lives. They're grateful for that and want to share it with others."

Sandy Henry agrees that Gowin has played a key role in spurring growth, but the church's former Woman's Missionary Union director also looks to other events influencing the congregation.

God has been at work in the church ever since First Baptist left downtown for its more suburban setting in 1989, said Henry, who recently became the association's WMU director.

Soon after the move, the church held a spiritual development retreat, and that was the first step toward the progress unfolding today, she said.

"Most people think this is an overnight miracle, but (well-known author) Henry Blackaby says we have to look back at spiritual markers," Henry said. "I see a lot of things over 13 years, like that weekend, an openness to new people ... and a pastor with an evangelistic heart. All of these things have worked together."

BLUEGRASS BURG00

■ **Campbellsville**
University's Kentucky Heartland Outreach student ministry recently received an \$82,792 grant from the Kentucky Housing Corporation. The money will be used to perform home repairs for low-income residents in Hardin, Mercer, Pulaski and Taylor counties. Since its creation in 2000, the ministry has helped rehabilitate more than 75 homes in the Central Kentucky area.

■ **Mid-Continent**
College recently received word from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools that its accreditation has been reaffirmed. "We will build upon this reaffirmation with new programs and new opportunities for the people in the Purchase region," Mid-Continent Provost Allan Beane said.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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The world that waits down the road

By Tom Ehrich

DURHAM, N.C. (RNS)—2002 is history. As 2003 gets under way, I must admit I don't feel easy about the shape of the world waiting for us around the bend.

Escalating military conflicts seem preordained. Despite a massive effort to create a new bureaucracy, homeland security seems vexingly tentative, except in the tightly monitored world of air travel. Leadership seems too much focused on short-term political gains and too little on durable solutions to pressing problems.

Ethical considerations seem mired in "Grab what you can." Government giveaways for the wealthy are mounting, while services and benefits for the less advantaged are shrinking. With their more egregious colleagues facing indictment, corporate chieftains don't seem to have abandoned their lust for plunder, but are getting more clever.

The city where I live is paralyzed by racial hostilities, and no one in power seems particularly concerned to light a better candle. The divisions work for a few—providing jobs, bul-

ly pulpits and cover for incompetence—so why rock a sinking boat?

In the economy, virtually all businesses face unyielding worries about the absent recovery. Fresh layoffs continue, while about 800,000 people watched their unemployment benefits expire thanks to inattentive or unconcerned politicians.

COMMENTARY

In religion, more tough times. Public enthusiasm for organized religion has reached an all-time low, according to recent polls. Respect for clergy dwindles. Sunday attendance sags. Historic denominations continue to be fearful of change and trapped in stale arguments.

Cultural wars continue to be played out in the angry haughtiness of religious triumphalism, where the cultural issues that concern us have no hope of being resolved and the faith issues that compel us are crowded out by the trivial.

Nice way to end one year and to start another? Well, no, not a nice way. Transitions are always stressful, and our current political, economic and religious contexts set a grim stage. But I'd rather name reality than dodge it.

Times such as these make it mani-

fest that we cannot save ourselves, that we depend, to a degree we might find uncomfortable, on the grace of God.

Expertise in managing our lives cannot save this day. We need that which we cannot provide for ourselves. We need the "grace and truth" that come through faith.

We need to get outside ourselves, both to see reality and to see God at work redeeming reality. We need to risk letting go and doing without. We don't need more comfort, for the answer to hardship isn't comfort at someone else's expense, but community and sharing. We don't need more right-opinion, but more humility and awe. We don't need more entertainment, but engagement with people.

We need the profound kindness and unconditional love for others that faith knows as grace, and the humble submission to God and unflinching zeal toward freedom and justice that faith knows as truth.

As a new year unfolds, the good news is that God awaits us around the bend, filled with grace and truth. The hard news is that God's love means more transition. For faith starts in repentance, not in mounting a new calendar.

Tom Ehrich, a columnist for Religion News Service, is a minister and computer consultant in Durham, N.C.

GIVING

Specialized trust options can aid ministry & family

By Laurie Valentine

Is your church in a capital campaign or building program?

Has your Baptist college alma mater been encouraging you to increase your annual giving? Would you like to

fund your annual giving for missions, youth and children's ministries or ministerial education for the next few years in a new and creative way?

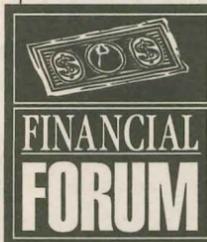
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions and you would like to coordinate your charitable giving with a tax-saving way to transfer your estate to your family, you should consider a charitable lead annuity trust.

A CLAT is a gift arrangement that provides a fixed income stream to one or more charitable causes for a designated period of years. At the end of the trust term the property remaining in the trust either can be returned to you (as a "grantor lead trust") or be distributed to your children and/or other family members (a "non-grantor lead trust").

While a lifetime gift to a non-grantor CLAT does not get you a charitable income tax deduction, it does provide a way to pass property to your children or others at reduced gift and estate tax rates. Gift tax savings come from the fact that the value of what you are "gifting" to your children is the present value of the remainder interest in the trust at the time it is created. With careful coordination of the amount being paid to your church and/or other Baptist causes and the trust term, you can reduce the remainder gift value significantly.

Example: Ralph and Martha Gray set up a seven-year 9 percent CLAT funded with \$100,000 of stock. The \$9,000 per year income stream will be divided evenly among the building program at the Grays' church (\$3,000 per year); their Baptist college alma mater (\$3,000 per year); and state, national and international missions (\$3,000 per year). Over the seven-year term the Baptist causes will receive a total of \$63,000 (\$21,000 to each). Assuming the trust assets earn an average annual return of 8 percent, there will be \$83,500 left to pass to their children at the end of the seven years (the gift tax cost was only \$45,175, so they transfer \$38,325 of value tax-free).

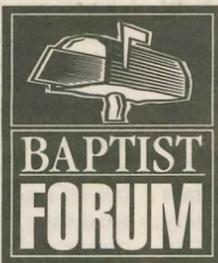
Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Jesus intercedes

Dr. Henlee Barnette's thought-provoking commentary "Where is Jesus during 'happy holidays'?" in the Dec. 24 issue reminded me of those classes he taught when I was a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary: right on target, biblical, soul-searching, helpful.

I just want to suggest one more answer to the question. Jesus is at the right hand of the Father where He ever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).



*Ted Sisk
Lexington*

Avoid 'ostrich' views

I am very concerned about people with the attitude of Terry Leap and his angst about negative reporting on the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Not only is the charge untrue but the attitude reminds me of places where only positive articles are or were written—places such as Iraq, Iran, the former Soviet Union, Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, North Korea and Nazi-controlled Germany. When the press becomes a spokesperson for the powers that be, then there is no check on the powers that be. Believe me, nobody needs checks like

those dictatorial yes men in charge of the Southern Baptist Convention and in particular those in the leadership of the IMB.

I am a lifelong Baptist, a deacon and a Sunday school teacher. However, I have become less concerned with the issue since I no longer believe that this group even knows traditional Baptist values. I just hope that Leap does not vote the same way.

I have strong hopes that people—and Baptists in particular—eventually will see the error of their way when blindly following leaders. May we always be informed in both negative and positive news. I don't think we can survive an ostrich society of keeping our heads in the sand.

*Charles L. McAdams
Fern Creek*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

God wants to bless His people

During these first days of January we face many uncertainties. Is our country going to war? Will more people lose their jobs due to the sluggish economy? Can the tarnished image of the clergy be repaired? Can the church discover under God innovative ways to fulfill our Lord's mission in a post-modern and unfriendly (increasingly hostile) culture?

I do not know the answers to these questions but I am confident that God wants to bless His people. John Cramp, one of the vice presidents of LifeWay Christian Resources, got me to thinking about this as he shared an insightful devotion at a recent meeting with state executive directors. Let me share with you some of his thoughts as well as some of my own based on Deuteronomy 8.

In Deuteronomy 8:1, God makes it clear that He wants to bless His peo-

ple, "that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers." Paul supported this when he wrote in Ephesians 3:20, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..."

God has blessed us in so many ways and we are grateful. I believe God desires to super exceed anything that we can ask or think.

But if God has this desire for exceptional blessing, why is it not happening?

I believe God tests us to gauge our ability to handle His blessings. God is proving us (v. 2) so that He might do good for us in the future (v. 16). God knows our hearts, but the proving is so that we will know what is in our hearts (v. 2). It is our repentance and the atoning death of Jesus



Bill Mackey

that prepares us for the blessings of God (Isaiah 59:2, Psalms 51, 1 John 1:9).

God's testing should lead us to ask ourselves, "Has God revealed something in my heart that would make me a risk for the blessing of God?" The writer of Deuteronomy warns Israel not to forget the Lord (vv. 6-14). The danger is that increased blessings led Israel to pride (v. 19). God's intent is to avoid the danger of blessing.

It is the responsibility and opportunity of every leader to be so positioned before God in humility and contrition that God would be pleased to pour out His Spirit upon us. We pray for revival and spiritual awakening. Can God trust us with the precious outpouring of His Spirit upon us for revival?

Oh, God, teach me how to be trusted by you so your people can be blessed! Please join me in this prayer as we face the opportunities and challenges of the year ahead of us.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Focus & fun can help homes become clutter-free in 2003

Q: My husband and I are drowning in clutter—and we tend to blame each other for the mess. We really need to clean up the house, especially after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. How should we begin?

Organization expert Julie Morganstern offers the following hints for couples dealing with clutter:

■ **Jointly own the situation.** Rather than referring to cleaning up clutter as something "you should do," change your language—and attitude—to: "How would we like to solve this?"

■ **Assume validity in your spouse's reasons for his or her clutter or de-clutter style.** Understanding often solves 90 percent of conflicts by creating a safe place for communication.

■ **Focus on your shared goal.** When it comes down to it, you likely both want the same thing: a home where you both can find your things when you need them. Working together to reach this goal ultimately can help strengthen your relationship.

■ **Do one thing at a time.** Focus on one room at a time, one section at a time, one box at a time, etc. Just as it is satisfying to check things off a list, it is fun to celebrate the little victories along the way, and it can give you momentum for the rest of the task.

■ **Schedule your cleaning for times that work for both of you.** There is no ideal time, but some times are better than others. Protect the priority of the project by using your answering machine or having your children answer the phone for you.

■ **Have fun.** Working together on even the most mundane task can strengthen your relationship if you adopt a positive perspective. Take mutually satisfying breaks. Decide what your reward will be when the project is finished and celebrate your accomplishments together.—James Stillwell

Q: My daughter, who is in second grade, has frequent headaches and complains about her eyes feeling sore. Is this an indication she might need glasses?

Frequent complaints about headaches sometimes signal vision problems. In some instances, muscles in the eye work extra hard to bend the lens and enable light rays to focus on the retina. This compensation can cause headaches and eyestrain.

Be alert to what your child can and can't see. Pay attention to what she notices, how well she sees signs, reads print, sees detail, etc. Remember that most young children are a bit farsighted and see better at a distance than up close because their eyeballs typically do not reach their proper length until children are about 9 or 10.

Many pediatricians no longer include a basic eye chart exam in routine checkups, so you might consider making an appointment with an ophthalmologist. Many parents do so when their child is 7 or 8 years old. In addition to recognizing any need for corrective lenses, an ophthalmologist will be able to spot other eye problems that might need attention.

Schoolteachers also can be a resource in discovering vision problems. There are many stories of children whose schoolwork faltered simply because they could not see the board. An attentive teacher often will notice difficulties and include eyesight in their checklist of concerns.

Finally, remember that heredity plays a part in vision. Farsighted parents often have farsighted children and nearsighted parents often have nearsighted ones. If you wear glasses or contacts, chances are your child will need them as well.—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.



Mission martyrs: From tragedy to triumph

Kathy Gariety, Bill Koehn and Martha Myers paid the ultimate price last week for the privilege of sharing the gospel of Christ halfway around the world.

The three Southern Baptist mission workers, who had served a combined total of more than 60 years in Jibla, Yemen, were gunned down Dec. 30 by a lone assailant at Jibla Baptist Hospital. The attack was the deadliest assault on Southern Baptist missionaries in the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's 157-year history.

Koehn, a 60-year-old hospital administrator from Texas, was scheduled to retire in October. Myers, 57, was a physician from Alabama and Gariety, 53, was the hospital's purchasing manager from Wisconsin.

Though most Southern Baptists had never heard of the three Baptist workers by name prior to last week's tragic murders, they now join such revered Southern Baptist missionaries as Lottie Moon and Bill Wallace who gave their lives in spreading the message of eternal salvation through personal faith in Jesus.

Responding to Christ's call to be witnesses "unto the uttermost part of the earth," Gariety, Koehn and Myers were among more than 5,100 Southern Baptist missionaries serving in more than 180 countries.

The three ministry colleagues, like other missionaries around the globe, made a clear commitment to follow Christ's call in Luke 9:23-24, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will save it."

While few Christians in our society ever have to face

physical death because of their commitment to Christ, the risk of death is a reality for mission workers serving in many volatile settings.

Based on reports from relatives and friends who knew Gariety, Koehn and Myers best, there is little question they would have remained faithful to their calling even if they had been warned of impending danger.

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends," Jesus told His followers in John

15:13. The three slain mission workers clearly considered the Yemeni people their friends as they ministered among them over the years. Ironically, they would have extended that same friendship and compassion to the gunman if he had given them the opportunity.

From our limited human perspective, it's hard to understand why God would allow such a tragedy to occur in the lives of three of His faithful children. While few Christians would blame God for the deadly events, we often wonder why God doesn't choose to miraculously intervene in such situations.

The reality is that we live in a sin-filled world and God grants man free will even when our actions produce tragic results. Can God intervene? Absolutely. But His perfect wisdom and timing are far beyond our comprehension.

From a spiritual perspective, however, there is definite victory. "To live is Christ, and to die is gain," Philippians 1:21 triumphantly proclaims. While the attacker sought to end the three colleagues' lives, his action merely ushered them into their heavenly reward of eternal life with God.

In the midst of human grief, we can joyfully envision Christ's greeting to Bill, Kathy and Martha, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Living and dying for God

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—The bullet that took Martha Myers' life came from a weapon disguised as a sick child. What a bittersweet irony.

Myers, 57, delivered, vaccinated, healed, comforted and cared for thousands of children during her 24 years as a physician at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen. Her Southern Baptist colleague, hospital administrator Bill Koehn, made toys for Yemeni kids in his spare time.

The Yemeni man who got a semiautomatic pistol past hospital guards Dec. 30 by cradling it like an infant apparently knew what he was doing: targeting American Christians. He killed Myers, Koehn and purchasing agent Kathy Gariety, and wounded pharmacist Don Caswell. Why he did it—and whether he plotted the attack alone—are now subjects of investigation.

But Myers knew what she was doing, too.

She fell in love with the people of Yemen the first time she visited the impoverished Arab land in 1971 as a young medical worker. "I felt a special assurance from the Lord that this was where I would be and, single or not, I would be happy," she reflected in a 1994 interview. She returned there as a career Southern Baptist doctor in 1978—and never looked back.

She was happy, despite the crushing workload and chronic understaffing at the hospital, the overwhelming physical needs of the people, the lone-

ness of endless responsibility. Between patient rounds, surgeries and emergencies, she found time to visit countless Yemeni homes, make countless friends, immunize countless kids and save countless lives through her pioneering community health work in isolated Yemeni villages, which she reached by bouncing a land cruiser down rough roads.

"She had an insatiable compassion for people, especially people in need," said her father, Alabama physician Ira Myers.

COMMENTARY

Martha Myers and her fallen co-workers also knew the risks of working in a place like Yemen, particularly as Islamic radicalism increased in recent years. She survived a kidnapping by Muslim militants several years ago and continued her medical ministry.

The Yemeni people who experienced the love of the three mission workers loved them back—as demonstrated by the outpouring of respect and grief after their deaths.

"All Jibla weeps for them," Malka al-Hadhrami, a longtime friend of Myers told a reporter through her own tears.

The deaths of Myers and her colleagues follow the murder of American missionary Bonnie Penner Witherall by a Muslim gunman in Lebanon in November. Attacks and threats in other areas raise new questions about how to protect Americans living and working abroad in the post-9/11 era.

Students, business people, diplo-

mats, aid workers and missionaries abroad are what security specialists call "soft targets"—easy prey for organized or freelance terrorists. Missionaries in particular, by the very nature of their service to local people and communities, are vulnerable. They don't work behind reinforced walls or travel in armed convoys.

Following the deadliest day in 157 years of Southern Baptist mission work, a somber new year greets the nearly 5,500 Southern Baptist missionaries working in more than 180 countries—a new year clouded by threats of war, terrorism, anti-Christian hostility and growing global anti-Americanism.

Security precautions have become a higher priority in missionary training since 9/11 and will take on even greater urgency as threats increase. Yet, as IMB President Jerry Rankin stated after the killings, "We would not choose to end our ministry and service because of risk and danger to our personnel. If we did, we would probably be ending our ministry in many countries throughout the world."

That's not going to happen—unless we succumb to fear or anger. We need the spirit of Martha Myers, who remained faithful to God—and to the Yemeni people. She loved them because God loves them.

"No prayers are wasted on Yemen and the other countries, because the needs are so great," she once said. "The fields are white unto harvest, and we need to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out folks to help."

Erich Bridges is a senior writer with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

Attack at hospital in Yemen is deadliest in IMB history

"God is working in people's hearts."

Lee Hixon, assistant administrator of Jibla Baptist Hospital

Continued from page 1

People who have seen the witness of the three murdered workers are giving serious consideration to the gospel, said Lee Hixon, assistant administrator of the hospital. He voiced hope that God will be glorified through his colleagues' deaths.

"We've lost three of the dearest people," Hixon said. "Between the three of them, there are probably 60 years of service. They were here because they loved the people."

"For the last 35 years there's been a lot of plowing of hard, almost punished earth," he added. "But, yes, there's a harvest here. God is working in people's hearts."

After the memorial service, most of the 13 Southern Baptist mission workers and their families in Yemen

traveled to the capital, Sanaa, to rest and regroup, according to IMB officials.

Six remained in Jibla—including Caswell, who is recovering from surgery, and Koehn's wife, Martha—but they expected to join the group later.

Most of the workers said they have no plans to leave the country permanently. Several workers plan to return to Jibla when it is considered safe to do so.

The gunman, 30-year-old Abid Abdul Razzaq al-Kamil, was taken into custody by police. He reportedly entered the hospital complex hiding a semiautomatic rifle under his jacket to make it resemble a child.

The Americans were involved in a meeting at the beginning of the work day at the hospital when the assailant opened fire, immediately killing Koehn, Gariety and Myers. He then reportedly moved to another room, where he wounded Caswell, who is expected to recover from his injuries.

Killing "to cleanse"

Officials said they believe Kamil is a Muslim fundamentalist. Kamil, who confessed to the slayings, reportedly told Yemeni officials he shot the American workers "to cleanse his religion and get closer to Allah."

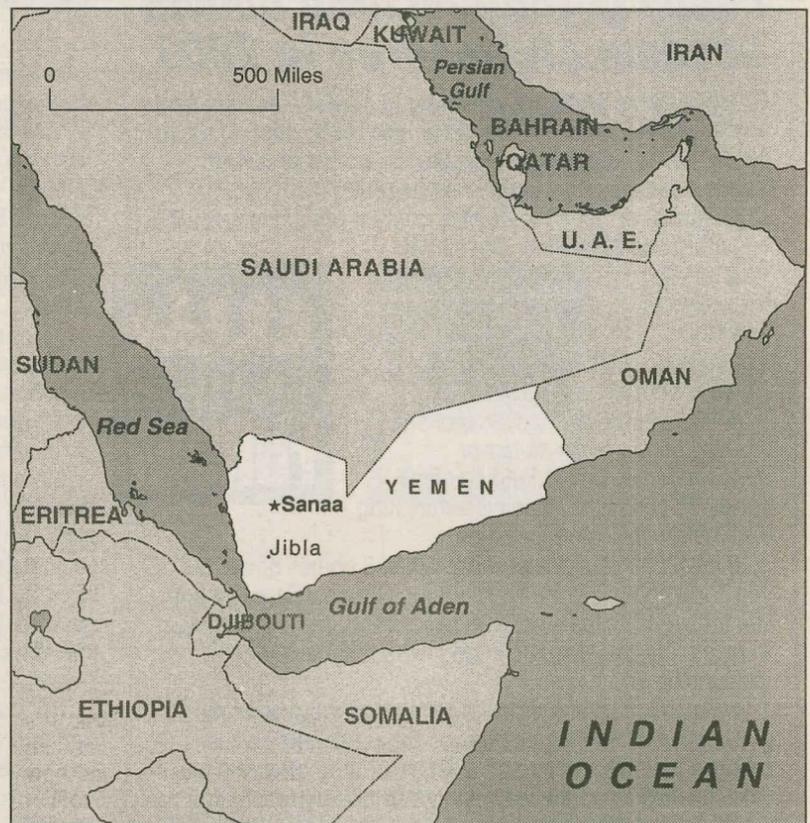
Kamil said during interrogation that he plotted the shooting in collaboration with Ali al-Jarallah, who was arrested for shooting dead a senior Yemeni leftist politician Dec. 28.

Another security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Associated Press that authorities were searching for a cell made up of five to eight people targeting foreigners and secular personalities in Yemen.

The killings are "a crime unacceptable in any religion. This contradicts Islam," a Jibla woman who gave only her first name, Fatima, told AP. "They cared for us and looked after us. I can't even count the number of children they treated and saved."

Jibla Baptist Hospital had been in the news in recent months because of the IMB's plans either to close the facility or turn it over to a Muslim charity.

"The transfer is still in process,"



said IMB spokeswoman Anita Bowden, "but with three deaths, the discussions understandably have stopped."

40,000 patients a year

The IMB has owned and operated the hospital, located about 120 miles south of Yemen's capital for 35 years. More than 40,000 patients a year are treated at the facility, which is on property owned by the Yemeni government.

The hospital provides free care and medicine to those who cannot afford it. It also has responded to relief needs during earthquakes and famine.

Besides their work at the 45-bed hospital, workers taught English and clinical skills at a nearby Yemeni nursing school.

Although the hospital is popular among local residents, some extremists see it as a Western intrusion and an affront to Islam.

Impoverished, factionalized, pre-

dominantly Muslim Yemen has for years been a haven for wanted Muslim extremists. Osama bin Laden enlisted thousands of Yemenis to fight alongside the mujahedeen of Afghanistan in their U.S.-backed war against an occupation Soviet army in the 1980s. Many returned when the Soviets withdrew, and they are a powerful political force in Yemen.

After the Dec. 30 attack, the American embassy in Sanaa advised Americans in the country to enhance their personal security and asked the Yemeni government to provide additional security for Americans.

In one of several previous alerts, a Nov. 14 U.S. Embassy message to Americans in Yemen said the U.S. government "continues to receive credible warnings that additional terrorist activities against Western and American interests in Yemen are being planned."

Based on reporting by Associated Baptist Press, Associated Press and Baptist Press

Words of tribute

"This (gunman) did not take their lives; they chose to give their lives long ago when they responded to God's call. ... The gunman perpetrated a physical act of causing death, but these people willingly gave their lives because they loved God—and loving God, they loved the Yemeni people."

John Brady, leader of the International Mission Board's work in northern Africa and the Middle East

"These missionaries who were killed in the line of duty demonstrated courage and commitment in the face of evil. ... The news of their deaths is shocking but it is not senseless. Their deaths have a purpose because the Jesus who is worth living for is worth dying for."

Southern Baptist Convention President Jack Graham

"Holy Scripture reminds us of the need to see time in the light of eternity, and of the mandate to continue faithfully proclaiming the Word of God under difficult situations. I pray that the Lord will permit us all to live our lives, and discharge our duties, in such a manner."

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman

"The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary shares the grief of these martyrs' families, and we especially honor Kathleen Gariety as an alumnus whose example will embolden our own witness to Christ. Thanks be to God, these martyrs did not die in vain. Even in death, they bear witness to Christ and share in His victory over death and the grave."

Southern Seminary President Al Mohler

Transfer of Jibla Baptist Hospital put on hold after shootings

JIBLA, Yemen (ABP)—Plans to transfer control of Jibla Baptist Hospital to a local Muslim charity have been put on hold in the wake of the Dec. 30 attack.

IMB work in Yemen will continue despite the attack, officials said. They added that the hospital likely will be transferred to the Muslim charity at a future date.

Last July the People's Charitable Society offered to assume control of the hospital, which IMB officials called "an answer to prayer." As the Dec. 31 deadline for the transfer approached, however, no specific plans were announced and the transfer appeared unlikely.

But hospital administrator William Koehn, who was killed in last week's attack, said in a Dec. 22 memo that the transfer was still on track for the end of the year.

The IMB planned to continue to

pay the salary of hospital personnel—including IMB representatives—who wanted to work under the new ownership, but only until the end of their current contracts and only if the Muslim charity approved, Koehn's memo noted.

Most IMB personnel were making plans to leave Yemen or transfer to new jobs elsewhere in the country. But four of the 13—including the three killed—had planned to stay.

Jibla Baptist Hospital, founded 35 years ago by IMB workers, is the only full-service hospital in the poor, rural area around Jibla.

IMB officials said financial and staffing needs are issues behind the proposed transfer, but the main reason is to reach out to a broader spectrum of the population through mobile clinics that provide basic medical care, health education and nutrition classes.



SHOOTING SCENE Jibla Baptist Hospital, situated in the mountains of southwest Yemen, was the site where a lone gunman killed three Southern Baptist representatives Dec. 30. Plans by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to transfer operation of the hospital to a local Muslim charity temporarily have been put on hold in the wake of the attack. (BP photo)

Slain workers remembered for dedication

William Koehn, 60

Title: Hospital administrator
Hometown: Arlington, Texas
Missionary appointment: October 1974
Family: Wife Marty; two grown children

William Koehn "gave his life doing what he loved to do, helping people and serving God," his son-in-law, Randal Pearce told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.



Koehn had served nearly three decades at the hospital in Jibla.

IMB Vice President Larry Cox said Koehn was "quiet, meek" and "very committed to his work."

Koehn made and sold wooden toys, using the money to buy food for the poor. "Just last week he was giving away basic food—flour, sugar, things like that—to some indigent people."

In his own words: "The nice part about making toys is that after you've made them, then you can give them to the various children who really don't have many toys here. ... Sometimes children come in, they're frightened and a toy helps to ease the mission to the hospital."

Kathleen Gariety, 53

Title: Supply manager
Hometown: Wauwatosa, Wisc.
Missionary appointment: February 1992
Family: Single

Kathleen Gariety's title understated her complex work in keeping the hospital stocked with linens, medicine and equipment. On trips to the States, she often coordinated the shipment of thousands of dollars worth of donated supplies back to Yemen.

"From the crown of her head to the soles of her feet, she was devoted to this ministry and felt that God had called her to be involved in this hospital," said Keith Cogburn, executive director of Lakeland Baptist Association in Wisconsin.

In her own words: "There have been some times when you think 'It's not worth it. Let's go home.' But then I'm reminded of the calling and how strong my calling was to come to Yemen. ... I might not know what one little thing it is that I'm here to do, but I'm here and I will continue to stay until God tells me to go home."



Martha Myers, 57

Title: Physician
Hometown: Montgomery, Ala.
Missionary appointment: August 1977
Family: Single

Martha Myers would have stayed in Yemen even if told she would be killed, friends and relatives said.

Myers often drove through the mountains, immunizing children and dispensing salves and eye drops to the poor. She was greeted with shouts of "Dr. Martha" wherever she traveled in Yemen, relatives recalled.

"She loved the country, she loved the people and she loved being a doctor to help take care of them," said Pat Harris, a friend from Montgomery, Ala. "She'd give her last dollar so someone else would have food or medical help."

In her own words: "I would say that no prayers are wasted on Yemen or the other countries because the needs are so great. And I would say the fields are white unto harvest and we need to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out folks to help."



19 killed in IMB's history

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Remarkably, only 19 workers with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board have been killed in violent circumstances since 1845.

In addition to Bill Koehn, Martha Myers and Kathy Gariety, others who have been killed, by date, were:

1998: **Charles Hood Jr.**, murdered by Colombian robbers.
1995: **Chu Hon and Kei Yi**, murdered in Khabarovsk, Russia.

1991: **Lynda Bethea**, killed by robbers near Kijabe, Kenya.

1990: **Mary Anna Gilbert**, hijacked Chinese plane crash.

1986: **Libby Senter**, murdered in Liberia.

1985: **James Philpot**, shot after car accident in Mexico.

1978: **Archie Dunaway Jr.**, killed by Rhodesian guerrillas.

1973: **Gladys Hopewell**, murdered in Taiwan.

1972: **Mavis Pate**, ambushed by guerrillas near Gaza.

1971: **Paul and Nancy Potter**, murdered in the Dominican Republic.

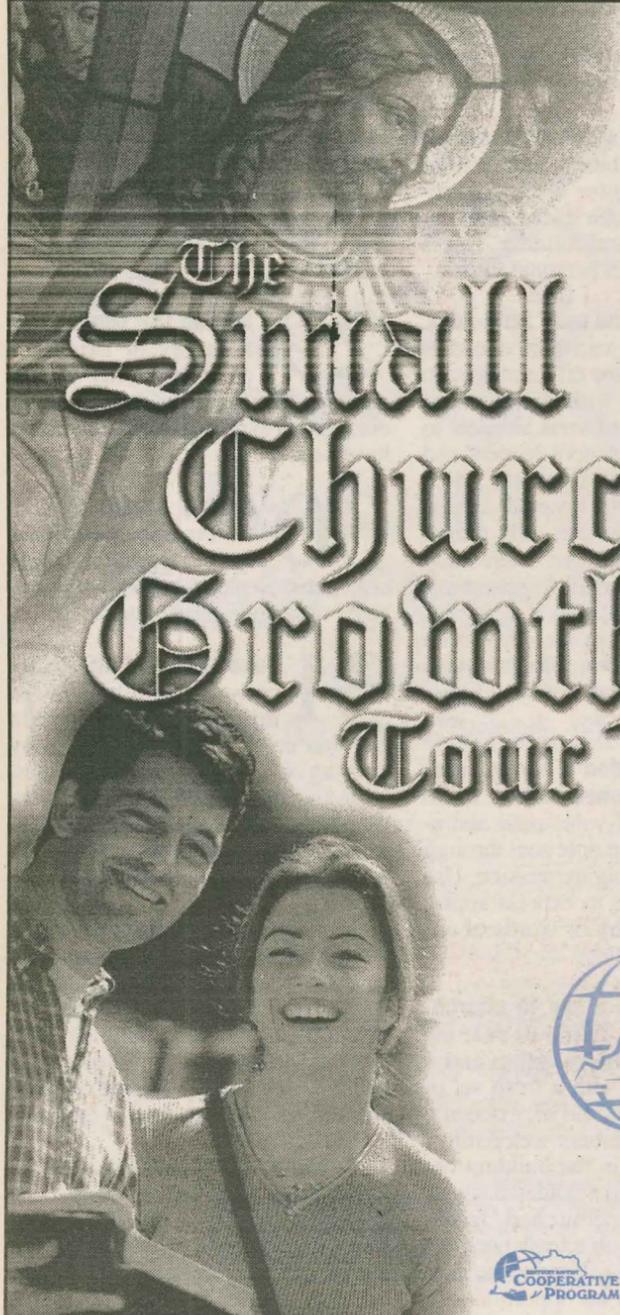
1951: **William Wallace**, died in a Chinese communist prison.

1942: **Rufas Gray**, died in Japanese camp for war prisoners in the Philippines.

1880: **John Westrup**, murdered by band of Indians and Mexicans while traveling in Mexico.

1861: **Landrum Holmes**, murdered in China attempting to dissuade invaders from attacking a village.

Additionally, 40 Southern Baptist workers have been killed in accidents during the agency's 157-year history, and 18 deaths—including 12 in China—were reported before 1937 but without a listed cause of death.



The Small Church Growth Tour

Who is Invited to Attend?
Deacon Chairpersons
Sunday School Directors
Pastors
and their Spouses

How Do I Register?
There is no charge to attend, but reservations for the meals are required. Please contact the persons indicated to the right to make your reservations at least five days in advance. If you do not wish to participate in the meal, reservations are not necessary.

Our Keynote Speaker
Chris White,
Pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton



Mr. White has successfully helped a struggling church grow into a vibrant, growing one. He has been recognized for his accomplishments in sending the message of Christ to an area that needs growth and change.

The purpose of this seminar is to motivate church leaders to envision their potential and to use the methods and resources available to produce new believers and healthy disciples.

Evangelism → **Discipleship**

This Year Focusing on

Dates & Locations

Tuesday, January 14
Corinth Baptist Church, London
Contact DOM Roy Faulkner at (606) 864-8441

Thursday, January 16
Cane Run Baptist Church, Lexington
Contact DOM Jerry Wilkes at (859) 254-7747

Monday, January 27
Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown
Contact DOM John Walker at (270) 765-4023

Tuesday, January 28
Warren Association Office, Bowling Green
Contact DOM Jerry Oakley at (270) 842-4160

Monday, February 10
Corydon First Baptist Church, Corydon
Contact DOM Phillip Basinger at (270) 827-9887

Monday, February 17
Liberty Baptist Church, Hickory
Contact DOM Charles Clark at (270) 247-7647

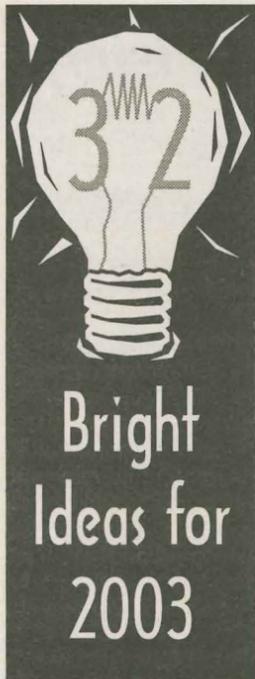


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KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

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RESOURCES



Bright Ideas for 2003

What's your bright idea?

Does this article spark your own ideas? If so, please share it with us. Send it to News Director David Winfrey at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, or david.winfrey@kybaptist.org. We'll compile additional suggestions and publish them in a later issue.

Continued from page 1

4 Make it a witness. After your church gets on the Web, offer links to one of the many creative Internet sites that explain Christianity to nonbelievers. Among the more innovative sites are www.gotlife.org, www.thekristo.com and Campus Crusade for Christ International's "Who is Jesus" site: www.ccci.org/wij.

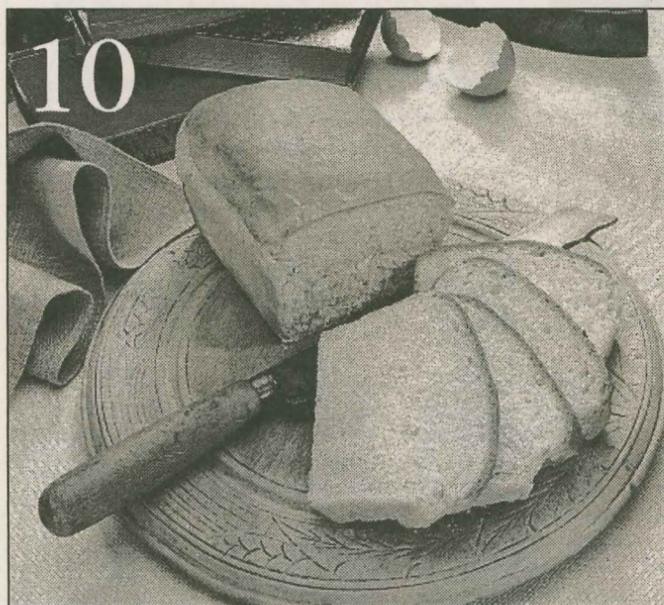
5 Have 'card-carrying' members. Print business cards with the church address, phone number and Web site for members to carry. Encourage members to share them with prospects or people who could benefit from a church ministry.

6 Why do we do that? Often, churches wrongly assume that everyone who attends worship understands why things are done the way they are and the symbolism behind every practice. Use a few key phrases in the worship bulletin to give occasional explanations of the church's practices and symbolism.

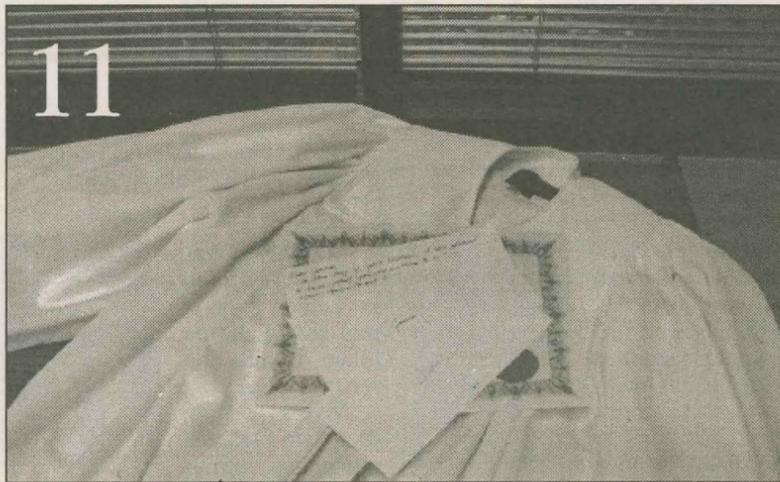
7 Start a welcome center. It can be as elaborate or simple as you wish, but a welcome center gives visitors a place to start and shows them you're glad they came. You can staff it with friendly volunteers or simply designate a table for fliers about Sunday school, worship and church activities.

8 Keep guests informed. Create a flier that greeters can give to Sunday school visitors. The flier should list all available Bible study classes, the room numbers and the names and contact information for teachers. Before escorting guests to a class, give them a copy of the flier with the information about the appropriate class highlighted as a reminder of where they have been and who to contact for more information.

9 A bloomin' idea. Recycle Sunday morning floral arrangements by making smaller bouquets that can be distributed to the church's homebound members, the sick or to visitors.



10 Bake the bread. Involve church members in baking bread to be used for the Lord's Supper. This bread will look, feel and taste much more authentic than the "Baptist chicklets" often used. Also, if your congregation is supporting work in another country, see if you can use bread common to that area for communion.



11 Encourage them. When someone is to be baptized, invite church members who have played a role in that person's spiritual development to write notes of encouragement that can be given to the baptismal candidate that morning.

12 Let them eat doughnuts. Rather than relying on individual adult Bible study classes to provide refreshments and announcements on Sunday mornings, serve doughnuts and coffee in the church lobby or some other gathering area between early church and morning Bible study. Hand out a brief flier with announcements, and encourage fellowship in the church.

13 Reward unseen helpers. Ask church members to nominate individuals seen doing special things that might otherwise go unnoticed. Once a quarter, recognize those who "got caught doing something right."

14 Break bread together. Organize a dinner club in which single adults and couples who agree to participate are assigned to groups of eight to 10. These small groups are encouraged to meet once a month or once every other month for dinner. After a set number of dinners, the groups are reshuffled. Over time, participants meet a wide cross-section of church members they might not otherwise have known.

15 Say thanks. Send quarterly thank-you letters to all financial givers from the pastor or finance committee chairman or deacon chairman. Tell about specific ministries the church accomplished in that quarter using the money given. Highlight ministries and other work that contributions will be used for in the next quarter. These letters both express gratitude and demonstrate that church contributions make a concrete difference.

16 Let 'em be mum. Never fail to greet first-timers in worship, but avoid putting them on the spot by asking them to stand (or to sit while everyone else remains standing). Speak to them as "guests" rather than as visitors, and give them the option of filling out a guest card or not. Remind all guests they're not expected to contribute when the offering plates come around.

17 Silence the bells. A simple statement in the worship bulletin can remind everyone to turn off cell phones and pagers during worship.

18 Increase lay involvement in worship. Involve laymen and laywomen, even youth, in worship by asking them to read Scripture, lead prayers or welcome guests. When the pastor or other staff members do everything, it gives laity the impression that only paid professionals can lead worship.

19 Keep a list. Clergy and lay leaders alike can keep outreach on the front burner by maintaining a personal list of six or seven current prospects for prayer and contact. When someone on the list moves beyond the prospect stage, add another person to the list.

20 Wish a happy birthday. Send birthday cards from the pastor's office or other appropriate church leadership to all church members and children. This is a little touch with a personal impact.

21 Find new uses for e-mail. E-mail can be a speedier and more efficient way to share information with church members. Use e-mail to send an alert to deacons, Sunday school leaders and other interested individuals when someone goes to the hospital or dies. This rapid response can rally prayer support and personal care. Bible study classes may use e-mail to communicate class news and prayer concerns. E-mail also offers a quick way to send out reminders of committee meetings or to distribute minutes or other information.

22 But don't forget old-fashioned notes. In an era of voice mail and e-mail, a handwritten note sent through the mail makes a big impression. Use hand-written notes to express appreciation or sympathy or words of encouragement.

23 Invite a spy to church. Ask a friend to visit the church's worship and a Bible study class with a fresh set of eyes for what works and what doesn't. Did they find members welcoming? Did they get lost in the building because of confusing or outdated signs? Recruiting an unchurched friend doesn't just give you a fresh perspective, it exposes your friend to the gospel and gives you an opportunity to start a conversation about the church.

24 Publish glad tidings. Look beyond the church for opportunities for the pastor to write a column about spirituality or faith. Small-town newspapers, neighborhood magazines and other local publications often are glad to have such columns. The content should be helpful (not promotional), which in turn identifies the pastor and church as resources for other help.

25 Map it out for visitors. Remember that walking into a strange church building can be confusing to a guest, so be ready with maps of church facilities. Other helpful information includes how to contact a minister, what current discipleship classes are offered, schedules for holiday activities or special programs and an explanation about how to join the church.

26 Let 'em eat free. If your church offers Wednesday-night dinners, provide a complimentary meal for first-time guests and new members. Send a coupon in the mail as a reminder.

27 Who's calling? Make sure someone is answering the church phone on Sunday mornings, at least before Sunday school and worship. Voice mail won't do if someone needs to get an urgent message delivered.

28 Say hello. Enlist church members of all ages to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings. Station greeters at all primary entrances. Don't forget that children and youth make good greeters as well, and it's a good way to model for them a welcoming spirit in the church.

29 Spread the word. Keep a supply of Bibles on hand not only in the church office but also in Bible study classrooms to give to guests who don't have one.

30 Give a boost. Church staff members frequently hear complaints and criticisms. Buck the trend by writing notes of encouragement to staff.

31 Take the night off. At occasional times in the year, designate a Family Night Off and cancel regular Wednesday evening or Sunday evening activities, with an admonition for families to spend that time together in a special activity. The church can even provide resources for family worship.

32 Make contact at lunch. If you're a teacher of an adult Bible study class, get to know your class members by inviting one person to lunch each month. Through the course of a year, you will have made 12 solid contacts and strengthened the bond of the class.

Compiled with input from Jerilynn Armstrong, Ken Camp, Tony Cartledge, Diana Garland, Robert Guffey, Marv Knox, Trennis Henderson, Phil Hester, Johnny Pierce, Dan Pryor, Carolyn Shapard, Charlie Warren, David Winfrey and Mark Wingfield

KENTUCKY

Construction planned for Campbellsville athletic complex

CAMPBELLVILLE—Campbellsville University recently made several announcements related to campus construction and grants for new facilities.

Among them:

■ Groundbreaking is scheduled to take place this month for the school's Hawkins Athletic Complex.

The 20,000-square-foot facility will feature three classrooms, six coaches' offices, a weight room, a football locker room, a baseball locker room, a multi-purpose room and a conference room.

The Hawkins Athletic Complex will be located on the west end of the school's J.K. Powell Athletic Center and will occupy much of the space currently reserved as parking for that facility. The center is named in honor of university trustee O.D. Hawkins and his wife, Bessie, of Owenton.

"The Hawkins Athletic Complex will be a tremendous new addition to our athletic program as it will provide student athletes and coaches a first-rate facility," Campbellsville President Mike Carter said.

The two-story brick and glass-encased facility should be finished by fall 2003, according to Athletics



HAWKINS ATHLETIC COMPLEX Groundbreaking starts this month for the new facility at Campbellsville University. When completed, the complex will include classrooms, offices, locker rooms, a weight room and a conference center.

Director Rusty Hollingsworth.

"Once this facility has been completed, Campbellsville University will have one of the finest athletic facilities among members of the Mid-South Conference," he said.

Fundraising continues for the nearly \$1 million project, Hollingsworth added.

■ Campbellsville's trustees recently approved naming the school's new student wellness and athletic training center following a gift of more than \$200,000 from David and Shirley Morris of Warsaw, Ky. David Morris is chairman of Campbellsville's board of trustees.

The facility is named the Tuggle-

Morris Wellness Center in honor of David Morris' parents, Jane Tuggle Morris and Robert Eugene Morris, who met as students while attending then-Campbellsville College.

The wellness center, which should be open in time for the 2003 spring semester, is a 5,500-square-foot addition to the Powell Athletic Center.

Hollingsworth said the wellness center will feature two physical education faculty offices; four coaching offices; a classroom/hospitality room; a wellness/fitness center with cardiovascular equipment including treadmills, bicycles and weight machines; and a 2,500-square-foot athletic training area.

■ The James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville awarded \$500,000 to Campbellsville toward the first phase of construction for the school's new E. Bruce Heilman Student Center Complex.

The primary feature of the complex will be a 600-seat dining hall and private dining room. The foundation's announcement follows a recent announcement by the school's board of trustees that the complex would be named in honor of Heilman, a Campbellsville alumnus and chancellor at the University of Richmond, Va.

Campbellsville names Peach football coach

CAMPBELLVILLE—Mark Peach, a two-time Academic All-America football player at Campbellsville University, has been named head coach of the school's football program.

Peach, a 1993 graduate of Campbellsville, has been head football coach since 2000 at Dunbar High School in Lexington. He succeeds Ron Finley, who was forced to retire in November after an internal investigation found that he had violated NAIA regulations by providing financial assistance to one of his players.

"We are pleased to welcome home Mark Peach to a football program he intimately knows and loves so well," said Campbellsville University President Mike Carter. "We have selected the right man for the right job."

Prior to working at Dunbar, Peach was a head coach at Hancock County High School and an assistant coach at Franklin-Simpson High School. A native of Lawrenceburg, he was named 1999 Class A Coach of the Year by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

Shelbyville
February 21 - 22

Kentucky Baptist Youth Choir Festival
February 21 - 22
First Baptist Church, Shelbyville

All youth choirs (Middle and High School) are invited! The festival is a great opportunity for your youth choir to join in fellowship, concert and worship with other youth from across Kentucky! Plus, your choir will have the option to perform individually, with or without comments.

Registration is just **\$5** per student; for registration form, anthem selection information, schedule details and more, go to:
<http://www.kybaptist.org/ycfest>
Pizza fellowship Friday night just \$2 per youth!
Guest Conductor - Pepper Choplin
Minister of Music, Composer and Arranger from North Carolina

KBC KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
Church Music Department
10701 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40243
502-254-4727 or Toll Free 1-888-254-5707
<http://www.kybaptist.org>

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WESTERN RECORDER
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Poll: Fewer in U.S. say faith influencing life

Poll question

"Is religion increasing or losing its influence on American life?"

December 2002:

43 percent said it is increasing;
51 percent said it is losing

December 2001:

71 percent said it was increasing;
24 percent said it was losing

Source: CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll of American adults.

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than a year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, U.S. adults are much less likely to say that religion is having an increasing influence on American life, according to a new CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll.

When more than 1,000 Americans were polled in early December, researchers found that 43 percent of them think religion's influence is on the increase. That's a sharp dive from a finding last December that 71 percent of those surveyed thought religion's influence was increasing.

The percentage of Americans who believe religion as a whole is losing influence has doubled in a year—with 51 percent saying so in the recent poll, compared to 24 percent in December 2001.

With few exceptions in Gallup

polls taken since the 1950s—such as one within months of the terrorist attacks—a majority of Americans have continued to say that religion was losing rather than increasing in influence.

Fifty-six percent of men think religion is losing influence on American life, compared to 45 percent of women. Forty-nine percent of women think religion's influence on American life is increasing compared to 36 percent of men.

The youngest group of Americans polled are the most skeptical about religion's influence. Sixty-two percent of 18- to 29-year-olds say religion is losing its influence, compared to 35 percent who say its influence is increasing. Adults ages 50-64 are most likely to think religion is increasingly influential, with

51 percent voicing that sentiment compared to 42 percent who say religion is losing its influence on society.

A range of opinions on the subject occurs across the country, with residents of the West most skeptical about religion's influence. Fifty-seven percent of residents of the Western United States say religion is losing its influence, while 32 percent of Westerners say it is increasingly influential.

Midwesterners are most likely to say religion's influence is increasing, with 50 percent agreeing with that sentiment and 44 percent disagreeing.

The national poll of 1,009 adults, ages 18 and older, was conducted by telephone Dec. 9-10 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Magazine names Franklin Graham 'Daniel of the Year'

ASHVILLE, N.C. (RNS)—Evangelist Franklin Graham has been named "Daniel of the Year" by World magazine.

"In a world of religious relativism, the very suggestion that any one belief might be superior to another is precisely the kind of heresy that will get a preacher tossed to the lions of political correctness," reads the cover story of the Dec. 7 issue of the conservative journal.

"For that reason alone, Mr. Graham qualifies as World's Daniel of the Year."

Graham, who drew criticism for calling Islam "a very evil and wicked religion," has also sparked controversy for praying in Jesus' name at the inauguration of President George W. Bush and sharing the gospel at a memorial service for students killed at Columbine High School.

The magazine quotes Graham as saying that criticism doesn't trouble him: "If it's the right thing to say or do, you do it, regardless of what people think."

The son of evangelist Billy Graham added that he thinks freedoms are diminishing for U.S. Christians. "Being an evangelical Christian is not a popular position anymore and it's getting worse, not better," he said.

Formerly split Brownsville revival leaders announce reconciliation

PENSACOLA, Fla. (RNS)—Two leaders involved in a rift in the "Brownsville revival" Pentecostal movement have announced that they have reconciled.

"We are pleased to announce that a complete and total reconciliation has taken place between us," wrote Pastor John Kilpatrick of the Brownsville Assembly of God Church in Pensacola, Fla., and Michael Brown, who was dismissed in December 2000 as the president of the Brownsville Revival School of Ministry, also in Pensacola.

"We fully bless one another, and

we fully bless one another's respective churches, schools and ministries."

Brown created FIRE (Fellowship for International Revival and Evangelism) School of Ministry and a church as a result of the split, fueled by disputes about the governance of the Brownsville school.

"We know that many believers were deeply hurt by the breach that took place exactly two years ago, and because of that we ask the forgiveness of the body of Christ worldwide and the forgiveness of the body in Pensacola in particular,"

their statement, posted on their ministries' Web sites, continued.

"We desire to be examples of unity and grace, not division and strife, as the Holy Spirit has indeed done a supernatural work and there is not a hint of ill will between us and a real sense of friendship and trust has been totally restored."

The two leaders met on Dec. 12, issued the statement, and announced that a joint service marking the reconciliation will be held Jan. 12 at the Brownsville Assembly of God. Leaders and congregation members of both movements are expected to attend.

Dying intestate

Approximately 60 percent of the population die without a will. Can you believe that?

Since we are constantly encouraging all adult Kentucky Baptists not only to have a will, but also to have a Christian estate plan, that statistic is very discouraging to me. It seems so obvious and simple to me why no Christian should die intestate, without a will.

There are a number of reasons why no Christian should die without a will, but none more important than the fact you cannot practice Christian estate stewardship. In other words, you cannot benefit your church or other Baptist causes without a will and/or other estate planning documents.

Other important reasons why a Christian should not die intestate include:

- The state, not you, will decide who will get what and how much of whatever God has entrusted to you.

- The court, not you, will decide who will serve as the fiduciaries of your estate, including an executor, a guardian for minor children.

- The probate costs will likely exceed what it would have cost you to make a will.

- Only family members, regardless of how distant their relation-

ships, can inherit, but no friends or charitable organizations can.

- No tax planning benefits can be enjoyed.

If you do not have a will, don't wait. Act immediately. If you do not know to whom to turn for assistance, call Laurie Valentine or me. While the Foundation does not write wills, we do offer estate stewardship consultation at no cost and can get you ready to have an attorney prepare the documents.

Since so many adults still do not have an estate plan for which the will is the cornerstone or basic building block, let me encourage you to invite us to your church to lead our estate planning seminar. Included in the seminar materials is the will the state of Kentucky has

prepared for you if you die intestate. The one-hour seminar is very basic and relevant to all adults, younger and older. There is no cost.

Call us toll-free to arrange a date and time.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Your will: A privilege and responsibility

By Alan Medders

If you do not have a will or you need to update your will, I hope that taking care of this important matter will become your New Year's resolution.

The numbers are staggering. Based on probate records, more than 60 percent of Americans die without a will. That means that each year hundreds of millions of dollars are given to the United States and state governments needlessly because individuals do not have a will or a properly prepared one. With proper planning, these same dollars could benefit the work of your church and our Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies.

As Americans, we have a tremendous privilege to be able to use a will to pass on tangible personal property and other personal assets to our family, friends and charitable interests. God also has given us a responsibility to care for and use the resources of the world. Having a will is a way for us to demonstrate our stewardship to God for our blessings in life.

The question I often ask myself is, "Why would someone not have a will?" For some people, there is a reluctance to face death. Others feel

they have too little property or that having a will prepared is too expensive. Some people do not know where to start or they think they can put it off until later.

I want to give you the four P's of beginning to think about your will. The first P is the people in your life who you care deeply about and want to provide for after your death

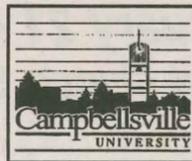
or the people you want to help distribute your assets properly. Second is your property. What do you actually own? Begin to make a list of everything you own, either by yourself or with someone else. Third are the plans you want to make for distributing your assets. And finally, the planners—your attorney and financial or estate planners—who can ensure that your desires are carried out.

Having a will is just the beginning. In order to make sure that your will works properly for you, it must be kept up to date.

If you have questions about wills, contact any of our Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies or the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and they will be glad to provide you with information.

Alan Medders is vice president for development at Campbellsville University. He may be reached at agmedders@campbellsville.edu or at (270) 789-5074.

CAMPBELLVILLE UNIVERSITY



SMILE

Happy new year, KBHC style

Here are some suggestions on how to start off the new year, the "KBHC" way.

Target your prayers for KBHC by using the Baptist Children's Messenger or our Web site, www.kbhc.org. You can pray for specific children by using the birthday list in the Messenger. You can pray for specific KBHC programs by using the directory of services from the Messenger or from the Web site.

Become an advocate for children in your church and community. If your church doesn't have a KBHC representative, talk to your pastor if you are interested in becoming the KBHC rep. Call us at (800) 456-1386 to find out more.

Find out more about part-time and full-time

foster parenting with KBHC. We have foster care programs in virtually every region of the commonwealth. Call the toll-free number or refer to the Web site or Messenger to find out which program is nearest you.

January is a time when many people make or review their estate plans. If you don't have a will, I encourage you to take the time to make one. Otherwise, the Commonwealth of Kentucky could be

the one to decide how your assets will be distributed. Just as you now return a portion of what God has blessed you with to be used in service to Him, your estate can continue to glorify God. Remembering KBHC in your will or other planned gifts leaves a legacy of caring after you have gone home to be with the Lord.

It is a new year, full of opportunity and promise. KBHC will continue our mission to provide care and hope to hurting families and children through Christ-centered ministries. We will serve children on our campuses, in foster homes and in non-residential programs such as the Center for Independence and Youth Support Center. We will reach out to parents and adoptive parents through

our pregnancy and adoption program. Cornerstone Counseling will minister to hundreds of Kentuckians through professional, Christian counseling.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for continuing to be such a vital part of this ministry. Happy New Year.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Christmas at Cumberland

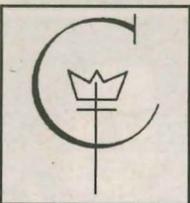
By Robert Dunston

The 2002 Christmas season at Cumberland College began on Monday evening, Dec. 2, with our annual Hanging of the Green service. The Gatliff Chapel was beautifully decorated with garlands of greenery and symbols of our Christian faith. A variety of ensembles from our music department led us in worship as we celebrated together the birth of our Savior.

Cumberland College's annual Madrigals began on Tuesday night, Dec. 3. For each of four evenings 224 participants were swept back to Merry Old England as our Chamber Choir under the direction of Jeff Smoak, provided festive and worshipful music to accompany the delicious meal and fine fellowship around the tables.

On the morning of Saturday, Dec. 7, Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach held its annual Christmas Gift Day. Students and volunteers spent the day at the Mountain Outreach warehouse helping individuals choose gifts for family members. Mountain Outreach ministered to more than 300 families representing more than 1,000 children.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Cumberland College's Appalachian Ministries had Christmas parties for four groups of children with whom students work on a weekly basis. Both parents and children attended the parties. The children received gifts, everyone had a wonderful time and the gospel of Jesus Christ was proclaimed.

Cumberland College's Christmas celebrations and ministries could not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our students. Our musicians practiced diligently to use their gifts to lead people in worship and celebration. Our Mountain Outreach and Appalachian Ministries volunteers sorted through donated toys and clothing and worked with children and adults to serve in the name of Christ.

As we begin a new calendar year at Cumberland College, we ask that you continue to pray for our students, staff, faculty and administration as we serve Christ in the classroom, in the community and throughout the world.

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 "Thy word is a ___ unto my feet" (Psalm 119:105)
- 5 Actor Alan
- 9 "___ iniquity unto their iniquity" (Psalm 69:27)
- 12 Egg shaped
- 13 Oust
- 14 Feminine name
- 15 Rectangular sections
- 17 "The heavens ___ the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1)
- 19 Object of adoration
- 21 Believed
- 22 Asian country (abbr.)
- 23 In the same place (Lat.)
- 25 So-so (abbr.)
- 26 "perfumed my bed with myrrh, ___, and cinnamon" (Proverbs 7:17)
- 27 Pioneer in steel
- 32 Kin (abbr.)
- 33 "from the tower of ___ shall they fall" (Ezekiel 30:6)
- 34 Inhabitant of (suffix)
- 35 "in his law doth he ___ day and night" (Psalm 1:2)
- 37 "they love to ___ standing" (Matthew 6:5)
- 38 Either ___
- 39 Continent (abbr.)
- 40 Munch
- 41 Of a Damascus river (2 Kings 5)
- 45 The man behind McDonald's
- 47 Feels contrite
- 49 Sound of a dropped melon
- 52 ___-de-France

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

- 53 "if he shall ___ the whole world" (Matthew 16:26)
- 55 Apollo's mother in myth
- 56 Careless
- 57 He was (Lat.)
- 58 Anglo-Saxon slave

- 18 Lift (Fr.)
- 20 Tripoli is its capital
- 22 Toward the wind
- 24 Red root vegetables
- 26 Branch
- 28 Move stealthily
- 29 "for no man can do these ___" (John 3:2)

Down

- 1 "the Lord of hosts shall ___ the bough with terror" (Isaiah 10:33)
- 2 Star of The Barefoot Contessa
- 3 "Yet thou in thy ___ mercies forsook them not" (Nehemiah 9:19)
- 4 "What ___ shall I give thee?" (Genesis 38:18)
- 5 Direction for printer (abbr.)
- 6 First ___
- 7 Slave Scott
- 8 To die
- 9 Son of Kemuel (Genesis 22)
- 10 "for a good man some would even ___ to die" (Romans 5:7)
- 11 Act
- 16 King of Egypt (2 Kings 17)

- 30 State (Fr.)
- 31 King (Sp.)
- 33 Alien
- 36 Bulwer-Lytton heroine
- 37 "sin is a reproach to any ___" (Proverbs 14:34)
- 41 Seed covering after fertilization
- 42 Lugosi
- 43 Peak
- 44 "the bright and morning ___" (Revelation 22:16)
- 46 Currency of India (abbr.)
- 48 A Nethinim family, the children of ___ (Nehemiah 7)
- 50 Chewed
- 51 Anderson's High
- 54 Bib. div.

Last week's solution

1	M	O	W		H	A	N	D		A	G	A	G				
2		P	A		O	D	I	O		R	A	T	E				
3	S	E	C	O	N	D	T	R		U	M	P	E	T			
4	S	C	O	R	E					A	N	O					
5					P	Y	R	E		C	R	A	V	E			
6	I	D	E	A						O	L	L	A				
7												B	I	S			
8	R	I	G	H		T	E	O	U	S	N	E	S	S			
9	I	N	A			A	S	N	A		O	D	E	A			
10	S	A	L	E	M					S	U	P	S				
11						V	A	N									
12										A	E	N	O	N			
13	U	N	D	E	R					S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
14	S	A	A	R						S	S	E	R	I	E		
15	E	M	M	Y						W	A	R	S				

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Theologians ponder significance of first human clone

"There's a tremendous possibility that clones will become the new weak and defenseless."

John Kilner, president of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Skeptical theologians and religious ethicists are reacting to the announcement that a human baby may have been cloned with questions about the health of the child and the ethics of bringing her into the world.

Clonaid, a cloning company developed in 1997 by the leader of a religious organization that believes life on Earth was created by extraterrestrials, announced Dec. 27 that a child named Eve was born the previous day to an American woman at an undisclosed location.

"It's very important to remember that we are talking about a baby," said Brigitte Boisselier, a bishop of the Raelian movement and the CEO of Clonaid, at the announcement in Hollywood, Fla. "The baby is very healthy. ... She's doing fine. The parents are very happy."

Boisselier said the baby is the first birth after 10 implants in the spring. Five of the implants were terminated, she said. The other four will be born by early February.

Skepticism & concern

Religious leaders questioned the truth of the claim and wondered about the possibility of deformities and other defects that have occurred with animal cloning. If the cloning has happened, they say it will raise a range of religious, ethical and moral concerns.

"The whole process is something



CLONING BABY Dr. Brigitte Boisselier (left) and freelance journalist Dr. Michael Guillen address the media about cloning Dec. 27 at a hotel in Hollywood, Fla. Clonaid, a company associated with a group that believes extraterrestrials created mankind, claimed last month that it had produced the first clone of a human being. Boisselier is director of Clonaid. (RNS/Reuters photo)

that shouldn't be pursued at all, but if it is done anyway ... then we have a human being that needs to be respected and protected," said John Kilner, president of the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity. "There's a tremendous possibility that clones will become the new weak and defenseless."

His center looks at the implications of bioethical issues from a "biblical Christian perspective."

"People will ask religiously ... 'Does this being have a soul? Is this really a human being?'"

Ted Peters of the California-based Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences said he thinks reproductive cloning is "a trivial use of science,"

but he doesn't question the spiritual significance of a clone.

"Certainly the child's soul is not in jeopardy," he said. "God isn't going to deny a soul to a child because the child is a cloned child."

Peters, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America minister, said he holds the minority viewpoint among religious leaders by believing there is no theological ban on reproductive cloning. But he thinks scientists have better things to do.

"The best use of genetic science right now would be to help rid the human race of diseases," he said. "Making babies to order, I just think, is a trivial use of science."

Although most religious leaders—and many scientists—have opposed reproductive cloning, Ronald Cole-Turner, editor of "Beyond Cloning: Religion and the Remaking of Humanity," said there has been greater division on research cloning. But despite the divide he hopes religious leaders can aid any person resulting from reproductive cloning in maintaining his or her human rights.

"That's something ... I think every religious person can agree on," said Cole-Turner, a professor of theology and ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. "You don't like cloning, but you love the clone."

Science's wrong direction

Religious leaders who have stated opposition to both kinds of cloning said they considered the possible existence of a human clone to be a move

in the wrong direction by scientists.

"Morally, it may open avenues for human destruction and human evil heretofore available only in science fiction," said Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"I'm not even sure it's a slippery slope. I think we're getting pretty close to the bottom."

He said such technology could lead to creating humans solely for donor organs and other processes that would sever human reproduction from sexuality.

Boisselier of Clonaid said the possibilities mark a "revolution" for society and a scientific success. "Who are we to tell the parents the child that they should have?"

In a statement responding to Clonaid's claims, David Stevens, executive director of the Christian Medical Association, said such action would take parental choice too far: "The basic moral question is should we allow scientists to destroy dozens of individuals to give parents the child they want?"

Stanley Hauerwas, a professor of theological ethics at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C., added his voice to those of other critics.

"This child, however she was created, will live graced by the God Who created us all," he said in a statement. "But just because God can redeem the dubious strivings or mistakes that emerge from our hubris does not mean that people of faith should condone such actions."

Peer pressure—good or bad?

Most parents are very concerned about peer pressure. Nearly all parents can tell about the negative impact other children have had on their child. What most parents don't realize is that other parents often see their child as a bad influence.

When we are doing the phone interview on a prospective student, one of the most common comments a parent makes is that his child spends too much time with the wrong peer group. Ironically, if there is one area in which a student will disagree with his parent, it is over what is a good or not good peer group. The vast majority of the time, a student will agree with nearly everything a parent says, but won't agree that his peer group is not good for him.

While we often think of peer groups as negative, sometimes peer pressure or peer influence is good. Recently our pastor gave me a list of 10 boys who were to be baptized. As he talked with several of the boys who had recently made professions of faith, and with some who had made professions of faith a few months ago but had not been baptized, he began to hear about peer pressure.

Upon investigation, I discovered that a group of boys had been meeting during the past week in the dorms. Several were concerned about the behavior of some of their peers. They were equally concerned about their spiritual well-being.

In this case the peer pressure was very positive. Each boy, in his own words, told our pastor about the influence the other boys had upon him. I would like to tell you a little about three of the 10 boys who are to be baptized.

"Fred" (not his real name) came to Oneida in August from Louisville. Fred is in the seventh

grade and is on a full scholarship because he is from a low-income, single-parent home. We were told that Fred was a good kid and obeys rules. We also were told he was no problem at school and was a good student. When I interviewed Fred, he told me his two main goals were to be on the A honor roll and to be involved in a lot of activities. Fred is not on the honor roll yet, but I believe he will be before long.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Like Fred, "Ben" came to us in August as a seventh grader from a single-parent family. His father was killed when Ben was six years old. His mother had a limited income and asked for additional scholarship money so he could attend OBI. She told us Ben "does what he is told and is a very good boy." Ben said he made mostly B's on his report card, and his two main goals at OBI were to get a good education and be able to get a scholarship for college.

"David's" parents are not in this country, and his aunt is his guardian. The aunt told us David gets along and follows rules, but admitted he was the class clown at school. When we asked

David what two things he wanted to accomplish while at Oneida, he said, "Get a better education, behave, have gratitude, get along with everyone, and learn about different cultures." It is not often a student gives us five goals he wants to obtain.

All three of these boys came to us as good boys making good grades. None was living in what we call the traditional family. Peer pressure encouraged them to follow in the steps of our Lord.

Reprinted from WR, Feb. 2, 1999

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

Serving God and country

America's response to terrorism became personal for student Mike Helton.

A member of the National Guard, Helton was called to active duty last October for service in Operation Noble Eagle, a three-month assignment at Fort Knox. He was able to return home on most weekends to preach at Turkey Creek Baptist Church near Barbourville where he became pastor in 1997. A mini-revival swept the church during those weeks, and he baptized seven people. Then word came for a six-month deployment to Germany as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. "I didn't know if the church would want me to resign," Helton said. "They were very supportive and proud I was serving the country."

In Hanau, Germany, Helton was encouraged by "some other country boys" to have a worship service. "We had an empty room in our facility, and I preached each week," Helton said. "We had two guys saved. Seven of the men also completed the 'Experiencing God' course while we were stationed there. The Lord really blessed. When many of the men wondered why we were there and why they were pulled away from their fami-

ly, they came close to God."

Helton, like National Guard member David Whicker, a student from Brodhead, had to withdraw from school for a semester.

Turkey Creek Church continues to grow. The Awana ministry has "exploded" with a Wednesday attendance of more than 100. The outreach to children encouraged a new building program.

"After we took an 'Experiencing God' course, the Lord led us in that direction," Helton said. "We are building a 90-by-50-foot multi-purpose building, providing a fellowship hall, a large game room for children, and space for youth ministry."

Helton is a Knox County native and was converted at age 12. "I got away from the Lord,"

he stated, "but a friend invited me to church and I rededicated my life." Two and a half years later he surrendered to preach.

He and his wife, April, have three children, Molly, 14; Megan, 11; and Michael, 10. Mrs. Helton is a Lynn Camp Middle School science teacher and recently completed her master's degree at Union College.

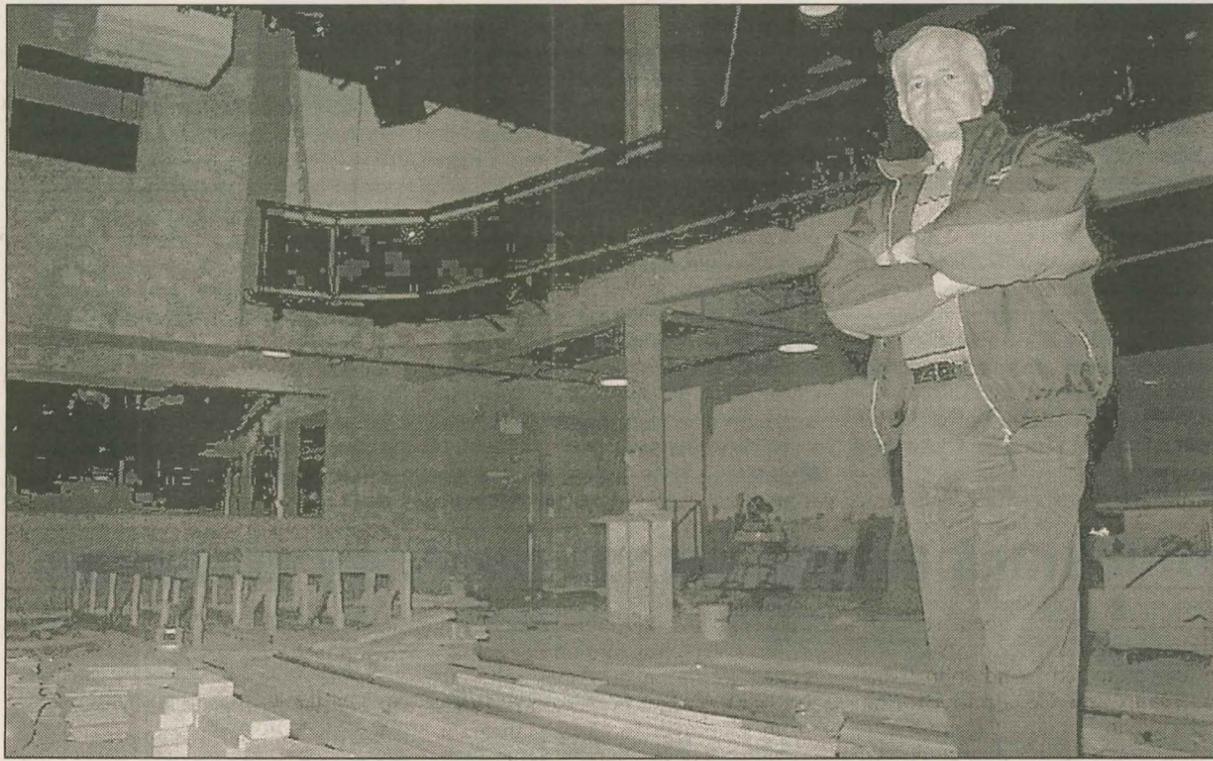
Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, KY 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

'Best Christmas gift ever'



NEW PURPOSE Pastor Andrew Wyns stands among the rubble of *Lookers*, a former strip club in Newmarket, Ontario. Wyns' congregation, which had prayed for the demise of the club, recently purchased the building and is turning it into a new church home. (RNS photo by Ron Csillag)

Church converts strip club into sanctuary

By Ron Csillag
Religion News Service

NEWMARKET, Ontario—"This was where the girls took public showers for all to see," Pastor Andrew Wyns says, gesturing toward several glass-doored stalls that once overlooked a cavernous lower floor.

Wyns admonishes a visitor to beware of giant spools of electrical wire, slabs of drywall and two-by-fours littering the floor.

"Here's where the strippers got changed into their outfits," he nods toward a small locker room, where little light bulbs still line the perimeter of makeup mirrors and Q-Tips lie helter-skelter. "God knows what else they did in here. Anyway, it's all going to be a nursery."

As for the erstwhile "VIP Lounge" around the corner, where lap dances and other shady dealings were common, it will form three new Sunday school classrooms and a youth area.

A 30-foot cross will hang not far from where the girls took it all off on a huge stage graced with garish lighting and fire-station poles. The bar is being disassembled, with the material used to construct a pulpit for Wyns and an enclosure for an organ. Large screens that showed continuous porn films are gone.

"Yup," beams the pastor, drawing a long breath, "we're taking over the enemy's camp, and I love it."

Great equipment, plus kitchen

On the plus side, the new sanctuary is ready equipped with state-of-the-art audio and video equipment and a full kitchen. The only souvenir Wyns is keeping is a beachball-sized, mirrored disco ball that once glittered over patrons and performers. He intends to put it back where it was to

shine as a beacon over a new set of "patrons."

Wyns calls it "the best Christmas present ever"—a 10,000 square foot, crackerbox brick building that until last autumn housed *Lookers*, the only strip club and "adult entertainment emporium" in this bedroom community of 70,000 north of Toronto.

In a commercial transaction he characterizes as "God declaring His mighty hand in our town," his Newmarket Community Church has bought, and is in the process of converting, the dark, sleazy joint into a new house of worship.

No sooner did the 120-member Pentecostal church take possession of the club on Halloween than the town council unanimously rezoned the building for religious purposes.

Church members flit in and out, providing hands-on expertise in plumbing, electrical and general contracting work. Tools and building materials lie strewn everywhere. The congregation hopes to hold its first worship service in its new home sometime this month after all renovations are complete.

"Sin stinks"

"You wouldn't believe what this place smelled like," says a middle-aged woman joining pieces of particle board with an electric screwdriver. "Vomit, urine ..." She screws up her face. "We had to rip up the carpet. And there were holes kicked into the walls!"

Wyns nods. "Sin stinks," he mutters.

It's an odor now replaced by fresh paint and the sweet smell of victory.

"God hates this kind of stuff," Wyns says of the activities that went on here. "I believe God signaled us. He agreed with our prayers and an-

swered them."

Those prayers began about five years ago, when members of Newmarket Community Church and other area congregations took to the streets for monthly prayer walks. *Lookers*, located in a nondescript industrial area, became a regular stop on the Friday-night excursions of 10 to 15 people, who would lay their hands on the building's outer wall in the parking lot and pray for the salvation of those in it.

Prayer and looking

"That wall became our Wailing Wall," Wyns says. "We asked God to clean this house and everything that went on inside."

At the same time, Wyns' 18-year-old church had outgrown its original location, a converted warehouse only blocks away. A search was on for a new building.

"We were looking all over town. One of our congregants came to me and said he had a word from God that we should go look again," Wyns says, stressing the word look. "Then we discovered that *Lookers* was for sale."

Initially, the two sides were about \$450,000 apart, but eventually, a deal was reached to buy the club for \$900,000, with the church holding a \$600,000 mortgage. The remainder came from donations and the quick sale, to another church, of the congregation's original home. "It sold even before we could list it," Wyns notes proudly.

Church members held a "cleansing ceremony" before taking possession of the strip club.

"We believe we've done something good for the community by taking over this place," Wyns says. "We believe more walls are going to come down."

Editor apologizes for Marlette cartoon aimed at Mohammed

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (RNS)—The executive editor of the Tallahassee Democrat who pulled a cartoon about the Prophet Mohammed from his newspaper's Web site has defended the artist's right to lampoon anyone.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations was among those that called on the newspaper to apologize after its editorial cartoonist Doug Marlette drew a cartoon with the caption "What Would Mohammed Drive?" The cartoon depicted a man driving a rental truck filled with explosives.

"The Democrat has not printed the cartoon and won't in the future. But it was automatically posted to our Web site briefly until I ordered it removed," John Winn Miller, executive editor of the Florida newspaper, wrote in the newspaper's Dec. 24 edition.

The cartoon was an apparent play on a recent debate on the kind of vehicle Jesus might drive.

Marlette, who lives in North Carolina while writing cartoons for the Florida paper, is not new to the notion of offending people with religion humor.

Previous targets for his cartoons have included Jim and Tammy Bakker and Jerry Falwell.

At a recent conference on Baptist freedom, Marlette credited his Baptist upbringing, emphasizing the priesthood of all believers, for some of his boldness. Marlette said he is not intimidated by prominent religious leaders and doesn't assume they have the corner on truth more than anyone else.

"Those (Bible) stories had a profound influence on me," said Marlette of growing up in a Southern Baptist congregation.

"I think all of that theology got under my skin," he added. "And I can't bear authorities coming in and telling me what to do."

The Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations said the cartoon was inappropriate.

"Defamatory attacks on Islam and on the Prophet Mohammed by media outlets or religious leaders only serve to harm our nation's image worldwide and divide America along religious lines," said CAIR Executive Director Nihad Awad.

Miller said that although Marlette works for the paper, the publication and other news organizations choose on a case-by-case basis whether to print his syndicated cartoons.

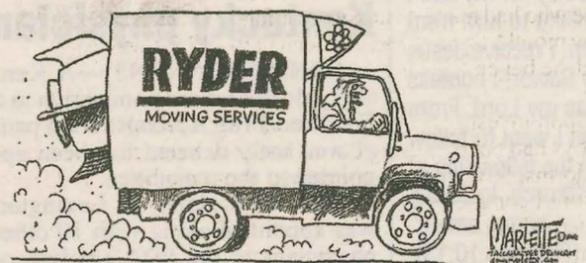
"I defend Doug's right to ridicule anyone," Miller wrote. "While the vast majority of Muslims are a peaceful people and preach a peaceful religion, there are some who have subverted the message of the Prophet Mohammed for their own violent purposes. ... Lampooning fanatics who believe they have a religious basis for murder is fair game."

Miller added that other religious groups have "violent or intolerant adherents" and noted his paper has run cartoons making fun of priests due to their actions in the Catholic Church abuse scandal.

"So to anyone who was offended by Doug's cartoon, I'm sorry. But I do not apologize for his right to make a point, even if it makes some people mad."

With additional reporting by John Pierce of *Baptists Today*

What Would Mohammed Drive?



PULLED CARTOON This editorial cartoon by Doug Marlette never ran in the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper, but the editor still apologized for it. The cartoon was posted on the newspaper's Web site briefly before the editor ordered it removed. (Cartoon source: Council on American-Islamic Relations)

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

By Paul Badgett

Kentucky Baptists stand at the beginning of a brand new year. Only God knows what the future holds, but I believe the possibilities are without limit! It is my prayer "that all people may know Him" in Kentucky and around the world.

It has been said, "All roads may lead to Rome, but all religions do not lead to God and salvation." In 2003 it is my desire that Kentucky Baptists proclaim the only way that leads to God, and that way is through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6).

Five truths concerning God's only way include:

- The truth that God loves you (John 3:16).
- The truth that every person is a sinner (Romans 3:23).
- The truth that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- The truth that Christ died for you (Romans 5:6-8).
- The truth that you can be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30, 31).

A new year always brings opportunities for new beginning. You can have a new beginning by turning from self and sin and trusting in Christ Jesus alone for eternal life.

If you would like to experience this new beginning, why not pray the following prayer: "God, I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sin. I am willing to turn from my sin. I receive Jesus as my Savior; I confess Him as my Lord. From now on I want to follow Him in the fellowship of His Church. In Jesus' name, amen." (Romans 10:13).

Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **BRANDENBURG**—Don Cole retired as pastor of Salem Church. He is available for supply preaching and can be contacted at (270) 667-2846.

■ **CADIZ**—Buffalo Lick Church called **Anthony Carson** as pastor effective Jan 1.

■ **Jerry Gray** recently resigned as pastor of Second Church.

■ **CALHOUN**—Calhoun Church's Women of Worship will host a women's conference Feb. 8 featuring author and worship leader **Eva Whittington Self** of Hopkinsville. For information, call (270) 273-3645.

■ **CROMWELL**—Green River Church received a second place

award in the annual Horse Branch Christmas parade. **Kelley Harris** is pastor.

■ **DeMOSSVILLE**—**Jonathan Behler** resigned as pastor of Wilmington Church to become pastor of a church in Georgia.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church called **Debbie Evans** as education/family life ministry assistant. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church ordained **Donnie Johnson** and **Joey Smith** as deacons Jan. 5.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Solid Rock Church called **Thomas Crawford** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—East Audubon

Twenty-seven Kentuckians among recent seminary graduates

Twenty-seven students with Kentucky ties were among recent graduates of three Southern Baptist Convention seminaries.

Graduation ceremonies were held Dec. 13 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Dec. 14 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

The graduates, their hometowns and degrees are:

Southern Seminary

■ **Todd Adkins**, Owenton, master of divinity in Christian education.

■ **Jesse Adkinson**, Glasgow, master of arts in Christian education.

■ **Tim Brogan**, Middlesboro, doctor of ministry.

■ **Micah Daniel Carter**, Louisville, advanced master of divinity.

■ **Shaun Caudill**, Bowling Green, master of divinity in Christian education.

■ **Jennifer Chrisman**, Elizabethtown, master of divinity in pastoral counseling.

■ **Shane Crister**, Henderson, master of arts in missions.

■ **Stephen Dever**, Pineville, doctor of ministry.

■ **Steve Dwinnells**, Vine Grove, doctor of philosophy.

■ **Kris Eldridge**, Louisville, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

■ **Jeffery Brian Gilbertson**, Crestwood, master of divinity in pastoral counseling.

■ **Andy Gowins**, Hartford, master of divinity.

Church called **John White** as pastor.

Shively Church recently called **Bruce Truman** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Owingsville Church.

Southside Church called **Shawn Watson** as minister of youth. **Russell Bennett** is pastor.

■ **Shelby Bailey**, records secretary at Walnut Street Church for more than 25 years, retired Dec. 29.

■ **MARION**—Emmanuel Church called **David Brown** as interim minister of youth effective Jan. 1. **Wayne Carter** is pastor.

■ **MUNFORDVILLE**—**Charline Williams**, organist and Sunday school teacher at Munfordsville Church for 60 years, died Dec. 21 at age 89. She is survived by one son and two daughters.

■ **SMITHLAND**—**Billy Hurley** resigned as pastor of Mint Springs



FOUNDATION OFFICERS Newly elected officers for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation board of directors are (from left): Chairman **Arnold Caddell** of Burlington, Vice Chairman **Charles Barnes** of Louisville, Secretary **Peggy Snowden** of Winchester, Assistant Secretary **Laurie Valentine** of Louisville and Treasurer **Barry Allen** of Louisville.

Church.

■ **STEPHENSPORT**—English Church called **Matt Perry** as pastor. He previously was music and youth minister at First Church of Clewiston, Fla.

■ **Valerie Vincent**, Louisville, doctor of ministry.

■ **Ray Woodie**, Glasgow, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

Southeastern Seminary

■ **Hollis Tidmore**, Lexington, master of divinity.

Southwestern Seminary

■ **Clay Davis**, Paducah, master of arts in marriage and family counseling and master of arts in Christian education.

■ **Jennifer Gardner**, Elizabethtown, master of arts in Christian education.

■ **Larry Glen Partin**, master of arts in marriage and family counseling and master of arts in Christian education.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Religious books (thousands). Send e-mail for list: dudley@dam.net. Evangelist **Bill Dudley**, 1116 Lacy Drive, Lebanon, MO 65536. (417) 532-2665.

FOR SALE: 1995 29-passenger GMC bus. Low miles; \$23,000. Call **Richard**, First Baptist, Richmond, (859) 623-4028.

HEALTHCARE: Pre-existing conditions accepted. Non-insurance solution for hospitals, doctors, medications, vision, dental, hearing and more. Representatives needed. \$54.95/month per family. (888) 645-4559. www.healthplanprovider.net; www.braxtonenterprises.net ceo6660.

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

SEEKING: Pastor. Send resumé to: Eastview Baptist Church, 1017 Earl St., Henderson, KY 42420. Phone: (270) 521-7120.

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: Full-time minister of youth and education for Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky. Send resumé to the church at PO Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164, Attn: Sharon Davis; or e-mail to mail@scottsvillebaptist.org. Call (270) 237-3451 for more information.

SEEKING: Two positions: part-time minister of music and part-time youth director. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Parksville Baptist Church, 6610 Alum Springs Road, Danville, KY 40422; or e-mail: pkbaptist@kih.net.

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

SERVICE: America's Christian long distance. Free toll-free number; 4.9 cents/minute; 6-second increment billing; no contracts; online sign-up. www.talklongdistance.net, (888) 645-4559.

SERVICE: America's fastest growing Christian long distance company. No monthly service charge; 4.9 cents per minute; 6-second billing. Toll-free: (866) 736-7869. www.covenantphoneservice.com. Agent opportunity available.

Author wins 2003 Grawemeyer Award

LOUISVILLE (RNS)—Mark Juergensmeyer, the author of "Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence," has been named the winner of the 2003 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion.

Juergensmeyer is a professor of sociology and religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In his book, he explored the topic of terrorism through interviews with organizers and perpetrators of terrorism and asked why its supporters often use religion as a rationalization for their deeds and words.

"'Terror in the Mind of God' raises urgent questions about the

role of religion in public life at a critical moment in history, and offers firsthand evidence of a sort never assembled before," said Susan Garrett, coordinator of the Grawemeyer Religion Award.

"For its originality, clarity and power this book exemplifies the criteria of the Grawemeyer Award."

The annual religion award, given jointly by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville, includes a cash prize of \$200,000.

Juergensmeyer, the author of a dozen books, intends to use the prize money for more research on religion and violence in the contemporary world.

Kentucky physician named to FDA panel

LEXINGTON (RNS)—A Kentucky doctor whose nomination to a Food and Drug Administration panel was hotly debated has been appointed to the committee.

Dr. David Hager of Lexington was appointed along with 10 other physicians to the FDA's Advisory Committee for Reproductive Health Drugs on Dec. 24, the FDA announced.

Critics, which included the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and Catholics for a Free Choice, had accused Hager of "religi-

ous extremism" that threatened women's health. Supporters, such as the Family Research Council and the Christian Medical Association, said Hager was a victim of "religious profiling."

The committee will evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs used by obstetricians and gynecologists.

"Each of these 11 physicians brings strong scientific and medical backgrounds to this important advisory committee," said FDA Commissioner **Mark McClellan**.

Egypt declares first Christmas national holiday

CAIRO, Egypt (RNS)— In a small, ancient chapel tucked away in Old Cairo, Hanaa Sarwat, a college graduate, came to pray and light candles.

Sarwat, a Coptic Christian, traveled nine hours by train from Upper Egypt to visit some of the oldest churches in the world, found here.

"It is one of my happiest days," she said as she stood next to the wooden door leading into the chapel. Dozens of shoes were scattered in front of the door, which is more than 21 feet high and dates to the 10th century.

Visitors must take off their shoes before they can enter the chapel.

This is a special time for Coptic Christians, who make up about 10 percent of the predominantly Muslim Egyptian population. Their Christmas, Jan. 7, signals an end to the 45-day fast that many Egyptian Copts observe.

This Christmas is unique because Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has declared it a national holiday. Historically, only Muslim holidays have been national ones while only Copts were allowed to take the day off on Christmas.

While some Copts reacted to Mubarak's decision with indifference, others said it reflected a deeper meaning for them.

"It makes a big difference," said Tamer Besada, a cafeteria employee.

"(It means) that Christianity (in Egypt) is getting its rights," he said.

Egyptian Copts generally live peacefully with their Muslim neighbors, but there have been incidents of sectarian violence and some Copts complain of discrimination.

Tahani Samir Sadek, a government employee, said the holiday decision would eliminate the negative feelings a few of her Muslim co-workers had before when they worked while she took the day off.

Around the corner at the Church of Saints Sergius and Bacchus—the oldest church in Cairo—tourists and people coming to pray flooded the wooden benches inside.

Manal Aziz, a recent college graduate, said she comes here often to pray and seek comfort. She said the holiday decision impacts students since many of them used to miss out on important lectures during the day or days they missed.

Sami Riyad Awad, 60, a retired bank employee, said his family decorates the house with Christmas lights and children buy new clothes.

He said this Christmas is different because "all of us are celebrating."

A light in Jerusalem



Baptists host service for Filipino servants

By Patricia Golan
Baptist Press

JERUSALEM (BP)—Jerusalem Baptist Church and local Southern Baptist workers became servants to the servants on Christmas eve, hosting a Christmas dinner for area Filipino caregivers.

Approximately 40,000 Filipinos—most of them women—are employed as household help in Israel. Many are there illegally, a reality they didn't know when they set off for Israel. They also likely didn't know about the hardships that lay in store for some of them.

Like most foreign workers anywhere, they work long hours, are often exploited and occasionally harassed. Still, while Filipinos make only a few hundred dollars a month working in Israel, it is significantly more than they can earn at home.

On Christmas Eve, a number of Filipino caregivers came to the church. Bruce Mills, a deacon of the church who originally is from Los Angeles, noted that the churches throughout Jerusalem and Bethlehem held a variety of types of services on Christmas Eve.

"Everything here has political overtones," he said. "But if we're talking about the spiritual dimension, what is more humble than to see caregivers, who are foreigners in this land, coming here to witness a service at the birth of the Jewish Messiah?"

'New' 70-year-old landmark

Jerusalem Baptist Church is located in the 70-year-old landmark building known as Baptist House, one of Jerusalem's oldest Protestant institutions.

Its handsome sanctuary was rebuilt 12 years ago after the original church burned to the ground in 1982. It is airy, open and full of light.

Today it is home to four independ-



SPECIAL GUESTS Filipino workers and others get food from the buffet line at the Christmas Eve dinner at Jerusalem Baptist Church.

dent congregations:

- The English-language Narkiss Street Church, which meets on Saturday mornings.

- The Hebrew-speaking Messianic Jewish congregation, which meets Friday evenings.

- The Russian-speaking congregation that also holds services on Saturdays.

- The English-speaking Jerusalem Baptist Church, which meets on Sunday mornings and is the only one of the four that calls itself Baptist.

Because its members are mainly foreign citizens and other English-speaking foreigners, it also has a greater turnover than the other congregations.

The church has an active outreach program, but its greatest successes, Mills said, has been among the caregiver community.

In the last few years more and more members from the Philippines have joined; during the Christmas event they made up 90 percent of the choir. They spread the word in the "Filipino network" and invited many to share

in the Christmas worship and feast.

Ellen Kingry, the choir director and a Southern Baptist representative in Israel, said the Filipino members "really encourage and support one another to an amazing degree. They may have theological differences but they are always supportive and helpful to one another."

Testimonies and outreach

During the service two Filipino congregants gave their personal testimonies, relating how they became Christian believers and subsequently were baptized in the Jordan River.

Doreen Tomes, 29, said she has been in Israel for a year and a half, after working for several years as a bank teller in Manila. She is single and from a Catholic family. "My family knows about my conversion. But this was my personal choice. I wanted to see the holy sites and to be baptized in the Holy Land."

Although it's been difficult for Tomes in Israel, and her family worries about her safety, she said she believes it is important for her to remain and continue the outreach as she did for Christmas.

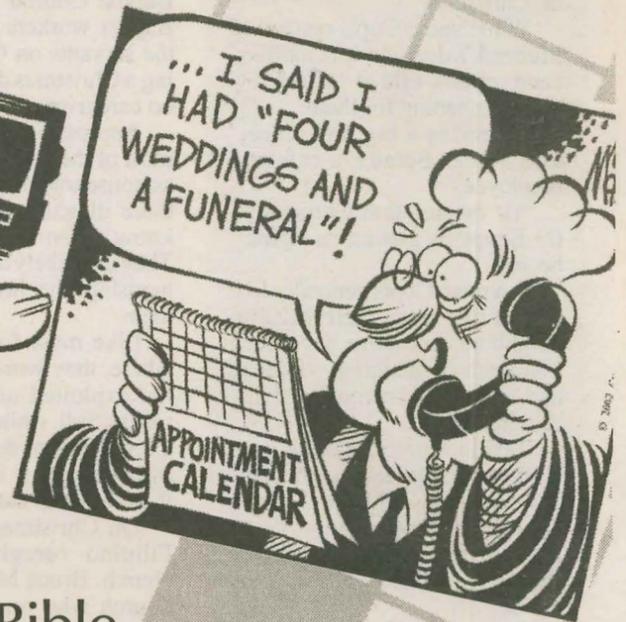
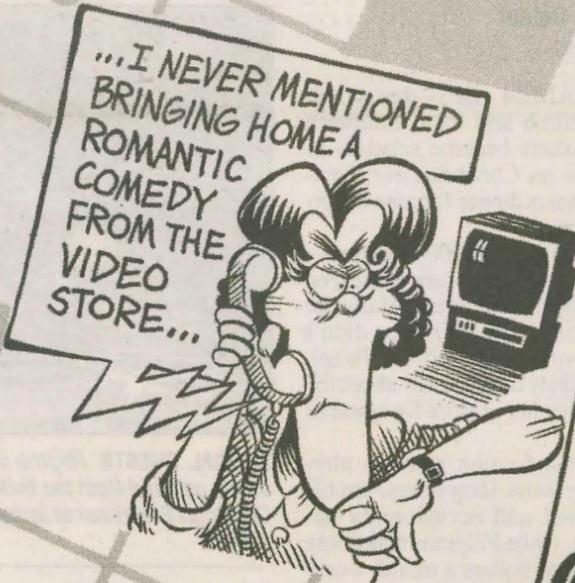
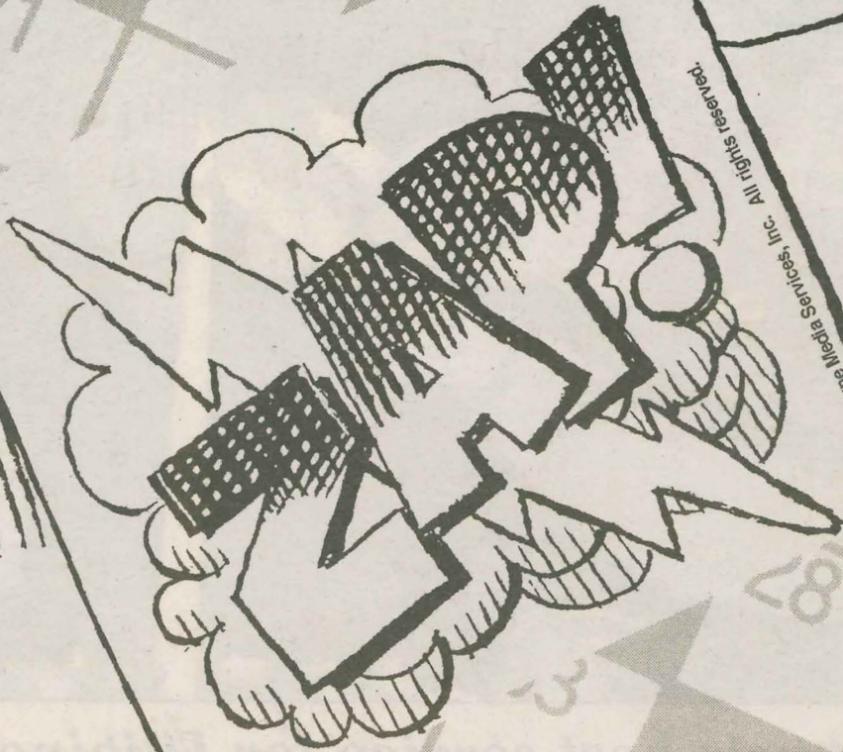
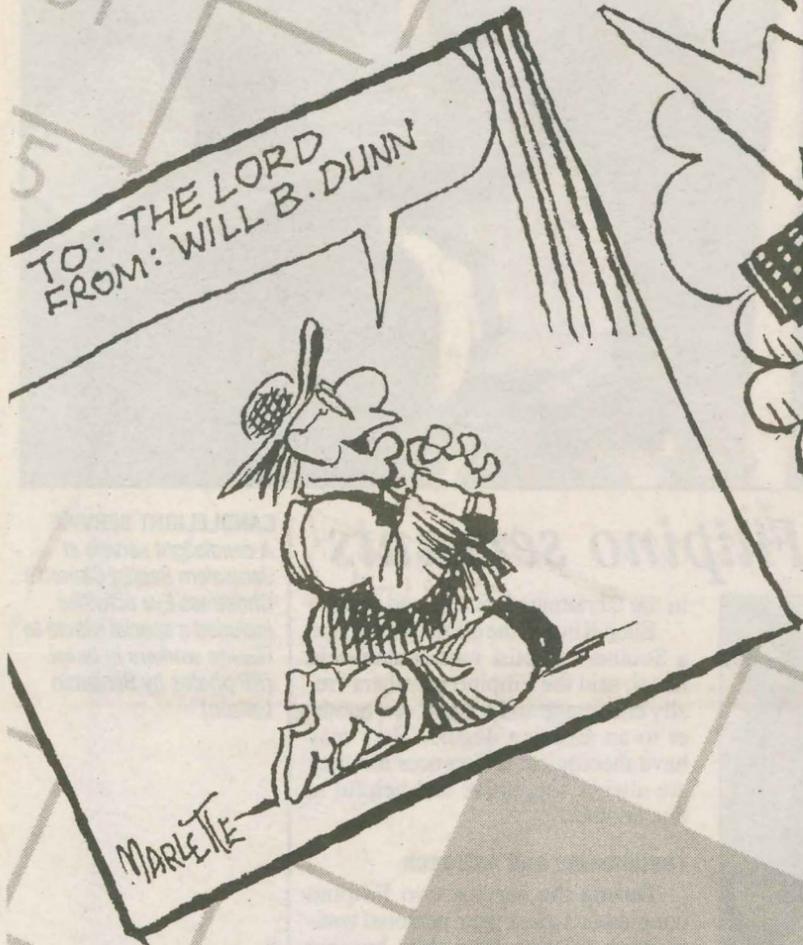
"We wanted some of our Filipino friends in the caregiver community to know how Jesus changed our lives," she said. "I want to share the goodness I've experience here with others."

Mills noted the "ordinariness" of the lives of the congregants in Jerusalem. "In the midst of all the tensions and attacks, life goes on. None of our members has been harmed. We remain 'normal' worshipping Baptists."

Reaching out to caregivers is important for the congregation, he added. "It's important to reach out to the caregivers who are here to help," he said. "For a Catholic Filipino to come to the Holy Land and see these sites, and examine the Bible, the natural implication, it seems to me, would be for them to come to faith."

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
A candlelight service at Jerusalem Baptist Church's Christmas Eve activities included a special tribute to Filipino workers in Israel. (BP photos by Benjamin Lalizou)

SMILE!



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